

The New Girl Scout Leadership Experience

Frequently Asked Questions—Spring 2008

The Basics

Q: What is the Girl Scout Leadership Experience?

A: The Girl Scout Leadership Experience engages girls in discovering themselves, connecting with others, and taking action to make the world a better place.

Q: What are the three keys to leadership and how do they relate to the Leadership model?

A: Discover, Connect, and Take Action. These three keys are defined as:

Discover: Girls understand themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world.

Connect: Girls care about, inspire, and team with others locally and globally.

Take Action: Girls act to make the world a better place.

In Girl Scouting, Discover+Connect+Take Action=Leadership. All Girl Scout experiences are intentionally designed to tie to one or more of the 15 national leadership outcomes, or benefits, categorized

under the three keys to leadership. The three keys to leadership replace Girl Scouting's "four program goals."

Q: What are the 15 leadership outcomes?

A: Outcomes describe general benefits - behavior, skills, knowledge, attitudes, values, condition, status, or other attributes - for participants as a result of involvement in the Girl Scout program. Outcomes are the *intended benefits* girls should reap as a result of the program.

15 GIRL SCOUT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE OUTCOMES

Discover



Connect



Take Action

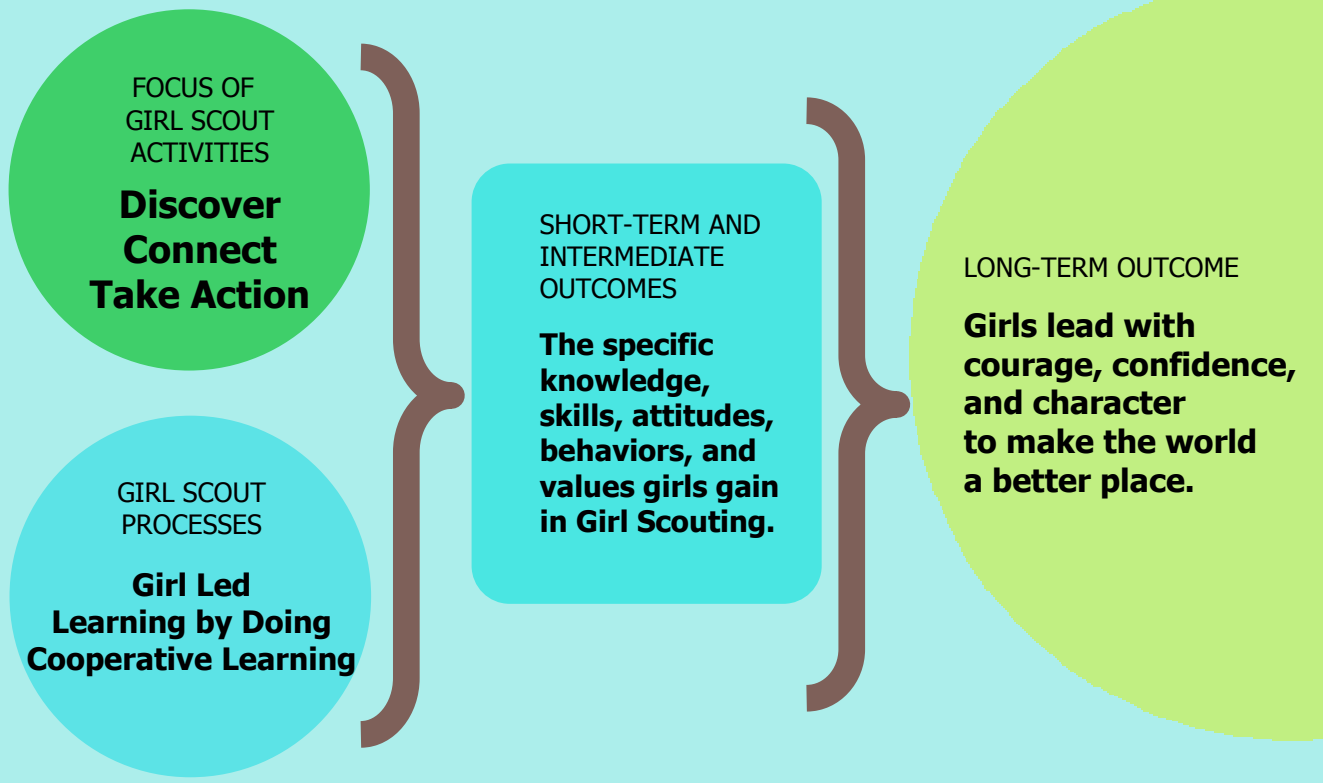


Leadership

- 1 Girls develop a strong sense of self
- 2 Girls develop positive values
- 3 Girls gain practical life skills
- 4 Girls seek challenges in the world
- 5 Girls develop critical thinking

- 1 Girls develop healthy relationships
- 2 Girls promote cooperation and team building
- 3 Girls can resolve conflicts
- 4 Girls advance diversity in a multicultural world
- 5 Girls feel connected to their communities, locally and globally

- 1 Girls can identify community needs
- 2 Girls are resourceful problem solvers
- 3 Girls advocate for themselves and others, locally and globally
- 4 Girls educate and inspire others to act
- 5 Girls feel empowered to make a difference in the world



The Girl Scout Research Institute (GSRI), in partnership with Girl Scout councils, is currently developing evaluation tools to measure a girl’s progress in reaching these outcomes.

Q: What are the Girl Scout processes?

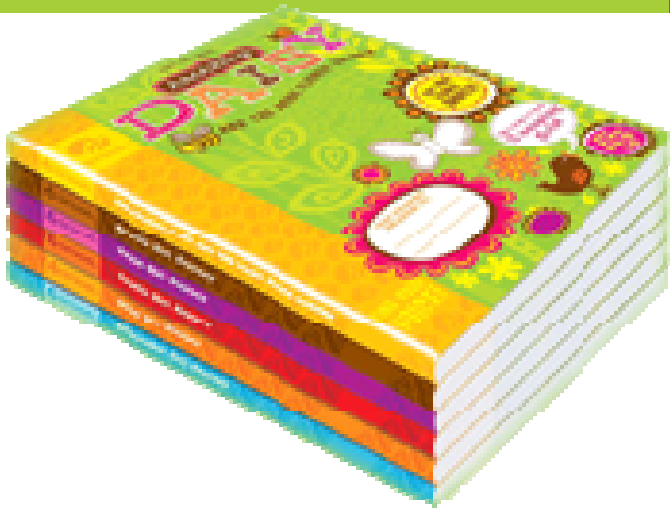
A: In Girl Scouting, it’s not just “what girls do” (activities), but “how” (processes) they do them (activities). When used together, these processes—Girl Led, Cooperative Learning, and Learning by Doing—ensure the quality and promote the fun and friendship so integral to Girl Scouting. Here’s how Girl Scouts defines these processes:

Girl Led: Girl led is just what it sounds like—girls play an active part in figuring out the what, where, when, how, and why of their activities. They lead the planning and decision-making as much as possible. This ensures that girls are engaged in their learning and experience leadership opportunities as they prepare to become active participants in their local and global communities.

Learning by Doing: A hands-on learning process that engages girls in continuous cycles of action and reflection that result in deeper understanding of concepts and mastery of practical skills. As they participate in meaningful activities and then reflect on them, girls get to explore their

own questions, discover answers, gain new skills, and share ideas and observations with others. Throughout the process, it’s important for girls to be able to connect their experiences to their lives and apply what they have learned to their future experiences.

Cooperative Learning: Through cooperative learning, girls work together toward shared goals in an atmosphere of respect and collaboration that encourages the sharing of skills, knowledge, and learning. Working together in all-girl environments also encourages girls to feel powerful and emotionally and physically safe, and it allows them to experience a sense of belonging even in the most diverse groups.



Books

Q: What are the books for girls in the first series of leadership journeys?

A: The first books for girls are all part of the *It's Your World—Change It!* series of leadership journeys. This series features one new book for girls at each grade level in Girl Scouting:

Welcome to the Daisy Flower Garden
Brownie Quest
Agent of Change (for Juniors)
aMAZE (for Cadettes)
GIRLtopia: Toward an Ideal World for Girls (for Seniors)
Your Voice, Your World: The Power of Advocacy (for Ambassadors)

At every grade level, these books place great emphasis on inviting girls to “Take Action” on an issue they care about. The books also contain stories, inspirational material, Girl Scout history, traditions and values, facts and games, and open spaces for girls to fill in their own ideas and memories.

“How to” books have been created for adults corresponding to each of the girl books. These guides for adult volunteers offer plenty of support, including sample sessions to tailor with girls, to carry out the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

Q: When will the first journeys be available?

A: All girl and adult books in the *It's Your World—Change It!* series are slated to be off the press in summer 2008.

Q: How many other journeys will be developed and when will they be available?

A: There will be about three journeys for every grade level by 2010. A second journey series will roll out in 2009, and the third in 2010. Girls at each level will be able to choose the journey that most interests them or do them all.

Q: Will the journeys be translated into Spanish?

A: Yes. Work will begin while the English language books are at the printer this spring and will require several months to ensure accurate and relevant translation of the journeys. The Daisy, Brownie, and Junior journeys (girl and adult books) will be translated first, and are slated for release by the end of October 2008. The materials for the upper grade levels will follow.

Q: How much will the books cost?

A: Girl Scouts of the USA is aware of the importance of being cost-conscious and has worked to provide excellent value. The girl books will be \$7.00; the adult sets, consisting of a girl book packaged with the adult guide, will be \$15.00. These prices are the same at every grade level. It is important that every girl has her own book to fully experience the journey.

Q: What will happen to existing badge books, handbooks, and STUDIO 2B books?

A: These books remain available and viable Girl Scout resources. Girls may continue using them based on their interests.

As Girl Scouting phases in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, we will be determining which resources might still be needed to supplement the new approach between 2008 and 2010, or which resources might be needed beyond 2010. Information will be provided with advance notice as decisions are made throughout the transition period. Girls will always have a chance to complete existing plans and transition to new materials.

(See attached Leadership Journeys detail page)

Awards

Q: What new awards can girls earn with the *It's Your World-Change It!* journeys?

A: Girl Scouts at each of the six grade levels have a chance to earn new official awards as they complete steps along the journey. The awards are designed to be worn on the Girl Scout uniform. Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, and Cadettes have the chance to earn several badges along the journey. Seniors and Ambassadors can mark the completion of their journey with a pin or badge.

The steps for earning the awards are clearly explained in the “how-to” books for volunteers created for each journey. Girls have information about the awards in their books, too. The journey books for girls and adults also have suggested reflection and ceremony ideas related to earning the awards. The goal is to provide opportunities for girls to fully understand the achievement and growth the awards represent.

(See attached Leadership Journeys detail page)

Q: Can girls still earn badges, apart from journeys?

A: Girls are welcome to continue choosing and earning badges that represent their varied interests. Earning badges is an important tradition in Girl Scouting and it is here to stay! As adults and girls become more familiar with the elements of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, they will even be able to see how the Discover, Connect, and Take Action leadership keys can be integrated into earning badges.

Of course, no matter what activities girls do in Girl Scouting, the experience is always best when it incorporates the Girl Scout processes: Girl Led, Learning by Doing, and Cooperative Learning.

Q: What is the future of badges?

A: Over the next several years, Girl Scouts of the USA will be updating some badges to ensure the learning experiences tie to the national leadership outcomes intended for girls. As new or refreshed badges become available and “old”

badges are phased out, girls will have time to transition. They will not “lose out” on activities they have begun or planned.

Girl Scout members have expressed interest in the availability of badges online and GSUSA is considering and analyzing this possibility. Further information will be available in 2009.

Q: What about local badge activities?

A: Locally created badge activities remain an important way to respond to the interests and needs of girls. By using the Leadership Experience as the “engine” for all programming, Girl Scout councils will be able to begin adjusting local offerings, purposefully planning them based on the leadership outcomes intended for girls.

Q: How do the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards fit into the Girl Scout Leadership Experience?

A: Girl Scouts of the USA is working to update the requirements for earning the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards and new guidelines will be available online in spring 2009. During the transition years (2008-2010), girls may continue earning the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards based on existing standards.

Uniforms

The National Board of Directors approved a new uniform policy, to begin in fall 2008. Based on this policy, girls at each level will have one official uniform item (e.g., tunic, vest, sash) so they can display the pins and badges they earn. Girl Scout Juniors and older program age groups will wear their vests and sashes with white shirts and khaki pants, making it easier for more girls than ever before to show their pride as Girl Scouts. Daisies and Brownies may also wear “khaki and white” or choose to wear full uniform ensembles for their age level. The Daisy tunic remains available. There will also be a variety of casual uniform components available for those times when official dress uniform is not required.

Adult uniforms will consist of a scarf worn with the membership pins for women and a tie for men. The scarf/tie and membership pins will be worn with navy blue business attire.

Grade Level Specifics

Q: Is there enough program content to provide a meaningful experience for Daisies?

A: Adults guiding Daisies are encouraged to follow the many tips and suggestions in the “how-to” adult guide that accompanies the journey. They will quickly find that with a little imagination, this Daisy journey can extend far beyond the six sample sessions provided in the book. As new journeys continue to be developed, Girl Scout Daisies can continue using existing Daisy resources and earn Daisy Petals, if they choose.

Beginning in fall 2008, in addition to the journeys, Daisies will have opportunities to participate in product sale program activities. Guidelines for adults and supplemental program activities for Daisies will be available online in summer 2008.

Q: What will be special for the new Ambassador level? How will girls bridge?

A: The journey for Ambassadors, *Your Voice, Your World: The Power of Advocacy*, engages Ambassadors in an advocacy experience. When they have completed the steps to advocacy, they will earn the new Advocate Award created especially for girls at this level. Ambassadors are encouraged to “pass on” to younger girls some of what they learn on their journey. A bridging award will be available for Ambassadors in spring 2009, and girls who begin the Ambassador level in fall 2008 may earn this award retroactively.

(See attached Bridging to Ambassadors page)

New Membership Levels

Q: What are the new grade levels?

A: The National Board of Directors approved these grade levels in 2006 to provide increased differentiation and advancement as girls experience Girl Scouting. The new levels are effective beginning in fall 2008. Depending on lo-

cal needs, councils may transition to these categories up until fall 2010.

Girl Scout Daisies
(Grades K-1)

Girl Scout Brownies
(Grades 2-3)

Girl Scout Juniors
(Grades 4-5)

Girl Scout Cadettes
(Grades 6-8)

Girl Scout Seniors
(Grades 9-10)

Girl Scout Ambassadors
(Grades 11-12)

Q: Do we have to register in the new grade levels for the 2008-2009 program year?

A: No. If your group/troop has long-term plans for completing work at their current level, the girls may choose to remain in their current level to allow them to finish up their plans during this transition period.

Girl Scout Program Age Levels- October 2008





Q: What if we don't know whether to bridge or not?

A: If your girls are having a hard time deciding whether or not to bridge, our council recommends that the girls register according to the new designations. However, during the transition period, if girls would like to finish up activities from their previous age level they could do that. For example, 6th grade girls would register as Cadettes, but could continue wearing their Junior vests and finish up work on Junior awards if they wanted to do that, rather than to begin working with Cadette resources. First grade girls would register as Daisies, but might bridge mid-year and begin work on some easier Brownie Try-Its if they felt they were finished with their Daisy program. We recommend that girls work with the resources that were designed specifically for the girls' ages as much as possible. For example, if a group of first graders decides to bridge in the middle of the year, we recommend that they wait until second grade to work with the Brownie Quest journey.

Q: What changes will be made to the membership registration forms?

A: Currently, the dues summary registration form asks for "one grade level that represents the majority of the girls registering now" and displays the current grade levels. These categories have been changed to reflect the new levels for the 2008/2009 membership year.

Q: How will home-schooled or independently registered Girl Scouts use the journey materials?

A: Girl Scouts who are on their own—and the adults who guide them—are encouraged to network with other Girl Scouts in their communities. One of our three critical processes of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience is cooperative learning. Sharing some of the discussions and experiences with others will enrich the journey and provide girls with opportunities to increase team-building and networking skills.

Q: How will multilevel groups use the journeys?

A: Let's use *It's Your World-Change It!* series as an example. Girls at every level will be engaged in taking action. Taking action provides a unifying theme for multigrade level groups so girls at multiple grade levels can have their own grade-appropriate journey, yet they will be able to support each other in accomplishing goals. All the journeys encourage girls to share or "pass forward" some of what they are learning and experiencing with other girls. Multigrade groups offer a wonderful setting for this to happen.