

March Activity Guide

The History of Girl Scouting

Supply List:

A Decade of Girl Scouting

- Markers
- Masking tape
- Paper for a banner
- Girl Scout history for each decade

Bracelets

- Ribbon-20 pieces (10-12 inches long)
- Beads (10 colors for each part of the Girl Scout Law)
- Snack bag (1 per girl) to collect beads

Savannah Smile Cookies (optional)

United States flag

Meeting Prep:

- Set up 10 tables/stations around the room: 1 for each decade of Girl Scouting.
- Leave a copy of the history timeline at each station.
- Number pieces of paper 1-10 to pair girls. Give to them as they arrive.

For more information about GS Express, instructions and forms, [click here.](#)

Meeting Outline:



Pledge and Promise: Girls stand to say the Pledge of Allegiance, while one girl holds the American flag:

“I pledge allegiance to the flag
of the United States of America,
And to the republic for which it stands,
one nation under God,
Indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

Have the girls remain standing for the promise. Recite the Girl Scout Promise aloud together as a group:

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.



A Decade of Scouting

Read the following passage to the girls:

Today we will talk about how Girl Scouts started... Juliette Gordon Low spent several years searching for something useful to do with her life. Her search ended in 1911 when she met, Sir Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides. She became interested in the youth movement.

Less than a year later, Juliette returned to the United States. On March 12, 1912, Juliette Gordon Low made her historic telephone call to her cousin Nina Pape, saying, “I’ve got something for all the girls of Savannah, and all of America, and all the world, and we’re going to start it tonight!”

That night Juliette Low gathered 18 girls to register the first 2 patrols of the American Girl Guides. Margaret “Daisy Doots” Gordon, Juliette’s niece and namesake, was the first registered member. On May 1, 1912, Savannah Girl Guides appeared together in uniform for the first time.

In 1913 the name of the organization was changed to Girl Scouts. In 1954, Savannah, Georgia honored Juliette Gordon Low by naming a public school after her. There is also a school named for her in Anaheim, California and Arlington Heights, Illinois. From the original 18 girls, Girl Scouting has grown to 2.7 million members.

3 **Activity**

- Assign adults to supervise stations.
- Have the girls go to tables by the number they received during arrival.
- Place a bag of each color of beads at each table/station.
- Have girls pick 2 historical facts about their decade.
- Starting with the beginning of the timeline, have each girl state what was interesting
- Give each girl a snack bag. Have the girls rotate to each table/station leaving the adults to supervise table.
- Adults will remind girls about what their table found to be important and give girls a bead.



4 **Birthplace of Scouting**

Give each girl a Savannah Smile Girl Scout Cookie to enjoy while explaining that Savannah, Georgia is the birthplace of Girl Scouts.

5 **Sing the Friendship Circle Song:**

Have the girls hold hands (right hand over left) in a circle.

Make new friends, but keep the old
One is silver and the other's gold
A circle is round, it has no end
That's how long I want to be your friend.

6 **Allow for Q&A with the parents/ Dismissal**



History of Girl Scouts

1912-1919

- 1912-Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low gathered 18 girls for the first Girl Scout meeting.
- 1915-Juliette Gordon Low moved the national headquarters to New York City.
- 1916-The highest Award in Girl Scouting, the Golden Eagle of Merit was created.
- 1917- The first troop baked cookies and sold them in its high school cafeteria as a service project.
- 1920-Girl Scouts developed its own uniform.
- 1920-There were nearly 70,000 Girl Scouts nationwide.

1920s

- The first Girl Scout Troops were started in China, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, and Syria.
- The first Native American Girl Scout troop was formed.
- Girls in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania formed a Girl Scout Radio Troop.
- By the end of the decade, there were more than 200,000 Girl Scouts.

1930s

- Girl Scouts collected clothing, made quilts, carved wooden toys, gathered food for the poor, assisted in hospitals, participated in food drives and provided meals to children.
- Girl Scout resources were transcribed into Braille.
- The Girl Scout program was divided into three groups—Brownie, Intermediate, and Senior.
- The promotional booklet, "Who Are the Girl Scouts?," was printed.
- The first sale of commercially baked Girl Scout Cookies took place.

1940s

- During the war, Girl Scouts operated bicycle courier services.
- A publication, "Senior Girl Scouting in Wartime," was created to encourage older girls to perform war-related service projects.
- Girl Scouts taught 10,000 women survival skills and techniques for comforting children during war.
- Girls collected 1.5 million articles of clothing that were then shipped overseas to children and adult victims of war.

1950s

- Girl Scouts had 1.5 million girls and adult volunteers.
- Girl Scouts of the USA was re-incorporated in 1950 under a Congressional Charter.
- Ebony magazine reported: "Girl Scouts in the South

are making steady progress toward breaking down racial taboos."

- Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace in Savannah, Georgia, was opened as a museum.

1960s

- Girl Scouts supported civil rights.
- The Piper Project began to recruit Girl Scouts in populations that were under-served.
- The Senior Girl Scout Handbook was translated into Spanish.
- The Brownie Girl Scout Handbook was translated into Japanese.

1970s

- Girl Scout members elected the first African American National Girl Scout President.
- Girl Scouts helped Vietnamese refugee children adapt to their new homes.
- Girl Scouts contributed to a White House Conference on Food, Nutrition, and Health.
- "Eco-Action," a national environmental program, was launched.

1980s

- Girl Scouts helped with social issues.
- Project Safe Time began for girls whose parents were not home to care for them after school.
- Girl Scouts was chosen for the best-managed organization.
- A new Daisy Girl Scout age-level for girls five years old or in kindergarten was introduced.

1990s

- Girls in Girl Scouting were less likely to cheat on tests.
- The first and only mother-daughter prison visitation program was formed.
- Nearly four million Girl Scouts, girls and adult leaders, worked alongside First Lady Barbara Bush in the Right to Read service project.
- Girl Scouts inaugurated a health and fitness national service project, Be Your Best.
- Girl Scouting began GirlSports.

2000s

- Girl Scouts created a website.
- Girl Scouts donated a personal gift of \$1 each to help support the children of Afghanistan.
- STUDIO 2B was unveiled at the Girl Scout National Council Session in Long Beach, California in May 2003.
- Historical Highlights: The turn of the century brought Girl Scouting to a threshold of change.