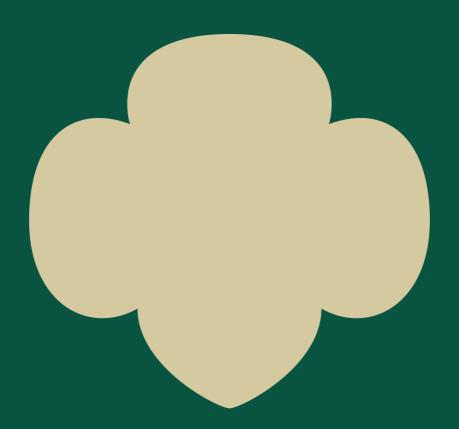


Girl Scout Troop Year Planning Packet



2023-2024 Edition

What's inside?

- Troop Fundamentals Planning
- Monthly Activity Ideas
- Monthly Calendar Planning Templates
- Badge Tracking Templates
- Meeting Agenda Templates

This is for you!

Hello troop leaders!

Welcome to your year planning packet. We created this packet for you to smooth out the planning process, and to put all planning things in one place. This was designed with you and your troop in mind. Girl Scouts works the best when it's girl-led, so we encourage you to include your Girl Scouts as much as possible in the planning process.

The year planning packet was made for you, so let it work for you! Use the pages that are helpful, and do not worry about the rest. Fill up every page with writing, or keep it around for inspiration. Totally up to you and your troop!

A few notes on some specific items in this packet:

The Troop Fundamentals Planning template is meant to focus you and your troop for the year. It might be helpful to think of it like a list of goals and dreams people create around New Year's. It's an orientation, not a contract. It will shift and grow with your troop.

The Monthly Activity Ideas are simply ideas. Take them as you wish and use them as a launch pad for your Girl Scouts' creativity and planning skills. You can also always check Council's event calendar and blog for activity inspiration.

The Meeting Agenda template includes categories for three activities (introducing the meeting, small group problem solving, snacktivity, and make and move). These categories are suggestions that have worked in the past, not the expectation. We hope they are helpful if you want a little extra structure in your schedule.

Thank you for the time and energy you invest in your Girl Scout troop!

Gerl Scouts of Middle Tennessee Council

Girl Scout Fundamentals

As you plan your Girl Scout year with your troop, think about completing at least one activity for each element – remember you can combine activities. Taking a hike to complete an outdoor badge can count for both Outdoors and Badges & Awards.

Badges & Awards

Ideally, each troop year should aim for four badges, or a journey and two badges! Try to rotate badges/activities based on the Four Focus Areas

STEM | Outdoors | Life Skills | Entrepreneurship

Traditions

Aim to experience at least one Girl Scout tradition at every meeting. Ex. sing Girl Scout songs, create a friendship circle, or celebrate Girl Scout special days like Girl Scouts' birthday (March 12). Wearing your uniform is a tradition too!

Outdoor Adventure

Get outside with your troop at least once a year or as often as possible! Take a trip to a local park, have a cookout, or go camping!

Don't forget to check Safety
Activity Checkpoints

Community Service

Aim to accomplish at least one Community Service project. Find someone or something the troop really cares about helping. Identify a community need by starting with your own school or neighborhood and build from there.

Product Programs

Year One Troops can aim to take part in the online portion of Fall & Cookie Product Programs to earn troop proceeds & rewards. Year Two is a great time to add in booth selling during the Cookie Program.

Special Events

Aim to participate in at least one special event each year. For example, your troop could attend a Service Unit event, or go on your own field trips such as visiting the fire department, farmer's market, or pet shelter.



Troop Fundamentals	What activities are you planning?	What do you need to do to prepare for this activity? (Materials needed, who will help, timeline, etc.)	Month Completed:
Badges & Awards Aim to earn at least three to five awards. This could be badges, journeys, pins or other awards.			
Traditions Aim to experience at least one Girl Scout tradition activity at every meeting.			
Outdoor Adventure Aim to complete at least one outdoor activity, but there is no limit if your troops want to try more!			



Troop Fundamentals	What activities are you planning?	What do you need to do to prepare for this activity? (Materials needed, who will help, timeline, etc.)	Month Completed:
Community Service Aim to accomplish at least one community service project. Find something the			
Product Programs Take part in the online Fall & Cookie Product Programs in Year One, then add booth			
Special Events Aim to participate in at least one special event a year, like a council event, community event, or field trip.			





August

· Welcome Back!

 Celebrate being back together as a troop after the summer. Or celebrate beginning your troop.

• Planning Party

 Get ready for the Girl Scout year with your girls. Choose which badges and journeys you might want to pursue as a troop. Keep planning as girl-led as possible.

· Black-Owned Business Month

 Support Black stories and authors with <u>bookshop.org</u> or at your local library.

• World Humanitarian Day

 Give back to your community!
 Plan a project or activity to support a local business.

• Women's Equality Day

- Learn about women's rights!
 Talk about women who
 advocated for women's rights.
- Invite the girls to write thank you notes to the women who inspire them.

September

• Investiture Ceremonies

 Welcome new girls and their families into your troop. As the new girls receive their membership and grade-level pins, make it a special occasion for the whole troop.

• Hispanic Heritage Month

- Take a virtual tour of a significant cultural place with <u>youvisit.com/travel</u> or <u>airpano.com</u>
- Movie night with *Book of Life*, *Encanto*, or *Coco*.
- Learn something! Find online lessons for cooking or dancing traditional Latino and Hispanic dishes and dances.

Self-Care Month

• Talk about what it is, and then do it! Girls choose the activity.

• County/State Fair Season

• Field trip to a local fair. Create a scavenger hunt focusing on local business and agriculture.

October

• Happy Birthday, Daisy!

- Celebrate <u>Juliette Gordon</u>
 (<u>Daisy</u>) <u>Low</u>'s birthday on
 October 31st. Throw a birthday
 party for the Girl Scout founder
 and learn about her life.
- Make birthday cards for nursing home residents in coordination with a local organization.
- Create a birthday party-in-a-bag for children currently living in shelters. Check out childrensfoundationofamerica. org/tag/birthday-in-a-bag/ for more details.

ADHD Awareness Month

• Talk about ADHD, and how girls and women experience it.

· International Day of the Girl

- Connect with other Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world!
- Check out <u>wagggs.org</u> to learn how the day is being celebrated around the world.





November

· Cookies Around the Corner

 Cookie seasons begins next month. Set goals with your girls and plan with their families.

• Native American Heritage Month

- Learn about the land where your troop meets and where your girls live with <u>native-land.ca</u>. Earn the Council's <u>patch</u>.
- Find out what plants the native tribes who lived in your area planted. Plant a native plant garden.

• World Kindness Day - 13th

 A day all about "doing a good turn." As a troop, plan a way to show kindness to each other and your community.

• National Hiking Day - 17th

- Enjoy the autumn weather with time outside. Plan a trip that goes along with a badge!
- tnvacation.com/trails-byways and alltrails.com are helpful sites for finding the right trail for your troop.

December

· Cookie Time!

 Host a family meeting and prepare for the cookie orders to begin.

· Happy Holidays Party

 Celebrate the holidays with your troop. Highlight multiple holidays from various cultures.

Dressember

 (For Older Girl Scouts) bring awareness to human trafficking by participating in Dressember. Wear a dress at all times for a week, or the whole month if girls choose, and let the conversations begin. Check out <u>dressember.org</u> for more details.

· Campfire Cooking

 Embrace the chilly weather and lead your girls in camp fire cooking. Make pocket pizzas and smores in your backyard, local state park, or a Girl Scout Camp.

More Ideas

• Check the Council Website

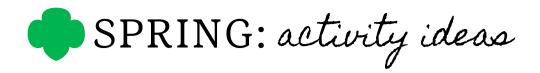
 On gsmidtn.org you can find the calendar of Council hosted events, community partner opportunities for girls, and resources for troop leaders.

Ask your fellow troop leaders and Service Unit Managers

The Girl Scout community
 possesses a wealth of
 knowledge and experience. See
 what ideas they have for
 seasonal activities.

· Go to Camp

 Reserve time for your troop at one of <u>GSMIDTN's camps</u>. Take your troop for the day or weekend. <u>Request activities</u> like archery, screen printing, horseback riding, and rock climbing.



January

· Happy New Year!

 Lead a conversation about troop and personal goals and dreams for the new year.

• Cookies, Cookies, Everywhere

• Host a cookie rally with your troop or Service Unit.

• MLK Jr. Day - 3rd Monday

- <u>Celebrate</u> the life of Martin Luther King Jr. by learning about his life and the work he did.
- Participate in a community service project or Take Action project as a troop.

· Mental Wellness Month

 Talk with your troop about mental wellness and what it looks like in their own lives.
 Lead a journaling activity and have the Girl Scouts write down how they care for their own mental health.

· National Hobby Month

 Have your troop share their hobbies with each other!

February

· Cookie Booth Time

 Have fun selling Girl Scout cookies together at cookie booths around your community.

• Black History Month

- Support Black creators! Create a playlist of Black musicians and have a dance party. Visit a gallery highlighting Black artists.
- Participate in a local Black History month event.
- Earn the Council's Black History Month patch.

· World Thinking Day - 22nd

It's a <u>day of international</u>
 <u>friendship</u> and a time to stand
 up for causes that could
 improve the lives of girls
 around the globe.

March

· Women's History Month

- Celebrate the lives and influence of women throughout history! <u>Earn the Council's</u> <u>Women's History Month patch.</u>
- Visit <u>womenshistorymonth.gov</u> for online events, videos, and exhibitions.

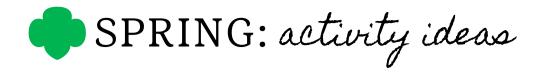
Girl Scout Week - week of the 12th

- Learn about the founding of the Girl Scouts. Earn our Council's "Preserving Our Past" patch.
- Ask each Girl Scout to share about the lives of <u>famous Girl</u> Scout alumni.
- Check out the event calendar on gsmidtn.org to see how your participate with the other Girl Scouts in your area.

Girl Scout Faith Celebrations

 Give your troop the opportunity to share and celebrate their places of worship. Celebration days include Girl Scout Sunday, Girl Scout Jummah, and Girl Scout Sabbath/Shabbat.





April

• Girl Scout Leader Day - 22nd

 Girl Scouts, their families, and their communities find special ways to thank their Girl Scout volunteers.

National Volunteer Month

• Go volunteer as a troop!

Earth Month

- Earn the Council's <u>Earth Hour</u> <u>Patch.</u>
- Volunteer at a local garden, or participate in a trail clean up at a park.
- Learn about Leave No Trace and its importance when enjoying nature. Check out lnt.org/why/7-principles/ for Leave No Trace resources.

• National Library Day - 6th

- Go to the library together!
 Libraries often host fun
 community events you can
 participate in as a troop.
- Talk about the importance of libraries in communities, especially how libraries exists for everyone to use and enjoy.

May

• National Bridging Week

 Celebrate your troop as they move from one level of Girl Scouts to the next with a <u>Bridging Ceremony</u>.

Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage (AAPI) Month

- Read <u>books</u> and watch <u>movies</u> with your girls about AAPI stories from AAPI creators.
- Find AAPI owned businesses to support with instagram.com/asianfounded

· Mental Health Awareness Month

- Lead your troop in a discussion about the importance of mental health. Brainstorm ideas on how to support loved ones struggling with mental health.
- Earn the <u>Council's Mental</u> Health Awareness patch.

End of Year Party

 Another amazing year of Girl Scouts in the books. Celebrate with your troop!

June/July

• Summer Camp Season!

 Ensure your girls and their families know all of the camp options available to them, including <u>overnight camp</u>, <u>day</u> <u>camp</u>, and <u>volunteer-led day</u> <u>camp</u>.

• LGBTQ+ Pride Month

- Learn about Pride month, including <u>what the letters in</u> <u>LGBTQ+ means</u>.
- Lead a conversation on inclusivity and what inclusivity looks like.

Juneteenth

 Learn the history of Juneteenth and participate in a local Juneteenth celebration.

• Check the Council Website

 On gsmidtn.org you can find the calendar of Council hosted events, community partner opportunities for girls, and resources for troop leaders.





SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

We're getting the new year of Girl Scout started by recruiting volunteers and girls. Troops plan their Girl Scout year out and get started.

Fall Product sales start for returning troops.

CELEBRATIONS

National Black-owned Business Month

19th - World Humanitarian Day 26th - Women's Equality Day

Add troop birthdays and special occasions!





Meeting Dates & Times	Badges & Journeys	Activities & Field Trips
Items Needed This Month	Families & Volunteer Responsibilities	Ideas for Next Month & Notes



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

Troops continue meeting and we continue to recruit Girl Scouts and train new volunteers.

New troops get started.

Fall Product sales continue.

Plan Investiture Ceremonies.

CELEBRATIONS

9.15-10.15 - Hispanic Heritage Month National Self-Care Month Library Card Sign-Up Month 3rd - Every Woman Day



Add troop birthdays and special occasions!



Meeting Dates & Times	Badges & Journeys	Activities & Field Trips
Items Needed This Month	Families & Volunteer Responsibilities	Ideas for Next Month & Notes



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

Fall Product sales end.
October 1st the new Girl Scout
year starts.
October 31st is Founder's Day
honoring Juliette Gordon Lows
birthday!!

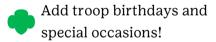
CELEBRATIONS

9.15-10.15 - Hispanic Heritage Month

ADHD Awareness Month

11th - International Day of the Girl

16th - World Food Day





Meeting Dates & Times	Badges & Journeys	Activities & Field Trips
Items Needed This Month	Families & Volunteer Responsibilities	Ideas for Next Month & Notes



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

Troops keep meeting, attend a council sponsored program, go camping or plan for an upcoming trip.

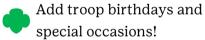
CELEBRATIONS

Native American Heritage Month

13th - World Kindness Day

15th - National Recycling Day

17th - National Hiking Day





Meeting Dates & Times	Badges & Journeys	Activities & Field Trips
Items Needed This Month	Families & Volunteer Responsibilities	Ideas for Next Month & Notes



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

Cookie training for everyone and cookie sales start.

Host a holiday party with the troop to celebrate.

CELEBRATIONS

Dressember

Universal Human Rights Month

4th - Wildlife Conservation Day

5th - International Volunteer Day



Add troop birthdays and special occasions!



Meeting Dates & Times	Badges & Journeys	Activities & Field Trips
Items Needed This Month	Families & Volunteer Responsibilities	Ideas for Next Month & Notes



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

Cookie initial orders continue and are due.

Cookies get picked up. Host a Troop or Service Unit cookie rally.

CELEBRATIONS

Poverty Awareness Month Mental Wellness Month National Hobby Month 3rd Monday: MLK Jr. Day

Add troop birthdays and special occasions!



Meeting Dates & Times	Badges & Journeys	Activities & Field Trips
Items Needed This Month	Families & Volunteer Responsibilities	Ideas for Next Month & Notes



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

Cookie booths happen and cookie sales continue.
World Thinking Day happens and girls celebrate WAGGGS.

CELEBRATIONS

Black History Month 17th - Random Acts of Kindness Day

20th - World Day of Justice

Add troop birthdays and special occasions!



FEBRUARY: at a glance

Meeting Dates & Times	Badges & Journeys	Activities & Field Trips
Items Needed This Month	Families & Volunteer Responsibilities	Ideas for Next Month & Notes



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

Cookie sales end!!!
Girl Scout week is the week of the 12th.
Hold Girl Scout Faith celebrations.

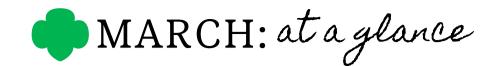
CELEBRATIONS

Women's History Month National Reading Month 8th - International Women's Day 21st - World Planting Day



Add troop birthdays and special occasions!





Meeting Dates & Times	Badges & Journeys	Activities & Field Trips
Items Needed This Month	Families & Volunteer Responsibilities	Ideas for Next Month & Notes



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

Girl Scout Leader's Day is April 22nd and leaders are celebrated all month long. Spring registration opens so you can get reregistered for the next Girl Scout year.

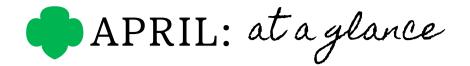
CELEBRATIONS

National Volunteer Month Earth Month 6th - National Library Day 22nd - Girl Scout Leader's Day



Add troop birthdays and special occasions!





Meeting Dates & Times	Badges & Journeys	Activities & Field Trips
Items Needed This Month	Families & Volunteer Responsibilities	Ideas for Next Month & Notes



SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT

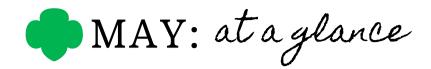
Have an end of the year party, bridging ceremony and celebrate!! National Bridging Week.

CELEBRATIONS

AAPI Heritage Month Mental Health Awareness Month 3rd - World Press Freedom Day 2nd Sunday: Mother's Day

Add troop birthdays and special occasions!





Meeting Dates & Times	Badges & Journeys	Activities & Field Trips
Items Needed This Month	Families & Volunteer Responsibilities	Ideas for Next Month & Notes





Badge Tracking

BADGE:

1	Task: Our Troop Plan:
2	Task: Our Troop Plan:
3	Task: Our Troop Plan:
4	Task: Our Troop Plan:
5	Task: Our Troop Plan:



Badge Tracking

BADGE:

1	
1	What: When: How:
2	What: When: How:
3	What: When: How:
4	What: When: How:
5	What: When: How:







TROOP: 0000

DATE: October 2, 2023

Working on Math in Nature 1 badge, steps 3 + 4

Activity	Leading the activity	Time	How we're doing it
Pledge and Promise	Girl Scout Ansley	5 mins	Ansley stands on stage and leads pledge and promise.
Activity 1: Introducing the meeting	Troop Leader Becca	10 mins	Becca leads girls in game to make as many shapes in nature as possible with a partner from pre-cut paper shapes hidden around the room.
Activity 2: Small group problem solving	Troop Leader Asha	15 mins	Asha shows example of spiderweb symmetry project. Girl scouts pass out materials. Girl scouts work on project together.
Snacktivity and Conversation	Girl Scout Nina	10 mins	Nina delegates two Girl Scouts to pass out snacks. Nina asks conversation question: what shapes in nature did you see this week?
Activity 3: Make and move	Troop Leader Asha	15 mins	Asha explains tessellations. Leads girls in game to create tessellations with their hands as a group.
Clean Up	Girl Scout Carter	10 mins	carter reads Kaper Chart and makes sure everything is clean.
Announcements & Friendship Circle	Girl Scout Anslew	15 mins	Ansley leads friendship circle. Leads each girl to say what they're excited for in the next week as they squeeze.





TROOP:

Activity	Leading the activity	Time	How we're doing it
Pledge and Promise			
Activity 1: Introducing the meeting			
Activity 2: Small group problem solving			
Snacktivity and Conversation			
Activity 3: Make and move			
Clean Up			
Announcements & Friendship Circle			





TROOP:

Activity	Leading the activity	Time	How we're doing it
Pledge and Promise			
Activity 1:			
Activity 2:			
Snacktivity and Conversation			
Activity 3:			
Clean Up			
Announcements & Friendship Circle			





TROOP:

Activity	Leading the activity	Time	How we're doing it
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Activity 3:			
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Announcements & Friendship Circle			





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