

# volunteer toolkit user guide: Service Unit Volunteer

The Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) helps troop leaders deliver easy, fun troop meetings year-round! With this step-by-step guide, you'll discover how your volunteers can take their troop experience to the next level!



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#### Who Has Access to the Volunteer Toolkit?

#### 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 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.

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#### 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.

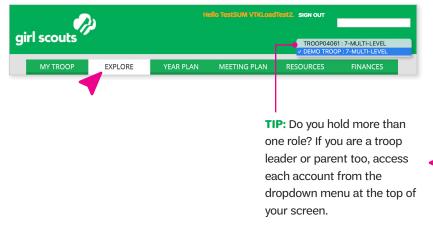
#### **Basic Navigation**

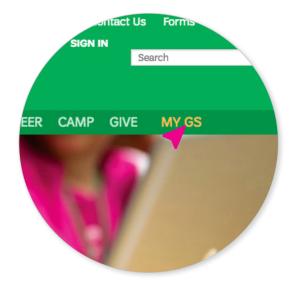
Welcome to the Volunteer Toolkit! We've outlined everything you need to know to set up your troop volunteers for success!

The Volunteer Toolkit is divided into tabs that feature unique tools to help you plan a 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 each tab beneath.

#### **NOTE:** Not all councils have a **FINANCES** tab.





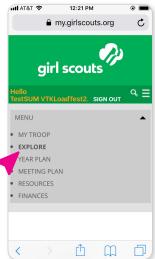
#### TIP: Print – Download – Help

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

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





# MY TROOP

# The MY TROOP tab displays

administrative volunteers. sample girl information for troop leaders and troop This is the space where

each girl. and attendance, as well as and contact information. girl roster, along with snapshot of achievements next to each name for a primary caregiver names caregivers find their complete personal information about They'll click the green arrow

achievement and attendance print a troop roster with can also email caregivers, From this tab, troop leaders memberships! information, and renew

# EXPLORE

options for the upcoming Check out all the exciting troop year on the **EXPLORE** tab. You'll be able to:

- Browse prebuilt tracks all preselected year plans Scout grade level to see activities, and choose a Girl of badge and Journey below it
- Create your own activity track
- Preview tracks and badge them to a year plan requirements before adding
- See an overview of all even printable, so you can preselected tracks at the easily review your options!) bottom of the page (it's

Just click the "X."

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

is required in the Volunteer will automatically populate the become available. YEAR PLAN tab. A year plan Once you select a year plan, it Toolkit before other features

# **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 Volunteer Toolkit, allows caregivers to see their FYI, setting up a year plan

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

# MEETING PLAN

success! Here you'll find: Make every troop meeting a

- Suggested scripts
- Material lists
- Printable meeting aids
- meetings) A customizable meeting rearrange, add, and delete schedule (troop leaders can

awards. off completed badges and at each meeting and check You can also track attendance

# RESOURCES

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

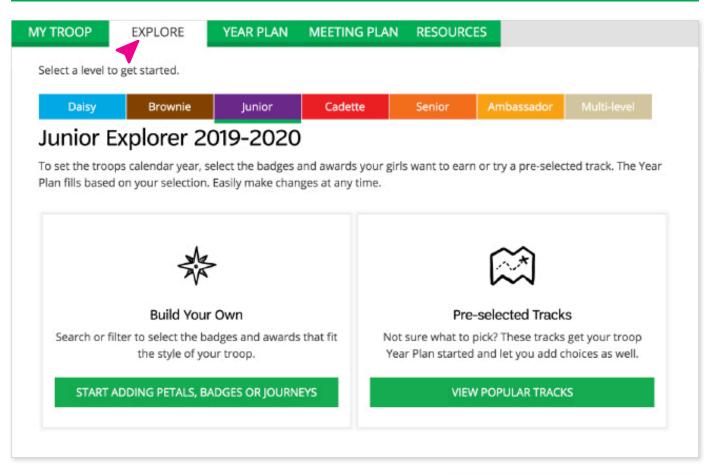
# FINANCES

co-leaders have full send it directly to the council online. They can also submit their troop finance report co-leaders can go to submit The Finance tab is where functionality; while parents/ purposes only; troop Volunteers for demonstrative tab is provided to Service Unit by June 30 of each year. This their May bank statement anc VIEW. caregivers have a read-only



#### Set Up a Year Plan

When you log in to the Volunteer Toolkit the first time, you'll need to select a year plan before you can customize meetings or activities. The **EXPLORE** tab displays available prebuilt year plans for you to choose from based on the grade level you select.



► IMPORTANT: Each time you choose a new year plan from the EXPLORE tab, it will reset your entire year. Any activities, meeting dates, and customizations will be lost. To add badges and Journeys or edit your existing year plan in any way, use the buttons on the YEAR PLAN tab.





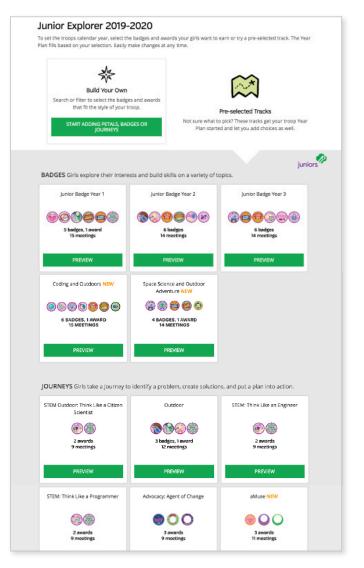
#### **BUILD YOUR OWN**

Q Search for a badge or journer	y award by name			
Or Use Filters 🕨	Co TAKE A GUIDED T	OUR		
	VEW LIST			
12 Meeting Plans				
ENERGIZE AWARD PT. 2 Sirla look at photosynthesis.			SELECT MEETING	
NNOWATE AWARD PT. 2 The girls carry out Innovate project.			SELECT MEETING	Ing ound
NVESTIGATE AWARD PT. 2 Sirls conduct energy audit.			SELECT MEETING	
ENERGIZE AWARD PT. 1 Sirls explore different kinds of energy.			SELECT MEETING	Col 2 C
GET MCVING PT. 2 Juniors investigate how animals use energy accord	ding to their needs.		SELECT MEETING	
BET MOVING PT. 3 Juniors explore energy use in buildings.			SELECT MEETING	N-INF
SET MOVING PT. 1 Juniors are introduced to the GET MOVINGI Journe	2y.		SELECT MEETING	<b>X-N</b> H
GET MOVING PT. 6 Juniors complete their Innovate project.			SELECT MEETING	Nevig
		_		

▲ BUILD YOUR OWN allows troop leaders to mix and match badges, Journeys, and activities with the interests of their girl(s). Build Your Own will also allow you to search through all badges and Journeys regardless of grade level.

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

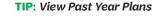
#### Add Meetings to the Year Plan

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 **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.

**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.

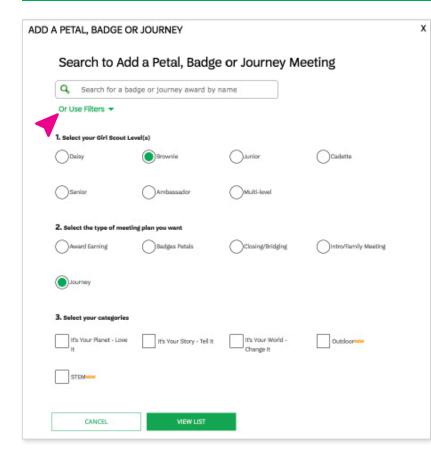
Once you've made your selections, click Add to Year Plan.



(Service unit volunteer year plans do not archive. This feature is for troop and caregiver users only.)

**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. Troop volunteers and caregivers should download a copy of this information for their records.

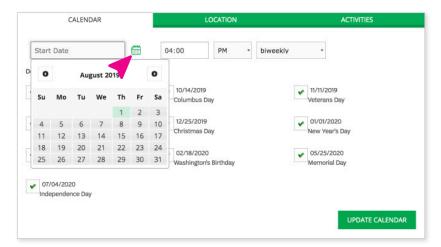


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#### **Add Dates and Locations**

As a service unit volunteer, you may not need to set dates for meetings, but to continue planning your year, the system requires that you set meeting dates for your year plan.

At the top, click the green **Manage Calendar** link. Using the pop-up widget, choose a date and time for meetings to start and set the cadence for your meetings. Click **Update Calendar** when finished. Don't worry, you can still make changes after this.



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				
Select the 🛗 to change the date, time, or cancel an individual meeting. You can also group multiple meetings to a single date. Select the								
6	1	Sep 16, 2019 04:00 PM	Coding Basics 1	b 🐵				
<b>##</b>	2	Sep 30, 2019 04:00 PM	Coding Basics 2	b 🐵				
<b>#</b>	з	Oct 28, 2019 04:00 PM	Digital Game Design 1	b 🐵				
<b>600</b>	4	Dec 09, 2019 04:00 PM	Digital Game Design 2	b 🐵				
,	E	Inc. 06, 2020, 04-00, DM	Las Doueloossat I	h 🚓				

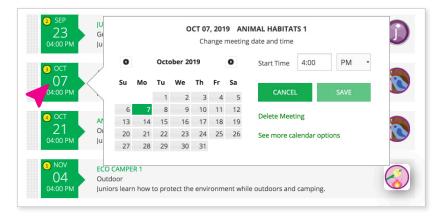
CALENDAR: To edit the schedule, select the green calendar icon to the left of each meeting date to change the date or time of that specific meeting.

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.

Location Name	Location Address		ADD
un City Commun Center	ity 124 Park Street		
09/16/2019	• 09/30/2019	10/28/2019	
12/09/2019	• 01/06/2020	✔ 02/03/2020	
03/02/2020	03/16/2020	✔ 03/30/2020	
04/13/2020	• 04/27/2020	05/11/2020	
06/08/2020	06/22/2020		



#### **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.

TIP: 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.

#### Add Activities to the Year Plan

Meetings and badges are only one part of a go-getting Girl Scout's troop year! You can also add things like field trips, service projects, or cookie booth sales to your year plan. 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. From the administrative volunteer view, no one else can see this event.

CUSTOM ACTIVITY	COUNCIL ACTIVITY				
Activity Name	mm/dd/yy! 🗂 04:00 PM - 06:00 PM				
Location Name	Location Address				
Cost	Activity Description				

**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 a Meeting

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

MY TROOP	EXPLORE	YEAR PLAN	MEETING PLAN	RESOURCES	FINANCES				
	MEE	TING : DAISY IN AUGUST 31 0	<b>TRO MEETING</b> 4:00 PM						
Parents, Caregiv	Parents, Caregivers and Girls are welcomed into Girl Scouting.								
CATEGORY: Get	ing Started								
PLANNING MATE	RIALS								
Meeting Overv	ew								
Activity Plan									
Materials List									
MANAGE COMM	UNICATIONS	•							
Edit/Sent Meet	ing Reminder Em	ail	Record Attendance (0 present, 0 achieve						
Daisy Nam template	Daisy Name Tag Template								
Girl Scout I template	amily Promise		Girl Scout Prom template	ise Template					
AGENDA									
	4:00 Parent M	leeting Agenda		00:35 💌	۲				
	4:35 As Girls /	Arrive: Dalsy Name Tag		00:10 👻	۲				
	4:45 Girl Scou	t Traditions		00:15 🔻	۲				
	5:00 Daisy-to-	Daisy Game		00:10 👻	۲				
	5:10 Girl Scou	t Law Concentration / Merr	ory Card Game	00:15 🔻	۲				
	5:25 Closing C	ieremony: Friendship Circle		00:05 🔫	۲				
( Add Agenda	a Item			1:30					
MEETING NOT	TES								

**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. 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 email before sending.

Troop leaders can also record attendance and achievement\* 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 troop leaders need! Some are geared toward the adult supporting the meeting and some are for each girl completing the activities. You can find more information on how to use these resources in the activity plan under Planning Materials.

AGENDA. Wondering how to kick off your meeting activities? Here, you'll find instructions and details for each activity, including materials needed, time it takes to complete, and 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 a certain activity.
- Delete an activity by clicking the "X" to the right of it. Be careful you aren't deleting a required activity to earn an award though!
- Click Add Agenda Item at the bottom to add your own activities too!
- Add a note at the end to remind yourself about important things to remember for that 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.

And remember: 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?

MEMB	ERSHIP	TROOPS	FAMILY PROFILE	ACTIVITIES	MY ACTIVITIES	CHANGE PASSWORD	LOG OUT MyGS		
the	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: <u>Google.com/chrome/browser/desktop/index.html</u>