

## The Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE)

The Girl Scout program—what girls do in Girl Scouting and how they do it—is based on the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE), a national model that helps girls become leaders in their own lives and as they grow. No matter where girls live or what their age or background, as Girl Scouts they are part of a powerful, national experience. As they build leadership skills, they also develop lifelong friendships and earn meaningful awards, two of many treasured traditions in the sisterhood of Girl Scouting.

Girl Scouting isn't just about what the girls do; it's also about how they do it. Over time, we've noticed that girls will give almost any activity a try, as long as the adults guiding them take the right approach. Girl Scout activities ask adult volunteers to engage girls in three ways that make Girl Scouting unique from school and other extracurricular activities.

<p><b>The three leadership keys describe What Girls Do</b></p>	<p><b>The Girl Scout Processes describe How They Do It</b></p>
<p><b>Discover</b> Girls explore many different topics but don't just learn about them, they also discover their own value towards complex challenges in the world as they discover many different points of view around a topic. They then begin to wonder how they can make a difference.</p>	<p><b>Girl-led</b> Girls of every grade level take an active role in determining what, where, when, why, and how they'll structure activities. Of course, you'll provide guidance appropriate to the age of the girls. Plus, you'll encourage them to bring their ideas and imaginations into the experiences, make choices, and lead the way as much as they can.</p>
<p><b>Connect</b> These activities are based on two things. First, the process of cooperative learning in which girls can understand others' points of view and how that affects the community they live in as well as solutions to complex challenges. They also learn about different solutions by working with a team of girls to explore how to best use their individual interests and talents to work together.</p>	<p><b>Cooperative learning</b> Girls learn so much about themselves and each other when they team up on common goals. Plus, great teamwork helps girls in school now and on the job later. Look for ways to help each girl contribute her unique talents and ideas to the team, help all girls see how their differences are valuable to the team, and coach girls to resolve their conflicts productively.</p>
<p><b>Take Action</b> These activities help girls to make meaningful changes in their community—the best possible</p>	<p><b>Learning by doing</b> This means that girls have active, hands-on experiences. It also means they have a chance</p>

way to build their sense of empowerment and independence. Take Action activities are not just actively doing something like going to a children's museum, but give them the opportunity to create lasting impact together and individually.

to think and talk about what they are learning as a result of the activities. This kind of reflection is what helps girls gain self-awareness and confidence to dive into new challenges. So, make sure girls always have a chance to talk with each other—and you—after an activity. It doesn't have to be formal, just get them talking and see what happens.

The Girl Scout program is designed to help girls build the skills they need to lead and thrive today and be ready for tomorrow. They do so through engaging, hands-on activities that foster an environment for girls to build lasting friendships and have fun. Guided by supportive adults and peers, girls develop their leadership potential through activities that enable them to

- **Discover** their values, skills, and the world around them;
- **Connect** with others in a multicultural environment; and
- **Take Action** to make a difference in their world.

Girls will thrive in this exploration when it is girl-led, allowing them a place to try on their own leadership, take risks safely as they learn by doing independently and as a team. Through cooperative learning girls will learn how to work together, learn differently from each other and help each other through the stages of project planning and execution.

You might be wondering how to put these processes into action with the girls in your troop. These steps should help you get started:

1. After you help girls choose a National Leadership Journey [[PROGRAM: National Leadership Journeys](#)], make sure you get the adult guide that accompanies the Journey. As you read through that guide, look at how the activities, conversations, and choice-making options are set up using the three processes. Once you start practicing the processes, you'll probably find that they become second nature when you're with girls.
2. If you haven't already, watch the Welcome Video. (You should receive a link to the video by email when you register).
3. Want more detail about the processes? [Watch Having Fun with Purpose](#) to see the processes in action.

One last tip about using the processes: The girls' time in Girl Scouting isn't a to-do list, so please don't ever feel that checking activities off a list or completing badge requirements is more important than tuning in to what interests and excites girls and sparks their imaginations. Projects don't have to come out perfectly, and girls don't have to fill their vests and sashes with badges: what matters most is the fun and learning that happens as girls make experiences their own.