

Teen Mentoring Awards Overview

When you guide or teach others, you act as a mentor! As a teen mentor, you share your skills, test your knowledge and try out new leadership roles. For younger girls that you mentor, this is a chance to learn from teens—and in the eyes of these younger Girl Scouts, you are like a local rock star!

Teen mentoring awards can be listed on your resumé; these awards demonstrate that you have what it takes to lead, which is great experience for future jobs or can bolster your application when reaching for higher education!

Leader in Action (LiA)

► **What is it?**

The Leader in Action (LiA) award gives you the opportunity to learn by doing! You can earn the LiA award by assisting a Girl Scout Brownie group on any of the three Leadership Journeys. You may earn one LiA or all three! You'll share your organizational skills, use a special talent (such as creating and demonstrating a science experiment or craft), teach Brownies something important from their Journey (such as making healthy snacks or getting exercise) and reflect on your experience.



Award patches

► **Who is it for?** Girl Scout Cadettes.

► **What prerequisites do I need?** None.

► **What training do I need?** None.

► **How long will it take?**

You will work with a Brownie group over the course of one (1) or more sessions, depending on the LiA Award and the group's schedule.

► **How do I get started?**

Contact your service unit to help identify a Brownie troop that you could work with OR find out if day camps in your area offer LiA camp sessions that you could participate in OR reach out to council staff to explore more options! The adult guides to Brownie Journeys contain the guidelines specific to each of the three LiA Awards.

Program Aide (PA)

► **What is it?**

Girl Scouts who earn the Program Aide award are role models for younger girls. As a Program Aide, you will have an opportunity to deepen your understanding of what leadership development means to you and simultaneously, guide younger girls to be leaders in their own lives and in the world!



Award pin

► **Who is it for?** Girl Scout Cadettes (who have completed 6th grade).

► **What prerequisites do I need?** Completion of at least one Leader in Action (LiA) award.

► **What training do I need?** Program Aide training.

► **How long will it take?**

You will work directly with younger girls over six (6) activity sessions (in addition to what you did to earn your LiA!) This could be over the course of a day camp session, at a series of events being put on by your service unit, or by helping out a troop at their regular meetings.

► **How do I get started?**

Visit girlscoutsosw.org/camp to find out more about day camps in your area that may offer Program Aide programs, or connect with your service unit to find out about upcoming opportunities! Some Program Aide trainings are also listed on the events page of the GSOSW website!

Volunteer-in-Training (VIT)

► **What is it?**

This award is for girls who'd like to mentor a Girl Scout Daisy, Brownie, Junior or Cadette group outside of the camp experience. If you've completed ninth grade, you're eligible to earn this award. Your Volunteer-in-Training project should span a three to six month period.



Award pin

- ▶ **Who is it for?** Girl Scout Seniors (who have completed 9th grade) and Ambassadors.
- ▶ **What prerequisites do I need?** None.
- ▶ **What training do I need?** Volunteer Essentials and Troop Safety training, as well as the grade level training for the girls you will be working with. You can find these volunteer trainings at girlscoutsosw.org/training.
- ▶ **How long will it take?**
You'll work with a group of younger girls for a three (3) to six (6) month period at their regular meetings.
- ▶ **How do I get started?**
Find an adult volunteer who is already working with the Girl Scout grade level that you'd like to work with to be your mentor.

Take the online trainings listed above. Discuss the trainings with your mentor volunteer.

Create and implement a thoughtful program based on a Journey or badge that lasts over four (4) or more sessions. Be responsible for designing, planning, and evaluating the activities. If you're passionate about a topic like art or technology, you could design the activities around the topic you love or in which you have expertise.

Counselor-in-Training (CIT)

- ▶ **What is it?**
Mentor younger girls in a camp setting as you build skills toward becoming a camp counselor. Learn to plan and facilitate activities, and develop leadership and outdoor skills.
- ▶ **Who is it for?** Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors.
- ▶ **What prerequisites do I need?** None.
- ▶ **What training do I need?**
Day camp: Program Aide training if you don't have prior PA experience!
Resident camp: You'll receive training at your CIT camp session!
- ▶ **How long will it take?**
Day camp: You'll work with younger girls over the course of a week of day camp.
Resident camp: You'll work with younger girls over the course of your CIT camp session.
- ▶ **How do I get started?**
Visit girlscoutsosw.org/camp to find out more about day camps in your area or to register for resident camp!



Counselor-in-Training II (CIT II)

- ▶ **What is it?**
Expand on the leadership skills you learned as a CIT! As you earn your CIT II, you'll pick a specialized area of camp skills that you want to develop, all while you continue to work with and mentor younger girls.
- ▶ **Who is it for?** Girl Scout Ambassadors.
- ▶ **What prerequisites do I need?** Completion of the Counselor-In-Training (CIT) award.
- ▶ **What training do I need?**
Day camp: Work together with the day camp core volunteer team to determine what additional training would help you complete this award, based on what you want to specialize in.
Resident camp: After completing your Counselor-In-Training award, apply to be a junior counselor!
- ▶ **How long will it take?**
Work with younger girls over the course of at least one (1) camp session focusing on your skills in a specific area, such as riding instruction, lifeguarding, the arts, outdoor survival skills, or archery.
- ▶ **How do I get started?**
Visit girlscoutsosw.org/camp to find out more about day camps in your area or to register for resident camp!



These mentoring awards are not the only awards you can earn for flexing your leadership skills in Girl Scouts and in your community. Check out National Leadership Awards in *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* (information can be found on page 26 for Cadettes and Ambassadors, and page 28 for Seniors) for more ways to gain skills, add to your vest and your resume!

Questions? Contact your service unit event and travel coordinator or send questions to answers@girlscoutsosw.org.