

## *Council Contact Information*

### **Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma**

#### **Tulsa Girl Scout Service Center**

2432 E 51 St, Tulsa 74105  
918-749-2551 ~ 800-707-9914

Store Hours:

Monday—Friday 9:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.  
First Saturday Each Month 10:00 a.m.— 2:00 p.m.

#### **Muskogee Girl Scout Service Center**

2411 W Okmulgee, Muskogee 74401  
918-683-7738 ~ 877-855-7738

#### **McAlester Girl Scout Service Center**

301 W Seneca Ave, McAlester 74501  
918-423-0826 ~ 888-691-5765

#### **Bartlesville Girl Scout Service Center**

511 E 11 St, Bartlesville 74003  
918-336-3378 ~ 800-457-4475

#### **Stillwater Girl Scout Office**

715 S Husband, Ste 1, Stillwater 74074  
405-372-6016 ~ 877-549-0555

#### **Ada Girl Scout Office**

119 N Broadway, Ste 13, Ada  
580-332-0915

#### **Antlers Girl Scout Office**

804 E Main St, Ste 2, Antlers  
580-298-5309

**GSEOK ~ [www.GirlScoutsEastOK.org](http://www.GirlScoutsEastOK.org)  
(Don't forget to check out our online store)**

**GSUSA ~ [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org)**



# Parent Handbook

## A Resource for Parents with a Daughter in Girl Scouting



# Girl Scouts

**girl scouts**   
of eastern oklahoma

800-707-9914  
[www.GirlScoutsEastOK.org](http://www.GirlScoutsEastOK.org)

## *The 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.

## *The 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.

## *Our Mission*

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

## *Need-To-Know Basics*

Troop #: \_\_\_\_\_ Program Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Day and Time: \_\_\_\_\_

Meeting Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Procedure in troop if parent/guardian is late picking up daughter  
in emergency situations: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Prior notice by parent or guardian is required if another person  
is to pick up your child.

Troop Dues: Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ per \_\_\_\_\_

Leaders (Volunteers):

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# *Notes*

## *A Message From Our Chief Executive Officer*

Welcome to Girl Scouts!

You've made a wonderful decision for your daughter's future. As a Girl Scout, your daughter will have fun, age-appropriate experiences that will build her confidence and widen her horizons as she learns to work with others and on her own. Her experiences in Girl Scouting will help her become a leader in her own life and in her world.

Adult volunteers receive training from the Council and serve as role models for girls. Volunteers are instilled with the core values of Girl Scouting and help girls Discover their world, Connect with others and Take Action in their community.

There are many, many ways for parents to participate and volunteer such as becoming trained leaders themselves, presenting short term programs and helping with communication, transportation and special events. Parents may also participate with their Girl Scouts in the many individual girl events you'll learn about in Council publications and communications. Thank you for supporting your troop's leadership. Volunteers give a part of their lives to help your daughter discover her potential.

To learn more, visit us often at [GirlScoutsEastOK.org](http://GirlScoutsEastOK.org).

Roberta Preston

## *Who We Are*

Girl Scouts is the world's preeminent organization dedicated solely to girls, where in an accepting and nurturing environment, girls build courage, confidence, and character.

Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma is chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA to provide Girl Scouting in thirty counties in eastern Oklahoma.

The Council is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors, comprised of adults skilled in Girl Scout program, finance, property management, education, law, business management, and communication. The members are elected by Girl Scout volunteers for a two-year term, and represent the various communities and groups of the Council. Its charge is to oversee the general operation and set policy and direction for the Council.

Employed staff carry out the day-to-day operation of the Council as it executes the goals and objectives established by the Board.

From regular troop and group meetings and day and resident camps to special events and collaborative programs with other organizations, Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma offers unique experiences for every girl.

## *Support Your Council*

Last year in Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma it cost around \$235 to provide one year of Girl Scouting to one girl. We believe that adults are primarily responsible for raising money to support Girl Scouting. You can help by encouraging and supporting your daughter's participation in the Fall Product and Cookie Sales, contributing to the Family Partnership Campaign, and by giving to the United Way.

## *Juliette Low Leadership Society*

Members of the Juliette Low Leadership Society are community and business leaders who demonstrate their support for Girl Scouts through contributions of time and money. The Society serves as a visible advocacy for girls in Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma and supports a variety of programs, including:

- *destinations*
- Juliette Low Leadership Society Scholarships
- Gold Award Recognition
- Ropes Challenge Course
- Other Special Events or Programs

Supporters of the Juliette Low Leadership Society are community-minded women, men, businesses and foundations. Both individual members and sponsors are invited to attend the annual luncheon held each spring.

The Juliette Low Leadership Society began in 1993. The Society raises funds to support high quality, challenging programs and scholarships for girls within Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma. Each year the Society raises money from individuals and businesses throughout eastern Oklahoma.

## *Money Matters*

- ◇ Girls will become members of our national organization, Girl Scouts of the USA. National yearly membership dues are \$12.00 for each girl and adult member; financial assistance is available for girls who cannot afford the fee.
- ◇ Troop/group dues, typically \$0.25 to \$1.00 per meeting, help cover the cost of supplies and other activities. Troop/group financial records are available for parents to review upon request.
- ◇ There are two Council-sponsored money-earning programs, Fall Product Sale in October and November, and the annual Cookie Sale which runs from January to April. These activities provide financial support for both the troops/groups and the Council, and provide leadership and entrepreneurial skills for girls.
- ◇ At no time are troop/group funds divided based on the contributions of individual girls through dues paid or money-earning efforts. All money earned belongs to the troop as a whole, not to individuals in the troop.
- ◇ Financial assistance is available to make day and resident camp opportunities accessible to all girls. Financial assistance is granted based on the demonstration of need and availability of funds with each girl being allowed to attend one program per summer. Further information is available in the summer camping section of our Council's Connections Book, published in January.
- ◇ Girl Scout Family Partnership Campaign—Contributions to the Council are tax deductible. However, donations made to troops are not.

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

**Q: *Why should I let my daughter join Girl Scouts?***

A: Girl Scouts helps your daughter realize her dreams and prepares her to take on a complex world with dignity and confidence. Girl Scouts provides a safe and nurturing environment where girls can learn to be their best, learn about the world around them and make a difference in their communities.

**Q: *What do the \$12 membership dues cover?***

A. The \$12 annual (October 1—September 30) membership dues are paid to Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) headquartered in New York City. GSUSA uses membership dues to provide accident insurance, development of Girl Scout programs, resource books, and materials; training courses and conferences for older Girl Scouts and adult volunteers; equipment catalogs; and audiovisual materials.

**Q: *Does my daughter have to wear a uniform?***

A. No. Uniforms are not required. A Girl Scout is in uniform when she wears her Membership Pin. However, uniforms are encouraged because it gives the girls a sense of belonging.

**Q: *Who do I call for information or help?***

A. Ask your troop leader first, or call your Service Unit Manager. You may call the Girl Scout office to obtain her/his name and phone number.

## *What Girl Scouting Does For Girls*

The mission of Girl Scouts is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

- With **Courage**: girls speak out on issues they care about and take leadership roles in their communities.
- With **Confidence**: girls discover and cultivate their strengths and are empowered to make a difference in their own lives and beyond.
- With **Character**: girls act with integrity and compassion, making decisions that promote the well-being of themselves and others.

Grounded in the Girl Scout Promise and Law, Girl Scouting is a non-formal experiential educational program that promotes girls' personal growth and leadership development. Partnering with caring adults, girls design fun and challenging activities that empower them to improve their world locally, nationally and globally.

## *Volunteer Opportunities*

Girl Scouts is a volunteer-based organization with opportunities for both women and men at the troop, group, Service Unit, and Council level. As a Girl Scout volunteer, adults have a chance to meet new people, invest their time meaningfully, share their talents and skills, learn new things, make a contribution to their community, network with others who have similar interests, and get to know their daughter's friends and their parents.

Flexibility is the key for volunteers. You can volunteer when you have the time. There are short-term positions as well as ongoing roles. Whether it is serving as a leader of a Brownie troop or coordinating a Council-wide program, the Council has an opportunity for you!

To help volunteers feel more comfortable and confident in their roles, the Council offers training in many aspects of Girl Scouting such as:

- Girl Scouting 101
- Leadership Training
- Outdoor training in preparation for troop camping
- Specialized training in songs, games, backpacking, archery, canoeing, challenge courses, etc.

## *Your Role as Parents*

An opportunity to spend some quality time with your daughter, to sense her pride in new accomplishments, to see her accept responsibility, to realize that Girl Scouting is helping her develop her full potential—all of these are available to parents who work in small or large ways with their daughter's Girl Scout troop.

Perhaps you do not have the time necessary to lead a troop, but you want to be a part of the good things that are happening in your daughter's life through Girl Scouting. If you have a special interest or hobby, you could offer your skills and expertise to the troop leader or lend a hand in working on a specific badge or interest area. You can offer to assist in managing the Fall Product and/or Cookie Sales.

Do you love camping, canoeing, hiking, and the great outdoors? Are you knowledgeable about plants and wildlife? How about accompanying the troop on a camping trip or outing?

As a parent/guardian, you will be asked to do specific things:

- ◇ Fill out and sign both the National Registration Form and the Council's Girl Member Information Sheet. Some of the most important information is duplicated. The Council takes particular care in getting accurate information and making sure parents understand the responsibilities and consequences. The health and emergency information on the Girl Member Information Sheet will alert the leader to any physical conditions to watch and it will enable her to seek emergency care as necessary.
- ◇ Share equally with the troop leader and Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma the responsibility for the safety and security of your daughter during all activities.
- ◇ See that your Girl Scout arrives and is picked up ON TIME for all troop meetings and activities.
- ◇ Attend parent meetings when requested by the leader.
- ◇ Support your daughter's leader and remember a simple "thank you" is always nice to hear.

## *What Do The Girls Do?*

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

- Girl develop a strong sense of self
- Girls develop positive values
- Girls gain practical life skills
- Girls seek challenges in the world
- Girls develop critical thinking

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

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

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

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

Girls do all of this by completing activities in the handbooks and award books, participating in service projects and engaging in activities beyond regular troop meetings.

# Program Levels

**Girl Scout Daisies** are in kindergarten and 1st grade.

- Through **Discover** activities, Girl Scout Daisies begin to understand the values inherent in the Girl Scout Promise and Law and might identify actions that are fair or unfair in various situations.
- Through **Connect** activities, Daisies are better able to demonstrate helpful and caring behavior.
- Through **Take Action** activities, Daisies recognize that they can act on behalf of others.

**Girl Scout Brownies** are in 2nd and 3rd grades.

- Through **Discover** activities, Girl Scout Brownies are better able to examine positive and negative effects of people's actions on others and the environment.
- Through **Connect** activities, Brownies gain a better understanding of cooperative and team building skills and might be able to identify strengths or talents that each girl brings to group projects.
- Through **Take Action** activities, Brownies develop basic strategies to identify community issues.

**Girl Scout Juniors** are in 4th and 5th grades.

- Through **Discover** activities, Girl Scout Juniors gain a clearer sense of the individual identities in relation to and apart, from outside influences and might report increased confidence in dealing with outside pressures like peer pressure and advertising.
- Through **Connect** activities, Juniors are more competent in addressing negative treatment by others and can identify bullying tactics and aggressive behavior in others.
- Through **Take Action** activities, Juniors are more confident in their power to effect positive change and can explain how working together helped them create better or longer lasting changes.

**Girl Scout Cadettes** are in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

**Girl Scout Seniors** are in 9th and 10th grades.

**Girl Scout Ambassadors** are in 11th and 12th grades.

Girls in these levels also participate in **Discover, Connect and Take Action** activities, which over time, will set girls on a life-long path.

# Leader Responsibilities

- Work with girls, plan and implement quality, safe troop program activities
- Recruit parent support for troop activities (product sales, etc.)
- Ensure that all troop members are registered as members of GSUSA
- Attend training as necessary
- Participate as an active member of the Service Unit
- Ensure that all adults who volunteer for the troop as money managers, product sale managers, drivers or overnight chaperones are approved through the Council's volunteer screening system

## LEADERS ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR:

- Transportation to and from meetings
- Serving as a babysitter
- Completing paperwork for you