

Volunteer Toolkit User Guide

Caregiver for an Individually Registered Member (IRM)

The Volunteer Toolkit is your official source for accessing badges, Journeys, and all the activities and resources you need to earn them. Start your year strong with this step-by-step guide, and spend more time adventuring with your Girl Scout!

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Who Has Access

Troop Leaders And Co-Leaders

Active volunteers registered for the current Girl Scout membership year in a troop leadership role. There should be at least two volunteers with access to the same troop account in the Volunteer Toolkit.

Troop Finance Volunteers

Active volunteers registered for the current Girl Scout membership year in a troop finance/administration role. This role will only be able to edit and submit the finance report found on the finances tab. All other tabs will be read-only.

Caregivers Of Girl Scouts In A Troop

Each primary caregiver has access to see their troop's Volunteer Toolkit account. They have readonly permission for the meeting schedule and agendas, plus additional resources. (Caregiver accounts can only be accessed if the troop leader has set up a year plan.)

Caregivers Of Individually Registered Members (IRM) You!

Each primary caregiver of a currently registered Girl Scout who is not part of a troop will get troop leader-like access with their Girl Scout(s). Access is granted through the council based on confirmation of individually registered member status.

Demo Access

Available for supporting volunteer and staff roles that need access to the Volunteer Toolkit for training purposes. Demo access mirrors troop functionality but does not contain individual or troop information. These users will have two demo accounts under the gray drop-down ("Troop Demo – Troop Leader" and "Demo – Parent") and can see both sides of the troop experience. Access is granted through the council based on placement in designated support roles.

NOTE: If you hold multiple roles, you'll have a Volunteer Toolkit account for each—all under one login! Look for the gray drop-down box in the upper-left corner of your screen to navigate between accounts.



Where To Find The Volunteer Toolkit



The Volunteer Toolkit can be used from any computer, tablet, or smartphone with internet access. For best results, use a Toolkit-friendly browser, such as Chrome or Firefox, with a cleared cache, and visit https://www.girlscoutsww.org.

In the upper-right corner of your screen, click myGS and sign into your member account. Once logged in, go to the My Account page and select "Volunteer Toolkit" from the left side-bar menu.

Basic Navigation

The Volunteer Toolkit is divided into tabs that each have unique tools to help you plan your year and manage each meeting with ease. If you're on a computer, you'll see the green tabs across the top of your browser window. Mobile users will see a gray drop-down menu at the top with tabs beneath. You'll notice three icons on almost every page of the Volunteer Toolkit:



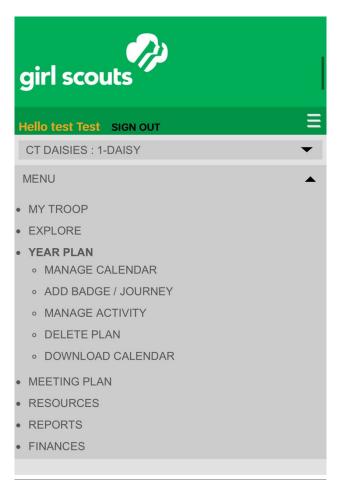




Print allows you to print a copy of your current screen.

Download allows you to download calendar appointments (from the Year Plan tab), pages, and resources.

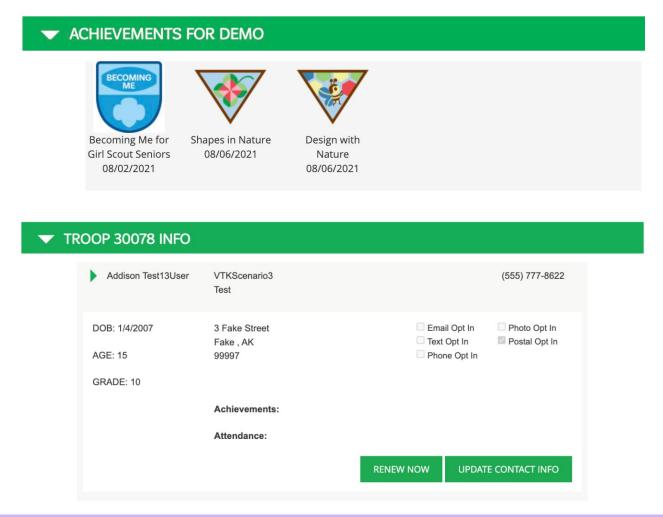
Seek additional **help** by clicking the green question mark icon or by clicking "Take a Guided Tour."



My Troop

Here you will find a record of your personal information and any earned Girl Scout achievements.

From this tab, you can also download and print your achievement report, renew memberships, and customize the page with a photo.



Explore

You'll find exciting options for your year under the Explore tab, including prebuilt tracks based on each Girl Scout program level. You can also browse individual badges and meeting types to build a plan from scratch. Once you've made a choice, your year plan will be automatically populated. Selecting a year plan is required before other features become available, but you can come back to the Explore tab anytime to add or change your plan as you go.

From this tab, you can also preview prebuilt tracks of badge and Journey activities, preview individual badge or award requirements, and download or print an overviews.

Year Plan

From this tab, you can set a schedule, add or swap out badges and awards, and fine-tune your Girl Scout year. For a walk-through of all the tools at your fingertips, click "Take a Guided Tour" on the Year Plan tab. If you ever want to start all over, use the Delete button to remove all meetings and achievements. However, deleting your Year Plan cannot be undone or recovered.

From this tab, add more custom and council activities, preview requirements, and view previous years and important milestones from your local area.

Meeting Plan

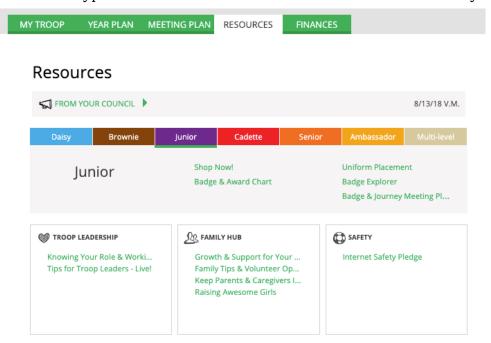
Here you'll find the tools to make each badge, award, and activity a success. We've provided prep information, materials lists, and step-by-step instructions for activities.

From this tab, you can also print meeting resources, customize meeting plans, email topic experts to help with your badge, and check off completed badges and awards.

Resources

Under this tab, you'll find answers to your pressing questions—like where to put pins and badges on a uniform, which special awards your Girl Scouts can earn, or how to lead well-loved Girl Scout traditions—along with resources by topic from GSUSA and Girl Scouts of Western Washington.

From this tab, you can also gain access to the Girl Scout shop from each program level, download reference documents for all the awards a Girl Scout can earn, and explore tips for troop leaders and other roles. All user types can see this tab and interact with it in the same way.



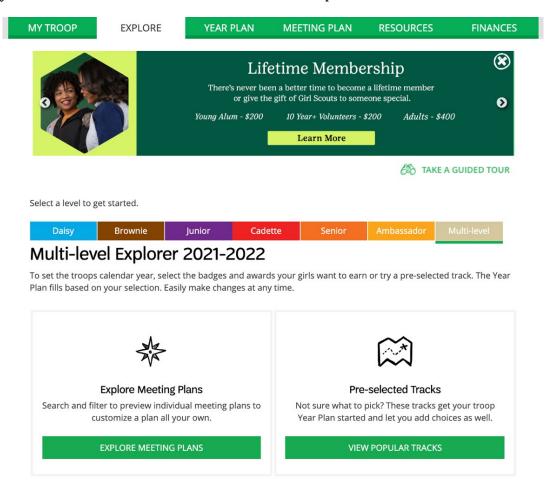
First-Year Troop Leader Experience

New to leading your IRM Girl Scout experience and need help getting started? We've got you. The First-Year Troop Experience supports new leaders or IRM caregivers with additional guidance to get you acquainted with the Volunteer Toolkit. After logging into myGS and navigating to the Volunteer Toolkit, you'll be prompted to answer the question, "Is this your first year as a Girl Scout troop leader?" If you answer "yes," you will follow a guided path with recommended steps to simplify your onboarding process.

If you're not a first-year Girl Scout troop leader but would like to see the guided path, click "Take a Guided Tour" on any of the Volunteer Toolkit tabs to see the same guidance that a new leader would.

Set Up Your Year Plan

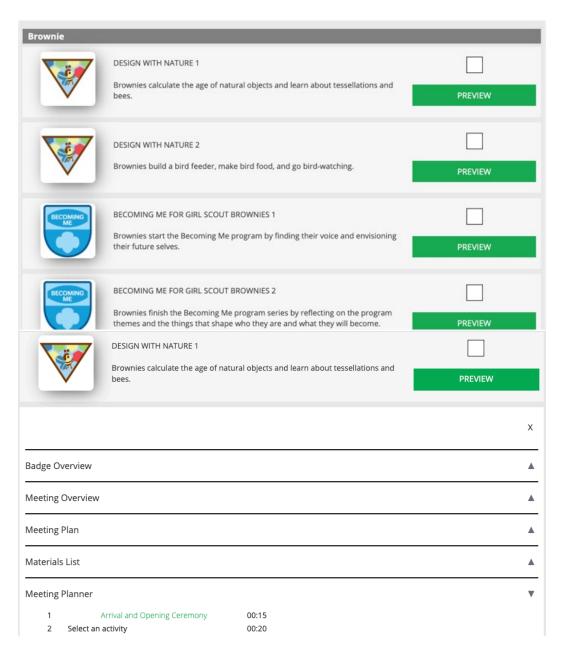
The first time you log into the Volunteer Toolkit, you'll be taken to the Explore tab. From here, you can visit the My Troop, Resources, or Finances tabs, but to activate the Year Plan and Meeting Plan tabs you need to first make a selection under the Explore tab.



Want to explore more before setting up a plan? Check out the Award and Badge Explorer to mix and match badge and Journey choices. Include your Girl Scouts and let them give input as you plan your year.

Explore Meeting Plans

Build a year plan that's completely customized to their interests! You can mix and match meeting plans that work toward the badges, Journeys, and activities that excite your Girl Scout(s). You can also search through all badges and Journeys, regardless of program level. Use the available filters, or search for specific meetings, and select the ones you'd like to use in your year plan. Each year you can use the "New for [Insert Year]" filter to find all the new programming released in the summer. Once you're finished, click "Add to Year Plan" at the bottom to move forward in the system.



Preselected Tracks

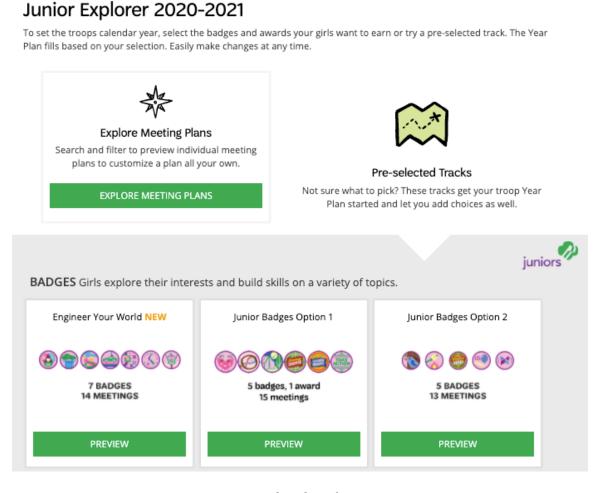
Brownie

lunior

Not sure where to start? You can also choose from collections of badges and awards with the preselected tracks option instead. Click "View Popular Tracks" to preview each combination of awards and download them if needed. Once you've decided, click "Select Track," and your year plan will be created. You'll automatically be taken to the Year Plan tab. You can bundle Preselected Tracks, too, by returning to the Explore tab and adding another one to your plan.

Cadette

Senior

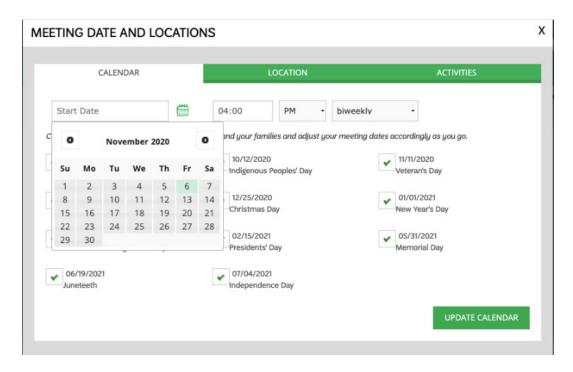


Preselected Tracks 1

New for 2022-2023: You can come back to the Explore tab throughout the year to add more meetings or even combine pre-selected tracks without resetting your whole plan. The delete button has been moved to the year plan, and you have even more access to explore and build a plan as unique as your Girl Scout(s)!

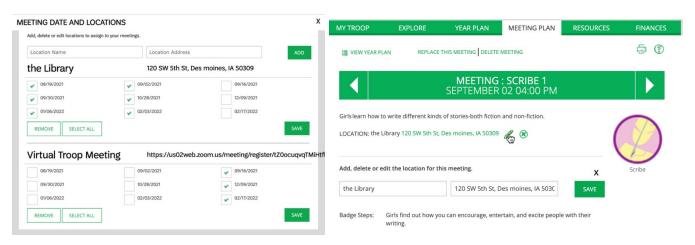
Set Up Your Calendar

You're almost ready to unlock everything the Volunteer Toolkit has to offer—your last step is setting up dates. While individual Girl Scouts might not have meeting dates like a troop would, you'll still need to set this up to move forward. Once you're on the Year Plan tab, click "Manage Calendar," select a start date, and choose the frequency as well as a start time. Dates and times can be changed meeting by meeting after this step. Select any combination to get started.



Location

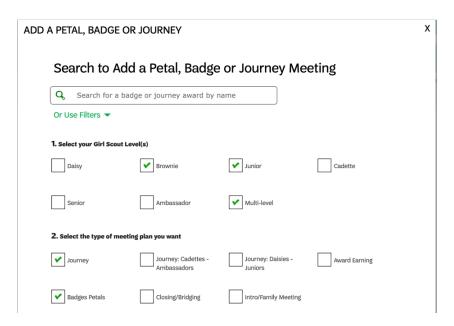
Location is another tool that is typically used by troops but is accessible for individual Girl Scouts, too. Add a physical address or virtual meeting link to each meeting or make them all the same. You can change the location for a meeting in multiple ways—click on a date in your year plan, select "See More Calendar Options," or go through the Meeting Plan tab.



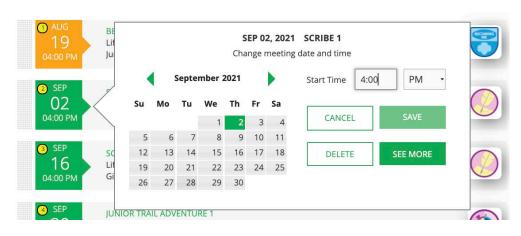
Adding Meetings And Activities

Add or Change Meetings to Your Year Plan

Girl Scouts are ready for whatever comes their way—and that includes changes in meetings or their year plan. Start by using the green "Add Badge/Journey" link at the top of the year plan or the "Search to Add Meetings" link at the bottom of the year plan. Use the search feature or filters to sort through available meeting types and choose which ones to add to your year plan. Meeting titles with numbers at the end are part of a series; you'll want to add all of these to meet the requirements for the award. Meetings already in your plan will be clearly marked. Once you've made your selections, click "Add to Year Plan."



Edit Meeting Dates and Times



Click the calendar date to the left of each meeting date to change the date or time of that specific meeting. You can also choose to cancel one or more meetings, or to combine meetings. To combine meetings, select the two meetings you'd like to combine, then select the new date on which you would like

that meeting to occur. After you've made changes, click "Save," and your year plan will be updated. If you go back to "Manage Calendar," you'll see a green gear icon to the right of each meeting date. This takes you back to the original view of the Meeting Date and Location widget, where you can reset the entire cadence of your meetings, if needed.

Adding Other Types of Activities

Meetings and badges are only the tip of the iceberg for your Girl Scout year! You can add things like field trips, service projects, or cookie booth sales to your year plan as well. The Volunteer Toolkit connects to your council website and gsEvents so you can browse and add local council events, too. **Please note, adding an event to your year plan does not register you for it.** You'll need to follow the instructions on the event to ensure your spot is secured. Any activity you add will appear in blue and show up chronologically. At the top of the year plan, click "Add Activity."

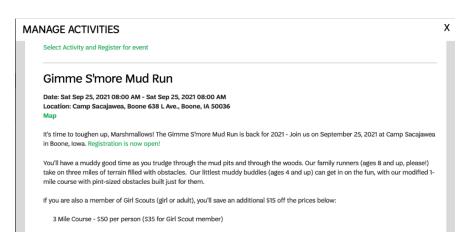
Custom Activity

Add your activity name, date, time, location, and details to your year plan.



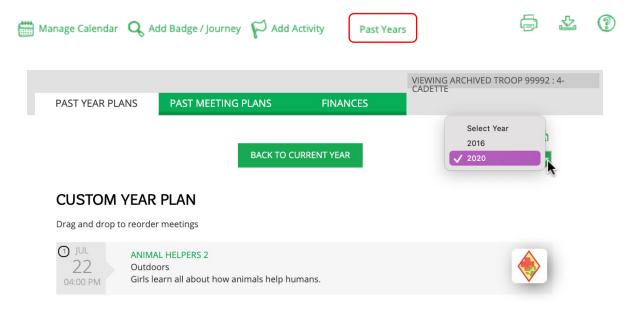
Council Activity

Search or filter through council events and add them to your year plan. This feature does not register you or your group for the event; it only adds the event to your year plan.



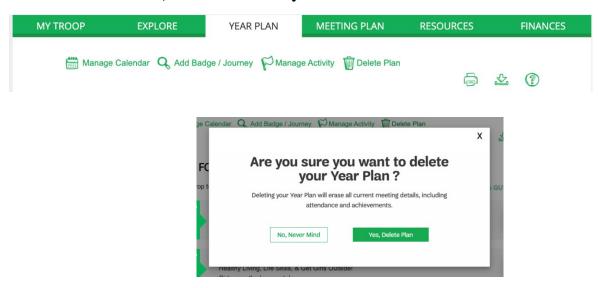
View Past Year Plans

Each summer, the Volunteer Toolkit resets and archives your year plan. At that point, you'll no longer be able to make changes to any of your meetings. However, you'll still be able to view the plan through the green "Past Years" link at the top of your Year Plan tab. Note that achievement records do not archive; **please download a copy of this information** for your records.



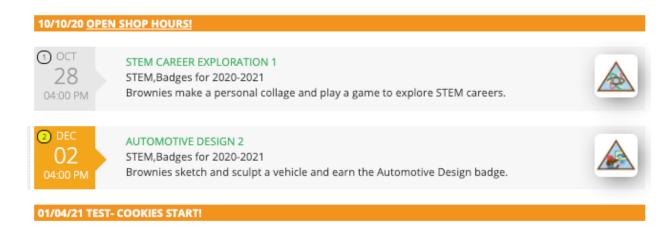
Deleting The Year Plan

If you ever need to wipe the slate clean and start fresh, you can use the Delete button at the top of the year plan to do just that. Be careful though: deleting your plan will remove all meetings including the achievements you've tracked on them. Deleting your year plan cannot be undone and is not recoverable, so **use it carefully!**



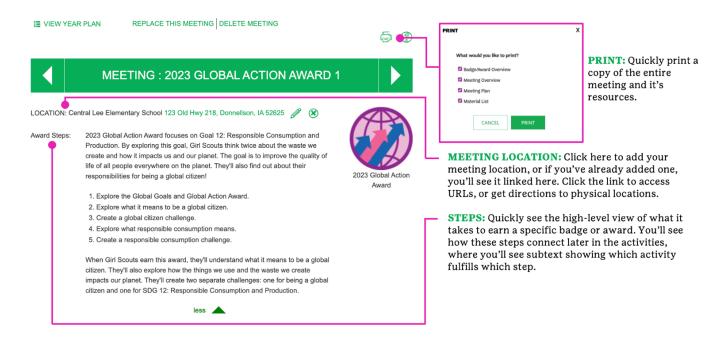
Milestones

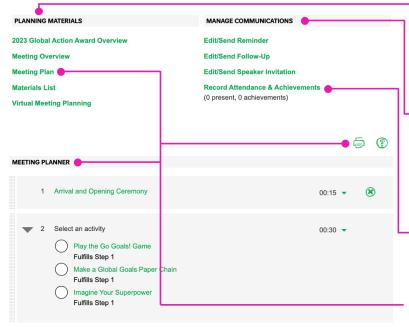
You might see orange bars across your Year Plan tab in chronological order with your other meetings and activities. These are important dates, events, or updates your local council, Girl Scouts of Western Washington, wants you to know about. These may also include links to additional information that relates to the date and title of the milestone.



Tools For Planning Your Meeting

The Meeting Plan tab has a robust collection of tools and information to help you plan an engaging meeting every time. If at any time you want to replace or delete a meeting, use the appropriate links at the top of the meeting plan.





PLANNING MATERIALS: A combination of overview and step-by-step resources show you from start to finish what your girls will learn while earning this badge or award (Overview), details specific to planning this meeting. (Meeting Overview), what you'll do and say (Meeting Plan), the meeting aids plus the materials you'll need (Material List) and virtual meeting resources. (Virtual Meeting Planning)

MANAGE COMMUNICATIONS: Send templated emails to caregivers to remind them of meetings and keep them up to date on what's happening. Use the Speaker Invitation to bring guests to your meeting and prepare them ahead of time with relevant information for the badge or award you're working on. You can attach meeting aids or other documents from your council website at the bottom of the email before sending.

ATTENDANCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS: Here you can use the checkboxes to mark who attended each meeting and if they earned a badge or award. You can see the full list of what each girl earned on the My Troop tab, with the option to download the report.

MEETING PLAN/NER: Here you'll find instructions and details for reach activity, material lists, estimated time to complete, and recommended sequencing. Download or print the entire plan with just one click of the printer icon.

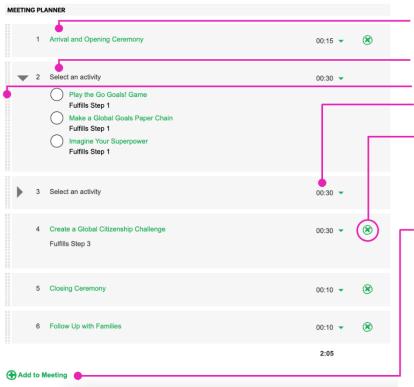
MEETING PLANNER (Cont.): Find opening and closing activities to round out a meeting, along with activity choices for each step. There are a lot of ways to customize your meeting planner.

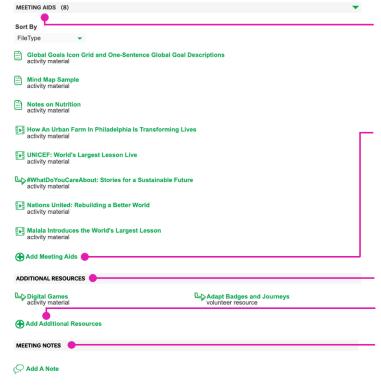
- Drag and drop activities to reorder.
- Use the drop-down on an activity to change the amount of time allotted for that activity.

Delete an activity by clicking the "X" to the right of the activity.

 Heads up: if you accidently delete a required activity for earning an award, you won't be able to add that activity back without first deleting the meeting.

Click "Add to Meeting" to add your own activities.





MEETING AIDS: Once expanded using the green drop-down arrow, you'll see documents, videos, and links are the leg up you need to complete the activities in each meeting! Some are geared toward the adult supporting the meeting, and some are for girls completing the activities. You can find more information on how to use these resources in the activity plan.

Click "Add Meeting Aids" to add your own meeting aids.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: Take your meeting to the next level! These videos, documents, or suggested events go beyond the required steps for a badge or award, and they can help your troop take a deeper dive into the topics they're most excited about. You'll also find links to the Girl Scout shop to purchase booklets and awards. These materials connect to the Manage Communications email templates, so you can share them with families.

Click "Add Additional Resources" to save your own links here using a URL.

MEETING NOTES: Add a note at the end of a meeting plan with any important reminders or details that you only want troop leaders to see.