

girl scouts   
heart of michigan

# Discover Girl Scouts

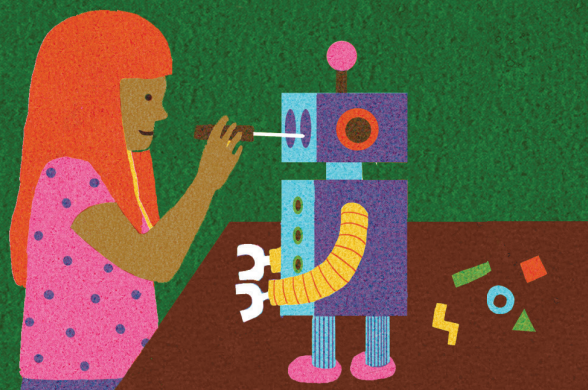
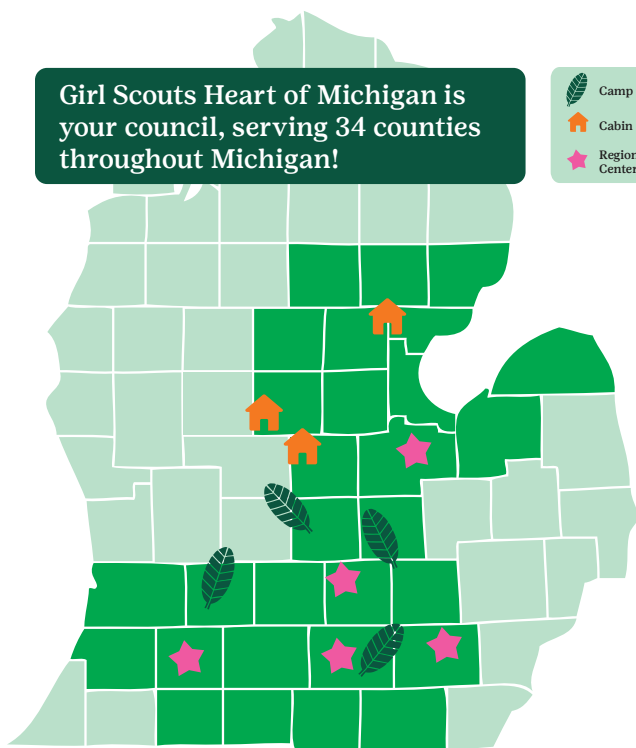
Empowering adventures  
for every girl



# Table of Contents

Girl Scout Mission, Promise, and Law.....	4
Why Girl Scouts?.....	5
The 15 Outcomes of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.....	6
What Sets Girl Scouts Apart?.....	7
What Girl Scouts Do.....	8
Girl Scout Traditions.....	9
Girl Scout Badges.....	10
Community Service & Take Action.....	11
Girl Scout Camp.....	12
Travel.....	14
Product Program.....	15
The Girl Scout Highest Award.....	16
Benefits of Being a Girl Scout.....	17
Ways You Can Volunteer.....	18
Benefits of Volunteering.....	19
How to Form a Troop..	20
Roadmap to Becoming a Girl Scout Leader.....	21
Girl Scout Network.....	22
Financial Assistance.....	23

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan is your council, serving 34 counties throughout Michigan!





*"A badge is a symbol that you have done the thing it stands for often enough, thoroughly enough, and well enough to be prepared to give service in it. You wear the badge to let people know that you are prepared and willing to be called on because you are a Girl Scout."*

Juliette Gordon Low  
Founder of Girl Scouts



### Girl Scout Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.



### Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:  
To serve God\* and my country,  
To help people at all times,  
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

### Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be  
honest and fair,  
friendly and helpful,  
considerate and caring,  
courageous and strong, and  
responsible for what I say and do;  
and to  
respect myself and others,  
respect authority,  
use resources wisely,  
make the world a better place,  
and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

\* "To serve God" can be substituted with wording that reflects an individual's own spiritual beliefs

# Why Girl Scouts?

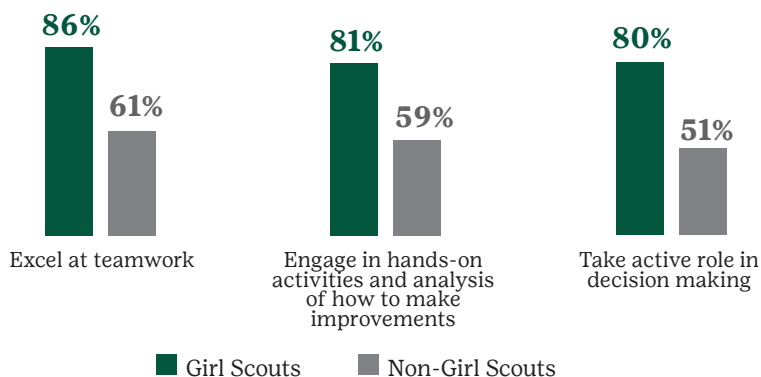
**The world has changed, and so has Girl Scouts.**

Today's Girl Scouts are more than you might imagine—Girl Scouts is a place where girls try new things in a safe, all-girl environment. **Research\* finds that Girl Scouting is linked to success!** Girl Scouts shine above their peers in leadership, academics, career aspirations, and hope for the future:

- Stronger leadership outcomes
- Ability to step outside comfort zones
- Build and manage healthy relationships
- Better civic engagement

## Girl Scouts are self-starters!

They take the lead in their lives and it shows.



*Today's Girl Scouts are tomorrow's leaders!*

## Girl Scouting gives girls a distinct advantage:



**50%**  
of female  
business leaders  
were Girl Scouts.



**80%**  
of female  
tech leaders were  
Girl Scouts.



**100%**  
of female U.S.  
Secretaries of State  
were Girl Scouts.



**76%**  
of female U.S.  
Senators were  
Girl Scouts.

\*The Girl Scout Impact Study

By design, in Girl Scouts, girls gain these  
15 critical competencies:

# 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.

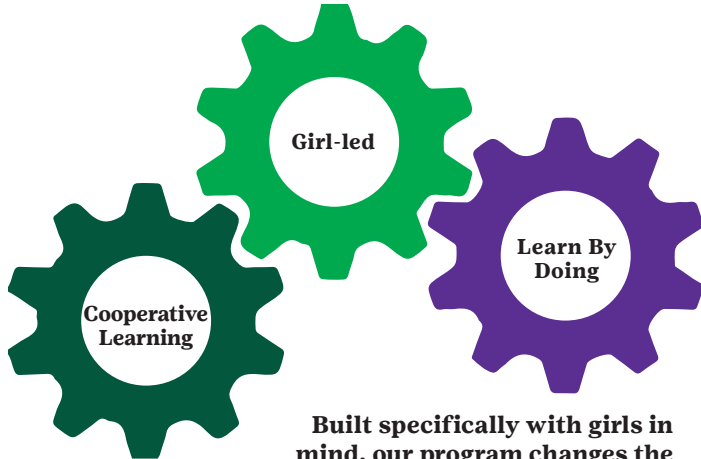
1. Girls can identify community needs.
2. Girls are resourceful problem solvers.
3. Girls advocate for themselves and others, locally and globally.
4. Girls educate and inspire others to act.
5. Girls feel empowered to make a difference in the world.



# Girl Scouts is the premiere leadership experience for girls. Period.

## But what sets Girl Scouts apart?

Our research-backed and time-tested program model gives girls the bold advantages they need in life as they soar to achieve their greatest ambitions.



**Built specifically with girls in mind, our program changes the lives of girls every day.**

## How?

### Three Processes:

#### Girl-Led

Nowhere else in the world is a girl given the power to craft her own experience from the get-go, even at the youngest of ages. This is the power of Girl Scouting. We believe that when you give a girl the chance to lead, she will step up to the challenge in a big and bold way—more than you might think possible.

#### Learn By Doing

Girls jump right in and learn while they try something out for the first time. Then, girls apply what they learn to other areas of their lives.

#### Cooperative Learning

Girls work alongside each other as they learn throughout their Girl Scout experience. This leads to lifelong, meaningful friendships, and builds critical communication skills.



**Girl-led**



**Learn by Doing**



**Cooperative Learning**



## What does this mean for girls?

**Girl Scouts develop 15 critical outcomes.** See page 6.

At Girl Scouts, girls build the confidence they need to achieve anything and everything that they want in life

**—and that's what we do in Girl Scouts.**

# What Girl Scouts Do

## The Foundational Elements of a Girl Scout Experience



Attend field trips and events.



Attend regular meetings with their troop.



Spend time in the great outdoors and at Girl Scout camp.



Run their own business with the Product Program.



Participate in Girl Scout traditions.



Are involved in community service and Take Action projects.



Earn badges and highest awards.



# Girl Scout Traditions

Traditions connect Girl Scouts across the globe. They link current Girl Scouts to the trailblazers who came before them and remind them of the camaraderie that comes with a wide network of millions of fellow Girl Scouts and Girl Scout alums.



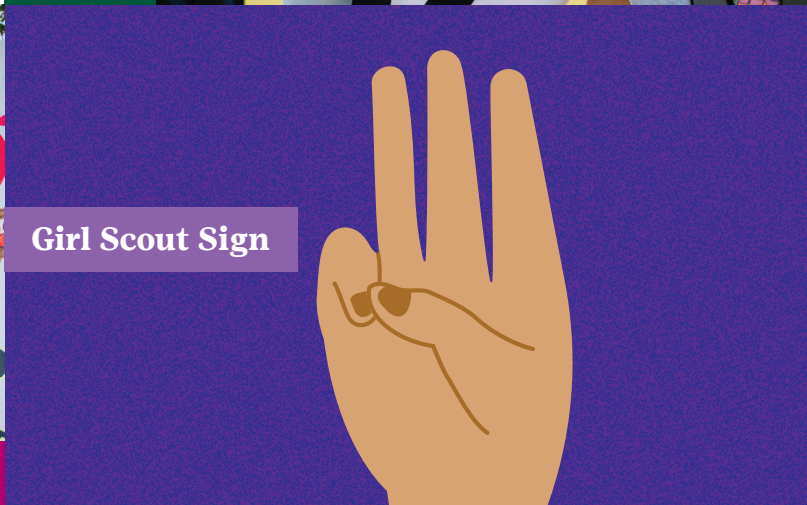
*"Be prepared."*

**Motto**



*"Do a good turn daily."*

**Slogan**



**Girl Scout Sign**



*Uniting trailblazers  
past and present.*

**Friendship Circle**

# Girl Scout Badges

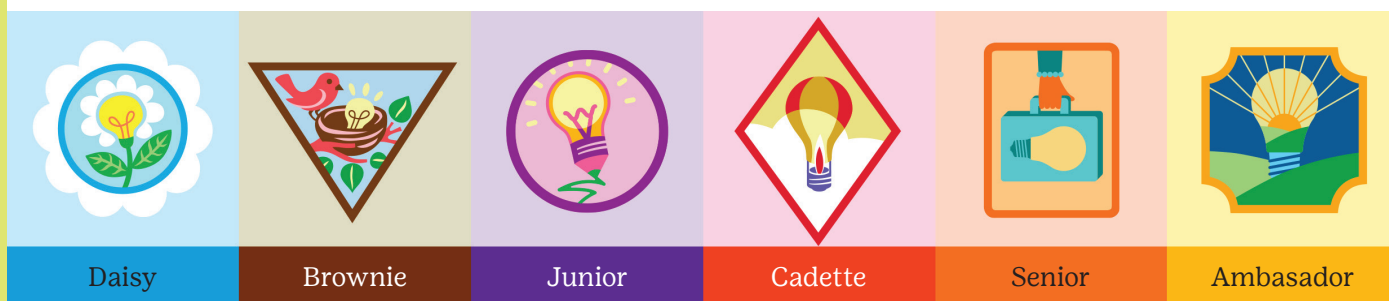
If there is an activity that you and your troop want to do, there is probably a badge for it!

Girls document everything that they learn in Girl Scouts by earning badges.

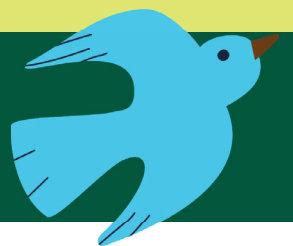
**The Girl Scout program is built on four pillars: outdoor skills, STEM, life skills, and entrepreneurship.** These pillars provide girls with a well-rounded experience that empowers them to be confident, independent, and capable young women, putting them a step above their peers. Today's Girl Scouts are tomorrow's leaders.



Example of badges by grade level



## Uniforms



Girls are proud of what they achieve. A Girl Scout uniform shows how much a girl accomplishes by proudly showcasing their insignias and awards.



Daisy



Brownie



Junior



Cadette

# Community Service & Take Action

Community service projects fill an immediate need in your community and help girls learn the value of caring for others. Girl Scouts can participate in community service with their troop, individually, or through council programs.

In Girl Scouts, Take Action projects create a long term sustainable solution to a problem identified in their community. The key to a Take Action project is that the project will continue to have impact even after girls are no longer involved.



Handicap accessible sandbox for students in wheelchairs.




Troop 50312 from Au Gres collected donations for the Arenac County Animal Shelter.



# Girl Scout Camp

Girl Scout Camp is the only camp built specifically with girls in mind! Exciting programs are available for girls and troops year-round. Spend a day or weekend at camp and have a blast participating in the activities we offer.



Go outside  
and come back  
better!



## ***Being outdoors is good for the soul***

- Spending more time outdoors as a child can lead to a happier adulthood.
- Spending time outdoors helps kids learn to appreciate the planet.

## ***Being outdoors is good for the mind***

- When kids play outdoors, they build troubleshooting, negotiating, creativity, and multitasking skills.
- Kids learn to take safe risks when playing outdoors.
- After being outdoors, kids can focus better on their next task.





**Adventures available  
at Girl Scouts Heart of  
Michigan properties  
include:**

-  **Air Rifle**
-  **Archery**
-  **BB Gun**
-  **Boating**
-  **Camp Crafts**
-  **Climbing Wall**
-  **Cross Country Skiing**
-  **Fire Building**
-  **Hatchet Throwing**
-  **Knives and Knots**
-  **Nature Hike**
-  **Slingshot**
-  **Snowshoeing**
-  **Team Building**



## Travel

Girl Scouts travel the world! When traveling, girls learn about different people, cultures, and places. Girl Scouts have opportunities to travel with their troop, on Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan trips, and on Girl Scouts of the USA Destinations. On these trips, girls can travel to Girl Scouts' birthplace in Savannah, Georgia; to the four Girl Scout World Centers; or to other domestic and international destinations!

About every two years, Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan girls can take a leadership learning experience trip with our CEO. Past destinations have included Florida, Canada, Georgia, and France! Girls learn elements of leadership and adaptability. The CEO Trip—and every Girl Scout trip—epitomizes just what Girl Scouts can do!



Trips are girl-led from the very start, from choosing a destination, managing the itinerary, and deciding on the budget. Girl Scouts ready themselves for critical decision-making and the ability to think globally.



### Did you know?

The youngest Daisy Girl Scouts going on their first local field trip are beginning a travel progression and a lifetime of adventure. By the time they are Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors, they'll be ready for an international trip with the CEO!

### The travel progression:

Local Field Trips

Day Trips

Overnights

Regional Trips

National Trips

International Trip

Independent Travel

# Product Program

The Girl Scout Cookie and Fall Product Programs are so much more than fundraisers. They are a girl's opportunity to run her own small business as she becomes a leader. Financial literacy is a critical milestone any successful leader needs to develop. Through the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Product Program, she will develop five critical entrepreneurial skills.

**Girls who participate  
in Girl Scouts  
Heart of Michigan's  
Product Program  
learn 5 skills.**



## **GOAL SETTING**

Girl Scouts set Product Program goals individually and, with a team, create a plan to reach them. They develop cooperation and team building skills along the way.



## **DECISION MAKING**

Girls help decide how the team will spend their Product Program proceeds, furthering critical thinking and problem solving skills that will help in many aspects of life.



## **MONEY MANAGEMENT**

Girls take Product Program orders, handle customers' money, and gain valuable and practical life skills around financial literacy.



## **PEOPLE SKILLS**

Girls learn to talk to, listen to, and work with all kinds of people in the program. These experiences help them develop healthy relationship and conflict resolution skills they can use throughout their lives.



## **BUSINESS ETHICS**

Girls are honest and responsible at every step of the Cookie Program. Their business ethics reinforce the positive values they are developing as Girl Scouts.



# **It's more than a cookie!**

# The Girl Scout Highest Awards



The Girl Scout Highest Awards are earned by working with a team to build a sustainable solution to a problem identified in their community. The Highest Awards focus on learning leadership skills and helping their community. By earning one of these awards, girls help make the world a better place! The Highest Awards are the Bronze Award, the Silver Award, and the Gold Award.

## Gold Award Girl Scouts:

- Are eligible for 40+ different college scholarships.
- Feel they have had success in life (95% vs. 82%).
- Think of themselves as a leader (81% vs. 50%).
- Have more leadership experience in volunteer activities, school, the community, and politics.
- Are entitled to enlist at a higher pay grade if they join the military.



The Girl Scout Gold Award is the most prestigious award in the world for girls—and the most difficult to earn—and it's only available to Girl Scouts.



A young woman who has earned her Gold Award has become a community leader in the truest sense. Her accomplishments reflect outstanding leadership and civic engagement.



## Of Girl Scout Alumnae...

Sense of Self

**70%**

**strongly feel they lead a purposeful and meaningful life**, compared with 42% of non-alumnae.

Life Satisfaction

**98%**

**are happy with their life**, compared with 87% of non-alumnae.

Leadership

**81%**

**think of themselves as a leader**, compared with 50% of non-alumnae.

Leadership

**84%**

**feel they have had success in leadership**, compared to 64% of non-alumnae.

Life Success

**95%**

**feel they have had success in life**, compared with 82% of non-alumnae.

Community Service

**70%**

**are very active in volunteer work/community service**, compared with 41% of non-alumnae.

Civic Engagement

**58%**

**have been involved in politics**, compared with 40% of non-alumnae.



## Ways you can volunteer

There are many ways you  
can support girls in their  
Girl Scout journey.



**Become a  
Troop Leader**



**Find a public  
meeting spot**



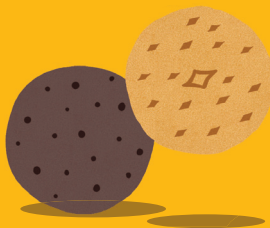
**Chaperone Troop  
outings as needed**



**Make telephone  
calls for the Troop**



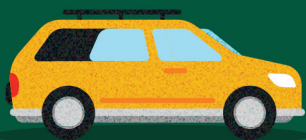
**Become a  
Troop Treasurer**



**Become a Troop  
Product Manager**



**Become a  
Troop First Aider**



**Help with Troop  
transportation**



**Provide support  
for the Troop**



**Become a Troop  
Camping Expert**

**Wouldn't you like to introduce girls to new experiences, showing girls that they're capable of more than they ever imagined?**

As a volunteer, you'll be their cheerleader, guide, and mentor, helping them develop skills and confidence that will last a lifetime. Imagine the smiles, the excitement, and the memories made — those are the moments you'll share at Girl Scouts.



## Why Volunteer?



### **Volunteering provides a wide variety of surprising health benefits**

Research shows volunteering leads to better health including\*:

- Counteracting effects of stress, anger, and anxiety.
- Combatting depression.
- Giving a greater sense of purpose in life.
- Lower mortality rate than non-volunteers.
- Increase in self-confidence.

\* Grimm Jr., R., Spring, K., Dietz, N., (2007).  
The Health Benefits of Volunteering: A Review of Recent Research.

### **Girl Scout volunteers tell us they:**

Make new friends

**94%**

Stay more active

**88%**

Learn new skills

**92%**

Are helped in their professional lives

**65%**

*"My favorite part of being a Girl Scout leader is watching the girls help and support each other."*

*"Girl Scouting has changed my life."*

Quotes from Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan leaders.



## How to Form a Troop

Troops are formed by volunteers who are passionate about building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. Just imagine the impact you and other future volunteers could have on many girls in your community! One of the most impactful decisions you could make would be to form a troop for your Girl Scout and her peers.

Forming a troop with other caregivers and community members ensures that girls have a safe space to make friends, have new experiences, and learn new things, all while being surrounded by other volunteers who care for them. All troops need at least two volunteer leaders to get started.



Volunteers starting troops can pick when, where, and how often troops meet. In addition to online and in-person training opportunities, there is a community of staff and volunteer support to ensure volunteers have everything they need to facilitate a wonderful Girl Scout experience. If you're ready to change the lives of girls, we have everything you need to get started - and we are here every step of the way!



Don't just take our word for it, scan this QR code to hear the impact being a leader has made on other's lives.



# Check out how easy it is to become a leader!



**Start here!**



Scan the QR code to learn more

# Girl Scout Network



**When you join Girl Scouts, you join a sisterhood that provides you with a network of support.** Locally, you will be part of a Service Unit, which is a group of local volunteers who come together to facilitate Girl Scouting. Our council, Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, provides staff support to all of the Service Units throughout the 34 counties we serve. Additionally, there are volunteers who provide training to other volunteers, equipping you with everything you'll need for an incredible Girl Scout experience. You are never alone – We are all here to support you and your Girl Scouts!

Service  
Unit

Council  
Staff

Volunteers

Other  
Girl Scouts

Every girl should be a Girl Scout...  
*"...because to me being a Girl Scout means that the person would always have a safe place and a place where they could be themselves."*

– Cadette Girl Scout



# How to start your adventure

**Join today!**

## Start your Girl Scout adventure today!

You can head to our website ([www.gshom.org/join](http://www.gshom.org/join)) to get registered today. Need some assistance registering? You can always reach out to our Help Desk Team at 1-800-497-2688 or by emailing [helpdesk@gshom.org](mailto:helpdesk@gshom.org).



Scan the QR code to learn more



## Financial Assistance

### Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan will never turn a girl away due to finances.

Our Fund Development Team raises over \$1,125,000 per year to ensure we can provide Girl Scouting for every girl. Additionally, Girl Scout families share the gift of Girl Scouting by contributing to the Sister to Sister Fund. If your family needs financial assistance, or you want to support other girls in Girl Scouting, we are here to help!

You can reach out to our Help Desk Team at 1-800-497-2688 or by emailing [helpdesk@gshom.org](mailto:helpdesk@gshom.org).



### Help Desk

We have a dedicated team of professionals, called the Help Desk, that is here to help you with anything you might need and answer any questions you may have.

Don't hesitate to reach out to our team if you have any questions!

You can call us at 1-800-497-2688 or email [helpdesk@gshom.org](mailto:helpdesk@gshom.org).

If your family is able to support our Sister to Sister fund, while registering online you can donate to Sister to Sister along with your yearly membership dues.

**If your family is in need of financial assistance, we are here to help!**



Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, Inc.  
601 W Maple St  
Kalamazoo MI 49008  
gshom.org



**Want to hear from our members how Girl Scouts has changed their lives?**

Check out our podcast, "The Girl Scout Advantage" wherever you listen to podcasts!.

