

New Troop FAQs

Interested in starting a new Girl Scout troop in your community? Here's what you need to know about starting a troop with Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington!

How many girls can be in a troop? That depends on the level! Daisy troops must be open to welcoming at least eight girls total. Generally, most multi-level troops must be open to welcoming at least 10 girls.

Do girls in a troop need to go to the same school? No! Girl Scout troops welcome any girls who want to join as long as they are in school grades supported by that troop and the meeting time and frequency works for the family! Girl Scouts bring girls together from all different walks of life.

Can a troop have more than one grade? Yes! Troop leaders can decide what program levels and grades to support. We recommend keeping it simple to start and supporting just one school grade.

Who can be a troop leader? We welcome all interested adults who can complete registration, a background check, and training. Each Girl Scout troop must have *at least* two volunteers in the troop leader role who are unrelated and from different households, one of whom must be female.

What resources and support is available? A lot! Here are just a few of the many resources we have for leaders:

- Service unit volunteers (volunteers in your community who champion Girl Scouts locally)
- Girl Scout staff
- Guides and handbooks, like *Volunteer Essentials* and the *New Leader's Guide to Success*
- Training and tools, like **Girl Scout Foundations** training and the Volunteer Toolkit

What is the time commitment? Based on troop leader feedback, we know that a troop leader spends 10-15 hours per month on average volunteering with Girl Scouts. Our most successful troop leaders engage and recruit other adults to take on duties and responsibilities, lightening the volunteer load for each person and adding fun and community to the experience!

Do troop volunteers need to be related to girls in the troop? No! Just like with troop leaders, we welcome all interested adults who can complete registration, a background check, and training.

Is financial assistance available? Yes! Financial assistance is available for membership, as well as a Girl Scout's first uniform and handbook.

What is the cost to join? Annual membership is \$25, and the membership year runs October 1-September 30. Our discounted **Extended Year Membership** is available this spring!

Have questions? We've got answers@girlscoutsw.org



Ready to start a new Girl Scout troop? Scan the code to learn more!

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