***Girl Scout Jargon & Traditions***

We use a lot of funny terms in Girl Scouting. Here are some definitions.

**badges:** symbols earned by brownie through ambassador Girl Scouts indicating increased knowledge and skill in a particular subject. These are found in their age levels’ Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting. Additional badges in conjunction with the Journey program are also provided.

**bridging:** activities designed to emphasize the continuity of the Girl Scout program, to introduce girls within each age level to what lies ahead, and to give older girls a sense of personal responsibility for younger girls. Bridging requirements are found in the Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting for each age level.

**buddy system:** a safety practice that requires two girls of equal ability in an activity (e.g. swimming, hiking) to keep watch over the other.

**Court of Awards:** a troop ceremony where girls receive recognition for their accomplishments in the form of patches, badges, pins and certificates.

**Court of Honor:** a planning group in troops that use the patrol system of government, composed of patrol leaders, troop officers and leader(s).

**Daisy Girl Scout circle:** a form of troop government that encourages girls to share ideas, listen to one another and helps make troop decisions.

**day camp:** daytime camping on a site staffed by volunteers and approved by the Girl Scout council. Girls of all ages camp together. Overnight camping is optional; day camp generally lasts three to five days.

**friendship circle:** a symbolic gesture, often used as a closing ceremony, in which girls form a circle by clasping hands and passing a gentle squeeze around the circle.

**Girl Scout birthday:** March 12 marks the anniversary of the first troop meeting of Girl Scouts in the US in Savannah, GA, in 1912.

**Girl Scout handshake:** a handshake made with the left hands while making the Girl Scout sign with the right hand

**Girl Scout Promise & Law**: principles of conduct to which Girl Scouts subscribe

**Girl Scout shop:** a retail shop, located at headquarters and online, in which official Girl Scout uniforms, equipment, accessories, and publications can be purchased.

**Girl Scout sign:** the official Girl Scout greeting. It is always used when the promise is made or repeated. The right hand is raised shoulder high, palm forward, with the three middle fingers extended and the thumb holding down the little finger.

**Girl Scout week:** celebrated each year during the week of March 12th, the

**Girl Scout birthday:** The Sunday of that week is Girl Scout Sunday.

**Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania (GSEP):** is the council servicing the 9 counties around Philadelphia.

**Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA):** the corporation chartered by the US Congress to direct and coordinate the Girl Scout movement.

**insignia:** emblem, buttons, badges, pins and other official forms of recognition that may be worn on the uniform by registered members of the Girl Scout movement.

**investiture:** a special ceremony that welcomes new members, girls or adults, into the Girl Scout family.

**Journeys:** experiences that incorporate the Girl Scout leadership experience into fun, thematic, customizable activities. Each journey is tied to some of the Girl Scouts’ 15 national outcomes.

**Juliette Gordon Low:** founder of the Girl Scout movement in the US in 1912. Born October 31, 1860 in Savannah, GA.

**kaper chart:** a chart showing the job or assignment for each girl on any given project.

**Leader:** an adult member who meets regularly with a troop to help them achieve the purpose of Girl Scouting. A troop leader for teen girls is called an advisor.

**Lord & Lady Baden-Powell:** the founder of the Scouting movement and his wife, who served as the World Chief Guide.

**Membership Manager:** a professional Girl Scout staff member who is responsible for organizing and maintaining troops in a specific geographic area.

**patches:** an emblem signifying either participation in Girl Scout activities or completion of a specific set of activities.

**patrol:** a group of girls with a leader.

**patrol system:** a form of troop government for Junior and Teen troops. It is a representative form of government composed of patrols and a Court of Honor.

**petals:** recognition program for Daisy Girl Scouts. Each petal earned represents understanding part of the Girl Scout Law. The Daisy Center is earned when girls memorize the Promise.

**STEM:** a science, technology, engineering and math program available for girls at each program level. Many STEM activities are conducted by the council.

**program consultant:** an individual who shares his/her interests and special abilities with a troop by advising or instructing leaders or volunteer day camp staff.

**quiet sign:** Raising the right hand over the head is a traditional means of obtaining silence at Girl Scout meetings. As others see a raised hand, they raise theirs and become quiet.

**resident camp** (established camp): Girls of different age levels register individually for a camping experience of between 4 and 10 days in duration at permanent camp sites owned and operated by the Girl Scout Council.

**safety activity check points:** a GSUSA publication found on the council website detailing national program standards for Girl Scout activities.

**service unit:** a designated grouping of troops in a geographical area.

**service unit manager:** the volunteer administrator of the Service Unit.

**sit-upon:** a camp craft that provides girls with a clean, dry spot to sit.

**sponsor:** an organization or institute that supports a troop in specific ways (i.e. providing troop meeting place, supplies, volunteers).

**SWAPS:** Tokens of friendship exchanged by girls at events.

**trefoil:** The official emblem of the Girl Scout movement in the US, registered in the US Patent Office by Girl Scouts of the USA.

**World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGG S):** The international organization of Girl Guide/Girl Scout associations. Organized in 1928.

**World Thinking Day:** February 22, the birthday of both Lord and Lady Baden-Powell, celebrated as the day in which Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world think of each other and exchange greetings.

**World Trefoil pin:** A pin with a gold trefoil on a blue background, worn by all members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.