



## Oral Histories

### ***What's an Oral History?***

It is a method of gathering, preserving, and interpreting the voices and memories of people, communities, and participants in past events.

### ***Why do Girl Scouts want to collect oral histories?***

It is important to preserve the past so that it is not lost. Personal stories and experiences from Girl Scout alumni are a great way to keep the past alive. Girl Scouts in the future will get to learn a lot from watching these videos or reading these stories.

### ***Why do Girl Scouts want to preserve information about Girl Scouting during Covid 19?***

The Covid 19 pandemic is a particularly interesting time in history. It may be our present now, but in the future, people will want to hear stories and learn about how Girl Scouts were resilient and adapted during these challenging times.

### ***How can you help preserve an Oral History or a Story about Girl Scouts during Covid 19? There are two ways!***

- 1.) **Interview**- Interview a Girl Scout alum about their personal Girl Scout story. This can be recorded on video or written up. If you are an Ambassador, tell your story as a girl member of Girl Scouts.
- 2.) **Video**- record a video of yourself sharing a covid 19 Girl Scout story OR personal Girl Scout story

Use this Jotform to submit your interview or photos here: <https://form.jotform.com/201104194224138> Please upload any videos to YouTube and provide the link to the video in the Jotform. Please note that in the jot form, text, pictures, and videos are referred to as "objects". Within the jot form there is a *release form*. Please ensure that all participants have permission to have their interviews/information shared.

Questions: send to [customer care@gsofct.org](mailto:customer care@gsofct.org)

### **Suggested questions to ask when sharing a personal Girl Scout story**

Note: While it is extremely helpful to have the first three of these questions for archiving information, please respect people's privacy especially regarding age. It is more important for them to share what they remember best or are passionate about than to "cover all questions". Review questions to give prior to the interview or taping your own video, so the conversation or text is more natural.

- 1.) What is your full name, including maiden name, nickname, spouse's name, and your camp name?
- 2.) When and where were you born? Today's age \_\_\_\_\_
- 3.) Were you active in Girl Scouting as a girl? As an adult? In what town?

### **Suggested questions about time spent as a girl member of Girl Scouts.**

- 4.) When did you join Girl Scouts? Why?
- 5.) Where did you live and what council did you belong to?
- 6.) What ranks did you complete?
- 7.) What badges did you earn?
- 8.) What awards did you earn?
- 9.) Did you go to camp? If so, please share your memories
- 10.) Did your troop take trips?
- 11.) Any special events you attended?
- 12.) What kind of service projects did you/your troop do?
- 13.) Tell us about your scouting friends
- 14.) Were your grandmother/mom/sisters/aunts/ Girl Scouts?
- 15.) How did Girl Scouting influence your life?
- 16.) Do you have a favorite Girl Scout memory
- 17.) Did you sell cookies? How much did they cost? What kinds were there?
- 18.) How did being a Girl Scout make you feel
- 19.) Do you want to share any other personal memories from your time as a Girl Scout

### **Questions about time spent as an Adult member of Girl Scout.**

- 1.) Did you go to college? Where/When?
- 2.) Did you stay active in Girl Scouts during those years?
- 3.) Did you get married?
- 4.) Did you have children? If so, did your children join Girl Scouts
- 5.) When did you become a Leader/why/where?
- 6.) Did you take any trainings? Which ones?
- 7.) What kinds of things did you do with the girls in your troop
- 8.) Have you held any other Girl Scout volunteer positions?
- 9.) What Girl Scout traditions do you think should live on?
- 10.) Has Girl Scouting changed your life as an adult?
- 11.) Would you like to share something that you were not asked about?

## **Sample questions to ask when sharing a Girl Scouting during Covid 19 story**

- 1.) Did you have troop/Service Unit virtual meetings during Covid 19? What was that like?
- 2.) Did you work on any community service projects? What kinds & why?
- 3.) What kinds of badges did you work on? How did you adapt the activities?
- 4.) Did you participate in council led programming?
- 5.) What is something you will always remember about this time?
- 6.) Do you miss anything about the way life was before?
- 7.) What are some of the challenges?
- 8.) What kinds of Girl Scout activities have you been able to still do?
- 9.) What new skills did you need to learn to adapt to this new normal?
- 10.) Is there anything else you want to share?

## **Connecting your Oral Histories project to a badge? Here are some possible connections:**

**Girl Scout Way Badges** (Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador): Step 3 Share Sisterhood and Step 5 Enjoy Girl Scout Traditions

**Junior Digital Photographer:** Step 4 Make a Digital Photo Project- Why not create a slideshow of pictures highlighting someone's Girl Scout Experience!

**Cadette Digital Movie Maker:** Step 3 Pick the Perfect Project: Why not make a five minute movie interviewing a Girl Scout Alum and highlighting their experience!

**Cadette Public Speaker:** Step 3 Find your voice: Why not share your own Girl Scout story, girls in the future can learn what Cadettes are doing now!