

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

Girl Scouts understands that girls have unique needs that are best met in a program designed specifically for them and delivered in an all-girl setting. Research tells us that a girl's leadership blooms when she's among other girls, away from school pressures, social cliques, and boys. In a place where she can be herself and take on new challenges. Where adults mentor girls and model skills, behaviors, relationships, and careers that girls can emulate.

Girl Scouts has developed a model that meets every one of these needs—it's called the **Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE)**. Everything girls do in Girl Scouting is infused with the GSLE, so it is important that all volunteers understand the value of this experience for the girls. As a Service Unit Team volunteer, you are a leader in delivering the GSLE to the girls and adult volunteers in your community. Here are the key activities and processes of the GSLE:

KEYS TO LEADERSHIP

- **Discover:** Girls understand themselves and their values, and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world.
- **Connect:** Girls care about, inspire, and team with others locally and globally.
- **Take Action:** Girls act to make the world a better place.

PROCESSES

- **Activities are Girl-led:** Girls of every grade-level take an active role in determining what, where, when, why, and how they'll structure activities.
- **Girls Learn by Doing:** Girls use hands-on learning to engage in an ongoing cycle of action and reflection, deepening their understanding of concepts, and mastering practical skills.
- **Girls Engage in Cooperative Learning:** Girls share knowledge, skills, and experiences in an atmosphere of respect and cooperation, working together on a common goal that engages each girl's individual talents.

OUTCOMES

- **Sense of Self:** Girls have confidence in themselves and their abilities, and form positive identities.
- **Positive Values:** Girls act ethically, honestly, and responsibly, and show concern for others.
- **Challenge Seeking:** Girls take appropriate risks, try things even if they might fail and learn from their mistakes.
- **Healthy Relationships:** Girls develop and maintain healthy relationships by communicating their feelings directly and resolving conflicts constructively.
- **Community Problem Solving:** Girls desire to contribute to the world in purposeful and meaningful ways, learn how to identify problems in the community, and create "action plans" to solve them.

WHY DO THESE OUTCOMES MATTER?

When a girl develops these five skills, she'll become a girl who:

- Stands up for herself and believes she can do anything.
- Is honest, reliable, and caring.
- Isn't afraid to venture outside her comfort zone.
- Gets along with and works well with others.
- Is an active and engaged citizen.