

Introducing the New Girl Scout Grade Levels!

Through input from girls, the Girl Scout community and youth development experts, GSUSA has developed key elements and outcomes for the New Girl Scout Leadership Experience. One of the key elements is a revision of the membership grade level structure.

Girls say grade level – not age – often determines their social groups. Research has shown that girls learn best, and have the most fun, when they are with the right developmental/social grouping. Girls and leaders can choose among the following options next fall:

2007-2008 Grade Level: 2008-2009 Membership Options:

K	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Register as a first grade Daisy (recommended) 2. Register as a first grade Brownie
<i>Things to Consider:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New age-appropriate GSUSA materials, which will be available in the fall, will support first grade Daisies by laying the foundation for their next leadership steps as Brownies. • New leadership materials are being developed for second and third grade Brownies. If your first grade girls choose to bridge up to Brownies, they should work with the existing Brownie materials, not the new materials. • In 2009, all girls - including Daisies - will be eligible to participate in Girl Scout's product sales programs, including the Cookie Sale Program.
1-2	No change; Girls will be second and third grade Brownies in 2008-2009.
3-4	No change; Girls will be fourth and fifth grade Juniors in 2008-2009.
5	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Register as a sixth grade Cadette (recommended) 2. Register as a sixth grade Junior
<i>Things to Consider:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New age-appropriate GSUSA materials, which will be available in the fall, will support sixth through eighth grade girls. • Whether sixth grade Juniors or Cadettes, girls will be able to earn their Bronze Award.
6-7	No change; Girls will be seventh and eighth grade Cadettes in 2008-2009.
8	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Register as a ninth grade Senior (recommended) 2. Register as a ninth grade Cadette
<i>Things to Consider:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New age-appropriate GSUSA materials, available in the fall, will support ninth and tenth grade girls. • Whether ninth grade Cadettes or Seniors, girls will be able to earn their Silver Award.
9	No change; Girls will be tenth grade Seniors in 2008-2009.
10	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Register as an eleventh grade Ambassador (recommended) 2. Register as an eleventh grade Senior
<i>Things to Consider:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New age-appropriate GSUSA materials, available in the fall, will support eleventh and twelfth grade girls. • Whether eleventh grade Seniors or Ambassadors, girls will be able to earn their Gold Award. <p><i>Note: Since the transition period will last for one year, girls who are currently tenth graders will become Ambassadors during their twelfth grade year.</i></p>
11	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Register as a twelfth grade Ambassador (recommended) 2. Register as a twelfth grade Senior
<i>Things to Consider:</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New age-appropriate GSUSA materials, available in the fall, will support 11th and 12th grade girls. • Whether twelfth grade Seniors or Ambassadors, girls will be able to earn their Gold Award.

Effective 10/1/08, new grade levels help create experiences that mirror girls' current developmental needs. The new grade levels are:

Girl Scout Daisy:
Grades K-1

Girl Scout Brownie:
Grades 2-3

Girl Scout Junior:
Grades 4-5

Girl Scout Cadette:
Grades 6-8

Girl Scout Senior:
Grades 9-10

Girl Scout Ambassador:
Grades 11-12

The 2008-2009 membership year will serve as the transition period. Current members can choose to continue under the old structure or they can transition to the new grade level, if applicable, so that they can gain access to more age-appropriate content and leadership resources. New girls who join Girl Scouts next fall will start in the new grade levels, unless they join an existing troop that has chosen to continue under the old grade levels for one more year.

Troops spanning multiple grade levels are still an excellent way for girls to participate in Girl Scouting. Girls benefit from learning and sharing with each other at different levels. They also need opportunities to network in their own peer groups.

We trust volunteers to partner with families to ensure that homeschooled girls have the Girl Scout experience that is best for them. Girls say it is important to be with their "social peers" - girls that share the same developmental characteristics.

Revisions to the Bronze, Silver and Gold awards will be released in 2009. As always, there will be a transition period to the new requirements.

Resources are available to help you navigate the bridging process with your girls. Bridging requirements can be found in each of the current handbooks.

We will continue to update you with new resources as soon as they are available.