



Short and Snappy

Learning Opportunity for Volunteers

Ways to Participate in Girl Scouts

20 minutes

What is a Short and Snappy?

- These short trainings can be provided at a service unit meeting.
- Any interested volunteer may lead a Short and Snappy.
- Short and Snappys are usually 10-45 minutes in length.

What you'll need

- Short and Snappy outline
- Sign-in sheet
- Participant handout
- Camp brochures

Things to Remember

- Have all participants sign in. Submit the sign-in sheet to training@sdgirlscouts.org.
- Stay within the allotted time.
- If you don't know the answer, seek the correct answer from the appropriate support person.

Questions? Comments?

Contact training@sdgirlscouts.org
www.sdgirlscouts.org

In the past, the only way to participate in Girl Scouts was to be in a troop. Today, some girls are really busy with soccer, church, dance, 4-H or a host of other activities and can't fit troop meetings into their schedules. What do these girls do?

There's never been so much freedom to choose how to participate in Girl Scouts! Girls (and adults) determine which of several *pathways* they'll walk in their own Girl Scout journey. Pathways include troops, events, camps, community service and travel.

Based on research and experience, we know that individual girls have unique needs and preferences for participating in Girl Scouts.

After a girl becomes a member of Girl Scouts, she can choose any combination of pathways, depending on her interests.

Let's look at each in a little more detail.

Troop: You're probably most familiar with this pathway. A group of girls in the same program age level works together, usually over the school year, in partnership with two or more appointed adult volunteer advisors. Troop commitment can last the full year or meet during just one semester of school. Troops can also participate together — or as individuals — in events, camps, community service and travel.

Individually Registered Members (IRMs): Girl Scouts not assigned to a troop can still participate in service unit, council and national programs. Some are seeking troops, while others like having the flexibility to enjoy Girl Scouting in a way that fits their schedules. IRMs can also be linked to troops or occasionally work with other IRMs.

Event: These programs are hosted by our council, community organizations or Girl Scout volunteers. They can be available for girls to do anytime, recur a few times a year, come up annually or only happen once. Girl Scouts San Diego sends out a listing of upcoming opportunities in the *GS Bi-Weekly* e-newsletter. If you don't receive these emails, contact customercare@sdgirlscouts.org to request them.

Service unit: Many service units plan fun events. These encourage girls to stay active in Girl Scouting, and sometimes give them the chance to invite their families or bring a non-registered friend to explore new things and meet other Girl Scouts.

Camp: Girls can discover the world of the outdoors at Girl Scout camp, a unique venue for discovery, laughter, excitement and personal growth. Through this incredible experience, girls discover more about themselves and others, enhance their independence and develop confidence in new skills while in an outdoor setting. Additionally, girls (and adults) can participate in Girl Scouts San Diego's hiking and backpacking program, or volunteers can lead outdoor experiences for groups of girls (contact your service unit Activity Consultant or training@sdgirlscouts.org to learn about training and paperwork requirements). Check sdgirlscouts.org/camp for summer day and resident camp information, weekend camping opportunities, and outdoor training classes.

Community service: Girl Scouts help make the world a better place for people in their community. They can collect cans of food for the local pantry, gather toys for a family homeless shelter, provide clothing and toiletries to people who have suffered a disaster, and come up with many other acts of kindness toward people in need.

Travel: From car trips to Orange County to journeys to Paris, Girl Scouts have many opportunities to travel domestically and internationally. Troops might save up money for adventures (make sure an adult volunteer takes a Troop Tripping class long before planning a trip with your troop). Girls apply individually for GSUSA's Destinations program, which gives them the chance to travel with other Girl Scouts and Girl Guides throughout the United States and around the world.

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Now that you're familiar with these different ways to participate in Girl Scouts, which interest you as an adult volunteer? Which might interest a girl you know? Remember, girls and adult volunteers can participate in more than one pathway at the same time. Discuss in small groups, then let each group share with the class.