



girl scouts
of black diamond



iGirl

Independent Girl Scout Guide Book

ABOUT THE *iGirl* PROGRAM

The iGirl program is Girl Scouting custom-made for you! It's a great way to mix and match your unique interests with Girl Scout participation – special events, weekend workshops, leadership projects, or travel opportunities that improve your skills and meet your interests and needs.

iGirls are busy, independent, self-confident girls and young women who want to be a part of something larger – Girl Scouts! Meeting in troops is one way to be a part of the Girl Scout experience, but when there aren't available troops in your area, your troop no longer meets, or you become too busy with extra-curricular activities or sports, becoming a iGirl will allow you to continue your Girl Scout experience on an individual basis.

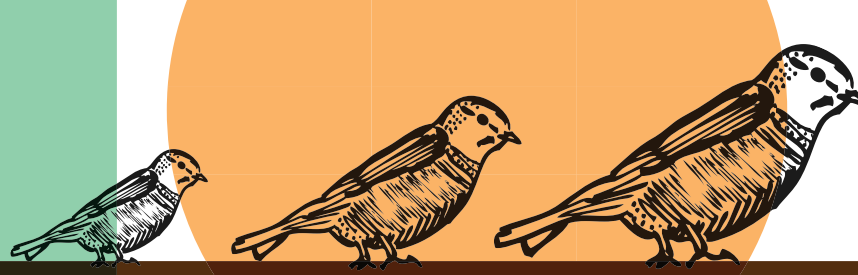
The iGirl program is available to all girls in Kindergarten through 12th grade. It is especially popular for girls ages 11 – 17 who love the Girl Scout program but are very busy with other activities. It's a way to stay connected and fulfill your Girl Scout dreams without making a long-term commitment to a troop.

As an iGirl, you may participate in everything that is open to your grade level. You may attend all council sponsored programs such as events, series opportunities, year-round camp experiences, and travel opportunities. You can also take part in council sponsored money earning activities to help pay for Girl Scout events and activities.

As an iGirl, you won't attend troop meetings; instead, you will work on Girl Scout programs with a parent or caregiver. You would decide what activities to participate in and which earned recognitions/awards you wish to complete. iGirls can earn the Journey awards and badges as well as the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards.

Becoming a iGirl can help you continue your own personal leadership adventure!





ABOUT Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts prepares girls for life and has been doing so for 100 years! When you participate in Girl Scouts, you join a fellowship of more than 3.2 million girls and adults in the United States (more than 10 million in the world-wide movement!) Girl Scouts help girls discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together.

Founded in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Georgia, Girl Scouts is a non-profit organization chartered by the United States Congress. Based on sound ethical values, Girl Scouting is a movement that provides opportunities for girls to learn and work in partnership with adult volunteers. The Girl Scout Promise and the Girl Scout Law are the guiding principles upon which Girl Scouts is founded. These principals are stated in the opening passages of the Girl Scout organizational constitution.

We are a girl-led, girl-only, organization helping girls focus on three core keys to leadership (discover, connect, take action). Through those “keys”, you will:

- **Discover** your special skills and talents, find the confidence to set challenging goals for yourself, and strive to live by your values. This includes being proud of where you came from as well as where you’re going.
- **Connect** with others, which means you’ll learn how to team up, solve conflicts, and have healthy relationships. These skills help you in school right now and will prepare you for any career you choose in the future.
- **Take Action** to make the world a better place, and learn a lot about your community and the world along the way.

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Our goal is to create a society in which every girl has the opportunity to achieve her leadership potential. Our distinguished alumnae are proof of our leadership development program! Consider this...

- 80% of women business owners were Girl Scouts.
- 69% of female U.S. Senators and 67% of U.S. Representatives were Girl Scouts.
- Virtually every female astronaut who has flown in outer space was a Girl Scout.

Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Mission

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

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.*



WHAT PROGRAM LEVEL IS FOR ME?

To ensure the best experience for each Girl Scout, programming is divided by grade level. The iGirl program is available to all girls in Kindergarten through 12th grade.

- d** Girl Scout DaisyGrades K-1
- b** Girl Scout BrownieGrades 2-3
- J** Girl Scout JuniorGrades 4-5
- c** Girl Scout CadetteGrades 6-8
- s** Girl Scout SeniorGrades 9-10
- a** Girl Scout Ambassador .. Grades 11-12



LADDER OF LEADERSHIP

As Girl Scouts take journeys and earn the awards, they're climbing a ladder that lets them be leaders in their own lives and in the world! Pass it on!

It's Your World—Change It!

Ambassadors raise their voices to advocate for issues they care about.

Seniors learn that leaders have a vision and can move the world a step closer to it.

Cadettes develop the people skills that leaders need.

Juniors learn that leaders need power—their own, their team's, and their community's.

Brownies go on a quest to find the three keys to leadership.

Daisies have fun—and learn leadership skills—in the garden.

It's Your Story—Tell It!

Girls move dreams forward!

AMBASSADOR

Girls see how much sisterhood does for the world!

SENIOR

Girls put the ME in media.

CADETTE

Girls explore all the roles open to them in life.

JUNIOR

Girls explore their place in the wide world of girls.

BROWNIE

Girls learn they can care for animals and themselves.

DAISY

It's Your Planet—Love It!

Ambassadors learn that leaders aim for justice.

Seniors find out what leaders can sow for Earth.

Cadettes become leaders in clearing the air!

Juniors bring energy solutions to the world.

Brownies take the lead in saving Earth's water.

Daisies learn to protect Earth's treasures.



GIRL SCOUT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE (*GSLE*)

The National Leadership Journeys and *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* are two combined components that make up the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) and the National Program Portfolio. Combined with the Cookie Program, travel experiences, and Girl Scout awards, the GSLE is designed to help girls everywhere develop as leaders and build confidence by learning new skills. It also ensures that Girl Scouts at every level are sharing a powerful, national experience—girls together changing the world!

There are three National Leadership Journeys for every grade level:

It's Your World – Change It!

It's Your Planet – Love It!

It's Your Story – Tell it!

You can go through any of the age-appropriate Journeys in any order that you choose. Each amazing book has its own set of awards and a corresponding adult guide. Girl Scouts of the USA designed the Journeys books after extensive research into what girls want. They have developed these books to be customizable, flexible, and tailored to what girls are interested in. You can work with an adult to determine the format for your Journey. You can decide how long you'd like the Journey to last, what you'd like the Journey to be about, what type of field trips to take, and which experts to add. In this way, each Journey can be as personal, intriguing, and educational as you would like.

Journeys are ways for you to:

- Develop leadership
- Explore your interests
- Try new things
- Meet people
- Make your world a better place

In addition to the Journeys, which help to develop leadership, there are also badges, which help build skills. These badges, along with essential Girl Scout information, are outlined in each age appropriate *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*. The *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* is a colorful, easy to use binder that is also specially designed for girls at each age level. It holds a handbook, information on bridging and the Bronze/Silver/Gold awards, Girl Scout history, tradition, and much more! It also helps girls tie their badges and Journeys together to create an amazing experience!

MEMBERSHIP *Dues*

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA), our national organization, requires a \$25 non-refundable annual fee to register as a girl or adult member. This payment goes directly to GSUSA headquarters in New York to provide program development and Council support services. Registered members are covered by GSUSA's accident insurance when participating in Girl Scout activities. Financial assistance is available to cover membership dues for girls who are unable to pay. In this way, we are committed to providing all girls the opportunity to participate in Girl Scouts. Parents, guardians, and other adults are also invited to become members of the Girl Scout movement.



FINANCIAL *Assistance*

Financial Assistance is available to girls for membership dues, handbooks, and program fees. Travel opportunities and summer camp also have separate council sponsored financial assistance/scholarship programs available. Membership financial aid can be requested at the time of registration online.



Product Programs

Girl Scouts of Black Diamond offers two annual product programs. Girl Scout iGirls can participate in both programs to earn money for their activities. Proceeds earned through the product programs can offset either all, or a large part of the cost of Girl Scout activities (and relieve parents of this obligation, too)!

Funds earned during these programs are held by the council for each individual girl. Girls or parents may contact the Council's finance department to obtain the balance in your Girl Scout account when you are ready to take a trip, attend an event or are working on your Bronze, Silver or Gold awards.

Product programs support activities, and they help to support the overall operation of the Girl Scout Council. Properties, equipment, adult training, program activities, insurance, and administrative support to volunteers are all important parts of the Girl Scout program and are funded in part by the product programs.

Girls are only permitted to sell products that are Council approved. This includes Girl Scout cookies and fall product sales items. Girls must adhere to Girl Scouts of Black Diamond policies and procedures during the programs. As a Girl Scout iGirl, you will receive information twice a year inviting you to participate in product programs. The mailing will be sent from the Membership Delivery team at our Council headquarters in Charleston, WV.

5 Skills for Girls

The Girl Scout Product Programs teach girls about goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics.



SHOP

The Council Shops offer the latest casual wear, uniform components, accessories, memorabilia, and books for girls and adults. The Journey books and badges are there, too. Find just the right gift or give a gift certificate to another Girl Scout. Girl Scouts may use earned Cookie Dough toward council purchases. The Council Shop is open to the public during select business hours. You can also shop online 24/7 at bdgsc.org.

UNIFORMS & INSIGNIA

The Girl Scout uniform is optional; a girl doesn't need to have a uniform to be a member of Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council. Uniforms are available for purchase at the Council Shop or at Girl Scouts of the USA approved equipment agencies. While there are many parts to the uniform (including clothing options), girls may just wear the sash, vest, or tunic over regular clothing.



Product Program Guidelines:

This year, there are some changes to the way iGirls receive credit for product sales due to a specific Internal Revenue Service (IRS) code that requires us to modify our rewards program.

This will not change the rewards iGirls receive, but will change how rewards are calculated. According to Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA), in order to be in compliance with the IRS, we can no longer offer iGirls dollar for dollar rewards for product sales and must offer ranges at which these girls earn product credit instead. iGirls will still earn recognitions as outlined in the program.

1. Girl Scout iGirls can fully participate in Girl Scouts of Black Diamond's Fall Product and Cookie Programs if they are in good financial standing with the Council.
2. Your parents/guardians will need to sign the Parent/Guardian Permission Form for Girl Scout iGirls and submit forms to the Girl Scout & Volunteer Resource Center.
3. Incentives/recognitions will be sent to a Girl Scout iGirl after all collected money has been turned in and the balance due to Council is paid in full.

Parents of iGirls who participate in the product sales program hold the position of volunteer fall product or cookie chair for their daughter. Adults applying for volunteer positions with the responsibility of Girl

Scout finances and/or large quantities of product, including this one, are required to successfully complete a criminal background check.

Any criminal background check will be conducted in accordance with the Federal Fair Credit Laws. The Council may extend an offer of volunteer appointment contingent upon the successful completion of a criminal background check.

The Federal Fair Credit Reporting Act (FCRA) promotes the accuracy, fairness and privacy of information in the files of consumer reporting agencies. Each prospective volunteer will consent to a criminal background check through an online portal on the Council's website. A credit check is not conducted with this form.

Criminal background checks must be renewed once every three years and possibly sooner, if policy infractions occur during appointment.

Product Program Guidelines for Girl Scout iGirls:

1. Girl Scout iGirl Product Program proceeds are handled by the Girl Scouts of Black Diamond Council Headquarters. All monies collected are turned in to your local Girl Scout representative or mailed in to the Girl Scout & Volunteer Resource Center via certified mail, UPS, or FedEx.
2. The Girl Scout iGirl and her family must be current with any financial obligation to the Council (no shortage from past program proceeds, outstanding checks, etc.).
3. The Girl Scout iGirl must have a signed Parent/Guardian Permission Form on file with the Service Unit Product Chair or at the Girl Scout & Volunteer Resource Center to participate. Girls whose parents live separately but will both be assisting their Girl Scout should have both parents sign separate forms and will receive separate order cards.
4. Girl Scout iGirls must respect and follow all program policies, dates, and expectations of the program and is on her honor at all times.
5. Black Diamond Dollars are awarded based on volume of cookie sales or fall product sales. These credits can be used for travel, membership dues, or program fees. This chart shows the calculations for earned Black Diamond Dollars for boxes of cookies sold and fall product sold by iGirls.

Cookie Boxes Sold	Proceed Amount	Fall Product Combined Sales in dollars	Proceed Amount
12-64	\$10	\$100	\$10
65-99	\$35	\$200	\$15
100-149	\$50	\$300	\$20
150-199	\$75	\$400	\$25
200-299	\$100	\$500	\$30
300-399	\$150	\$600	\$35
400-499	\$200	\$700	\$50
500-749	\$250	\$800	\$60
750-999	\$350	\$1000	\$80
1,000-1,999	\$500	\$1200	\$100
2,000	\$1,000		

6. Program credits may NOT be used for
 - Non-Girl Scout program, adult and/or volunteer items, or any items/programs that are not Girl Scout related.
 - Purchases through other Girl Scout Councils or Girl Scouts of the USA shops, websites, or catalogs.
 - Anything not listed in #5.
7. Keep track of your Black Diamond Dollars- we will be unable to replace them if they are lost.

COUNCIL SPONSORED Programs & Activities

There are so many ways to be involved in Girl Scouting – we call them “Pathways.” Each year, we publish an events and activities book that lists upcoming events, series, travel, and camp opportunities. Council-sponsored activities are designed to enhance the Girl Scout experience and are developed for all grade levels. Girls may register for Council events and activities online (bdgsc.org) or by using the form provided in the Pathways book. We offer so many ways for you to explore your current interests, and help you discover more!

OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIRL SCOUTS:

It's Your Story - Tell It!

It's Your Planet – Love It!

It's Your World – Change It!

Travel opportunities

Girl Scouts Day at the Capitol

STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Math) experiences

Camp and High Adventure



Bronze, Silver & Gold AWARDS



In 1980, Girl Scouts introduced the Girl Scout Gold Award and Silver Award as its highest honors for specific grade levels. To receive these awards, girls must meet requirements that help them prepare for and complete a special project benefiting their communities. Based on requests from Junior Girl Scouts, the Girl Scout Bronze Award was introduced in 2001. Today, these three awards are a highlight of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE).

The Bronze Award recognizes that a Girl Scout Junior has gained the leadership and planning skills required to follow through with a project that makes a positive difference in her community. Girls earn the Bronze Award by completing a Junior Journey, and then creating a Take Action project based on their observations of a local issue. As the girls pursue their project, they put the Girl Scout Promise and Law into action. They also develop an understanding of sustainability and gain an understanding of the wider world by discussing how others may experience the same problem that their project helped resolve. After a Girl Scout completes a Junior journey, the suggested minimum time commitment is 20 hours for each girl to build their team, explore their community, choose and plan their project, put their plan in motion, and spread the word to educate and inspire others.

The Silver Award symbolizes a Girl Scout Cadette's accomplishments in Girl Scouting and community activities as she matures and works to better her life and the lives of others. To earn this award, a Girl Scout needs to complete a Cadette Journey and create a Take Action project that improves their

neighborhood or local community. After girls complete the Cadette Journey, the suggested minimum time for earning their Girl Scout Silver Award is 50 hours. Girls earn the award by focusing on an issue they care about; building a team; exploring their community; picking, planning, and putting their Take Action project into action; demonstrating an understanding of sustainability and the wider world; and sharing what they have learned with others.

The Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouts, focuses on Senior and Ambassador's interests and personal journey through leadership skills and service. The Gold Award requirements were updated in the fall of 2010. Fulfilling the requirements for the Girl Scout Gold Award starts with completing two Senior or Ambassador Journeys, or having earned the Silver Award and completing one Senior or Ambassador Journey. Each Journey you complete gives you the skills you need to plan and implement your Take Action project. After you have fulfilled the Journeys requirement, 80 hours is the suggested minimum to take the steps necessary to achieve your goal.

This prestigious award is definitely a plus when applying to colleges and financial scholarships. A Girl Scout who has earned her Gold Award automatically rises one rank in any of the U.S. military branches.

The Council holds informational workshops for all of these awards. You may visit our website or contact us for more information.

Camp

Girl Scouts of Black Diamond owns and operates three camp facilities for day and resident campers, including Camp Giscowheco and Rocky Ledges and Girl Zone Urban Camp.

- **Camp Giscowheco:** Facilities at Camp Giscowheco include a year-round heated lodge with a wood-burning fireplace, a leader's sleep room, an indoor restroom, and a small, but well-equipped kitchen. There is a large dining hall, also with a kitchen. There is electricity and water service provided to all housing units and a seasonal central shower house is available. Each Unit has a small shelter and wash station for use, as well. The swimming pool is open from May until the end of August.
- **Camp Rocky Ledges:** Facilities at Camp Rocky Ledges include a year-round heated lodge/dining hall, featuring indoor restrooms, a shower, and a large well-equipped kitchen. There is also a small heated cabin called the "Hilltop House" that is nice for a smaller troop/group. It has a small kitchenette and bathroom in it, as well. Each unit has a small shelter available for troop/group use. There is electricity, water service and a shelter available to both units. Also, a small cabin called the Staff house is available, if desired for program use. There is a small pond and an amphitheater in camp, as well.
- **Girl Zone - Urban Camp:** The Girl Zone is a state of the art "urban camp" that will allow our girls and volunteers the opportunity to visit the capital city of West Virginia (Charleston) and enjoy the cultural surroundings. The Girl Zone boasts two bunk rooms. The rooms sleep 12 girls each (bunk beds) and has a separate sleeping room for 2 female leaders. They also have a fully equipped kitchen, a restroom with 5 toilets and 5 showers per room and a large changing area with plenty of outlets for hair dryers, curling irons and other small appliances.



PARENT INFORMATION

As a Girl Scout, your girl will:

- Experience a sense of belonging by being a member of the world's largest voluntary organization for girls.
- Have fun with a purpose.
- Prepare for her future through career explorations, community service, and skill building.
- Develop leadership skills and self-awareness while building confidence and self-esteem.
- Participate in educationally sound and challenging projects.
- Voice what's important to her.
- Gain an understanding and appreciation of many people and cultures.
- Strengthen her understanding of herself and the world around her through the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

YOUR ROLE

You and your daughter can become partners in the fun challenges of the Girl Scout program! Your involvement will help shape your Girl Scout's experience. She'll see your commitment to her growth and before you know it, you'll be growing, too.

As a parent/guardian, you:

- Must sign the girl membership form and pay the annual \$25 national membership dues. This membership fee provides insurance coverage when she is involved in Girl Scout activities. No girl is denied membership because of an inability to pay, but all must have a signed registration form returned to the Council. Please review the financial assistance section if needed.
- Must sign parent/guardian permission slips for events, and make sure any necessary forms (health history, etc.) are turned in.
- Must see that your daughter arrives and is picked up on time for Girl Scout activities.
- Should provide funds for special events and activities or request financial assistance from the Council.
- Should purchase or obtain handbooks and materials.
- Should help your daughter carry through with her commitment to the Girl Scout IGirl program.
- Should help your daughter participate in Girl Scout Product Programs by following safety guidelines and helping her check over her orders.



**DISCOVER +
CONNECT +
TAKE ACTION =** 
Leadership

These are the 15 Outcomes of the new Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) guided by the three "keys" to leadership.

DISCOVER

- Girls 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.

CONNECT

- 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.

TAKE ACTION

- 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.



MY *iGirl* JOURNAL

This journal belongs to: _____

My Girl Scout contact name and number:

Ideas and interests I want to explore as a iGirl:

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

What I hope to discover as a iGirl:

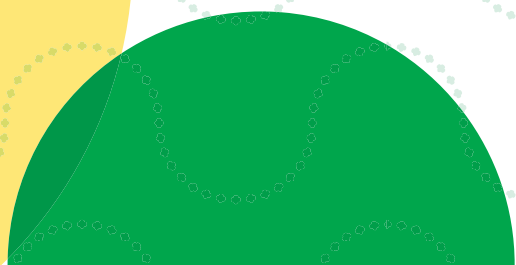
1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

Ways I want to connect with my community:

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____

How I hope to make the world a better place:

1 _____
2 _____
3 _____






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