My Promise, My Faith

Faith Partner Guide to Girl Scouting
Help inspire the next generation of female groundbreakers, big thinkers, role models, and leaders.

You’re invited to become a Girl Scout Faith Partner. We need your help to support the spiritual development of Girl Scouts.

Your partnership will provide girls with opportunities to reach their greatest potential. Plus, your faith community will benefit in many ways, including:

- Promotion of religious education
- Ministry and outreach opportunities
- Connections to girls of the same faith who are not members of a religious community

Thank you for celebrating Girl Scouts in your community and helping us build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who will make the world a better place.
What Is Girl Scouts?

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience prepares girls for a lifetime of leadership, success, and adventure in a place where they learn about themselves, their values, and their world.

WHO ARE GIRL SCOUTS

- **Troops**: Groups of girls who, together with volunteers, engage in hands-on activities and projects, try new things, and cheer each other on.
- **Individual Girl Members**: Individually registered girls who do not participate in a traditional troop. They build their own unique Girl Scout experience. These tend to be girls in grades 6-12.
- **Volunteers**: Registered adults who facilitate the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

WAYS TO PARTICIPATE IN GIRL SCOUTS

- Attending Troop Meetings
- Exploring the Outdoors
- Going to Camp
- Earning Badges
- Completing Journeys
- Traveling
- Attending Programs
- Serving and Improving Their Communities
- Earning Faith Awards
- Attending Faith-Based Events

GIRL SCOUTS GRADE LEVELS

- **Daisies K-1**
- **Brownies 2-3**
- **Juniors 4-5**
- **Cadettes 6-8**
- **Seniors 9-10**
- **Ambassadors 11-12**

Girl Scouts Beliefs and Principles

We, the members of Girl Scouts of the United States of America, united by a belief in God, hold that the Girl Scout Promise and Law is the cornerstone of our Movement. And inspired by the founder of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States, Juliette Low, attest to the following:

- **MISSION**: Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.
- **SPIRITUAL FORCE**: The motivating force in Girl Scouting is spiritual. The ways in which members identify and fulfill their spiritual beliefs are personal and private.
- Girl Scouts is proud of its more than 100-year history of openness to and inclusion of girls of all faiths.
- Our programming encourages girls to explore their personal faith and develop a deeper understanding of the role it plays in their lives.
- Pledging to serve “God and my country” is part of the Girl Scout Promise.
- As with academics, Girl Scouts seeks to enhance a girl’s personal faith journey; however, we do not align ourselves with, or offer programming through the lens of, any specific religious belief or institution.
- We aren’t here to dictate what a girl’s faith should be or encourage her to incorporate any practice or belief into her life—we believe matters of personal faith are best left to families.
Success Factor!
The Girl Scout Impact Study

New research finds that Girl Scouts is linked to success! Girl Scouts shine above their peers in leadership, academics, career aspirations and hope for the future:

**LEADERSHIP OUTCOMES.** Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to:

- Have a strong sense of self (80% vs. 68%)
- Have positive values (75% vs. 59%)
- Seek challenges and learn from setbacks (62% vs. 42%)
- Develop and maintain healthy relationships (60% vs. 43%)
- Exhibit community problem-solving skills (57% vs. 28%)

**ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT.** Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to:

- Earn “excellent” grades (53% vs. 45%)
- Expect to graduate high school (88% vs. 83%)
- Expect to graduate college (70% vs. 60%)

**CAREER ASPIRATIONS.** Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to:

- Desire a career in STEM (26% vs 14%).

**HOPE FOR THE FUTURE.** Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to:

- Expect to have a great future (73% vs. 64%).
When it comes to benefiting girls, Girl Scouts delivers the goods:

**A VARIETY OF FUN AND CHALLENGING ACTIVITIES.** Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to participate in:

- Healthy activities, like exercise and eating right (82% vs. 69%)
- Leadership activities when working in a group (79% vs. 44%)
- Community service activities, like volunteering (79% vs. 37%)
- Outdoor activities, like hiking or camping (76% vs. 43%)
- Money management activities, like how to spend and save (65% vs. 36%)
- STEM activities, like science experiments and building robots (60% vs. 35%)

**SUPPORTIVE ADULT RELATIONSHIPS.** Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to have an adult in their lives who helps them:

- Pursue their goals (74% vs. 67%)
- Think about their future (71% vs. 66%)

**ACTIVE LEARNING.** Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to:

- Work collaboratively with others on group projects (86% vs. 61%)
- Engage in hands-on activities and reflect on what worked/didn’t work (81% vs. 59%)
- Take an active role in decision making (80% vs. 51%)

Girl Scouts can buffer girls against negative outcomes at a crucial time in their lives.

- While it is common for a girl’s sense of self to decline in middle school, Girl Scouts exhibit a slight lift in theirs during this time.
- During middle school, non-Girl Scouts experience a dramatic drop in interest and involvement in their communities, whereas Girl Scouts’ desire to solve problems in their communities increases.
- Also at this time, Girl Scouts remain confident about their futures, whereas non-Girl Scouts are more likely to question theirs.

**METHODOLOGY:** An online survey was conducted by the research firm Decision Analyst and consisted of 3,014 girls (1,507 Girl Scouts, 1,507 non-Girl Scouts) aged 5–18. Quotas were set by age, race/ethnicity, region, and family income to achieve a nationally representative sample. For more information, contact gsresearch@girlscouts.org.
Celebrating Spirituality and Faith

Everything in Girl Scouting is based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law, which includes many of the principals and values shared across religions. So while we are a secular organization, Girl Scouts has always encouraged girls to take spiritual journeys through their faith's religious recognitions.

INTERFAITH AWARDS

Created by national religious organizations to encourage the spiritual growth of youth members, religious recognition programs reinforce many of the values integral to Girl Scouting and help girls grow stronger in and learn more about their chosen faith.

Becoming a Faith Partner

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience prepares girls for a lifetime of leadership, success, and adventure in a place where they learn about themselves, their values, and their world.

- Host an open house
- Hold a My Promise, My Faith workshop
- Add a bulletin blurb and/or allow fliers
- Participate in Girl Scout Sunday or Girl Scout Sabbath
- Add a Girl Scout visit or My Promise, My Faith workshop to your youth ministry curriculum
Additional Resources

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience prepares girls for a lifetime of leadership, success, and adventure in a place where they learn about themselves, their values, and their world.

**GIRL SCOUTS SPIRIT OF NEBRASKA**
Information about programs, learning opportunities, events, and Product Program sales throughout the council.

*Girl Scouts Nebraska.org*

**GIRL SCOUTS OF THE USA**
Information about Girl Scout programming, including helpful resources that address issues girls and volunteers face in today’s world.

*Girl Scouts.org*

**BUILDING FAITH IN YOUTH**
Girl Scouts is a partner in the P.R.A.Y Program (Programs of Religious Activities with Youth) — a Bible-based religious emblems program for Protestant and Independent Christian churches designed to bring children, youth, and families to Christ. The program has impacted the lives of thousands of children nationwide.

*Praypub.org*

**GIRL SCOUTS HIGHEST AWARDS**
Learn all about the Highest Awards in Girl Scouting — Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards — that recognize outstanding leadership through Take Action Service Projects.

*www.girlscouts.org/highestawards*

**CONTACT GIRL SCOUTS SPIRIT OF NEBRASKA**

*Girl Scouts Spirit of Nebraska*
800.695.6690
MemberSupport@girlscoutsnebraska.org

**Service Centers**

*Columbus Service Center*
1570 33rd Ave.
Columbus, NE 68601

*Grand Island Service Center*
2400 E. Wildwood Drive
Grand Island, NE 68801

*Kearney Service Center*
2412 Highway 30, Suite 1
Kearney, NE 68847

*Lincoln Service Center*
8230 Beachwood Drive
Lincoln, NE 68510

*Ogallala Service Center*
302 West D St.
Ogallala, NE 69153

*Omaha Service Center*
2121 S. 44th St.
Omaha, NE 68105

**Camp Properties**

*Camp Catron, Nebraska City*
*Camp Cosmo, Grand Island*
*Camp Crossed Arrows, Nickerson*
*Camp Maha, Papillion*
*Hidden Oaks, Valentine*
*Hilltop House, Lincoln*
*Lakeview Cabin, North Platte*

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**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.

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