

# Junior Girl Scout Troop 723 Information Package

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## Section 1 - The Girl Scout Program

“Girl Scouting is a values based organization. When Juliette Gordon Low started the Girl Scout movement in the United States in 1912, she wanted to build an organization that would provide exciting opportunities for girls within the framework of a positive values-based movement. Today, these values, as expressed in the Girl Scout Promise and Law, continue to be the force that unites Girl Scouts nationwide.” [The Guide for Junior Girl Scout Leaders]

“Junior Girl Scouts are one of five age levels in Girl Scouting: Daisy Girl Scouts, Brownie Girl Scouts, Junior Girl Scouts, Cadette Girl Scouts, and Senior Girl Scouts. They are part of a worldwide movement that has members in more than 100 nations. All belong to the World Association of Girls Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).” [The Guide for Brownie Girl Scout Leaders]

The Girl Scout Program has four goals for girls. These goals describe the ways girls will grow and develop through their Girl Scout experiences: [The Guide for Junior Girl Scout Leaders]

- To develop to her full individual potential.
- To relate to others with increasing understanding, skill and respect.
- To develop values to guide her actions and to provide the foundation for sound decision-making.
- To contribute to the improvement of society through the use of her abilities and leadership skills, working in cooperation with others.

## Section 2 - The Girl Scout Promise and Law

The basis for the program is the Promise and the Law. Junior Girl Scouts must memorize the Promise for their Investiture Ceremony.

### **The Girl Scout 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 Girl Scout 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.

## Section 3 - Girl Scout Motto and Slogan

Girl Guides and Girls Scouts world over say some version of the motto "Be prepared." In this country, Girls Scouts also have their own slogan: "Do a good turn daily."

## Section 4 - Religion and Girl Scouting

Through Girl Scouting, each girl is encouraged to become a stronger member of her own religious group, and every Girl Scout group recognizes that religious instruction is the responsibility of parents and religious leaders. Religious award programs are always developed and administered by religious groups themselves. Contact the leaders for more information on these programs for Junior Girl Scouts. Here is a sampling of the programs:

Jewish	Lehavah Award
Lutheran	God and Me
Protestant	God and Me
Catholic	Family of God

Girl Scouts are members of a global movement, which encompasses a vast range of faiths. Virtually all world faiths are represented in the World Association of Girl Guides and Girls Scouts. Each member interprets "God" in her own way and there is no requirement for affiliation with an organized religion.

## Section 5 - Girl Scout Holidays

- October 31     Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday, also known as Founder's Day.
- February 22     Thinking Day is a celebration that all members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) share annually. Girl Guides and Girl Scouts meet on this day to think of their sisters world wide.
- March 12        The Girl Scout Birthday is the date that the first Girl Scouts were officially registered in 1912. The week March 12 falls in is known as Girl Scout Week. The Saturday and Sunday before Girl Scout Week are Girl Scout Sabbath and Sunday, respectively.
- April 22        Girl Scout Leader's Day.

## Section 6 - Girl Scout Ceremonies

Investiture	A way to welcome someone into Girl Scouting for the first time.
Rededication	Girl Scouts who have already been invested renew their support of Girl Scout Promise and Law.
Bridging	Ceremony to recognize Girl Scouts who are moving or "graduating" from one age level to another. Our 6th graders will bridge at the end of the year to Cadette Girl Scouts.
Court of Awards	Ceremony in which Girls Scouts receive awards (badges) and other insignia.
Girl Scouts Own	A quiet ceremony designed by the girls in which girls express their feelings about a particular theme.
Flag Ceremony	A ceremony that honors the flag of the United States of America. Often included as part of an Opening or Closing Ceremony.
Opening Ceremony	A short ceremony to start a meeting or event.
Closing Ceremony	A short ceremony to close a meeting or event.

## Section 7 - Service Projects

Service projects are an important part of Girl Scouting. Service is inherent in the Promise and Law and is given without expectation of payment or reward. All girls should take part in service projects. Projects should be reasonable and provide an experience that is meaningful to the girls. We need suggestions for appropriate projects from the parents. If you see something that needs to be done, let us know!

## Section 8 - Girl Scout Government

For Junior Girl Scouts, the traditional form of troop government and decision-making is the patrol system. Patrols are smaller groups of girls who complete tasks and make decisions as a group. Each patrol has an elected patrol leader. Patrol leaders wear gold cords on their left shoulder to signify their position. (The troop provides the patrol leader cords.)

Girls are grouped together into troops. The troops are gathered together into Service Units. Service Units are gathered into Associations which make up the Council. Each Girl Scout council is chartered by the national organization, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. All of these organizational levels (Service Unit, Association, Council, National) may sponsor events that Girl Scouts can participate in.

One of the most interesting aspects of Junior Girl Scouting is watching the girls progress as they are asked to make more complicated decisions. The leader's job is to help the girls through the decision making processes, not make the decisions. We will allow the girls to make bad decisions; that's how we learn! This is called the "Girl-Adult Partnership" in Girl Scouting. At the Junior Girl Scout level, girls should be making at least 50% of the decisions for the troop.

## Section 9 - Meetings

We meet each Monday, from 7:00pm to 8:15pm at \_\_\_\_\_, Annandale. We tend to follow the Canterbury Woods Elementary School schedule; we don't have meetings during school holidays. We usually cancel the weekly meeting if we're going to do another activity on the weekend. Please watch our calendar in our newsletter for information on schedule changes. If your daughter will miss a meeting, please let us know.

Meetings are not formal events. We take our shoes off at the door (socks are a must) and sit on the floor. We get involved in projects that typically use glue, crayons and markers. Your daughter should dress comfortably. She may wear her uniform, sash or vest. She should wear her Girl Scout Pin! Frequently we conduct events outside, so include appropriate outer wear. If we're having a particularly messy meeting, we'll warn you in advance. Label everything with your daughter's name (sweaters, jackets, vests, sashes, books, etc)!

We ask that you drop your daughter off just a few minutes before the meeting and pick her up promptly afterwards. If you are having a scheduling problem, please contact us and we'll see what we can work out! We encourage you to come to the door to pick up your daughter -- we like to see you! We can answer any questions you have at that time and we usually have a newsletter for you to pick up.

If you have special "release" instructions, i.e. "Sara will ride home with Mary's mom" or "Donna will walk home after the meetings" please put them in writing. You may write a note that covers the entire year or a one time arrangement. Remember, we can only release your daughter to the people listed on the registration form unless you give us WRITTEN permission. If you need to have someone else to pick up your daughter send a note to the meeting. **PLEASE DO NOT PUT US IN AN AWKWARD POSITION BY SENDING A STRANGER TO PICK UP YOUR DAUGHTER!**

## Section 10 - Permission Slips

For every activity, we send home a permission slip. The top portion of the slip provides the parent with important information about the activity, such as what, where, and when. It also lets the parents know what clothing or additional items the girls need. Parents complete the bottom of the slip and return the bottom (keep the top) by the stated due date. The leaders carry the bottom of the permission slip during the activity.

The permission slip also serves as an RSVP. If your daughter will not be attending an event, check the NO block, initial and return the form. The NOs are just as important as the YESs. If you do not complete the permission slip and return it on time, we will assume your daughter will not be attending the event!

## Section 11 - Finances

Our troop is supported by dues from the girls, and proceeds from calendar and cookie sales. We try to keep additional expenses down, but sometimes we must ask parents for additional money to cover events.

Every girl has the right to participate in Girl Scouting regardless of her ability to pay the annual fee or weekly dues, etc. Contact us if you're having financial difficulty. There are programs available to help.

The amount of our weekly dues will be determined by the girls at within the first couple of weeks -- after we put together our troop budget for the year! The budget will be based upon the activities the girls want to preform and our estimated profit from cookie sales. We prefer that the Junior Girl Scouts bring dues every week to help them learn responsibility and bookkeeping!

## Section 12 - Newsletters & Email

We publish a newsletter almost every week. The newsletter keeps the parents informed about troop activities. Please take the time to read the newsletter when it comes home. Kathy also tries to email a copy of the newsletter each week – along with any reminders.

## Section 13 - Volunteers

Parents, you are our “helping hands”! We rely on parent volunteers to help at meetings, to drive and chaperon on field trips, to help arrange events, etc. We can't do it without you! Periodically, you'll see requests for assistance in our newsletter. Please review these requests and share your time with your daughter's troop. We expect each family to continue 5 hours of support to the troop each year.

Don't be surprised if you're not working with your daughter. We find it easier to maintain our objectivity, if we don't work with our own girls. Please be sure and explain this to your daughter before the event.

Some general notes about volunteering:

- We request that you do not bring other children with you when you're assisting or chaperoning.
- While attending Girl Scout events there is no smoking and alcoholic beverages are not permitted. If you are a smoker, please let the leaders know so we can arrange for some discreet smoke breaks for you.
- Drivers must be licensed and insured. Drivers are expected to follow and enforce these rules:
  - Car must be in safe condition, with good brakes and tires.
  - Each girl must be seated in a stationary seat with a seat belt. Girls may not ride in the backs of campers or trucks. Girls may not sit in front seats with air bags.
  - Arrive at the pick up point early enough to allow time for loading girls and baggage.
  - Get package from leader containing medical release forms and permission slips for the girls riding with you.
  - Be sure to know exactly where you are going and how to get there.
  - Explain safety rules to girls:
    - Hands and arms inside the car at all times.
    - Everyone stays seated, seat belts fastened.
    - Conversation and singing kept at an acceptable level.
    - No distracting activities (throwing things) allowed.
    - Any special rules you have for your own car.
  - Observe speed and traffic laws!
  - No deviation from trip plan/route is authorized.

Are you a Girl Scout? Why not? Parents (yes, Dad too) can register as Adult Girl Scouts. It's a marvelous way to show your support for the Girl Scout Program! The cost is \$10.00 per year. Registration will provide you with insurance while you're chaperoning Girl Scout activities. Registration is required when you participate in some events (like day camp) and it also makes chaperoning other events a little easier for the leaders.

## Section 14 - Uniforms

A Junior Girl Scout is "in uniform" whenever she wears her Girl Scout Pin. The Girl Scout Pin is provided by the troop at her Investiture Ceremony. The decision to purchase additional uniform items is between you, your daughter and your checkbook. We have a copy of the GSUSA catalog if you'd like to take a look. Junior Girl Scouts have a wide variety of official uniforms pieces. There are also a number of unofficial items in the catalog. You may order items from the GSUSA catalog from the GS National Equipment Service (by mail) or purchase them from the GSCNC store.

We would like each Junior Girl Scout to have a sash or vest to wear. The sash & vest require a GSUSA ID Strip, the GSCNC ID Strip and the troop numbers. These items can be purchased from the leaders. If the cost of the sash or vest is a financial hardship, contact us. When purchasing the vest or sash, we strongly recommend you purchase the large vest. After three years of Junior Girl Scout activities, the smaller sizes won't handle the load.

## Section 15 - Sash & Vest

The figures on pages 8 and 9 show the correct placement of these items on the sash and vest. The front of the vest is used only for official GS items, insignia and badges. The back is used for official badges when the front is full and unofficial participation patches, i.e. roller skating patches, camp patches, etc. Don't forget to put a name tag inside the sash or vest!

Insignia, badges and patches are not really washable (although some folks have washed them)! Sew them on and hope that your daughter doesn't stain the vest or sash! You should never use an iron on the badges or patches. They are made with polyester thread and will melt! If you must iron, use a warm iron and iron from the inside of the sash or vest!

To sew on insignia, lay the vest or sash flat. Position the insignia in place and use scotch tape to hold it. You can hand sew the item or machine sew. Once the item is sewn in place, remove the tape. We recommend using transparent thread. One spool of transparent thread will last you a Girl Scout lifetime! (This might be a good time to teach your Junior Girl Scout some sewing basics!)

## Insignia Placement on Vest

### Right (Front) Side of Vest

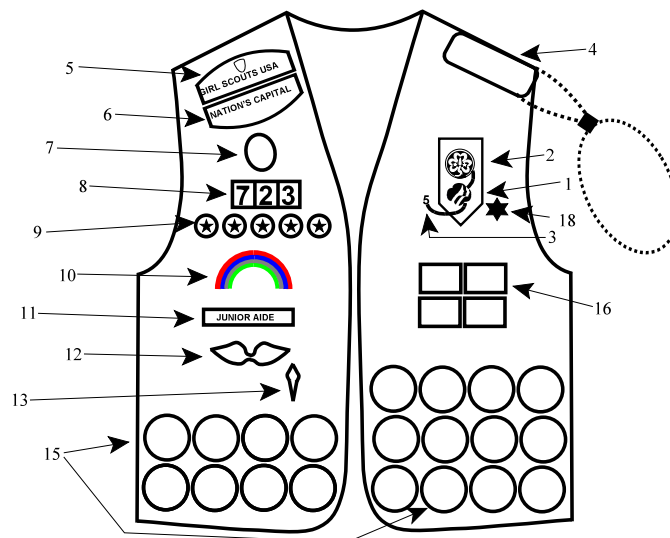
- 5 Girl Scouts USA identification strip; just below shoulder seam.
- 6 Council identification strip; directly below GSUSA identification strip.
- 7 Troop crest: centered under council identification strip (troop provides crest).
- 8 Troop numerals: centered horizontally under troop crest.
- 9 Membership stars: worn directly below troop numerals, beginning with Daisy Girl Scout star (blue disc), Brownie Girl Scout stars (green discs), then Junior Girl Scout stars (yellow disc)
- 10 Bridge to Junior Girls Scouts patch: directly below membership stars.
- 11 Junior Aide patch: directly beneath Bridge to Juniors patch.
- 12 Brownie Girl Scout Wings: centered horizontally below Junior Aide patch.
- 13 Junior Girl Scout Leadership pin: above proficiency badges and below Brownie Girl Scout Wings.
- 14 Religious awards, lifesaving awards: to right or left of Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts patch or centered below membership stars, in absence of Bridge to Junior Girl Scouts patch.
- 15 Horizontal row of four or five proficiency badges. Proficiency badges are also placed in rows on the left side of the vest (alternate for a balance appearance). After the right and left front is filled (about 25 badges), place additional proficiency badges on the back of the vest.

### Left (Front) Side of Vest

- 1 Girl Scout membership pin; centered on left, above the heart. (Insignia tab (shown) is optional)
- 2 World Trefoil pin; centered on left, just above membership pin.
- 3 Numeral guard; the five-year Arabic-numeral guard may be worn in place of five membership stars (see 9). Attach to membership and World Trefoil pins. (Note: Diagram shows both numeral guard and stars, which is incorrect).
- 4 Patrol leader's cord: circles the left arm and pins at the shoulder seam.
- 15 Horizontal row of four or five proficiency badges. Proficiency badges are also placed in rows on the left side of the vest (alternate rows for a balance appearance). After the right and left front is filled, place additional proficiency badges on the back of the vest.
- 16 Sign of the Rainbow, Sign of the Sun, Sign of the Star, and Sign of the World: worn in two rows, below the Girl Scout membership pin, with Sign of the Rainbow and Sign of the Sun on the wearer's right.
- 18 Bronze Award: worn next to the Girl Scout membership pin

### On Back of Vest

- 15 After the right and left front is filled (about 25 badges), place additional proficiency badges on the back of the vest. Extend rows from front around the back in as many rows as needed (you'll be starting at the bottom of the vest.)
- 17 Participation patches (patches given for participation in special events like camp outs, sing-a-longs, father-daughter dances, etc.)



## Insignia Placement on Sash

### On Front of Sash

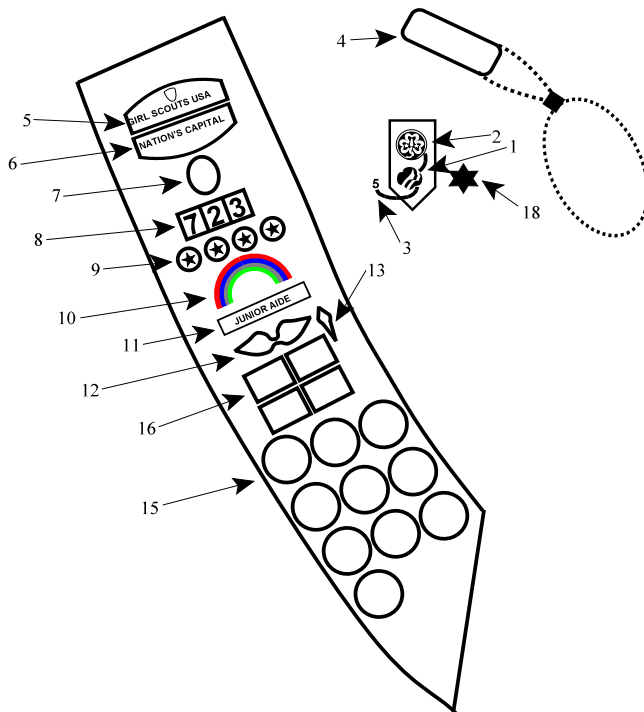
- 5 Girl Scouts USA identification strip; just below shoulder seam.
- 6 Council identification strip; directly below GSUSA identification strip.
- 7 Troop crest: centered under council identification strip (troop provides crest).
- 8 Troop numerals: centered horizontally under troop crest.
- 9 Membership stars: worn directly below troop numerals, beginning with Daisy Girl Scout star (blue disc), Brownie Girl Scout stars (green disc), then Junior Girl Scout stars (yellow disc)
- 10 Bridge to Junior Girls Scouts patch: directly below membership stars.
- 11 Junior Aide patch: directly beneath Bridge to Juniors patch.
- 12 Brownie Girl Scout Wings: centered horizontally below Junior Aide patch.
- 13 Junior Girl Scout Leadership pin: above Junior Girl Scout Signs and below Brownie Girl Scout Wings.
- 14 Religious awards, lifesaving awards: centered below membership stars.
- 15 Proficiency badges: place three in a row, diagonally, to achieve appearance of a straight line as sash curves on body.
- 16 Sign of the Rainbow, Sign of the Sun, Sign of the Sun, and Sign of the World: worn in two rows, below the Brownie Girl Scout Wings, with Sign of the Rainbow and Sign of the Sun on the wearer's right.

### On Blouse or Turtleneck

- 1 Girl Scout membership pin; centered on left, above the heart. (Insignia tab (shown) is optional)
- 2 World Trefoil pin; centered on left, just above membership pin.
- 3 Numeral guard; the five-year Arabic-numeral guard may be worn in place of five membership stars (see 9). Attach to membership and World Trefoil pins. (Note: Diagram shows both numeral guard and stars, which is incorrect).
- 4 Patrol leader's cord: circles the left arm and pins at the shoulder seam.
- 18 Bronze Award: worn next to the Girl Scout membership pin

### On Back of Sash

- 15 Place additional proficiency badges on the back of the sash. Continue from the bottom, extending upwards. Extend rows from front around the back in as many rows as needed.
- 17 Participation patches (patches given for participation in special events like camp outs, sing-a-longs, father-daughter dances, etc.)



## Section 16 - The Junior Girl Scout Books

There are two Junior Girl Scout books: the Junior Girl Scout Handbook and the Girl Scout Badgebook. You do not need to purchase the books, but we recommend it. If your daughter is going to be earning badges at home, the Badges and Signs Book is a must! We'll be happy to show you the books if you'd like to review them before making a decision.

## Section 17 - Earning Awards

Awards are badges, signs and pins that Junior Girl Scouts can earn. They are symbols of their interests and accomplishments. Juliette Gordon Low said that to earn a proficiency badge, "a girl must do something often enough and well enough to be able to teach it to others". Proficiency badges represent a skill that a Junior Girl Scout has mastered -- they are not the end product. It is important that the girls have fun in what they do and not feel that every activity must end with some type of patch or award.

At the beginning of the year the troop will determine which badges/awards they want to work on. We usually plan to work on about 6-10 as a troop. We hold a Court of Awards Ceremony about three times a year to pass out earned awards.

If your daughter missed a meeting or event that included badge activities, she is responsible for "making up" the activity. Usually the activity can be completed at home with the parent's help. You can also substitute another activity; please call us so we can help you help your daughter.

The girls are welcome to work on other badges with their parents at home. Each badge has a number of activities of which some combination must be completed to earn the badge. After your daughter has completed the activities, send us a note. Your daughter should bring in one project (or tell us about an activity) to share with all the girls during a meeting. Remember, the Junior Girl Scout is earning the award, not the parent!

## Section 18 - Kaper Charts

A Kaper Chart is the Girl Scout way to assign routine duties to patrols (or girls) for an event. The girls rotate through all the duties. We will have a Kaper Chart for our meetings and events.

## Section 19 - Bridging

Early in the year we begin our bridging activities. These activities are designed to help 6th graders become accustomed with Cadette Girl Scouting. Junior Girl Scouts can earn a special award that they wear on their Cadette sash called the Bridge to Cadette Girl Scout Patch. There are eight steps required to earn the patch. Most of these steps will be included as part of our troop activities, and all girls will participate (not just the 6th graders) if possible. It is not necessary for 6th graders to earn the Bridge to Cadette Girl Scouts Patch to become Cadette Girl Scouts.

We may also be assisting a Brownie Girl Scout Troop with their Bridge to Junior Girl Scouting Patch. Your daughter may have earned this when she was a Brownie Girl Scout--if she did, she wears it on her Junior Girl Scout sash or vest.

## Section 20 - WWW

If you'd like to visit a girl-friendly site on the World Wide Web or learn more about Girl Scouting you may want to visit these web sites:

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.

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

Girl Scout Council of the Nations Capital

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

## Section 21 - Map to Meetings