

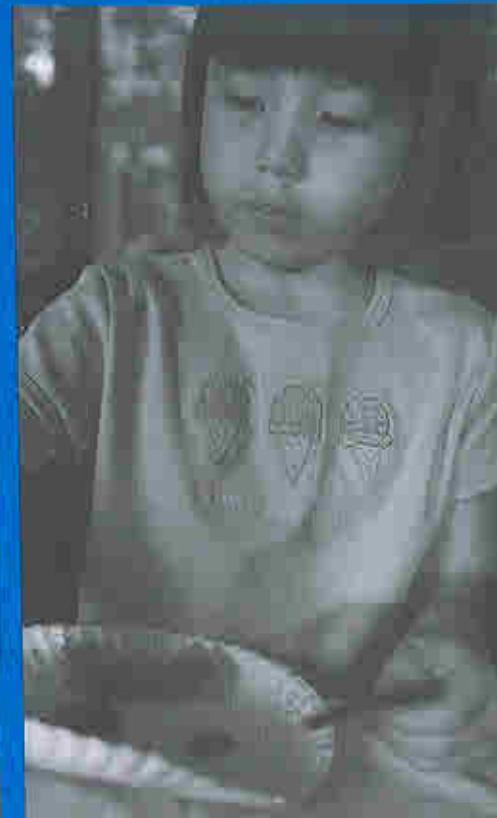
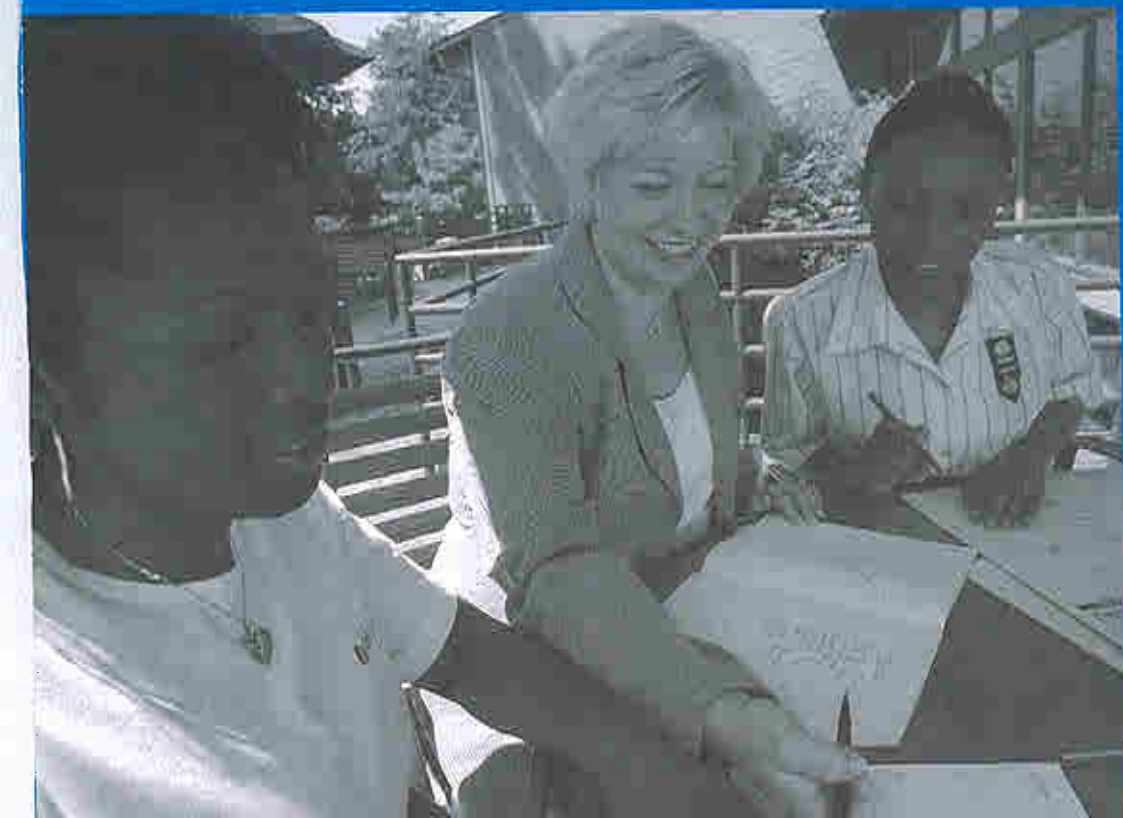


# Leader's Digest

# **Blue Book**

of basic documents

2006





**Chair, National Board of Directors**

Patricia Diaz Dennis

**Chief Executive Officer**

Kathy Cloninger

*Note: The 2006 Blue Book of Basic Documents and Leader's Digest: 2006 Blue Book of Basic Documents reflect the policies and procedures in effect immediately following the 2005 GSUSA National Council Session. Changes in the "Credentials" section are based on official actions of the National Board of Directors at their meeting in March 2006. Due to the transformation of our Movement and the implementation of the Core Business Strategy, changes to the 2006 Blue Book will be necessary throughout the triennium. Our members will be notified whenever the National Board of Directors makes changes to the existing policies, and supplements with any such changes to the 2006 Blue Book will be provided.*

Photography: QUAD/PHOTO/Karineh Gurjian-Angelo/Dedjora Von Jutaz. Locations: Alice in Wonderland/Boat Pond, New York; Central Park, New York; Conservatory Gardens, New York; Edith Macy Conference Center, Briarcliff Manor, New York; Lincoln Center, New York; Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York; Planetarium, New York. Stock photography: Digital Vision/Getty Images, Image Source/Getty Images, Photodisc/Getty Images, Plush Studios/Photodisc/Getty Images, SW Productions/Photodisc/Getty Images, Thomas Barwick/Photodisc/Getty Images, Vicky Kasala/Photodisc/Getty Images, Dennis Wise/Photodisc/Getty Images, Caroline Woodham/Photodisc/Getty Images.

Copyright 2006 by Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

All rights reserved

First Impression

Printed in the United States of America

# Contents

<b>Letter from the Chair, National Board of Directors, and the CEO</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Constitution of Girl Scouts of the United States of America</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Policies of Girl Scouts of the United States of America</b>	<b>9</b>
<b>Credentials</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>Congressional Charter of Girl Scouts of the United States of America</b>	<b>17</b>
<b>Index</b>	<b>18</b>

# To Our Girl Scout Leaders

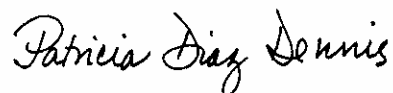
Dear Girl Scout Leader:

This booklet has been prepared to give you, the Girl Scout troop leader, a means of quick referral to those parts of the official documents, policies, and procedures of the Girl Scout organization that you need to know about in your volunteer service.

All excerpts in the *Leader's Digest* are from the 2006 *Blue Book of Basic Documents*. Should you wish to read the complete text from which any excerpt is taken, ask your council office to lend you a copy of the *Blue Book*.

This edition, which supersedes all previous editions of the *Leader's Digest*, is noteworthy for some revisions to the Preamble of the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA. As we look to the future, it is important that we honor Girl Scouts' historical commitment to girls by revitalizing the Movement and renewing our commitment to our purpose, which is to serve girls. "Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place," our mission statement reads. Fulfillment of that mission to build the leaders of tomorrow depends, as it has since the founding of the Girl Scout Movement in 1912, on volunteers such as you. As our Preamble also says, "Volunteers are essential to the strength and capacity of our Movement."

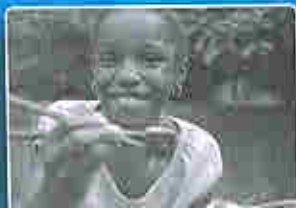
Thank you for your decision to be part of the Girl Scout family and for your service to girls.



Patricia Diaz Dennis  
Chair, National Board of Directors



Kathy Cloninger  
Chief Executive Officer



# Constitution<sup>1</sup> of Girl Scouts of the United States of America

The Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA sets forth the basic organizational practices of Girl Scouts of the USA in the United States, its territories, and possessions. The Constitution can be amended only by the National Council.

## Preamble

### The 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.

### The 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.

### 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, and by the aims of the Founder of the Scout Movement, Lord Baden-Powell, attest to the following:

Promise

Law

beliefs and principles of  
the G.S. Movement in the  
U.S.A.

founders' names

1. Major revision adopted by the National Council, November 1957. Amended November 1960, October 1972, October 1975, October 1978, October 1981, October 1984, October 1990, October 1996, October 1999, October 2002, October 2005.



mission

**Mission**

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

spiritual force

**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.

open membership

**Open Membership**

The Girl Scout Movement is open to all girls and adults who accept the Girl Scout Promise and Law and meet membership requirements.

patriotism, citizenship, and community service

**Patriotism, Citizenship, and Community Service**

Local, national, and global service and action are core elements of the Girl Scout experience.

diversity and pluralism

**Diversity and Pluralism**

Girl Scouts advance diversity and pluralism in our Movement and in the communities in which we live.

responsibility for movement and democratic process

**Responsibility for the Movement and the Democratic Process**

The ultimate responsibility for the Girl Scout Movement rests with its members. We govern by an efficient and effective democratic process that demonstrates our leadership in a fast-changing world.

girl/adult partnership

**Girl/Adult Partnership**

Adults partner with girls to guide and inspire growth and achievement. Volunteers are essential to the strength and capacity of our Movement.

World Association

**World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS)**

We are active partners in a worldwide sisterhood through our affiliation with WAGGGS. We work with WAGGGS to address the needs of girls and to build a network of global citizens.

community partners

**Community Partners**

We take an active leadership role and are collaborative partners in the community.

voice for girls

**Voice**

We are a premier voice for girls and an expert on their growth and development.

**Excerpts from the Constitution**

Corporation name

**(Article I) Name of the Corporation**

The name of this corporation is Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

Purpose of Corporation purpose jurisdiction

**(Article II) Purpose of the Corporation**

The purpose of the corporation is to promote the Girl Scout Movement in the United States of America, which includes the United States, its territories, and possessions, by directing and coordinating the Movement and by providing and administering the Girl Scout program in accordance with the purposes set forth in its Congressional Charter.

Girl Scout Program

**(Article III) The Girl Scout Program**

Grounded in the Girl Scout Promise and Law, Girl Scouting is a nonformal, experiential, and cooperative education program that promotes girls' personal growth and leadership development. Partnering with caring adults, girls design fun and challenging activities that empower them and raise their voices within a local, national, and global sisterhood.



### (Article IV, Sections 1-4) The National Council: Its Powers and Membership

1. The membership of this corporation shall consist of the members for the time being of the National Council of Girl Scouts of the United States of America, and the corporation in meeting assembled shall be known as the National Council.
2. The National Council shall have all the powers conferred by the Congressional Charter and by other applicable laws, and shall exercise these powers with due regard for its position as the coordinating head of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States.
3. Only citizens of the United States who are members of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States and who are 14 years of age or over may be members of the National Council.
4. The membership of the National Council shall consist of delegates elected by Girl Scout councils who are registered through such local councils; delegates from USA Girl Scouts Overseas,<sup>2</sup> who are selected by a committee appointed by the National Board of Directors; members of the National Board of Directors and National Nominating Committee; Past Presidents of Girl Scouts of the United States of America; and such other persons as may be elected by the National Council; provided that the number of delegates from local councils and USA Girl Scouts Overseas shall not at any time exceed two thousand, and that at least four-fifths of the entire membership shall at all times consist of delegates from local councils and USA Girl Scouts Overseas.

National Council  
corporation membership

powers

eligibility for membership

membership

### (Article VII) Purpose and Responsibilities of Girl Scout Councils

Local Girl Scout councils shall be organized to further the development of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States; to establish local responsibility for leadership, administration, and supervision of the program; and to develop, manage, and maintain Girl Scouting in accordance with the terms of their charters.

Local Councils

### (Article VIII) Requirements for Credentials: Their Issuance, Revocation, and Duration

1. The National Council shall establish requirements for certificates of membership, local council charters, and all other credentials.
2. The National Board of Directors shall administer the requirements for the credentials established by the National Council, and may establish standards and issue standards, procedures, and interpretations regarding such requirements provided such standards, procedures, and interpretations are consistent with the requirements established by the National Council.
3. The National Board of Directors, in its sole discretion, shall have the power to issue these credentials subject to the requirements established by the National Council, and to revoke them when, in its opinion, the terms and conditions thereof or requirements therefor are being violated or when the best interests of Girl Scouting are not being furthered.
4. Charters and other credentials shall be issued for no more than six years. Certificates of membership shall be issued for no more than one year, except for lifetime membership. All credentials shall bear the name of Juliette Low.

Credentials  
requirements

administration

issuance  
revocation

duration

### (Article IX) Membership Dues

Every person accepting the principles of the Girl Scout Movement and desiring to be a member of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States of America shall pay annual or lifetime membership dues to Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

Membership Dues

2. "Overseas" is a designation for the Girl Scouts of the USA program delivered outside the jurisdiction of a chartered Girl Scout council.



## Insignia

### (Article XV) Use of Badges, Insignia, and Uniforms

The official emblem of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States is the trefoil. The badges, insignia, and uniforms of Girl Scouts of the United States of America shall be protected to the fullest extent possible and shall be made available to and used only by members registered with Girl Scouts of the United States of America, or persons authorized by the National Board of Directors.



# Policies of Girl Scouts of the United States of America

## Endorsements/Trademark/Marketing/Internet Sales

### Permission for Commercial Endorsements

Permission to endorse commercial products or to give endorsement of such by implication must be obtained from Girl Scouts of the United States of America and shall be granted only when such endorsement is in keeping with Girl Scout principles and activities.

### Authorization of Books, Plays, Motion Pictures, Radio and TV Programs About Girl Scouting

A book, play, motion picture, or radio or television program about Girl Scouts or Girl Scouting shall be accepted as authorized by Girl Scouts of the United States of America only when the script, manuscript, or proof has been approved by Girl Scouts of the United States of America.

### Individual Testimonials

Individual members of the Girl Scout Movement shall not allow their names, in their Girl Scout capacities, to be used in advertising testimonials directly or indirectly endorsing any product or service.

### Political and Legislative Activity

Girl Scouts of the United States of America and any Girl Scout council or other organization holding a Girl Scouts of the United States of America credential may not, nor may they authorize anyone on their behalf to, participate or intervene directly or indirectly in any political campaign on behalf of or in opposition to any candidate for public office; or participate in any legislative activity or function which contravenes the laws governing tax-exempt organizations.

### Girl Scout Trademark

Every product sold in connection with a Girl Scout council-sponsored product sale shall bear the Girl Scout name and service mark, either on the product or on its packaging. Every item bearing any of the registered Girl Scout names, logos, or marks purchased or developed for resale,<sup>3</sup> including items to be sold in council-sponsored product sales, shall be purchased (1) from a GSUSA-licensed vendor, (2) from Girl Scout Merchandise, or (3) produced with prior approval from GSUSA *when items are not readily available from a licensed supplier*. Every

3. *Resale* is defined as any item resold or given away in connection with an event for which a fee, price, or admission is paid. This includes, but is not limited to, product sales.



item bearing the Girl Scout name and service mark, including items for resale or non-resale<sup>4</sup> by councils, shall conform to the Girl Scout *Graphic Guidelines* published by GSUSA. Items used for both resale and non-resale shall adhere to the stipulations stated above for resale items.

### Cause-Related Marketing

GSUSA may develop alliances and relationships with corporations and businesses for the purposes of advancing Girl Scouting. A Girl Scout council may develop similar alliances with businesses within its jurisdiction, or may work in partnership with GSUSA to develop strategic alliances outside of its jurisdiction. These corporations must have policies and operations compatible with the values of Girl Scouting. The guiding principles for such relationships shall be as follows:

- the Girl Scout image will be preserved and enhanced;
- significant revenue and/or visibility will be generated;
- program activities will be enriched;
- membership outreach efforts will be supported; and
- the integrity and financial well-being of GSUSA and Girl Scout councils will be maintained or enriched.

### Internet Sales

Sales on a website on the Internet<sup>5</sup> of any products sold in council-sponsored product sales, such as Girl Scout cookies, candy, nuts, calendars, or magazine subscriptions, may not be conducted by anyone at any time.

Sales on the Internet of Girl Scout merchandise, such as uniforms, insignia, publications, and equipment, may only be conducted by duly authorized and licensed Girl Scout councils, council shops, retail agencies, and/or GSUSA-licensed vendors. Permission to sell on the Internet must be obtained from GSUSA.

4. *Non-resale* is defined as any item provided, consumed, or used for the promotion and delivery of Girl Scout program. This includes items given as donor recognitions.

5. Sales on the Internet include online auctions, broadcast e-mail messages, and/or posting on individual Girl Scout, troop/group, or Girl Scout council websites.

For safety and security reasons, sales on the Internet for any Girl Scout troop/group money-earning activities may not be conducted by individual girls, parents, or other adults.

## Fundraising

### Fundraising Methods

All fundraising methods employed by Girl Scout groups must be in keeping with the principles for which the organization stands.

### Fundraising by Girl Scouts of the United States of America and Girl Scout Councils

Fundraising to promote the interests of the Girl Scout Movement may be conducted by Girl Scouts of the United States of America and Girl Scout councils both independently and collaboratively. GSUSA and councils are encouraged to work together to maximize contributions to Girl Scouting.

### Solicitation of Corporations and Foundations

GSUSA requests for funding shall be initiated only after consultation with the council serving the jurisdiction where the funding source directs that solicitations be received. Prior to solicitation of a corporation or foundation located outside a council's jurisdiction, the initiating council shall consult with the council serving the jurisdiction where the funding source directs that solicitations be received.

### Control of Funds

All money raised, or earned, and other assets received in the name of and for the benefit of Girl Scouting must be authorized by a Girl Scout council or Girl Scouts of the United States of America and used for the purposes of Girl Scouting. Such monies and other assets become the property of and are administered by the Girl Scout council or Girl Scouts of the USA. Such assets are not the property of individuals, geographic units, or communities within a Girl Scout council.

### Family Solicitation

Financial support for Girl Scout councils is derived from the broader community. Local councils are encouraged to solicit the families of girl members for voluntary financial support as one part of an overall fundraising campaign. This may be done at the time of membership registration. Any such family



contribution shall be voluntary, not a prerequisite for membership and not considered a fee for local council services.

### Solicitation of Contributions

Adult members in their Girl Scout capacities may not solicit financial contributions for purposes other than Girl Scouting. Adults may engage in combined fundraising efforts authorized by the Girl Scout council and in which the local council is a beneficiary. Girl members may not engage in any direct solicitation for money.

### Juliette Low World Friendship Fund

All monies collected for the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund must be used “for the promotion of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting throughout the world as a contribution toward world peace and goodwill” and shall be administered by the National Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of the United States of America in its sole discretion. (The resolution creating the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund was adopted by the National Council, October 1927.)

## Girl Scout Council/International

### Girl Scout Council Authority and Responsibility

Within the terms of its charter, a Girl Scout council shall have the authority and responsibility to: provide and safeguard the Girl Scout program, build an organization to serve its membership, secure and direct personnel, extend membership opportunities to all girls within its jurisdiction, finance its work, and develop its community and public relationships; *however, a Girl Scout council shall not have the authority to establish any form of local council membership dues, nor shall a Girl Scout council use membership dues collected from girls and adults registering with GSUSA through the council as a source of investment income. The local council shall be accountable to the National Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of the United States of America for the proper exercise of this authority.*

### Troops and Communities Within a Girl Scout Council Jurisdiction

When a Girl Scout council is chartered and the territory in which it is to operate has been decided upon, all Girl Scout troops in all the communities within that territory shall be under its jurisdiction, and the

Girl Scouts of the United States of America shall act through the local council in its relations with these troops and communities.

### Administration of Girl Scout Camping

All types of Girl Scout camping must be under the administration of a Girl Scout council, federation, or group licensed by Girl Scouts of the United States of America, except that troop camping by a USA Girl Scouts Overseas troop may be authorized by its troop committee.

### USA Girl Scouts Overseas Committee Responsibility

*(for troops living outside the jurisdiction of a chartered Girl Scout council as members of USA Girl Scouts Overseas)*

Every USA Girl Scouts Overseas troop must be affiliated with a USA Girl Scouts Overseas Committee, which shall accept responsibility for: seeing that overseas committee members, leaders, and girls affiliating with the troop meet individual membership requirements; seeing that each person affiliating with the troop subscribes to the purpose, adheres to the policies, and maintains the standards of Girl Scouts of the USA; securing and endorsing the leaders of the troop; seeing that the work of the troop is financed and authorizing the methods and manner of collecting funds raised in the name of the troop.

### Letter of Introduction for International Travel

Any member of the Girl Scout Movement traveling in a foreign country, in order to be recognized officially as a Girl Scout by other Girl Guide or Girl Scout associations, must have a letter of introduction from Girl Scouts of the United States of America. Members registered through a local council or with a USA Girl Scouts Overseas troop must have the approval of the local council or the USA Girl Scouts Overseas committee before receiving such a letter.

## Membership Registration/ Security of Membership Data

### Membership Registration

All girls and adults participating in the Girl Scout Movement shall be registered as members with Girl Scouts of the United States of America and individually pay the \$10 annual membership dues, except those adults who are lifetime members or who are working in a temporary advisory or consultative capacity.



### Security of Girl Scout Membership Data and Restricted Use of Membership and Mailing Lists

The release and distribution of any Girl Scout membership list to a Girl Scout council or non-Girl Scout entity, or the release of any data or information on Girl Scout members, is prohibited except upon approval by the Girl Scouts of the United States of America. All Girl Scout councils and USA Girl Scouts Overseas locations accessing or transmitting membership information electronically must be in compliance with this security policy and all other GSUSA security procedures, policies, and standards, as well as all applicable local, state, and federal laws.

#### Security of Membership Data

Girl Scout councils and USA Girl Scouts Overseas use one of several methods for registering members with Girl Scouts of the USA: the GSUSA Membership Management System, WinPCMS, or a third-party procedure system, and the following procedures are in effect:

- To obtain and retain access to the GSUSA Membership Management System, every Girl Scout council must sign a written GSUSA Membership Management Systems Use Agreement, which defines the terms and conditions established by GSUSA.
- To obtain and retain access to the Council Data Interface System (CDIS), the Girl Scout council and its vendor must sign a nondisclosure agreement.
- Every Girl Scout council and USA Girl Scouts Overseas location must abide by GSUSA's security policies, standards, and confidentiality and nondisclosure agreements.
- Every Girl Scout council must consent to periodic audits by GSUSA, such as the council performance assessment, to ensure compliance with technical configuration standards, security policies, and GSUSA and governmental security and privacy standards.

## Pluralism and Diversity/ Human Resources

### Pluralism and Diversity in Girl Membership

All Girl Scout councils and USA Girl Scouts Overseas committees shall be responsible for seeing that membership is reflective of the pluralistic nature of their populations and that membership is extended to all girls in all population segments and geographic areas in their jurisdictions. A girl who meets or can meet membership requirements shall not be denied admission or access to Girl Scout program because of race, color, ethnicity, creed, national origin, socioeconomic status, or disability. Reasonable accommodations shall be made for girls with disabilities to ensure that girls have access to activities.

### Selection of Adults

Every adult volunteer and executive staff member in Girl Scouting must be selected on the basis of qualifications for membership, ability to perform the job, and willingness and availability to participate in training for it. In selection of adults, there shall be no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, sex, creed, national origin, or socioeconomic status. There shall be no discrimination against an otherwise qualified individual by reason of disability or on the basis of age. Members of Girl Scout council boards of directors and the National Board of Directors shall be selected so that the boards of directors represent diverse population groups and can bring to their deliberations a variety of points of view and life experiences, as well as access to cultural, religious, educational, civic, and economic resources. Executive staff shall be selected as needed to provide managerial and specialist expertise, research capability, and continuity to support the delivery of program to girls through volunteers.

### Affirmative Action for Volunteers

There shall be no discrimination against an otherwise qualified adult volunteer by reason of disability or on the basis of age. Furthermore, there shall be no discrimination on the basis of race, color, ethnicity, sex, creed, national origin, or socioeconomic status. In addition, to ensure full equality of opportunity in all operations and activities of the organization, affirmative action policies and procedures shall be utilized in the recruitment, selection, training, placement, and recognition of volunteers. Special emphasis shall be placed upon securing representation of underrepresented population groups.



### EEO/Affirmative Action for Employed Staff

There shall be no discrimination on the basis of race, color, creed, sex, age, disability, national origin, citizenship, or marital status. In addition, to ensure full equality of opportunity in all operations and activities of the organization, every staff member employed in Girl Scouting shall be selected under fair employment procedures that provide equal employment opportunities to all people. There shall be special efforts in affirmative action in the recruitment, hiring, training, and promotion of persons from underutilized ethnically and racially diverse groups and individuals with disabilities, and to make reasonable accommodations for physical and mental limitations of employees and applicants consistent with performance of essential job functions and the effective operations of the business.

### Grievance/Separation of Employed Staff

Every person employed in Girl Scouting shall be protected by fair personnel policies and procedures, including formal problem resolution procedures.

### Health and Safety

Girl Scouts of the United States of America, local councils, other units holding a credential, and USA Girl Scouts Overseas committees shall be responsible for seeing that all activities are planned and carried out so as to safeguard the health, safety, and general well-being of the participants.

### Selection of National Meeting Places

Gatherings planned and held by the national Girl Scout organization for nationwide attendance shall be held in communities where individuals attending will have freedom of choice in seating, eating, and living accommodations in hotels and buildings engaged by the organization.

## Spirituality/Religion

### Flexibility in Wording for Spiritual Beliefs in the Girl Scout Promise

Girl Scouts of the USA makes no attempt to define or interpret the word "God" in the Girl Scout Promise. It looks to individual members to establish for themselves the nature of their spiritual beliefs. When making the Girl Scout Promise, individuals may substitute wording appropriate to their own spiritual beliefs for the word "God."

### Place of Religion in the Girl Scout Program

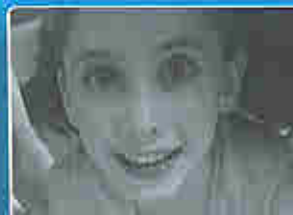
Girls are encouraged and helped through the Girl Scout program to become better members of their own religious group, but every Girl Scout group must recognize that religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious leaders.

### Respect for Religious Opinions and Practices

Every Girl Scout group shall respect the varying religious opinions and practices of its membership in planning and conducting activities.

### Troops Sponsored by Religious Groups

When a Girl Scout troop is sponsored by one religious group, members of different faiths or religious affiliations within the troop shall not be required to take part in religious observance of the sponsoring group.



# Credentials

## Certificate of Membership

A certificate of membership is issued to each girl or adult who meets the requirements for membership. Credentials that the National Board of Directors issues, other than the certificate of membership, include the Girl Scout council charter, the Girl Scout license, and the federation certificate (not in use at present).

Girl Scouts of the United States of America authorizes USA Girl Scouts Overseas in communities outside the U.S.A. where there is no chartered Girl Scout council. These troops are known collectively as USA Girl Scouts Overseas.

## Membership Requirements

**Membership as a Girl Scout** is granted to any girl who:

- has made the Girl Scout Promise<sup>6</sup> and accepted the Girl Scout Law;
- has paid annual membership dues;
- meets applicable membership standards.

**Membership as a Girl Scout adult** is granted to any person who:

- accepts the principles and beliefs as stated in the Preamble of the Constitution;
- has paid annual or lifetime membership dues;
- meets applicable membership standards.

**Lifetime membership as a Girl Scout adult** is granted to any person (18 years of age or older or a high school graduate or equivalent) who:

- accepts the principles and beliefs as stated in the Preamble of the Constitution;
- has paid lifetime membership dues of 25 times the annual membership dues; lifetime membership dues of 13 times the annual membership dues shall be offered to any girl who is a registered Senior Girl Scout at the time

6. See page 13, "Flexibility in Wording for Spiritual Beliefs in the Girl Scout Promise."



of her high school graduation or equivalent, and be available to her before the girl's current membership expires;

- meets applicable membership standards.

### Applicable Membership Standards

Membership standards are not credentials. They are included here only for ready reference in relation to membership requirements. Applicable membership standards are as follows:

#### Current Girl Scout Membership Levels

Daisy Girl Scout age 5–6 OR  
in kindergarten–grade 1

Brownie Girl Scout age 6–7–8 OR  
grade 1–2–3

Junior Girl Scout age 8–9–10–11 OR  
grade 3–4–5–6

Cadette Girl Scout age 11–12–13–14 OR  
grade 6–7–8–9

Senior Girl Scout age 14–15–16–17 OR  
grade 9–10–11–12

#### Girl Scout Membership Levels

Effective October 1, 2008<sup>7</sup>

kindergarten–1	Girl Scout Daisy
grade 2–3	Girl Scout Brownie
grade 4–5	Girl Scout Junior
grade 6–8	Girl Scout Cadette
grade 9–10	Girl Scout Senior
grade 11–12	Girl Scout Ambassador

#### Girl Scout Adults

Minimum age—18 years of age or a high school graduate or equivalent.

### Membership Dues and Procedures for Registration

In order to be a member of the Girl Scout Movement in the United States of America, a person must register with and pay annual or lifetime membership dues to Girl Scouts of the United States of America. This is done locally through the Girl Scout council or USA Girl Scouts Overseas committee with which she or he is affiliated or through national headquarters if she or he has no council affiliation. Girl Scout councils account for membership dues in the custodian fund and transmit to GSUSA within the calendar

7. Changes approved by National Board of Directors in August 2006.

month all monies received for membership dues. These funds are not to be invested by the council for the purpose of generating income for the council.

The **Girl Scout membership year** is October 1 through September 30.

**New members** of Girl Scout troops/groups, both girls and adults, pay \$10 when they initially become members of the Movement.

**Continuing members** of Girl Scout troops/groups, both girls and adults, pay \$10 when they renew their membership at the beginning of each membership year.

**Nontroop-affiliated girl and adult members** on both local council and national levels also pay \$10 dues each membership year.

**Lifetime members** pay 25 times the annual membership dues at the time they become lifetime members.

When a member transfers from one troop/group or position to another or to another local council, the member does not re-register until her/his current membership expires at the beginning of the next membership year.

The national organization determines the system and method for registering members through Girl Scout councils. Each Girl Scout council verifies the accuracy of the troop/group and/or individual member information and forwards it with the membership dues directly to national headquarters.

National Board members, National Board standing committee members, other national volunteers, and other adult members who have their contact only with the national organization use registration forms received from the national organization. They forward the completed registration forms and dues directly to national headquarters.

USA Girl Scouts Overseas use registration forms received from the national organization. They also forward the completed registration forms and dues directly to national headquarters.

The membership dues of one person may not be transferred to the credit of another person. Membership dues are not refundable.



Adults serving in more than one Girl Scout position pay membership dues only once annually.

### **Girl Scout Council Charter**

A Girl Scout council charter is a credential issued by the National Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of the USA in accordance with the Constitution of Girl Scouts of the USA, Article VII and Article VIII. A Girl Scout council charter defines the relationship between a council and Girl Scouts of the USA. It binds the elements of Girl Scouting across the nation into one large and cohesive Girl Scout Movement and gives us a common purpose.

A Girl Scout council charter is issued by the National Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of the USA to an organization exclusively devoted to the Girl Scout Movement in the United States, granting it the right to develop, manage, and maintain Girl Scouting in a specified area of jurisdiction, which is established by the National Board of Directors, and to call itself a Girl Scout council. A Girl Scout council charter is issued for no more than four years.



# Congressional Charter of Girl Scouts of the United States of America

Girl Scouts was first incorporated in 1915 under the corporate laws of the District of Columbia. A Congressional Charter was conferred upon Girl Scouts of the United States of America in 1950 by a special act of Congress. In 1998, Congress revised the language of all congressional charters, including the charter conferred upon Girl Scouts of the United States of America in 1950. The purpose was to ensure uniformity rather than make substantial changes in the content. Legislation was introduced and legislation HR. 1085/S.2264 was approved by Congress and signed into Public Law 105-225 on August 12, 1998.

Excerpts from the Congressional Charter of Girl Scouts of the United States of America follow.

## **Chapter 803 – Girl Scouts of the United States of America**

### **Organization**

- (a) **Federal charter.**—Girl Scouts of the United States of America (in this chapter, the “corporation”) is a body corporate and politic of the District of Columbia.
- (b) **Domicile.**—The domicile of the corporation is the District of Columbia.
- (c) **Perpetual existence.**—Except as otherwise provided, the corporation has perpetual existence.

### **Purposes**

The purposes of the corporation are—

- (1) to promote the qualities of truth, loyalty, helpfulness, friendliness, courtesy, purity, kindness, obedience, cheerfulness, thriftiness, and kindred virtues among girls, as a preparation for their responsibilities in the home and for service to the community;
- (2) to direct and coordinate the Girl Scout movement in the United States and territories and possessions of the United States; and
- (3) to fix and maintain standards for the movement that will inspire the rising generation with the highest ideals of character, patriotism, conduct, and attainment.

# Index

- Adults in Girl Scouting. *See also* Employed staff; Volunteers, adult
  - age and membership requirements, 12, 14-15
  - solicitation of contributions, 10-11
- Advertising testimonials, 9
- Affirmative action, 12-13
- Age requirements, 14-15
- Amendments, to Constitution, 5
- Annual membership dues, 7, 14, 15
- Application, for council charter, 16
- Audits, 12
  
- Baden-Powell, Lord Robert, 5
- Badges, Girl Scout, 8
- Beliefs and principles of GSUSA, 5-6
- Blue Book of Basic Documents*, 4
- Board of directors. *See also* National Board of Directors
  - of local councils, 12
- Books about Girl Scouts, authorization of, 9
- Brownie Girl Scouts, membership standards, 15
- Businesses. *See* Corporations
  
- Cadette Girl Scouts, membership standards, 15
- Camping, administration of, 11
- Cause-related marketing, 10
- Certificates of membership, 7, 14
- Charter, Girl Scout council, 14, 16
- Citizenship, 6
- Commercial endorsements, permission for, 9
- Community partnerships, 6
- Community service, 6
- Congressional Charter, 5
- Constitution, GSUSA, 5-8
- Continuing members, 15
- Contributions, 10-11
- Corporations
  - solicitation of contributions from, 10
  - strategic alliances with, 10
- Council Data Interface System (CDIS), 12
- Councils, Girl Scout, 7, 11
  - authority of, 11
  - board of directors of, 12
  - charter, 14, 16
  - delegates to National Council, 7
  - diversity of members, 12
  - finances, 10-11
  - jurisdiction, 11
  - membership data, security of, 12
  - membership registration by, 15
  - responsibilities and purpose of, 7, 11
- Credentials, 7, 14-16
- Daisy Girl Scouts, membership standards, 15
- Delegates to National Council, 7
- Democratic process, 6
- Discrimination, 12-13
- Diversity in girl membership, 6, 12
- Domicile, 17
- Dues, membership. *See* Membership dues
- Duration of credentials, 7
  
- EEO/affirmative action for employed staff, 13
- Elections
  - of National Board of Directors, 12
  - of National Council delegates, 7
- Employed staff
  - EEO/affirmative action for, 13
  - grievance or separation of, 13
  - selection of, 12
- Endorsements, permission for commercial, 9
  
- Fair employment procedures, 13
- Families, financial support from, 10-11
- Federal charters, 17
- Federation certificates, 14
- Films about Girl Scouts, authorization of, 9
- Finances, 10-11
- Foundations
  - solicitation of contributions from, 10
  - strategic alliances with, 10
- Founders of movement, 5
- Fundraising, 10-11
  
- Girl/adult partnership, 6
- Girl Scout adults. *See also* Employed staff; Volunteers, adult
  - age and membership requirements, 12, 14-15
  - solicitation of contributions from, 10-11
- Girl Scout council charter, 14, 16
- Girl Scout councils. *See* Councils, Girl Scout
- Girl Scout Law, 5, 14
- Girl Scout Movement
  - beliefs and principles, 5
  - diversity and pluralism in, 6, 12
  - purpose of, 6, 17

- Girl Scout name, 6
  - trademark requirements, 9–10
- Girl Scout program, 6
  - place of religion in, 13
- Girl Scout Promise, 5, 14
  - flexibility in wording for spiritual beliefs, 13
- Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA)
  - audits, 12
  - founding members, 5
  - fundraising, 10
  - jurisdiction, 11
  - licensing, 9
  - name of, 6
  - organization, 17
  - policies, 9–13
  - purposes, 6, 17
  - security of membership data, 12
  - trademark requirements, 9–10
- “God,” use of term, 13
- Graphic Guidelines*, 10
- Grievance or separation of employed staff, 13
- Groups. *See* Troops/groups
  
- Health and safety, 13
  
- Incorporation, 17
- Insignia, Girl Scout, 10
- Internet sales, 10
- Issuance of credentials, 7, 14, 16
  
- Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, 11
- Junior Girl Scouts, membership standards, 15
- Jurisdiction, 6
  - of councils, 11
  - fundraising by, 10
  - of GSUSA, 11
  
- Law, Girl Scout, 5, 14
- Leader's Digest*, purpose of, 4
- Legislative activities, 9
- Letter of introduction, for international travel, 11
- Licenses (licensing), 9
- Lifetime members, 7, 14–15
- Lists, restricted use of, 12
- Local councils. *See* Councils, Girl Scout
- Location, of meetings, 13
- Lone troop overseas. *See* USA Girl Scouts Overseas
- Low, Juliette, 5
  
- Mailing lists, restricted use of, 12
- Marketing, cause-related, 10
- Meetings, location of, 13
  
- Membership, 11–12
  - age standards, 14–15
  - certificate of, 7, 14
  - lifetime, 7, 14–15
  - lists, restricted use of, 12
  - of National Council, 7
  - open, 6
  - pluralism and diversity in, 6, 12
  - registration, 11, 15–16
  - requirements and standards, 14–15
  - security of data, 12
- Membership dues, 7, 11, 15–16
- Membership Management System, 12
- Membership year, 15
- Mission of GSUSA, 6
- Movies about Girl Scouts, authorization of, 9
  
- National Board of Directors
  - credentials issued by, 7, 14, 16
  - as delegates to National Council, 7
  - selection of members, 12
- National Council, 7
  - amendments by, 5
  - meetings (sessions), location of, 13
  - powers and membership, 7
- National Nominating Committee, 7
- Non-resale versus resale, 9–10, 10*n*
  
- Open membership, 6
  
- Past Presidents, 7
- Patriotism, 6
- Permission, for commercial endorsements, 9
- Perpetual existence, 17
- Personnel policies, for employed staff, 12–13
- Plays about Girl Scouts, authorization of, 9
- Pluralism in girl membership, 6, 12
- Policies, basic document of, 10–13
- Political and legislative activities, 9
- Preamble to the Constitution, 5
- Principles and beliefs of GSUSA, 5
- Product sales
  - Girl Scout name and trademark required on, 9–10
  - on the Internet, 10
  - resale versus non-resale, 9–10
- Promise, Girl Scout, 5, 14
  - flexibility in wording for spiritual beliefs, 13
- Purpose of Girl Scout movement, 6, 17
  
- Racial discrimination, 12–13
- Radio programs about Girl Scouts, authorization of, 9
- Registration, membership, 11, 15–16
- Religious policies, 6, 13
- Resale versus non-resale, 9–10, 9*n*
- Resolution procedures, for employed staff, 13
- Revocation of credentials, 7
  
- Safety, 13
- Sales. *See* Product sales
- Security of membership data, 12
- Senior Girl Scouts, membership standards, 15
- Solicitation of contributions, 10–11
- Spiritual force and beliefs, 6, 13
- Standards of movement, 14–15
- Strategic alliances with corporations and foundations, 10
  
- Television programs about Girl Scouts, authorization of, 9
- Testimonials, Girl Scout, 9
- Trademark, 9–10
- Travel, letter of introduction for international, 11
- Trefoil, 8, 10
- Troops/groups
  - in councils, 11
  - member transfers between, 11
  - sponsored by religious groups, 13
  
- Uniforms, 8, 10
- USA Girl Scouts Overseas, 11
  - delegates to National Council, 7
  - letter of introduction, 11
  - membership and registration, 12, 14, 15
- USA Girl Scouts Overseas Committee, 11, 12, 13
  
- Voice for girls, 6
- Volunteers, adult, 6
  - affirmative action for, 12
  - fundraising by, 10, 11
  - registration, 15–16
  - responsibilities of, 6
  - selection of, 12
  
- Website sales, 10
- World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), 6
- World Friendship Fund, 11



Girl Scouts of the USA  
420 Fifth Avenue  
New York, NY 10018-2798

[www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org)



7 31955 26534 2