

Girl Scouts from all across the council enjoyed their recent Girl Scouts Go! adventure to Washington, D.C.!



www.girlscoutshs.org

Reading Tips for 8-10 Year-Olds

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How to get/keep teens interested in reading

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Girl Scouts Gold Award projects focus on promoting literacy skills and education

p5

the GPS

girl & parent "stuff"



Charting the direction you want her to go!

Literacy is...the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realize his or her full potential.

-Kofi Annan

This edition of Girl Scouts Heart of the South's "GPS: Girl & Parent Stuff" newsletter is dedicated to helping you foster your child's love of reading and emphasize the vital role literacy plays in all aspects of children's lives both now - in their studies - and throughout the rest their lives.



In the United States, an estimated 30 million people over the age of 16 read no better than the average elementary school child. Yet the ability to read and write is the basis for all other education; literacy is necessary for an individual to understand information that is out of context, whether written or verbal. Literacy is essential if we are to eradicate poverty at home and abroad, improve infant mortality rates, address gender inequality, and create sustainable development. Without literacy skills—the abilities to read, to write, to do math, to solve problems, and to access and use technology—today's adults will struggle to take part in the world around them and fail to reach their full potential as parents, community members, and employees.

Young people need to develop strong literacy skills to communicate effectively, gain respect from peers and

authority, participate in their communities in a meaningful way, and fully contribute to society. Building literacy, therefore, goes far beyond improving a child's ability to read and write. It speaks to the larger societal issues of access and equity. In our society, being literate opens doors, allowing one to access power, and in many cases, helps to level the playing field. However, approximately 1 in 4 young people are struggling to read and comprehend grade level textbooks and subject matter materials as they enter middle and high school.

There are approximately 8.7 million students in America whose chances for academic success are dismal because they are unable to read and comprehend the material in their textbooks. Tests prove that far too many of America's children are reading at levels that are unacceptably low. In 2015, 32% of fourth graders and 25% of eighth graders were reading at "below basic" levels on national assessments.

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Family Literacy Tips: From A to Z

By: Hamilton Mountain News

<http://www.readingrockets.org/article/family-literacy-tips-z>

(continued from p.1)

Children in our region continually fall behind national averages:

	Mississippi	Tennessee	Arkansas
4th grade	40%	34%	35%
8th grade	37%	24%	30%

25% of American children grow up without learning how to read. The effects of illiteracy not only impact a person's health and income, but also their family and society.

- Teenage girls between the ages of 16 to 19 who live at or below the poverty line and have below average literacy skills are 6 times more likely to have children out of wedlock than girls their age who can read proficiently.
- Students who don't read proficiently by the 3rd grade are 4 times likelier to drop out of school. And 2/3 of students who cannot read proficiently by the end of 4th grade will end up in jail or on welfare.
- In the U.S., 30 million people over age 16 — 14 percent of the country's adult population — don't read well enough to understand a newspaper story written at the eighth grade level or fill out a job application.
- 77 million Americans have only a 2-in-3 chance of correctly reading an over-the-counter drug label or understanding their child's vaccination chart. Reports show that the rate of low literacy in the United States directly costs the healthcare industry over \$70 million every year.
- Low literacy's effects cost the U.S. \$225 billion or more each year in non-productivity in the workforce, crime, and loss of tax revenue due to unemployment.
- More than 65 percent of all state and federal corrections inmates can be classified as low literate.

Literacy now extends beyond the traditional pillars of reading, comprehension, grammar and writing, to include digital and interactive applications. Strong literacy skills are a key tool used when children discern and interpret information, enabling them to utilize the internet to its full potential and making sure that the inevitable 'digital footprint' that children will leave, is one that is safe, appropriate, and reflective of their true self.

The power of literacy lies not just in the ability to read and write, but rather in a person's capacity to apply these skills to effectively connect, interpret and discern the intricacies of the world in which they live. Having a population that has strong literacy skills also places a country in a better position to meet the complex social challenges that it faces.

How we help our children build a strong foundation for literacy will impact them – and society – for generations. Girl Scouts Heart of the South believes building strong literacy skills in girls will help them become leaders in their own lives and their communities.

Encourage literacy in your home and community. Here are some great tips to start everyone on the road to reading.

Ask your child questions about the story you're reading to ensure comprehension.

Book family time to read with your children every day.

Create a special reading place in your home, with your child's favorite books within reach.

Donate funds to a literacy cause.

Encourage children to read words on TV, street signs, mugs and T-shirts.

Find new stories to read with your children every week. Vary their length and subject matter.

Give your time to read aloud to a child.

Have a child read a book to you.

International Literacy Day is held on September 8 every year. Celebrate the day by picking up a book and reading to a child.

January 27 is Family Literacy Day in Canada and November 1 in the United States. Find out how to create an event in your corner of the world.

Keep teens reading. Give them books, newspaper articles and magazines about things that interest them – music, movies, TV and computers.

Let children count out the change when making a purchase. Reinforce the importance of math in everyday life!

Make every day a learning day. Ask your children to make a shopping list, read recipes together or help them make a calendar of their weekly activities.

Newborns benefit from reading too!

Organize a children's book club with friends in your neighborhood.

Pick one night a week to make a regular visit to the library.

Quiet, cozy reading spaces are good places for your child to read independently.

Remember that children learn by example – if you recognize the importance of reading, your children will too!

Start early! It's never too early to read to your children.

Treat a child to a story a day.

Use reading time to create a special bond with a child.

Volunteer your time. Family literacy groups in your community could use your help with tutoring adults, reading to children and helping out with administrative tasks.

Write a letter.

X-ercise your mind! Reading ability is like a muscle, if you don't exercise it often, you will not maintain the same level of reading ability as you get older. So – "use it or lose it"!

You are the key to improving a child's reading ability by placing a high priority on reading in your home.

Zap off the TV - pick up a book instead!



Raise A Reader: A Parent Guide to Reading for Ages 8-10

By Zoë Kashner

Adapted from: [Raise a Reader - A Parent Guide to Reading for Ages 8-10](#)

Your Young Reader Takes Flight

By the End of Third Grade, Your Child Will Be Expected to:

1. Identify the meaning of common prefixes (un-, ex-) and suffixes (-full, -less)
2. Be able to read and pronounce nearly any common word
3. Describe the relationship between events, concepts, or steps in a process
4. Read social studies and science content
5. Identify an author's point of view

By the End of Fourth Grade, Your Child Will Be Expected to:

1. Read with accuracy and fluency (not stumbling over words)
2. Self-correct when she mispronounces a word
3. Be able to look for meaning in historical, scientific, and technical texts
4. Compare and contrast two or more accounts of the same event
5. Describe the theme, character, setting, and point of view in a story

By the End of Fifth Grade, Your Child Will Be Expected to:

1. Quote from what she reads to help support her understanding
2. Summarize what she reads and state the main idea or theme
3. Compare stories to each other
4. Be able to describe causes and effects as described in a reading
5. Read literature, poetry, and drama

Don't Be Concerned if These Skills Develop Erratically, Unless Your Child:

1. Avoids reading
2. Guesses wildly at unknown words instead of sounding them out
3. Does not seem to get meaning from reading
4. Displays troubling behavior, such as misbehaving in class or withdrawing

For more information on learning disabilities, visit the [National Center for Learning Disabilities](#).

Between the start of third grade and the end of fifth, you will see your child advance from early reader books with only a few words on the page to long chapter books. These reading skills will help your child accomplish countless tasks both for school and in her personal life. How can you tell if your child is reading at grade level? You can seek input from teachers, and also review the topics and skills that are typically covered during these years in school.

Yearly Testing

During these grades, standardized testing becomes a part of the school year. When asked how they find out information about the school their children attend, the most common response (56%) was "standardized tests." Consider your child's test scores to be one of several indicators of her skill level — along with her teacher's feedback and her own attitudes about learning and school.

Whether — or how much — to prepare your child for standardized tests is up to you and your child's teacher. Depending on the school, there may be days or weeks of class time devoted to preparation. Or, if your school generally performs well on the tests, test day may be just another low-key day of school. Regardless, ensuring a good night's sleep and a healthy breakfast beforehand will help your child prepare.

Serious About Series

Many 8- to 10-year-olds become interested in book series. Your child may love the earnest adventures found in the American Girl series, the humor of the books in the Diary of a Wimpy Kid series, and, of course, the adventures of Harry Potter. If you'd like to get your child interested in a series, check out the first book in several series from the library and see which ones spark the greatest interest.

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Items for
girls ages
5 ~ 7
(Daisies)

Items for
girls ages
7 ~ 10
(Brownies)

Items for
girls ages
10 ~ 13
(Juniors)

Items for
girls ages
12 ~ 14
(Cadettes)

Items for
girls ages
14 ~ 16
(Seniors)

Items for
older girls
ages
15 ~ 18
(Ambassadors)



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Books Get Competition

Whether it's because of video games, the phone, or TV, starting around age 8, children can become less frequent readers. According to a survey commissioned by Scholastic, 24% of children ages 9-11 are low frequency readers — meaning that they read books for fun less than once a week. Make sure that your child's entertainment options are balanced, and that she always has a fun book around to read.

Reading Activities for Ages 8-10

1. Shopping Together

Tired of listening to your child's wish list every time you go shopping? Challenge your child to think before she demands something by reading label and price information. If she wants snack foods, ask her to choose two types, compare their nutrition information, and make her best case. At electronic stores, she can compare features of different items by looking at packaging and even start checking out tech specs.

2. eBooks

eBooks are generally very similar to their printed counterparts, and kids this age love to read using digital and mobile devices whenever possible.

3. Audio Books

Some 8- to 10-year-olds start to feel too old to be read to at bedtime. That doesn't mean that you can't still share a story. Pass the hours you spend in the car with a book on CD. Pick a funny story read by an actor with a talent for voices — *The Fantastic Mr. Fox* read by author Roald Dahl is one that is sure to please.

4. Magazine Subscriptions

Scholastic News, *Ranger Rick*, *National Geographic for Kids*, *Cricket* — these are just a few of the many magazines specifically for children this age. Your child will enjoy getting mail addressed to her. Or, look at magazines online together.

5. Board Games

Board games are a great way to firm up recognition of sight words, as well as spelling and vocabulary skills. Try favorites like Password, Blurt, Boggle Jr., Apples to Apples, and Buzzword Junior.

6. Joke Books

What 9-year-old doesn't appreciate

a good pun? Find a book of jokes at a library or bookstore. Encourage your child to memorize a few of her favorites. She can entertain her friends and family, and improve her memory as well.

Online Literacy for Ages 8-10

Many families and educators let 8-year-olds begin to explore the Internet. Being able to search for interesting and useful information online is no less important than the ability to navigate a library or bookstore. Using search engines, evaluating websites, and, of course, reading online are invaluable skills that you can introduce your child to gradually. Now is a good stage in your parenting adventure to educate yourself on what it means for our children to grow up as digital natives. Watch *Growing Up Online*, the acclaimed Frontline documentary to get a sense of their world. Visit the government-sponsored website [On Guard Online](#) to get comprehensive information about how to keep your child safe online, and to protect your computer from harmful viruses.

The Internet Contract

Before letting children use the Internet independently, parents can write an "Internet Use Contract." When your child is 8 years-old or shows an interest in being on the Internet without an adult sitting next to her, whichever comes first, is the time to write it. You should also purchase an Internet filter program for your computer; this is essential if you plan to let your child surf without you sitting next to her. Net Nanny, Cybersitter, and Safe Eyes are some of the name brands in this field.

Where to Read

Once your child is ready to safely surf, bookmark some of these popular sites for kids. These sites contain many pages of news and entertainment that will expand your child's reading skills:

- **The STACKS** is Scholastic's kid-friendly website dedicated to books, reading, authors, and games.
- **Scholastic Classroom Magazines** constantly feature updated news features written at a child's reading level.
- **National Geographic Kids** has videos, games, and many short articles about animals, countries, and more.
- **Amazing Kids!** is an online magazine that features the work of children. Your young writer can read the work of other kids and submit her own stories, jokes, or media reviews.
- **Factmonster** is a free reference site for students, teachers, and parents.
- **Zoodles** offers age-appropriate kids' games that make learning fun.



For more sites for your child to explore,
check out the American Library Association's list of
[Great Websites for Kids.](#)



How Parents Can Encourage Teens to Read

By: Reading Is Fundamental

You know that reading is important and you want to make sure that your teenager grows into adulthood with all the skills he or she needs to succeed. The following list offers suggestions for encouraging your teens to read.

- Set an example. Let your kids see you reading for pleasure.
- Furnish your home with a variety of reading materials. Leave books, magazines, and newspapers around. Check to see what disappears for a clue to what interests your teenager.
- Build on your teen's interests. Look for books and articles that feature their favorite sports teams, rock stars, hobbies, or TV shows. Give a gift subscription to a special interest magazine.
- View pleasure reading as a value in itself. Almost anything your youngsters read — including the Sunday comics — helps build reading skills.
- Read some books written for teens. Young adult novels can give you valuable insights into the concerns and pressures felt by teenagers. You may find that these books provide a neutral ground on which to talk about sensitive subjects.
- Make reading aloud a natural part of family life. Share an article you clipped from the paper, a poem, a letter, or a random page from an encyclopedia — without turning it into a lesson.
- Acknowledge your teen's mature interests. Look for ways to acknowledge the emerging adult in your teens by suggesting some adult reading you think they can handle.
- Keep the big picture in mind. For all sorts of reasons, some teenagers go through periods without showing much interest in reading. Don't panic! Time, and a few tips from this article, may help rekindle their interest.



Girl Scouts Take Action to Promote Literacy

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting. Completion of a Gold Award project challenges girls to change the world — or at least their corner of it. A few Girl Scouts Heart of the South members chose to focus their Gold Award project on literacy.



Emily Marshall completed a Free Mini Library Box. Located on the Tanglefoot Trail in Pontotoc, MS, the mini library offers different types of books for all ages to increase awareness of the importance of reading, improve literacy rates, and provide a free alternative for readers. Emily built the mini library box by hand and collected all the donated books to go inside. The library allows anyone to exchange books from the box for free – without a library card.

Mallory Chapman noticed the number of students in her area who did not have the proper skills to be ready for kindergarten. In response, she partnered with a local Head Start program on her project, “Because they are worth it,” to help the teachers learn more about phonemic awareness, one of the main skills the children needed to succeed. Using a book she learned about, Mallory built phonemic awareness kits for each teacher to use in her classroom. The director then trained the teachers on how to use the kits. She also prepared information to be given to parents, so they could do some simple things at home to improve their children's skills.

Mary Katherine DeWane believes that to encourage reading, children must have access to books and an inviting atmosphere open to every child. To get children excited about reading, she renovated the library space at St. Paul's Catholic School, created a reading club and homework club for students. She wants the students and parents to see the benefits their school library can provide, and for it to become a more active and well-used space. Click the video below to hear Mary Katherine tell about her Girl Scout Gold Award project in her own words.



Girl Scouts - Advocates for Literacy

Reading on grade-level by the end of the third grade is one of the most critical milestones in education, yet every year, 67% of students leave third grade missing learning skills critical to their success. This has significant and long-term consequences not only for each of those children but for their communities, and for our nation as a whole. If left unchecked, this problem will undermine efforts to end intergenerational poverty, close the achievement gap, and reduce high school dropout rates. Why is 3rd grade so important? Studies show that 74% of 3rd graders who read poorly still struggle in ninth grade, and 3rd grade reading scores can reasonably predict a student's likelihood to graduate high-school. **Girl Scouts Heart of the South is an advocate for reading at level by 3rd grade and beyond.** We are supporting community partners to build literacy among our members. Working with Literacy Mid-South and the Third Grade Reading Collaborative Action Network, Girl Scouts Heart of the South is engaging our members, volunteers and parents in adopting practices to improve reading proficiency.



Upcoming Events for Girls - Fall 2016

All GSHS events are open for girls to attend with their troop or on their own. Not a Girl Scout? All girls are welcome! Come join the fun and see what Girl Scouting is all about!

SEPTEMBER 2016

Daisies in the Sun

Go on a journey to the Daisy Flower Garden

Date: Sept., 10; 10:00 am – 3:00 pm

Location: Camp Fisherville

Overnight Gymnastics

Tumble and slumber at our Overnight at Gymnastics!

Date: Fri., Sept. 16; 8:00 pm –

Sat., Sept. 17; 8:00 am

Location: Glory Gymnastics

Play It, Sing It

Learn songs and games that will bring tons of fun to your troop meeting.

Date: Sat., Sept. 17; 9:30 am – noon

Location: GS Leadership Center –

Jackson

**Disney on Ice*

Dare to Dream

Date: Fri., Sept. 23 – Sun., Sept. 25; various times

Location: FedEx Forum, Memphis

HERo Day with the

Memphis Fire Department

Gear up and work alongside the elite women and men of the Memphis Fire Department!

Date: Sat., Sept. 24; 10:00 am –

4:00 pm

Location: Chester Anderson Fire

Training Center

Family Campout

Bring the whole family for outdoor fun!

Date: Fri., Sept. 30 – Sun., Oct. 2

Location: Camp Tik-A-Witha

OCTOBER 2016

Episode X: The Droidpocolypse

Save the galaxy one code at a time with your Sphero droid!

Date: Sat., Oct. 1; 9:00 am – noon

Location: GS Leadership Center – Jackson, TN

Pony Riders

Saddle up and get ready to learn the basics about horses!

Date: Sat., Oct. 8; 10:00 am – noon

Location: Kamp Kiwani

Girl Scout Gold Award Training

Let's GO FOR GOLD!

Date: Sat., Oct. 8; 10:00 am –

12:30 pm

Location: GS Leadership Center –

Tupelo, MS

Ring Riders

Giddy up Girl Scout! It's time to do some horse ring riding!

Date: Sat., Oct. 8; 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Location: Kamp Kiwani

Episode X: The Droidpocolypse

Save the galaxy one code at a time with your Sphero droid!

Date: Sat., Oct. 8; 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Location: Tupelo, MS

Episode X: The Droidpocolypse

Save the galaxy one code at a time with your Sphero droid!

Date: Fri., Oct. 14; 5:00 – 8:00 pm

Location: Bolivar County, MS

Survivor Challenge Weekend

Test your outdoor skills at this Survivor weekend!

Date: Fri., Oct 14; 5:00 pm – Sun.,

Oct. 16; 10:00 am

Location: Camp Tik-A-Witha

Episode X: The Droidpocolypse

Save the galaxy one code at a time with your Sphero droid!

Date: Sat., Oct. 15; 9:00 am – noon

Location: Golden Triangle area, MS

Start Your Engines! Powderpuff Derby

Line up your custom designed pinewood car against Girl Scouts from across the council!

Date: Sat., Oct. 22; 10:00 am

Location: Memphis International Raceway

Komen North Mississippi Race for the Cure (Volunteer Opportunity)

Volunteer, earn service hours and receive a free shirt!

Date: Sat., Oct. 22; 5:30 – 11:00 am

Location: Fairpark in Tupelo, MS

Trail Riders

Yeewhaw! Come and join the Kamp Kiwani horses for another great horse program!

Date: Sat., Oct. 22; 9:00 am – noon

Location: Kamp Kiwani

Cowgirls

Come and join other cowgirls!

Date: Sat., Oct. 22; 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Location: Kamp Kiwani

Day with Your Favorite Guy

Make memories with your favorite guy as you two explore camp!

Date: Sat., Oct. 29; 8:30 am –

4:30 pm

Location: Kamp Kiwani

Episode X: The Droidpocolypse

Save the galaxy one code at a time with your Sphero droid!

Date: Sat., Oct. 29; 1:00 – 4:00 pm

Location: GS Leadership Center – Memphis

Pony Riders

Saddle up and get ready to learn the basics about horses!

Date: Sat., Oct. 29; 10:00 am – noon

Location: Kamp Kiwani

Girl Scout Gold Award Training

Let's GO FOR GOLD!

Date: Sat., Oct. 29; 10:00 am –

12:30 pm

Location: GS Leadership Center –

Memphis

**Indicates non-council sponsored events.*

Information is provided for your convenience.

Registration and questions should be directed to the organization/company hosting the event.



For complete details about all of the exciting
Girl Scouts Heart of the South events and programs listed below
visit: www.girlscoutshs.org/calendar.



Ring Riders

Giddy up Girl Scout! It's time to do some horse ring riding!

Date: Sat., Oct. 29; 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Location: Kamp Kiwani

Princess Royal Tea

Your highness's presence is requested at the Princess Royal Tea Party!

Date: Sun., Oct. 30; 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Location: Kappa Delta House - Mississippi State

National Stand Beside Her Week

Date: Sun., Oct. 30 - Sat., Nov. 5

Location: Nation-wide

NOVEMBER 2016

Pink Palace Camp-In Extravaganza

Spend the night in the Pink Palace Museum with your Girl Scout sisters!

Date: Fri., Nov. 4; 6:00 pm - Sat., Nov. 5; 11:00 am

Location: The Pink Palace Museum - Memphis

Fit's Inn!

Get ready to move and groove at this healthy getaway!

Date: Sat., Nov. 5; 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Tupelo, MS

Sciencetastic

Get ready for a fun-filled day of outrageous science!

Date: Sat., Nov. 5; 1:00 - 3:00 pm

Location: Rhodes College - Memphis

MEGA Fun Lock-In

Meet, eat & greet all night long! Skating, sewing, yoga, movies and more! Just for older Girl Scouts!

Date: Fri., Nov. 11; 8:00 pm - Sat., Nov. 12; 9:00 am

Location: Lindenwood Christian Church Life Center

The G.I.R.L. Event

SAVE THE DATE for this awesome event!

Date: Sat., Nov. 12; 10:00 am - 3:00 pm

Location: Cook Convention Center, Memphis, TN

International Girls Day Etiquette Tea

Join us for an afternoon tea in celebration of International Girls Day!

Date: Sun., Nov. 13; 2:00 - 4:00 pm

Location: Union University - Jackson, TN

International Girls Day Teddy Bear Tea

Grab your teddy bear for a day all about being a girl!

Date: Sun., Nov. 13; 3:00 - 5:00 pm

Location: Delta State University, State Room

Fairytales Melodies

Girls will create their own instruments while learning all about the instruments we hear in nature every day.

Date: Thu., Nov. 17; 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Location: Possibility Place at the GS Leadership Center - Memphis

Tennessee Safari Park Expedition

Get ready for a wild time at the Tennessee Safari Park expedition!

Date: Sat., Nov. 19; 10:00 am - noon

Location: Tennessee Safari Park, Alamo, TN

Girl Scout Gold Award Training

Let's GO FOR GOLD!

Date: Sat., Nov. 19; 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Location: GS Leadership Center - Memphis

DECEMBER 2016

More Than Scrubs with Baptist Memorial Hospital

Explore the medical field through this hands-on program with BMH.

Date: Sat., Dec. 3; 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Delta State University

More Than Scrubs with Baptist Memorial Hospital

Explore the medical field through this hands-on program with BMH.

Date: Sat., Dec. 3; 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Spence & Becky Wilson Baptist Children's Hospital

More Than Scrubs with Baptist Memorial Hospital

Explore the medical field through this hands-on program with BMH.

Date: Sat., Dec. 3; 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Baptist Memorial Hospital - Union County

More Than Scrubs with Baptist Memorial Hospital

Explore the medical field through this hands-on program with BMH.

Date: Sat., Dec. 3; 10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Location: Baptist Memorial Hospital - Golden Triangle

Girl Scout Gold Award Training

Let's GO FOR GOLD!

Date: Sat., Dec. 17; 10:00 am - 12:30 pm

Location: GS Leadership Center - Jackson

GEAR Girls Ski Trip

End 2016 on the slopes in the Great Smoky Mountains!

Date: Tue., Dec. 27; noon - Sat., Dec. 31; 5:00 pm

Location: Lake Junaluska

The GPS September 2016 photography/images courtesy GSHS staff and Google Images.

girl scouts
heart of the south

