

## volunteer toolkit user guide: Troop Co-Leader



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### Who Has Access

### **SERVICE UNIT VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers who hold a service unit or administrative role and support troop leaders and families in their respective geographical area. Access is granted through the council based on placement in designated support roles.

### TROOP LEADERS AND CO-LEADERS

Active volunteers registered for the current Girl Scout membership year in a troop leadership role. There should be at least two volunteers with access to the same troop account in the VTK.

### **CAREGIVERS OF GIRL SCOUTS IN A TROOP**

Each primary caregiver has access to see their troop's VTK account. They have read-only permission for the meeting schedule and agendas, plus additional resources. (Caregiver accounts can only be accessed if the troop leader has set up a year plan.)

### CAREGIVERS OF GIRL SCOUTS NOT IN A TROOP (I.E., INDIVIDUAL GIRL MEMBERS)

Each primary caregiver of a currently registered Girl Scout who is not part of a troop will get troop leader-like access with their girl(s). Access is granted through the council based on confirmation of individually registered status.

**TIP:** If you hold multiple roles, you'll have a Volunteer Toolkit account for each—all under one login! Look for the grey dropdown box in the upper left-hand corner of your screen to navigate between accounts.



### Where To Find the Volunteer Toolkit

The Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) can be used from any computer, tablet, or smartphone with internet access. For best results, use a VTK-friendly browser such as Chrome or Firefox with a cleared cache and visit GirlScoutsNebraska.org.

In the upper right-hand corner of your screen, click MY GS. If using a mobile device, click on the hamburger menu to access MY GS.

Select **Volunteer Toolkit** to log in using the credentials provided by the council.

**NOTE**: The VTK does not work on Internet Explorer.

### **Basic Navigation**

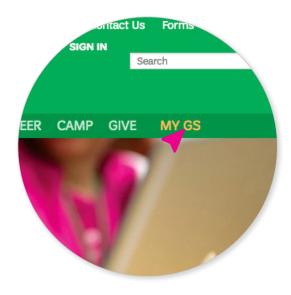
Welcome to the Volunteer Toolkit! We've outlined everything you need to know to get started and have the best troop year ever!

The Volunteer Toolkit is divided into tabs that each have unique tools to help you plan your troop year and manage each meeting. If you're on a computer, you'll see the **GREEN TABS** across the top of your browser window.

Mobile users will see a grey dropdown menu at the top of their screen, with tabs beneath.

NOTE: Not all councils have a FINANCES tab.





TIP: Print - Download - Help

You'll notice these three icons on almost every page of the VTK.

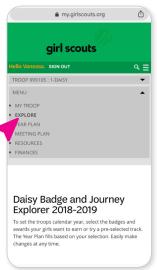


**Print** your current screen by clicking the green printer icon.



Download the page of the green down-arrow bracket icon. Download the page or resource by clicking

Seek out additional **help** by clicking the green question mark icon OR by clicking the binoculars next to Take a Guided Tour.





## MY TROOP

of achievements and information and a snapshot expand and see her persona arrow next to each name to complete girl roster along information. Click the green caregiver's name and contac with each girl's primary This tab houses your

From this tab you can also:

- Email caregivers
- Print a troop roster attendance information with achievement and
- Renew memberships
- Customize the page with a troop photo

one from the dropdown menu at the top of your screen. than one troop? Access each NOTE: Do you have more

## **EXPLORE**

exciting options for your troop started? You can see all the You'll be able to: year in the **EXPLORE** tab. Wondering how to get

- Browse prebuilt tracks of badge and Journey activities
- track with your girls Create your own activity
- Preview tracks and badge add them to your year plan requirements before you
- See an overview of all girls at your first meeting! preselected tracks at the review your options with you printable, so you can easily bottom of the page. It's ever

plan as you go, one meeting add, remove, or change your Don't worry: you can always

automatically populated. A become available. VTK before other features year plan is required in the your year plan will be Once you've made a choice,

# YEAR PLAN

From this tab you can:

Set meeting dates and locations

- Add badges, Journeys, and activities to your plan
- Preview badge and Journey requirements

side of the VTK, too! allows caregivers to see their Setting up your year plan

Scout partnerships and Just click the "X." screen. Tired of seeing them? banners at the top of your promotions in the rotating You'll also find exciting Girl

# MEETING PLAN

success! Here you'll find:

- Suggested scripts
- Material lists
- Printable meeting aids
- A customizable meeting rearrange or add and delete schedule that you can

awards. Caregivers can see all off completed badges and at each meeting and check these details, too! You can also track attendance

Make every troop meeting a

## RESOURCES

can your girls earn at the find the answers you need in you've got questions, you'll an investiture ceremony? If next grade level? What's her uniform? Which awards Where do badges belong on the **RESOURCES** tab

## **FINANCES**

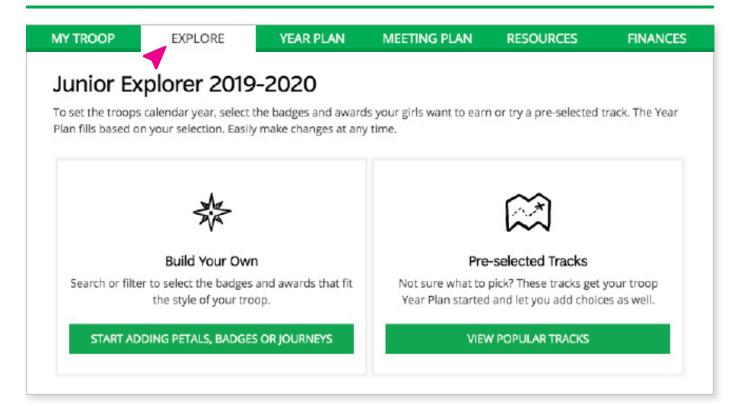
statement and send it directly also submit your May bank the Finance Tab. You can Submit your troop finance to the council by June 30 of report online at any time with each year.

### Set Up Your Year Plan

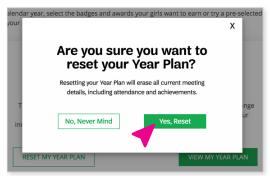
The first time you log in to the Volunteer Toolkit, you'll need to start a year plan before you can customize meetings or activities.

If you aren't seeing the correct grade level for your troop, please contact Member Support at MemberSupport@girlscoutsnebraska.org or by phone at 800.695.6690.

**TIP:** Start your year plan by exploring options under the **EXPLORE** tab.



► IMPORTANT: Each time you choose a new year plan from the EXPLORE tab, your entire year will be reset. Any activities added, meeting dates, and customizations will be lost. To add badges and Journeys to your existing year plan, use the buttons at the top of the YEAR PLAN tab.





## VOLUNTEER TOOLKIT USER GUIDE: Troop Co-Leader

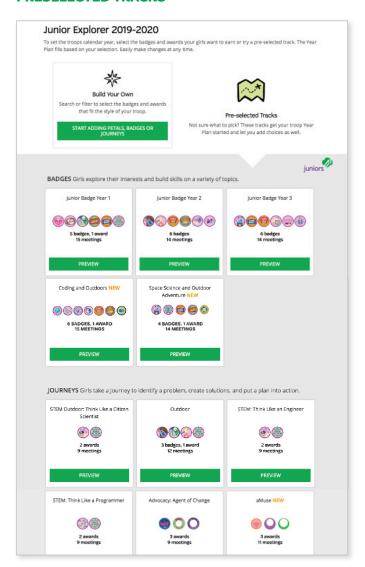
### **BUILD YOUR OWN**

Q Search for a badge or journ	ey award by name			
Or Use Filters >	€ TAKE A GUIDED	TOUR		
CANCEL 12 Meeting Plans	VIEW LIST			
Junior				
ENERGIZE AWARD PT. 2 Girls look at photosynthesis.			SELECT MEETING	Control of the contro
INNOVATE AWARD PT. 2 The girls carry out Innovate project.			SELECT MEETING	Enguni
INVESTIGATE WAWRD PT. 2 Girla conduct energy audit.			SELECT MEETING	23
ENERGIZE AWARD PT. 1 Girls explore different kinds of energy.			SELECT MEETING	OT E E
GET MOVING PT. 2 Juniors investigate how animals use energy acco	ording to their needs.		SELECT MEETING	X)-N-F
GET MCVING PT. 3 Juniors explore energy use in buildings.			SELECT MEETING	<b>VALUE</b>
GET MOVING PT.1 Juniors are introduced to the GET MOVINGI Jour	ney.		SELECT MEETING	X)\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\\
GET MOVING PT. 6 Juniors complete their Innovate project.			SELECT MEETING	y, y j ligh

▲ BUILD YOUR OWN allows you to build your year plan from scratch! You can mix and match badges, Journeys, and activities with the interests of your girl(s). Build Your Own also allows you to search through all badges and Journeys regardless of grade level.

Use the filters to sort through all available programming, and the **Select Meeting** checkboxes to choose which badges and Journeys to add to your year plan. Once you're finished, click **Add to Year Plan** at the bottom.

### **PRESELECTED TRACKS**



▲ PRESELECTED TRACKS are a preset selection of meeting plans for a specific Journey or set of badges. Click View Popular Tracks, and from there you can preview each combination of awards. Once you've found the right one, click **Select Track** and your year plan will be created.

Once you've made your selection in the **EXPLORE** tab, you'll automatically be taken to the YEAR PLAN tab. This is also the tab you'll be brought back to each time you log in.



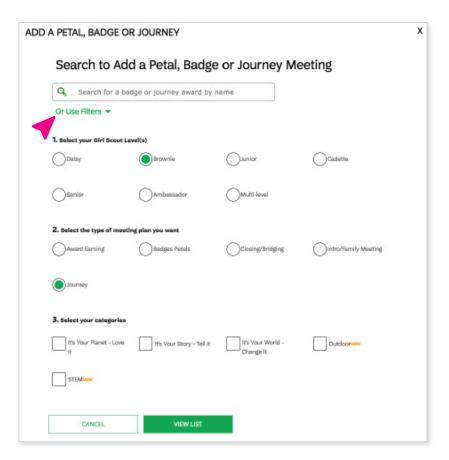
### Add Meetings to Your Year Plan

Girl Scouts are ready for whatever comes their way—and that includes changes in meetings or their year plan. Start by using the green **Add badge/Journey** link at the top of the year plan or the **Search to Add Meetings** at the bottom of the year plan.

Use the search feature or filters to sort through available meeting types and choose which ones to add to your year plan. Meetings already in your plan will be clearly marked.

Once you've made your selections, click Add to Year Plan.

**TAKE NOTE:** meeting titles with numbers at the end are part of a series and you'll want to add all of them to meet the requirements for the award.



### TIP: View Past Year Plans

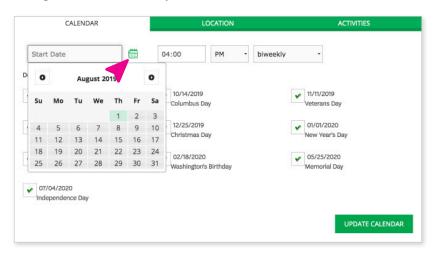
Each July the VTK resets. Your year plan will be archived and you'll no longer be able to make changes. However, you'll still be able to view the plan through the green Past Years link at the top of your YEAR PLAN tab.

Achievement and attendance records DO NOT archive. Please download a copy of this information for your records.

### **Add Dates and Locations**

**CALENDAR.** To continue planning your year, you must set meeting dates for your year plan. What day will your meetings begin and how often will you meet? What time will your meetings generally start?

At the top, click the green **Manage Calendar** link or click on your **green first meeting box**. Using the pop-up widget, set the cadence for your meetings. Don't worry, you can still make changes after this! Click **Update Calendar** when finished.



Once you've set this up, when you use the **Manage Calendar** link again, you'll notice it looks entirely different! Now you can customize each individual meeting, add the location, or even reset the entire schedule.

		CALENDAR	LOCATION	ACTIVITIES
			cancel an individual meeting. You can also group multi re the calendar from that date forward.	ple meetings to a single date. Select the
<b>=</b>	1	Sep 16, 2019 04:00 PM	Coding Basics 1	b 🕸
	2	Sep 30, 2019 04:00 PM	Coding Basics 2	b 😜
****	3	Oct 28, 2019 04:00 PM	Digital Game Design 1	b ©
	4	Dec 09, 2019 04:00 PM	Digital Game Design 2	b ©
-	E	Inc. OC. 2020 Ad-OO DM	Ann Devolonment 1	<b>h</b> 523

**EDIT MEETINGS.** Select the **green calendar icon** to the left of each meeting date to change the date or time of that specific meeting.

You can also choose to cancel one or more meetings or combine meetings. Select the two meetings you'd like to combine, then select the new date that meeting will occur. After you've made any changes, click **Save** and your year plan will be updated.

To the right, you'll see a **green gear icon**. This takes you back to the original view of the **Meeting Date and Location** widget, where you can reset the entire cadence of your meetings if needed.

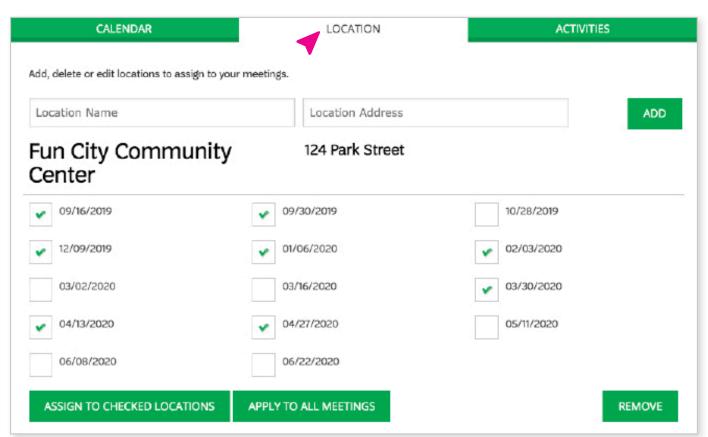
**LOCATION.** Now that your dates are set, you can connect an address to each one. If you're meeting in multiple locations, add each address then connect it to the appropriate meeting using the checkboxes. Click **Assign** or **Apply** and then close out of the window.

You can also get to the **Meeting Date and Location** widget simply by clicking on a date in your year plan. Change a date quickly or select **See More Calendar Options**.

### **TIP:** Manage Your Meetings

Select the calendar icon to change date or time, or cancel or combine meetings.

Select the gear icon to reconfigure calendar from a specific date forward.



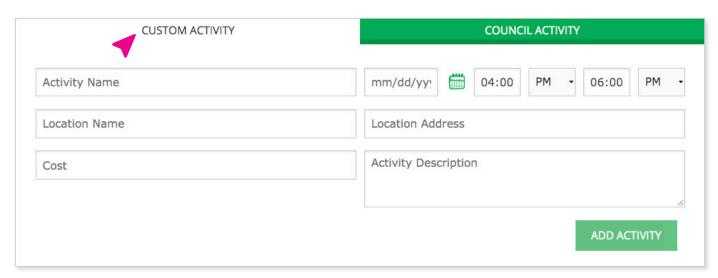
### Add Activities to Your Year Plan

Meetings and badges are only one part of a go-getting Girl Scout's troop year! You can add things like field trips, service projects, or cookie booth sales to your year plan as well. And the Volunteer Toolkit connects to your council website so you can browse and add council events, too. Any activity you add will appear in blue and show up chronologically.

Back at the top of the year plan, click **Add Activity**.

**CUSTOM ACTIVITY.** Add your activity name, date, time, location, and details to your year plan. Remember: caregivers will see this information too, so be sure event details are clear and any special instructions are included here.

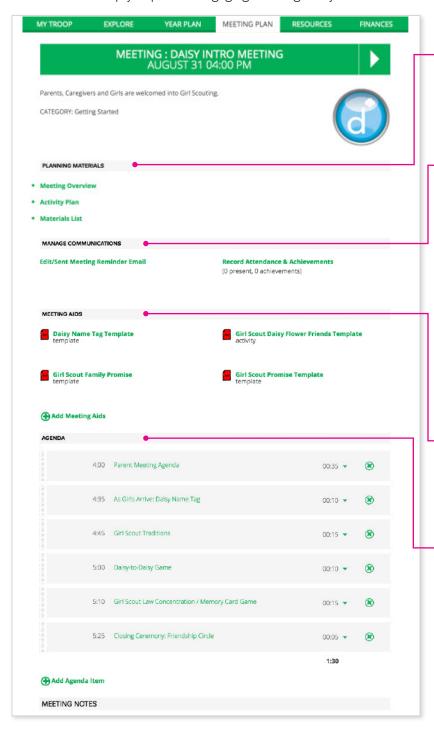
**▼ NOTE**: Not all councils have a **COUNCIL ACTIVITY** tab.



**COUNCIL ACTIVITY.** Search or filter through council events to register and add them to your year plan. *Important:* this feature does not register you for the event, however, it will take you to the program registration website where you can complete registration.

### **Tools for Planning Your Meeting**

Set yourself—and your troop—up for success at each meeting! The **MEETING PLAN** tab has a robust collection of tools and information to help you plan an engaging meeting every time.



- PLANNING MATERIALS. High-level resources show you from start to finish what your girls will achieve during the meeting (1. Meeting Overview), what you'll do and say (2. Activity Plan), and the meeting aids plus the materials you'll need (3. Material List).

MANAGE COMMUNICATIONS. Send emails to caregivers to remind them of meetings and keep them up to date on what's happening. Emails are prepopulated with relevant meeting information, but you can customize them based on your needs. You can even attach meeting aids or other relevant documents from your council website at the bottom of the screen before sending.

You can also **Record Attendance and Achievements** in this section. Use the checkboxes to mark who's at the meeting—and if it's a meeting where you're finishing a badge or award, you can mark that too. You can see the full picture of what a girl has earned on the **MY TROOP** tab, with the option to download.

**MEETING AIDS.** These documents and videos are the leg-up you need for each meeting! Some are geared toward the adult supporting the meeting and some are for girls completing the activities. You can find more information on how to use these resources in the Activity Plan.

**AGENDA.** Wondering how you'll kick off your meeting's activities? Here, you'll find instructions and details for each activity, materials needed, time it takes to complete, and the recommended sequencing. You'll also find opening and closing activities to round out your meeting.

There are lots of ways to customize your meeting agenda:

- ▶ Drag and drop activities to reorder in the agenda.
- ▶ Use the dropdown on an activity to change the amount of time allotted for that activity.
- ▶ Delete an activity by clicking the "X" to the right of the activity. Just be careful you aren't deleting a required activity for earning an award!
- ▶ Click **Add Agenda Item** at the bottom to add your own activities!
- ▶ Add a note at the end to remind yourself and/or other troop leaders about important things to remember for each meeting.

If at any time you want to replace or delete an entire meeting, just use the respective links at the top of the meeting plan.





Don't forget, if at any time you want to download or print your year plan or meeting plan, look for these icons at the top of the page.

### **Questions?**

Looking for more Volunteer Toolkit support? Contact Member Support at MemberSupport@girlscoutsnebraska.org or by phone at 800.695.6690.

### **Volunteer Toolkit FAQs**

We've put together a list of frequently asked questions to help you get started with the Volunteer Toolkit. Don't see what you're looking for? Contact our Member Support team at MemberSupport@girlscoutsnebraska.org, or call 800.695.6690.

### 1. Why can't I register for programs, camp, etc. through the VTK?

Currently, you can only register or renew membership through the VTK. To do so, visit GirlScoutsNebraska.org and click on "MY GS" from the menu to access the Volunteer Toolkit.

To register for camp, programs, and training opportunities, visit GirlScoutsNebraska.org and select Programs from the main menu. Your login information is the same for both systems.

### 2. What are some additional resources for multi-level troops?

Multi-level troops can choose any K-5 or 6-12 activities using the "Create Your Own Year" plan.

To merge two meetings from different levels into one meeting time: begin by setting a meeting schedule. Add your desired meetings from another level to the Year Plan tab. Next, open "Specify Dates and Locations" on your Year Plan tab. Click on the Calendar symbol by one of the applicable meetings, select "Combine Meetings" and check the meetings you wish to combine. By clicking "Continue," you will select the new date for the applicable meetings and save your selection.

### 3. What is not included in the VTK?

Information on highest awards, bridging, safety awards, and additional badges and awards are not included in VTK. Please refer to the "Girls' Guide to Girl Scouting."

### 4. What can parents/guardians view in the VTK?

Parents/guardians can log in to their own MY GS account and view parts of the VTK but they cannot make any changes. They can view the Year Plan, most of the Meeting Plan, and view and search for Resources.

In the Troop tab, parents can view their girl's membership and contact details but cannot view other girl's information.

Parents/guardians can use their online account to make changes to their Girl Scout's information (contacts, membership, family profile) but cannot make changes to troop information.

### 5. I don't have internet access at my home and/or meeting place. How can I access VTK?

You can download and save your VTK plans onto any electronic device with internet capability: laptop, tablet or smartphone. You can also print VTK plans to take with you.

Libraries are a great resource for those without internet access at home – you can print meeting plans or download them onto an electronic device.

### 6. I am selecting my own Year Plan, can I preview badge requirements before I add it to my Year Plan?

Currently, you can preview all of the new badges added in July 2018 before adding them to your Year Plan. GSUSA is working on adding this function to all the other badges.



### 7. I am the troop co-leader. Why am I getting this error message?

MEMBERSHIP TROOPS FAMILY PROFILE ACTIVITIES MY ACTIVITIES CHANGE PASSWORD LOG OUT MyGS

Oops. It looks like you're not currently signed up to lead girls at this time. To renew, head over to the Membership tab. If you would like to volunteer for a leadership position, please proceed to the Membership tab to add a role.

This error can occur for many reasons:

- You are not a registered member of the current Girl Scout year and/or not background-screened. You can renew
  your membership in your Member Profile and our Member Support team can resend your background screen link,
  if needed.
- You have not renewed your co-leader role. You can renew your role in your Member Profile, or contact Member Support to add additional roles to your account.
- We do not have your current troop meeting information in our registration system. Contact Member Support for assistance.

### 8. Why are some of my tabs missing? Why doesn't my screen look like the pictures in this guide?

If you are logging into your VTK using Internet Explorer web browser, you will likely have these issues. The VTK works best in Google Chrome. To download this browser, visit: <a href="mailto:Google.com/chrome/browser/desktop/index.html">Google.com/chrome/browser/desktop/index.html</a>

### 9. What is the VTK Scavenger Hunt? (see page 15)

We created the VTK Scavenger Hunt as a way for volunteers to show them how easily the VTK is to learn and use! Test your skills with scavenger hunt. If you have any questions you can't answer, give us a call and we're happy to help!

### **VTK Scavenger Hunt**

INSTRUCTIONS: Visit GirlScoutsNebraska.org, select **MY GS** from the navigation menu. After logging into your account, select **VOLUNTEER TOOLKIT** on the left tool bar. Using the list below, check the box next to each item you complete. Hint: Use the **VTK Guide**, the **Help Menu** within the VTK, the trainings in **gsLearn**, and **fellow volunteers** to help you!

MY TROOP TAB
☐ Find the icon to email your whole troop
☐ Find the icons to download and to print your troop roster
EXPLORE TAB
☐ Find a pre-selected Year Plan focused on Badges for a specific grade level (not multi-level)
$\square$ Find the badge requirements for one of the badges in that Year Plan
$\square$ Select a Year Plan (NOTE: you will be able to change it if needed)
MY YEAR PLAN TAB
☐ Set dates and locations to the meetings in your Year Plan
☐ Add a STEM badge to your Year Plan
☐ Move the STEM badge to be your 3rd meeting of the year
☐ Delete the 5th meeting of your Year Plan
☐ Change the date of your 2nd meeting
☐ Combine two meetings into one
☐ Add a custom activity to your Year Plan
MEETING PLAN TAB
$\square$ Find the icon to download and to print a Meeting Plan
$\square$ Find what Materials you will need for that meeting
☐ How many Meeting Aids are available for this meeting?
$\square$ Find where to send a Reminder Email to troop meetings about this meeting
Under the Meeting Planner:
$\square$ Rearrange the order of the 2nd and 3rd activities
$\square$ Add a 15-minute "birthday celebration" activity to the end of your meeting
$\square$ Change the Closing Ceremony to 20 minutes
☐ Delete the 4th activity
RESOURCE TAB
☐ How many resources are under Trips & Travel?
☐ Find the Badge Explorer
COUNT UP THE NUMBER OF BOXES YOU CHECKED:

- ▶ 18 or more boxes then you're ready to go!
- ▶ 17 or fewer boxes give us a call and we can show you some VTK tips!

