

Core Learning Plan for Troop Volunteers

Girl Scouts of Eastern Massachusetts (GSEM) provides 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 at all meetings and events. The four steps of the required core learning plan are described below.

The **Girl Scouts USA On-line Orientation** (30-45 minutes) begins the core learning plan, providing volunteers with an overview of Girl Scouting. Members or prospective members can take the orientation at their convenience by logging on to the training page on the GSUSA website. (<http://training.girlscouts.org/> password: "discover".) **Take as soon as you register as a member.**

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. **Take before troop starts meeting.**

Leadership Essentials (3 hours) constitutes the third step in the volunteer learning plan. It prepares volunteers to facilitate the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (learned about in the GSUSA Orientation) with their girls and introduces them to the Journeys and other resource materials to enrich their troop's programs and activities. The volunteer will also have the chance to reflect on her/his own leadership experiences, network with other volunteers, and apply her/his learning in concrete ways. **Take within 6 weeks of your first troop meeting.**

Finally, new and bridging volunteers are required* to participate in **Level Workshops** (2 hours). These sessions are focused on a particular Girl Scout level (Daisy, Brownie, Junior, and Cadette/Senior/Ambassador) and include hands-on learning experiences for volunteers. Topics covered in these workshops incorporate age specific characteristics of girls; behavior and troop management tools; progression in programming; and suggestions for how to make meetings and activities girl-planned and girl-led. **Take after your troop has met 3-5 times.**

Always consult the Volunteer Learning page on the GSEM website for up-to-date information on the core sessions of the learning plan and on additional enrichment learning opportunities.
www.girlscoutseasternmass.org/volunteer/

**At least one volunteer in the troop leadership team must have taken the 4 core learning sessions. GSEM encourages all troop volunteers to participate in the core and enrichment sessions.*

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.