



# Core Learning Plan for Troop Pathway Volunteers

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEM) provides troop volunteers with a strong learning plan to assist them in their work with girls. In order to provide our high standards of safety and leadership opportunities for girls, troops are required to have at least one fully trained volunteer present at all meetings and events. The steps of the required core learning plan are described below.

**Girl Scouting 101** (40 minute webinar)\* begins the core learning plan, introducing volunteers to Girl Scouts' inspiring national leadership experience, from Journey resources and The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting to cookie sales, safety guidelines, and much more. Members or prospective members can take the session at their convenience by logging on to:

<http://www.girlscoutseasternmass.org/Volunteer/search.html> and searching for "Girl Scouting 101". **Take as soon as you register as a member.**

*\*if you don't have 40 minutes to dedicate at one time, you are able to begin the process and then return to finish at a later time.*

The second step in the learning plan is **GSEM Orientation** (2 hours). This session deepens volunteers' knowledge of Girl Scout history and traditions, provides information on local council events and policies, and gives insight into the essentials of working with girls and getting a troop off the ground. GSEM Orientations are group sessions offered at the local and council level. Volunteers should consult their service unit and the GSEM website for times and locations. **Must take before troop starts meeting.**

**"Essentials" for appropriate level** (3 hours) constitutes the third step in the volunteer learning plan. This includes **Daisy Essentials, Brownie Essentials, and Leadership Essentials: Junior/Cadette/Senior/Ambassador**. The session prepares volunteers to facilitate the Girl Scout Leadership Experience with girls of that level and introduces them to the Journeys, the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting, and other resource materials to enrich their troop's programs and activities. The volunteer will learn about designing a troop meeting, troop governance, age-level characteristics, and behavior management tips. **Take within your first three troop meetings.**

Looking for more information to support you in your volunteer role? Check out **Volunteer Essentials** – the adult guide to Girl Scouting! You will find information about Girl Scouting, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, Journeys, earned awards, traditions, girl characteristics, working with families, safety, finances, cookies, and much more. This resource is available for free as a PDF in the "Resource Library and Forms" at [hergirlscouts.org](http://hergirlscouts.org) and for purchase at the Girl Scout stores.

Always consult the Volunteer page on the GSEM website for up-to-date information on session offerings, including the core sessions, CPR/First Aid, Troop Camping, and more!  
[www.girlscoutseasternmass.org/volunteer](http://www.girlscoutseasternmass.org/volunteer)