

Glossary of Girl Scout Terms

A

Alum: A former Girl Scout girl member.

Ambassador: A Girl Scout in grades 11-12.

B

Badge: Official embroidered insignia earned by completing a certain number of requirements. These earned awards are displayed on the front of the uniform and are distinguished from “participation patches” which are obtained by participating in various events.

Bridging: – When girls move from one program grade level to the next; may include an award for the girls completing the bridging award requirements, and likely will include a ceremony.

Bronze Award: The highest award Girl Scout Junior can earn by planning and completing a team-based Take Action project that makes lasting impact on their community.

Brownie: A Girl Scout in grades 2-3.

Buddy System: – Safety practice that groups two or three girls together to keep watch over each other in an activity (for example, swimming or hiking). The system places girls of equal ability in the same group.

C

Cadette: A Girl Scout in grades 6-8.

Camporee: Camporee is a service unit-wide camping event where all the troops in the service unit camp and spend time together over a weekend, giving girls an opportunity to meet their local peers. They are run by committee or a camporee director in each service unit. Adding a theme can help with planning the activities and help girls get excited about attending camporee.

Council: A corporation, chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA, organized for the purpose of developing, managing, and maintaining Girl Scouting within a defined geographic region. Our council is Girl Scouts of Northern California, which covers 19 counties.

Counselor in Training (CIT): A Girl Scout who is taking a course (called Counselor-in-Training) to learn camp counselor skills.

CSA: Abbreviation of Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador.

D

Daisy: A Girl Scout in grades K-1.

Day Camp: A camp program within a 12-hour period that lasts for a minimum of three days.

Destinations: A trip or event beyond girls’ own troops and councils. Destinations fall into one of five different categories: international, outdoor, science, people, or getaways. All destinations events provide an opportunity for individual members to broaden their perspectives and give Girl Scouting enhanced visibility.

Digital Cookie: The Digital Cookie platform allows girls and volunteers to customize the way they learn and earn during the Girl Scout Cookie Program, using technology in new and engaging ways, all while earning cool cookie business badges along the way.

Dues: Optional monies that are contributed to troops by the Girl Scout families that assist in covering initial costs and ongoing expenses like craft supplies, badges, snacks, and troop events. Dues can be collected at each meeting, quarterly, or as a single payment, based on what works best for families of the troop.

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E

Early Bird: Early renewal campaign that takes place between April and June (specific dates change each year) with added incentives like increased cookie earnings and patches for girls who renew their membership before a certain date.

F

Flag Ceremony: A flag ceremony in Girl Scouts is a traditional way to honor the American flag and express patriotism, friendship, and service. It can be used to open or close meetings, events, or a day, often involving a color guard and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance or Girl Scout Promise.

Founder's Day: Celebrated each year on October 31, in honor of Juliette Gordon Low's birthday.

G

Girl Scout Birthday: Celebrated on March 12, each year, marking the founding of Girls Scouts in the United States by Juliette Gordon Low in 1912.

Girl Guides: The original name for Girl Scouts; it is still used in many countries.

Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE): This is the Girl Scout program. The experience identifies all the elements that need to be in place for Girl Scouting to achieve its mission: Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Gold Award: The highest award in Girl Scouts. Open to Girl Scouts in high school, Gold Award projects find a sustainable way to solve community problems.

GORP: An acronym with two possible meanings, depending on who you ask! "Good Old Raisins & Peanuts," or "Granola, Oats, Raisins, & Peanuts." A camp snack favorite!

GSUSA: Girl Scouts of the USA, the corporation that promotes the Girl Scout movement in the U.S.A., which includes the United States, its territories, and possessions.

H

Highest Awards: Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. They are the highest honors a Girl Scout can earn. All three awards give girls the chance to do big things while supporting an issue they care about.

I

Insignia: Every Girl Scout item worn on the uniform (badges, awards, patches, pins, etc.)

Investiture: A special ceremony in which a new member makes their Girl Scout Promise, receives their membership pin, and becomes a member of Girl Scouts.

IRG: Term used to refer to registered Girl Scouts who are not part of the traditional troop program. These girls still work toward the same badges and activities; they simply do not belong to a troop. They can join other girls at council-wide events and can participate in all Girl Scouts has to offer. They are also known as a Juliette.

J

Juliette: First name of Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low. Term also used to refer to registered Girl Scouts who are not part of the traditional troop program. These girls still work toward the same badges and activities; they simply do not belong to a troop. They can join other girls at council-wide events and can participate in all Girl Scouts has to offer. They are also known as individually registered girls. (IRGs)

Junior: A Girl Scout in grades 4-5.

K

Kaper Chart: A visual chart used to assign and rotate kaper duties, so everyone has a chance to help.

Kick-Off: A event that typically occurs at the beginning of the Girl Scout membership year to build excitement and team spirit.

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L

Lifetime Membership: A one-time fee that enables you to become a Girl Scout for life. This is available to any person 18 years of age or older or a high school graduate.

Leader's Day: Celebrated on April 22, this day honors the volunteers who lead and support Girl Scout troops, recognizing their dedication and positive impact.

M

Membership Pin: These pins signify the acceptance of the membership requirements.

Membership Year: October 1 - September 30.

N

National Gold Award Girl Scouts: An honor given to 10 Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors each year whose Gold Award projects demonstrated extraordinary leadership, had a measurable and sustainable impact, and addressed a local challenge related to a national and/or global issue.

O

On Time Renewal: The membership renewal period running from the end of Early Bird.

P

Patches: Patches earned by completing programs unique to individual or troops. They are not earned awards and therefore must be worn on the back of the uniform.

Petals: Earned awards by Girl Scout Daisies. Girls earn the Promise Center by showing they understand the Girl Scout Promise. Girls earn Petals by showing they understand the 10 parts of the Girl Scout Law.

Patrol: Small group within a Girl Scout troop often used to organize troop meetings, activities or camping trips.

Program Aide: Girl who has completed 6th grade and has taken a specialized training to help troop/group leaders with the activities for their girls.

R

Resident Camp: Overnight camp. Sessions are generally for at least five days and four nights. The program is operated and staffed by the camp, and the supervision of campers is a camp responsibility. Campers stay overnight, and camp is responsible for campers 24 hours a day.

S

Sash: A type of uniform available to Brownies through Ambassadors. The sash sits on the right shoulder and crosses the body, resting on the left hip.

Senior: A Girl Scout in grades 9-10.

Service Project: A project that helps the community with a specific and short-term need.

Service Unit: A local team of volunteers who support Girl Scout troops within a specific geographic area. They provide guidance, resources, and community events to help troop leadership volunteers and troop members have a successful Girl Scout experience.

Silver Award: The highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can receive by identifying an issue, developing a sustainable solution, and leading a team project that benefits the community.

Sit-Up-on: Lightweight pad or mat the girls make to "sit-up-on" when the ground is dirty or damp.

Smart Cookies: A state of the art cookie sale platform for managing all of your cookie sale related activities.

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S'mores: A sandwich made with graham crackers, chocolate, and a roasted marshmallow, invented by Girl Scouts.

SWAPS: The tradition of Girl Scouts exchanging keepsakes. Referred to as "Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere."

T

Take Action: A project that helps the community by identifying the root cause of the community need, has long-term benefits, and has sustainable community support.

Tunic: A type of uniform available to Daisies. It is worn over the shoulders and ties at the waist.

Trefoil: The official emblem of the Girl Scout movement in the United States of America, registered in the United States Patent Office by Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.

Troop: A group of girls and adults who meet on a regular basis to engage in Girl Scout Program activities. Troops are organized according to grade level, which places girls together with others in the same social/developmental stage.

Troop Crest: A Girl Scout tradition that helps leaders easily identify Girl Scouts belonging to different troops while on a hike or other activity. There are currently 16 official troop crests available, and they are displayed on uniforms between the Girl Scout Council Identification Set and the troop numerals.

V

Vest: A type of uniform available to all grade levels.

Volunteer-Run Day Camp (VRC): Special day or residential camps run exclusively by our incredible volunteers, and vary from a few hours to a few days long. Girls enjoy a variety of outdoor activities where they connect with other girls and take action to make a difference in the community.

W

WAGGGS: The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, a global association supporting female-oriented and female-only Guiding and Scouting organizations in 150 countries.

World Thinking Day: Celebrated annually on February 22. Official Girl Scout holiday where girls traditionally learn about the cultures and traditions of WAGGGS member countries. This day also commemorates the birthdays of Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, the founders of the Scouting Movement worldwide.