

Brownie *Handbook*

The Girl Scout Promise and Law

You - and every Girl Scout - make the Girl Scout Promise.

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.

The Girl Scout Sign

Girl Scouts make the Girl Scout sign when they say the Girl Scout Promise. The three fingers represent the three parts of the Promise.

The Girl Scout Handshake

When you meet another Girl Scout, you can greet her with the Girl Scout handshake. You shake hands with your left hand and make the Girl Scout sign with your right. This is a special way to remind us that we are all sisters because we belong to Girl Scouts!

Brownies Can Do Anything!

Twist me and turn me and show me the elf,
I looked in the water and saw _____.

Can you guess the missing word?

For years and years, this rhyme has been special to Brownies. It means that you don't have to wait or someone else to make things better. You are a Brownie - that means you're a leader in your daily life and a leader in the world.

You can do extraordinary things!

Be a Brownie Leader!

So, what will you do in Girl Scouting?

To start, you and all your Brownie friends will go on a big leadership adventure called a Journey.

When you are on a Journey, you'll use the Three Keys to leadership: **Discover**, **Connect**, and **Take Action**.

You'll Discover lots about yourself. You'll find out what you like to do and what you're especially good at doing. You'll, also, find out what matters to you. That's part of being a leader - using your talents to make a difference in an area that means something to you.

You'll Connect with other Brownies, your family, your older and younger Girl Scout sisters, caring adults, and people in the community. When you connect with other Brownies, you team up. Team members help and trust each other and have more fun, too! A team can get more done together than if everyone worked on their own.

And, you'll Take Action to make the world a better place. You might write a letter to get more trees planted in a local park. You might inspire your school to save water on your community to fix broken sidewalks. When you go on a Journey, you'll find out how to do all this. All around the country, Brownies just like you are showing their power to change the world.

All Girl Scouts use these Three Leadership Keys to help live the Girl Scout Law and make a difference in the world. It's another part of Girl Scouting that unites all girls – and helps them do extraordinary things.

Start Your Brownie Adventure

Brownie Journey map is located at

<http://www.girlscouts.org/program/journeys/maps.asp>

There are so many fun things to do as a Girl Scout Brownie!

Which Journey do you want to do first?

What badges do you want to earn along the way?

When will you sell cookies?

Do you want to get outdoors or go on a special trip?

How do you want to help others?

You might want to write a letter to yourself about what you're looking forward to doing as a Brownie. There's a special page in the My Girl Scouts section to help you do this.

Then, when you get ready to become a Girl Scout Junior, you can open the envelope and read what you wrote to yourself at the very beginning of your Brownie adventure.

If you really want to think ahead, write a letter to yourself that you'll open when you're 18 years old and ready to bridge from Girl Scout Ambassador to Adult Girl Scout. If you do this every time you move to a new level, you'll have a record of everything you hoped to do as a Girl Scout. When you write down your dreams, you're more likely to make them happen.

When you and your Brownie friends get together, you can each do your part so everybody will have a happy time together.

Brownies often sit in a circle, or Brownie ring, to share thoughts and ideas. In the Brownie ring, everyone gets a chance to talk, and everyone listens to what other girls have to say. Taking turns – that's all part of being a team.

Girl Scouts use the quiet sign when everyone is talking and it's time to be quiet. Someone raises her right hand and stops talking. As others see her hand in the air, they raise their right hands and stop talking, too.

When everyone itches in to help with chores, the work is lighter for all. Girl Scouts make a kaper chart to list jobs that need to be done and who will do them. ("Kaper" is another word for job.)

The jobs might be getting the room ready for the meeting, passing out supplies for an art activity, and cleaning the room before leaving. You might, also, have a kaper chart for special Brownie events, like parties or cookie-booth sales.

Special Ceremonies

Remember, Girl Scouting is special because of what you do every day, all through the year. You and your big circle of friends will change the world day by day!

As a Brownie, you'll have fun holding ceremonies with your friends. A ceremony marks a special occasion.

When a girl joins Girl Scouts, she is invested. She has an *investiture* ceremony – and she gets her special Brownie pin.

A ceremony can, also, celebrate an accomplishment, such as earning her Leadership Journey awards.

You may want to create your own ceremony to celebrate the Girl Scout Birthday or Juliette Gordon Low's birthday. You might want to make up a Scouts' Own.

Lots of Brownies like to end their meetings with a friendship circle. They stand in a circle with the other girls, cross their right arms over their left, and hold hands. After everyone is quiet, one girl starts a friendship squeeze by squeezing her neighbor's hand with her right hand. Then, that girl squeezes with her right hand. One by one, each girl passes on the squeeze until it travels all around the circle. That's a ceremony, too!

How to Make Your Own Ceremonies

When you hold a ceremony, you might sing songs, recite poems, dance, or create a play with your Brownie friends.

You might begin a ceremony by reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, saying the Promise and Law, or singing a Girl Scout song.

Then, you might recite a poem, put on a skit, tell a story, or perform a dance.

For a special touch, you could light candles with the help of a Girl Scout adult.

Scouts' Own

A Scouts' Own is a special ceremony. It's where Girl Scouts get together to share their ideas and feeling about a theme, like friendship, the first day of spring, or respect for the planet. The Scouts' Own might take place at a group meeting, or at camp. It's called a Scouts' Own because it's all yours - you choose a theme that's important to you, and you decide how to share the theme in the best way!

Special Girl Scout Days

Girl Scouts have special days that they celebrate with activities and parties. It's fun to share in the celebrations girls have been having for years and years.

February 22 - World Thinking Day

February 22 was chosen as World Thinking Day because it is the birthday of Robert Baden-Powell and his wife, Olave. Baden-Powell started the Scouting movement. Every year on this day, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides do activities and projects to celebrate world friendship and honor their sisters in other countries.

March 12 - The Girl Scout Birthday

On this date in 1912, the first 18 girls gathered to hold their first meeting as Girl Scouts in the United States. Some Girl Scouts wear their uniform to school on this day. You can celebrate by throwing a birthday party or by doing something Juliette Gordon Low loved to do - like making the world better for girls. Maybe you can give a special presentation on March 12 to tell your family and friends about how you took action to make a difference.

Girl Scout Week

The week in which March 12 falls is called Girl Scout Week. Some Brownies wear their uniforms when they go to a service on Girl Scout Sunday or Girl Scout Sabbath. If your family belongs to a place of worship, you may, also, decide to do something helpful there during this week.

April 22 - Girl Scout Volunteer Day

This is a day when you can say thank-you to your Girl Scout grown-ups for all the hard work they do for you. You may want to make a card or gift, write a poem, or sing a special song.

October 31 - Founder's Day

Juliette Gordon Low was born on October 31, so Girl Scouts honor her birthday as Founder's Day. She said she was glad she was born on Halloween, when everybody has fun. Girl Scouts honor her birthday every year with parties and special projects to help others.

Showing you're a Brownie

See the pictures on this website for correct placement of all your Brownie pins, badges, and awards.

http://www.girlscouts.org/program/basics/for_volunteers/where_to_place/

The official Girl Scout uniform is a white shirt, khaki pants, and a vest or sash. You can, also, wear a full Brownie uniform if you want. Wear your uniform at special times, like when you attend a flag ceremony or walk in a parade.

Everyone knows you're a Brownie when you wear your uniform.

Show you belong:

Girl Scout Brownie membership pin

This pin tells others you are a Girl Scout Brownie. You earn it by learning the Promise and Law and by being invested. It's shaped like a trefoil. Each leaf stands for one part of the Girl Scout Promise. In the middle of the pin is a Brownie elf. You can wear your pin even when you're not wearing your uniform, just to show you're a Brownie.

GSUSA strip

You can wear this strip to show that you're a member of Girl Scouts of the USA.

Council ID strip or USA Girl Scouts Overseas strip

This strip shows the name of your Girl Scout council, or that you are a member of USA Girl Scouts Overseas.

USA Girl Overseas pin

Girls who belong to USA Girl Scouts Overseas wear this pin.

Membership stars

Each star represents one year as a Girl Scout and is pinned on a disc. The color of the disc shows your level. Girl Scout Brownies get a green disc. The number of stars shows how many years you've been a member at each level.

World Trefoil pin

This pin shows that you are part of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (also known as WAGGS). The golden trefoil on a blue background represents the sun shining over all the children of the world.

American Flag patch

This patch shows that you're an American Girl Scout.

Bridge to Girl Scout Brownie Award

This award shows you were once a Daisy and you bridge up to Brownies.

Troop numbers

Many Girl Scouts belong to troops, and wear their troop numbers.

Troop crest

Some families have crests that show for what they stand. Girl Scouts is like a family, too. You and your Brownie friends can choose a crest to wear on your uniform. Talk about the symbols on each one. Which one best shows the world for what you want to stand? Go to <http://www.fortunecity.com/millennium/puppet/989/crests/index.html> for a list of crests and their meanings.

Awards that Show What You've Learned

Part of the fun of Girl Scouts is learning new things. When you do this, you can earn awards to put on your uniform. Your awards show the world what you've done and what you know.

Brownie Leadership Journey Awards

It's Your World - Change It! **Brownie *Quest* Journey**

When you go on a quest, you have adventures as you look for something special. When you go on a Brownie Quest, you'll explore the Trail of the Three Keys. You'll solve a mystery. And, you'll earn awards along the way. Keep track of when you earn each in your handbook on page 30.

It's Your Planet - Love It! **Brownie *WOW! Wonders of Water* Journey**

Water gives you so many ways to get wet and have fun. Stand in the rain. Jump in a lake. Feel the fog. Glide on ice. Life can't exist without water. Neither can rainbows. On this Journey, you'll find out how to Love water, Save water, and Share water. And, you'll earn awards, too. Keep track of when you earn each in your handbook on page 31.

It's Your Story - Tell It! **Brownie *A World of Girls* Journey**

Stories are everywhere - in books, on TV, in the movies, and on the Web. Stories are one of the best ways to explore what life is like for girls around the world. You can, also, find

clues in stories about how you can help make life better for girls, near and far. Making the world better for girls – that's the story of this Journey.

It's Your World—Change It!

Introducing the First Series of Journeys

Brownie Quest

What are the most important keys for a Girl Scout to own? This quest, which has second- and third-graders traveling along two colorful trails—one they can enjoy on their own and one they explore with their Girl Scout group—answers that question in a very special way. Along the Quest, Girl Scout Brownies will meet three new friends and a bright and shining elf—in a brand-new Brownie story meant to inspire their own Take Action Projects. The accompanying adult guide offers all the tips needed to create and maintain a sense of fun and mystery along the entire Quest. Instructions for a Brownie Brainstorm, Brownie Team Trade, and other activities ensure a quality and fun time for the girls.

Are you familiar with the songs in the "*Brownie Quest*" journey?

Even if you are, it may be helpful to have a refresher! The words can be found in the girl's journey book on page 67. Volunteers are welcome to download the [sheet music](#) (PDF) for use with girls at meetings, camp or for any other private, non-commercial use.

All printed versions of the songs are to include the following: © 1999 Girl Scouts of the USA, Brownie Girl Scout Songbook, pages 9-10. (This book is available for purchase in Girl Scout shops.)

Journey Awards

Girl Scout Brownies are invited on a search. The three keys they will uncover along their journey are the keys of the Girl Scout leadership philosophy. Shhhhh! Don't give away the details! It's important to keep the fun and mystery going! As Brownies move through the journey, the Quest Master Map offers a visual record of their progress along the Quest. The girls have their own mini version of the Quest Map in their book.

- The Discover Key – To earn this award, each Girl Scout Brownie will discover herself and her values—as a Girl Scout and a member of her family.
- The Connect Key – To earn this award, each Girl Scout Brownie will connect as a member of a Brownie Team, with her family on a healthy-living activity, and, as a group with their community to increase healthy-living opportunities
- The Take Action Key – To earn this award, Girl Scout Brownies will team up to identify a community place where the team can Take Action. Then they join together to make a plan to Take Action and carry out their Take Action Project to improve their world.
- The Brownie Quest Award – At the end of the Quest, the girls also earn the journey's culminating award, the master lock that needs all three of their keys in order to open. Through this award, the Brownies will see that, together, their three keys—Discover, Connect, and Take Action—unlock the meaning of leadership.

It's Your Planet—Love It!

Introducing the Second Series of Journeys *WOW! Wonders of Water*

- The Brownie friends and Brownie ELF enjoy some wonder-filled adventures as they invite the real-life Brownies to explore the Wonders of Water.
- As they dive in, the Brownies realize they can create another big WOW as they try out new Ways of Working as a team.
- Brownies learn about the water cycle through a "Green Tea for the Blue Planet," and enjoy making their own rainbows as they explore the precious resource of water.
- Brownies pledge to LOVE water by protecting it, then team up to advocate for other people to SAVE water, too. As they SHARE what they have learned, they find they can inspire even more people to protect Earth's water.
- Along the way, Brownies experience what it is like to live in places where there is not enough water. They come to understand why the right to clean water is so important to everyone on Earth.
- Along the journey, the Brownies earn their LOVE Water, SAVE Water, and SHARE Water awards. As they celebrate their leadership accomplishments, they add the WOW! award to their vests, too!

Journey Awards

The WOW! journey presents Brownies the opportunity to earn four awards. Girls begin with small, personal acts and then move out to purposeful teamwork that engages the larger community and influences its members in significant ways.

- LOVE Water - This first award encourages girls to become aware of the many ways they use and enjoy water. As they begin to understand the science of water and its importance in the world, they will also make a personal commitment to protect it.
- SAVE Water - The second award is earned when the Brownies team up and speak up as advocates to protect water or keep it clean in their community. Girls start thinking as a team about what they will do for water. By making an effort that moves beyond themselves, the girls begin to realize the impact that group efforts can produce.
- SHARE Water - Girls earn the third award as they create an even bigger ripple by sharing their efforts for water with others, educating and inspiring them to join in, and asking them to commit to a water promise.
- WOW! - Girls culminate their journey by earning the WOW! Award, a grand finale that symbolizes the powerful change they've brought to their community. They earn the award by showing proof of their SHARE Water efforts, and by describing how their efforts relate to the Girl Scout Law and how they have had an impact as leaders.



Introducing the Third Series of Journeys

A World of Girls

Stories are all around us – in movies, in books, in television shows, advertisements, on the news and even on cereal boxes. Stories inspire. Stories motivate. Stories spark imagination and help girls learn about themselves and the world.

A World of Girls helps engage Brownies in this wider world of stories in a way that gets them looking for clues to help make the world a better place.

With some help from Brownie Elf along the way, girls see how they can create positive change in the world—change that affects girls.

Leadership Awards

- Hear a Story Award - Brownies see that stories hold clues for how to better the world
- Change a Story Award - Brownies realize they have the power to change things for the better for girls in the world
- Tell a Story Award - Brownies have the confidence and knowledge to educate and inspire others
- Better World for Girls! Award - Brownies understand they belong to a large and far-reaching world of girls

Brownie Journey Summit Award

If you complete all three Brownie Journeys, you'll earn the Brownie Journey Summit award. Earning this award is a very special achievement.

National Proficiency Badges

It's fun to earn badges because you learn to do something new. You can earn them on your own or with your Brownie friends.

You'll feel proud and happy every time you add a new badge to your sash or vest. Earning a badge means that you've learned something new – and you've learned it so well that you can use your new skill to help others.

That's what Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girl Scouts, thought. This is what she is reported to have said:

"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'll see that each badge ends with a few ideas about how you can help others using your new skill. You can try one of those ideas or come up with your own. You'll let everyone know that when a Brownie earns a badge, it means that she's ready to help others. There are four kinds of National Proficiency badges. And, you can make your own badge, too.

Legacy

The Legacy badges are based on activities that Girl Scouts have been doing since 1912. There are seven categories of Legacy badges: Artist, Athlete, Citizen, Cook, First Aid, Girl Scout Way, and Naturalist. The Legacy badges give you all kinds of fun activities to do.

The Legacy badges are offered from Brownie through Ambassador. That means that you can keep earning badges in these categories each year. Take a look at your Awards log to see all the badges you can earn as a Brownie – and what excitement lies ahead as you move up the ladder in Girl Scouting.

Financial Literacy

Your *Girl's Guide*, also, includes Financial Literacy badges. "Financial Literacy" is a way to say that you're learning about money – how to make it, how to spend it, how to save it, and how to share it with others.

Cookie Business

You can take the skills you've learned doing the Financial Literacy badges and use them during the cookie sale to earn your cookie Business badges. Each year that you're a Brownie, you can earn one Financial Literacy Badge and one Cookie Business Badge.

Skill Building

You can add more badges to your *Girl's Guide*, depending on what topics interest you and your friends. These Skill-Building badges come together in three packets, one for each of your three Journeys. Look at your Awards Log to see all the different kinds – like Pets, Dancer, and Making Friends.

Make Your Own Badge

If you have always wanted to learn a skill or find out more about an interesting topic, you can create your own badge.

You'll find notes at the end of each National Proficiency badge with ideas for tying badges and Journeys together. After all, Girl Scouting is more fun when you can see how your leadership adventure fits together.

The Girl Scout Honor Code

It's great to earn awards and put them on your uniform. You deserve to feel a glow of accomplishment when you do that.

Awards mean so much more when you've earned them "on your honor." When you say those words from the Girl Scout Promise, you're acting in a way that makes you feel proud of yourself.

You'll feel proud when you give yourself time to explore new topics and ideas.

You'll feel proud when you meet new people (even if you feel shy), and when your hard work helps you understand the wonderful world around you.

When you do this, you may earn awards more slowly. But you'll treasure your awards even more because you'll know how hard you worked and how much fun you had as you earned them.

"One thing is sure - you want to be proud of your badge and feel that you have accomplished something worthwhile."

-Girl Scout Handbook, 1940

Special Opportunity Awards

You'll have a chance to earn other awards, too. Take a look at some of the other Girl Scouting activities you may want to do.

Cookie Activity pin: When you sell Girl Scout cookies, you'll get better at all the skills involved in running a business. To earn this award, take part in the cookie sale - then, wear the pin to remind you of all you've learned.

When you sell cookies, you're part of the largest girl-run business in the world. And, you're helping to support Girl Scouting for you and millions of other girls.

World Thinking Day award: In honor of this day, Girl Scouts take part in special activities to honor their sisters around the world. Every year, girls think about something different. To find out what you need to do to earn this award, go to www.girlscouts.org/world_thinking_day.

Global Action award: When you earn this award, you'll learn more about how girls live around the world. You'll, also, do an activity to help girls who need it. To find out more, go to www.girlscouts.org/global_action_awards.

International Friendship Recognition pin: American Girl scouts who live overseas can earn this award by doing activities that encourage international friendships with girls in their host country.

Girl Scout Council Opportunities Every Girl Scout around the country earns National Leadership Journey awards and National Proficiency badges. That means that you have something in common with other Brownies, no matter where they live. Your council may also have special things you can earn. Talk to your Girl Scout volunteer about what's going on in your council.

My Promise, My Faith

You can earn this pin each year that you're a Brownie. You'll find that Girl Scouting and your faith have a lot in common.

Complete these five steps to earn the pin:

1. Choose one line from the Girl Scout Law. Find a story, song, or poem from your faith with the same ideas. Talk with your family or friends about what that line of the Law and the story, song, or poem have in common.
2. Find a woman in your own or another faith community. Ask her how she tries to use that line of the Law in her life.
3. Gather three inspirational quotes by women that fit with that line of the Girl Scout Law. Put them where you can see them every day.
4. Make something to remind you of what you've learned. It might be a drawing, painting, or poster. You could, also, make up a story or a skit.
5. Keep the connection strong. Talk with your friends, family, or a group in your faith community about what you've learned about your faith and Girl Scouting. Ask them to help you live the Law and your faith. Maybe you can show them what you just made or perform your skit.

Safety Award

It's important to stay safe in your daily life and when you go on Brownie adventures.

Complete these five steps to earn the pin:

1. Talk to a teacher, parent, or another adult about how to stay safe at school. Make a list of the three most important rules for playground safety or safety on the school bus.
2. Get a map of your neighborhood or town and mark where the police station, fire station, and other important points are located.
3. Find out how a smoke alarm works. Test the one at your home so you know what it sounds like and to make sure it's working.
4. Choose an upcoming trip you plan to take - to a carnival, amusement park, the mall, or even just to the grocery store - and make a safety plan with an adult. Find out what to do if a stranger approaches you in a public place.
5. Find out what natural disasters are most common in your area (earthquakes, blizzards, hurricanes, tornadoes, floods) and discuss with your family or another adult what to do when they happen.

Meritorious Service Awards

Every Girl Scout is prepared to do heroic things. When a girl receives one of these awards, she's being honored for doing something exceptional, like saving someone's life.

Medal of Honor: This award is given to a Girl Scout who has shown presence of mind and true Girl Scout spirit in an emergency.

Bronze Cross: This award is given to a girl who has shown extraordinary heroism or risked her life to save another's.

Bridging to Girl Scout Junior

Get ready. You are almost a Girl Scout Junior. There's lots of excitement waiting for you.

When you fly up to Girl Scout Junior, you'll get to take part in cool new experiences, like going on an overnight at a science museum, heading out on a geocaching adventure, visiting a wildlife preserve, or making a robot. And, now that you're older, little kids look up to you, so you may decide to do something for younger Girl Scouts - perhaps plan a Teddy Bear tea for Daisies.

You'll have three Junior Leadership Journeys to choose from: *Agent of Change*, *GET MOVING!* and *aMUSE*. After you've finished one Journey, you'll be able to earn your Girl Scout Bronze Award - one of Girl Scouting's highest awards.

To earn your Bridging award, complete two bridging steps:

STEP 1 Pass It On!

Share your talents and skills by touching younger Girl Scouts something you learned to do as a Brownie.

This list has a few ideas to get started. You only have to do one of these - or something like it - to complete the step.

IDEAS

- Teach a group of Girl Scout Daisies a song, game, or craft that you enjoyed doing on your Brownie adventure.
- Talk to your Daisy sisters about the Journeys you did as a Brownie and how you made the world a better place. Maybe you can show photos that you took on a Journey or teach one of the skills you learned.
- Help the Daisies make small books by stapling blank pages between two pieces of construction paper. Pass the books around and write messages to the Daisies, telling them what makes them special, why you're glad they're your sister Girls Scouts, and what they can look forward to as Brownies. Inspire your daisy sisters to climb the ladder of leadership.

STEP 2 Look Ahead

As a Junior, you'll find new starts to guide you and become a star yourself. The best way to find out what it really means to be a Girl Scout Junior is to talk to girls who already are Juniors.

This list has a few ideas to get started. You only have to do one of these - or something like it - to complete the step.

IDEAS

- Ask your Junior friends which Journeys they did. Maybe they can teach you something they learned on their Journeys. If any of the girls were also Girl Scout Brownies, ask them how being a Junior was different from being a Brownie.
- Talk to a Girl Scout Junior who earned her Girl Scout Bronze Award. How did she choose her project? Who was on her team? What did she learn? Ask what advice she would give to someone who wants to earn her Bronze Award.
- Go to a meeting of Girl Scout Juniors. Talk to them about their favorite memories of being a Junior and what fun activities you shouldn't miss.

You may want to open the letter you wrote to yourself when you first became a Brownie. Remember how excited you were? That's how Daisies feel right now as they get ready to become Brownies.

Congratulations!

You've earned your Bridge to Girl Scout Juniors award! Celebrate with a favorite ceremony you learned on your Brownie adventure – or make up a new one. Then add your awards to your Junior sash or vest.

Add your Brownie wings to your Junior sash or vest, too. Your Brownie wings get to be worn on all your Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador uniforms, also. It shows you were once a Brownie.