girl scouts
of wisconsin
southeast

Council 101: Welcome to Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast

Independent Study Guide

Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast
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Welcome to Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast!

Publications Needed for Completion of this Course

- *Volunteer Essentials 2013–2014*–download from our council website at gswise.org. Also found in your Troop Packet.

- *Safety Activity Checkpoints*–download from our council website.

Instructions for Completing Independent Study

- Follow instructions in the Training Guide and complete the Learning Log questions using the resources mentioned above.

When You Have Completed Your Independent Study

- Return the completed **Learning Log** and your **Independent Study Evaluation** to your nearest Service Center.

- You will receive credit for this training once we receive your Learning Log and evaluation.

1. Introduction to Girl Scouts

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

Juliette Gordon Low was the founder of Girl Scouts of the USA.

Girls were the starting place and girls remain the starting place today. Developing leaders is what Girl Scouts does best.

To learn more about Juliette Gordon Low visit http://www.girlscouts.org/who_we_are/history/low_biography

- ✓ Read *Volunteer Essentials 2013–2014* – Quick Start Guide pages 1-18
- ✓ Complete Learning Log questions 1 -3

2. Sharing your Unique Gifts

Your position as a Girl Scout Leader sets you apart as an important role model for girls. You invest time and energy in planning, encouraging, guiding and listening–all to make sure that every girl's Leadership Experience in Girl Scouting has a positive impact. You help each girl develop her special skills, strengthen her self-esteem and broaden her horizons.

- ✓ Read *Volunteer Essentials 2013–2014* pages 19-21
- ✓ Complete Learning Log questions 4-6

3. Girl Scout Membership and Service Area Support

Any girl from kindergarten through 12th grade can join Girl Scouts. The Girl Scout membership year is from October 1 through September 30. At GSWISE we are very proud to say we are ranked fourth in the nation in market share. This is a great accomplishment. However, we would not have accomplished this without the support and dedication of volunteers like you. In this section you will learn more about our Girl Scout Council and where to find support throughout your time as a leader.

- ✓ Review *Volunteer Essentials 2013–2014* page 7
- ✓ Complete Learning Log question 7
- ✓ Read *Volunteer Essentials 2013–2014* pages 21-26

4. Girl Scouting as a National Experience

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) is the heart and soul of Girl Scouting. As a leader you will learn about our program and how to make sure your girls are getting the full Girl Scout Leadership Experience. In this part of your training you will only be given an introduction but in your Leadership Essentials training you will learn much more. Be sure to attend Leadership Essentials training for the level of Girl Scout you are going to be facilitating, if you have not already done so. Leadership Essentials is a required training that must be completed at each level. You will attend training every two years as your girls bridge.

In the Girl Scout Leadership Experience you and your girls will be learning the Three Keys to Leadership:

1. Discover
2. Connect
3. Take Action

As a leader you will make sure that you are utilizing Girl Scout processes such as:

1. Girl-Led
2. Learning by doing
3. Cooperative learning

- ✓ Read *Volunteer Essentials 2013–2014* pages 29-42
- ✓ Complete Learning Log questions 8-10

5. Engaging Girls at All Levels

Girl Scouting is open to all girls who want to be members and who agree to accept the Girl Scout Promise and Law. This means that there is a lot of diversity in our membership. Diversity relates to what makes a person unique or special.

Pluralism is a term we use in Girl Scouting to refer to how we treat people. In other words, what we do to make people feel welcome in Girl Scouting. Listed below are examples of some ways to promote inclusiveness in your group:

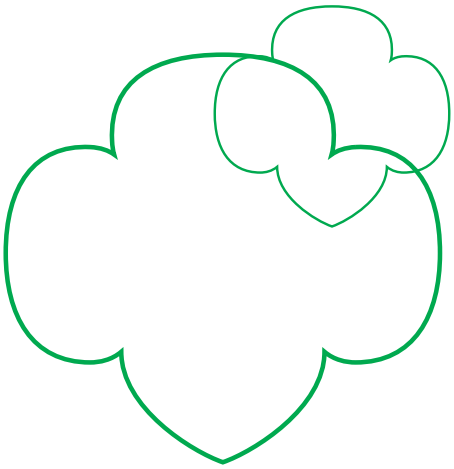
Situation:	**Suggestion(s) for being more inclusive:**
Group meetings are on Friday evening.	Survey the girls and their families to find the best meeting times. Meet on days that are free of religious observances.
Girls must pay all troop dues for the year at the first meeting.	Paying total troop dues at one time may be a burden for some families. Have girls pay dues at each meeting.
Crafts are the only type of activities the troop does during the year.	Remember that girls need to be exposed to a wide variety of experiences to develop their leadership skills.
Girls take turns bringing treats to each meeting.	Help parents provide healthy treats for all the girls. Provide a guideline of foods to avoid because of allergies, religious practice(s), etc.
The troop sponsors "Mom/Dad and Me" events.	Some girls may have a significant adult who is not their parent. Design and name events so girls can bring the adult they choose.

These ideas are basic to the Girl Scout movement. We want everyone to know that Girl Scouting is open to every girl who wants to join and who agrees to make the Promise and live by the Law. No girl is excluded because of her race, ethnicity, religion or ability. Every girl is encouraged to grow and explore, try new things, and develop skills. In an increasingly diverse and complex world, Girl Scouting provides a safe place for girls to develop and practice skills for getting along with others and working through disagreement and conflict.

For more information on physical and emotional disabilities, see *Focus on Ability: Serving Girls with Special Needs*. (This book can be checked out at any of our Council Resource Libraries.) You may also contact *Independence First*–The Resource For People With Disabilities at 414-291-7520 or visit www.independencefirst.org

- ✓ Read *Volunteer Essentials 2013–2014* pages 49, 56-64
- ✓ Complete Learning Log questions 11-13

Extra: Look over pages 50-53, these pages include girl development charts, a great tool for any volunteer.



6. Safety Activity Checkpoints

Girl Scouting has always been known for its emphasis on high quality and safe program activities for girls. When preparing for any activity with girls, always begin with the Safety Activity Checkpoints written specifically for that particular activity.

Note: Our council provides emergency procedure cards for volunteers. These can be found in new troop packets or from membership managers. We also provide Health History Cards for the girls, these should always be on file with the leader and available for any Girl Scout activity. These can also be found in the new troop packet or from membership managers.

- ✓ Read *Volunteer Essentials 2013–2014* pages 65-69
- ✓ Become familiar with *Safety Activity Checkpoints* on website.
- ✓ Complete Learning Log questions 14-15

7. Troop Meetings

Troops are encouraged to meet in public/community buildings. **Note:** Do not sign any contracts or agreements. They need to be submitted to your membership manager for council signature. Before meeting with girls you will need to make sure all the girls are registered. If a girl is not registered then she needs to attend meetings with a parent/guardian.

- ✓ Read *Volunteer Essentials 2013–2014* pages 88-91
- ✓ Complete Learning Log question 16

8. Managing Group Finances

Every GSWISE troop is required to establish a checking account from a council-approved financial institution. In this section you will learn more about how to set this up.

Troop Money Earning
Girl Scout product sales activities are open to all registered Girl Scout Daisies through Ambassadors. These include the Fall Nut Sale and Girl Scout Cookie Program Activity. At your parent meeting recruit a troop nut sale manager and troop cookie captain (they may be the same person). The troop nut sale manager and cookie captain need to be registered as a troop committee person. Because they have monetary responsibilities, all troop nut sale managers and cookie captains must go through the online application and background check process as well as specific training.

- ✓ Read *Volunteer Essentials 2013–2014* pages 75-80
- ✓ Complete Learning Log question 17

Note: Read *Volunteer Essentials 2013–2014* pages 81-86 for additional information.

9. Insurance

It's important to know that a girl or adult is only covered under our Activity Accident Insurance if they are a registered member. This insurance is meant to be secondary medical insurance in the event of an accident or injury. It is important to know that any other non-registered girl or child (the Girl Scout term is Tagalong) at a Girl Scout meeting or activity is not covered under our Activity Accident Insurance. We do not advise having Tagalongs at meetings. Most often a Tagalong is a sibling. We ask parents and leaders to please find other accommodations.

- ✓ Read *Voluteer Essentials 2013–2014* pages 70-74
- ✓ Complete Learning Log Question 18

Resources

- ❒ Council website www.gswise.org
- ❒ *Volunteer Essentials* (given in Fall with Troop Packets and on the Website)
- ❒ *Connections* (given in Fall and on our council website)
- ❒ *Safety Activity Checkpoints* (found on our council website)
- ❒ Resource centers
- ❒ *Journey* books
- ❒ Service area meetings
- ❒ Service area team
- ❒ Membership manager/member of the regional MVP Team
- ❒ GSUSA website www.girlscouts.org

Note: The Web can be a great place to find resources, however, please be mindful as you are searching on the Web that some resources and materials can be outdated. Use your best judgment and use your research skills to be sure the information you are finding is relevant.

As we say in the Girl Scout Law - use your resources wisely.

Keep in Mind: You will want to visit the council website often. If you do not have access to a computer you may use any of the computers located at our council resource centers. The website is where you will find all current information on girl workshops, the Girl Scout Cookie Program Activity, adult learning opportunities, properties available, and more.

Congratulations you have now completed Council 101: Welcome to Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast training!