**What it Takes to Be a
Troop Leader or Co-Leader**

Anyone who believes in the principles of Girl Scouts and can serve as a positive role model for girls may apply to be a Girl Scout Leader or Co-Leader. At least one member of the leadership team must be female.

**Duties:**

* Hold regularly scheduled troop meetings.
* Use Girl Scout program principles as the basis for troop activities.
* Abide by national and council policies; and interpret them to girls in a positive way.
* Carry out troop activities to ensure and protect the safety of all participants.
* Attend and participate in service unit meetings.
* Support and participate in service unit and council activities.
* Keep accurate troop records.
* Keep girls and parents informed of troop finances on a regular basis.
* Attend required council leadership training sessions.

**Steps to Volunteering**

**Complete the Volunteer Application -** Choose the appropriate role and fill out the volunteer application at [www.gsep.org](http://www.gsep.org)

**Background Clearances Process**

Begin the background clearance process by completing all necessary forms that you can find within the [Volunteer CBC Processing Packet](http://www.gsep.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/08/Volunteer-CBC-Processing-Packet-7-7-15.pdf). For the safety of the girls, the volunteers and all GSEP participants, we have recently updated our CBC process. This new process has been intricately planned and coordinated to comply with the 23 pieces of Pennsylvania State legislation that was recently enacted. These changes significantly impact the reporting, investigation, assessment, prosecution, and judicial handling of child abuse and neglect cases.

Once you’ve obtained a satisfactory clearance, you will be contacted by the volunteers in your area. They will be able to answer any questions relating to your role and volunteering with Girl Scouts, and provide continued support.

**Volunteer Interview Process**

The Leader and Co-Leader roles require an interview to be held; you will be contacted by a Volunteer Management Liaison. Be prepared to answer questions about yourself that will reflect your personality as well as goals you wish to achieve by volunteering with Girl Scouts.

**Training**

Training is a three-step process plus Mandated Reporter Training, which must be completed within three (3) months.

***Step 1: GS 101*** - This online introduction to the Girl Scout program provides background information on Girl Scouts of the USA and talks about the program goals.

***Step 2: GSEP Essentials*** - This online workshop introduces new volunteers to their roles and responsibilities as Troop Leaders. The goal of this training is to familiarize new leaders with Volunteer Essentials (VE), which is our comprehensive volunteer guide or manual, specific information necessary to start a Troop, and helpful resources

***Step 3: Grade Level Essentials*** - This two hour learning opportunity will build on the core leadership knowledge you gained in the first two trainings. You will learn about the age-specific factors that directly affect your girls and your group and dive into the Journeys and the Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting. You will get to meet other leaders who work with girls at the same level you do and discuss valuable tips!

***Mandated Reporter Training*** is required for Troop Leader (01) volunteers only. New 01s have 30 days from the time they submit their [Volunteer Application](http://www.gsep.biz/vms/pages/volunteer-application.aspx) to complete their training.

**Guiding Principles and Mission
Girl Scouting**

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.

**Girl Scout Activities: Three Keys to Leadership**

**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.

