Expanding Your Troop

Fast Fundamentals



Overview

Girl Scouts is all about making new friends and keeping the old! By expanding your troop to more members, you can give girls in your community the opportunity to try new things, build forever friendships, take on adventures, dream big and have fun doing it.

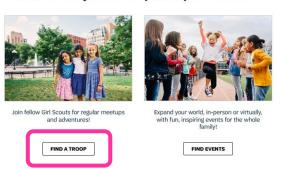
Share a Link to Your Troop from the Participation Catalog

Families and individuals can receive a Copy Link directly from a troop that has "Display in Catalog" set to true and available spots listed under "# of Spots Remaining," which is determined by your Troop Capacity. This functionality can be used by anyone. (Pro Tip: As a Troop Leader, you can update your troop information <u>here!</u>)

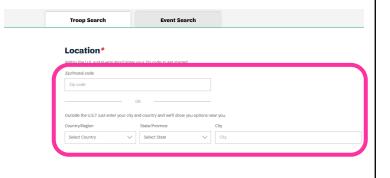
Steps to Find Your Link:

1. Visit mygs.girlscouts.org and select Find a Troop.

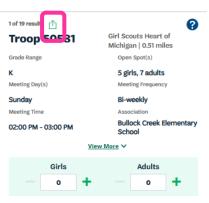
How would you like to participate with us?



2. Locate the troop using the Troop Search filters in the Participation Catalog.

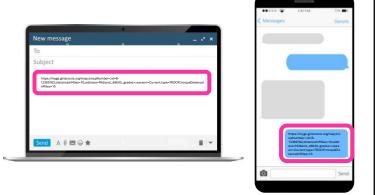


3. Click the Copy Link icon and the link will be copied.



4. Paste the copied link in your message to the recipient. This can be sent via text, email,

social media etc.



Use the "Invite Friends" Feature

As a Troop Leader, you shouldn't register new girls directly. Instead, you'll send them a special invitation link that allows families to join your troop on their own.

Here's how it works:

When you send the invitation email, the family receives a link that takes them to the Participation Catalog, where they can select an available spot in your troop. This invitation link is unique, it bypasses certain troop settings like "Display in Catalog" and "# of Spots Remaining," set from your Troop Capacity, so even if your troop doesn't appear publicly, invited families can still join.

A few important things to note:

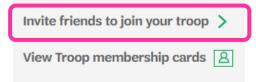
- This link can only be sent by leaders with an active Troop Leader role in our system.
- If your Troop Leader role hasn't officially started yet, the invite option won't show up until your role is active.

Steps to Use the "Invite Friends" Feature:

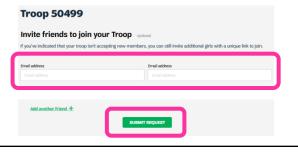
1. Log into MyGS and select the My Troop tab. (If you are a Troop Leader with more than one troop, be sure to select the troop you are inviting friends to join.)



2. At the bottom of the Member Details roster, click Invite friends to join your troop.



3. Enter at least one email address and click Submit Request.



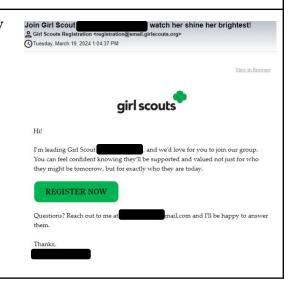
4. A confirmation message will appear as Success! Your invites have been sent. (You can only send an invite to the same email address once within a 24 hour period.)



5. When you send an invitation through the system, the family receives an email that includes your name, your email address, and a special 'Register Now' button that links directly to your troop in the Participation Catalog.

Here are a few things to keep in mind about that link:

- It's time-sensitive and is meant to expire within 2-3 days.
- It's also click-sensitive—if the link is clicked too many times without completing registration, it may expire early.
- Once the family completes registration using the link, it no longer works for anyone else.



Share Customized Troop Flyers

Customized flyers, available in English and Spanish, can be a great way to get the word out about your troop. Flyers can be shared at schools, community centers, libraries, and more. As a Troop Leader you can connect with your Membership Specialist for assistance with flyers like the ones below!









Host a "Bring a Friend" Day

One of the best ways to grow your troop is by sharing the Girl Scout experience with others, and a "Bring a Friend" day is the perfect way to do just that! Invite each girl in your troop to bring a friend who's not yet a Girl Scout. It's a low-pressure, high-fun opportunity to introduce new families to what Girl Scouts is all about.

Use customizable troop invites (available anytime in our <u>Media Toolkit</u>) to help get the word out. Then, plan a fun, hands-on meeting or event that shows off your troop's personality and favorite activities. This could include:

- A build-your-own trail mix bar
- A Girl Scout scavenger hunt around your meeting space
- STEM fun like paper rockets or pencil catapults
- A simple community service project
- Or a troop favorite, making s'mores!

Whether it's a themed meeting or a mini party, make it fun, interactive, and welcoming. And don't forget, invite guests to join the troop at the end of the event if they had a great time!

Not only is it a fun experience for your troop, but it's also a great way to build confidence and leadership skills as girls share what they love most about being Girl Scouts.

Need help planning or promoting your Bring a Friend day? Reach out, we're here to support you!







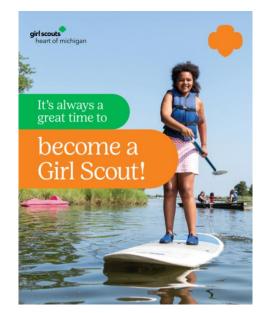
Spread the Word with Digital Tools

Digital resources are a great way to spread the word about your troop, especially when you're looking to reach families quickly and easily. Sharing your troop's story online can help others see the fun, friendship, and impact that Girl Scouts brings to girls in your community.

We have ready-to-use graphics, available in both English and Spanish, that you can post or send through social media, school newsletters, or community platforms when inviting new friends to join. These tools are designed to make it simple and stress-free to promote the mission of Girl Scouting in ways that feel natural and personal to you.

As a Troop Leader, you can access many of these resources in our <u>Media Toolkit</u> or reach out to your Membership Specialist for help finding, customizing, or sharing them. Whether you're just getting started or looking to grow your troop, we're here to support you every step of the way!











Sample Social Media Caption to Accompany Graphic:

Is your girl looking to make new friends, get active in her community, and have fun? Then Girl Scouts is the place for her! In Girl Scouts, your girl will shine in confidence boosting, girl-approved exciting experiences. You're invited to join our troop at our next troop meeting! We meet on [ENTER MEETING DAYS AND TIMES]. This troop is made up of girls in grades [ENTER GRADES] from the [ENTER COMMUNITY NAME] area. Reach out to me for more information!

Sample School Newsletter Message to Accompany Graphic:

Ready for New Friends, Fun, and Adventure?

Girl Scouts is the place for her! In our troop, girls build confidence through exciting, girl-led experiences and meaningful connections. We'd love to have you join us at our next meeting! We meet on [ENTER MEETING DAYS AND TIMES]. Our troop includes girls in grades [ENTER GRADES] from the [ENTER COMMUNITY NAME] area. For questions or more information, contact Troop Leader, [ENTER LEADER NAME] at [ENTER EMAIL OR PHONE NUMBER].