



Junior Girl Scout Age Group Characteristics



Every Junior Girl Scout is unique, with different needs, interests and levels of development. Some girls may exhibit traits of older girls, while 4th grade Juniors may still be exhibiting younger characteristics. It is so important to keep that in mind when working with Juniors. As these girls are beginning to move from childhood into adolescence, it is important to keep in mind the differences in their emotional, social, physical, and intellectual characteristics. A few eleven-year-old girls may have started their period and are just beginning to develop.

	Age 8: Grade 4	Age 9: Grade 4	Age 10–11 Grade 5
Physical Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a high energy level • Needs to be active in her play • Is eager to learn new skills • Begins to develop physically 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a high level of physical activity • Tends to play until exhausted • Displays variation in physical skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins physical change • May have frequent nightmares • Is not concerned w/ neatness • May have stomachaches and headaches, and bite nails to relieve tension
Intellectual Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefers silent reading • Has an increased attention span • Can do more things in sequence • Begins to understand cause and effect • Wants to make decisions and express opinions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can make up her mind easily • Uses language as a means to exchange ideas • Applies logical thought to different situations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is very articulate • Begins to like and respect teachers • Is influenced by radio and television • Is interested in a variety of reading materials
Emotional Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approaches life with more of a sense of adventure • Dramatizes things • Is demanding of family • Is critical of herself • Has a vivid imagination • Feelings are easily hurt • May be bossy at times and impatient • Wants more responsibility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is more responsible and independent • Emotions change quickly • Wants things to be “right” • Appreciates her family, but tends to get angry with them • Enjoys humor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listens to reason • Is easygoing • Stays away from responsibility • Tends to be humorous and happy
Social Characteristics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Begins to see the world no longer revolves around her • Develops relationships with friends • Corrects parents if errors are made • Has a need for order • Is open to the influence of others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is beginning to have smooth relationships with family members • Is self-centered • Is affectionate at times • Participates in organized activities • Has a real problem with self-consciousness if development is too quick 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feels close to family members • Does not like to be criticized • Is very talkative • Has intense friendships • Possessive with friends • Is very secretive • Wants to belong to a club or organization