

Girl Scouting 101 Frequently Asked Questions

What is Girl Scouting 101?

Girl Scouting 101 is a 45-minute, self-paced online orientation to Girl Scouting.

Who is Girl Scouting 101's intended audience?

Girl Scouting 101's intended audience is volunteers who are new to the organization, whether they work directly with girls or behind the scenes.

Is Girl Scouting 101 appropriate for volunteers in all of the pathways?

Girl Scouting 101 applies to all volunteers. Volunteering for Girl Scout Series and Events—a streamlined version of Girl Scouting 101 created specifically for those who commit to short-term volunteering (such as for series and events).

What does Girl Scouting 101 cover?

Girl Scouting 101 is broken down into eight parts:

- **About Girl Scouts** (the basics)
- **Ways to Participate** (the flexible options—troop, camp, series, event, virtual and travel pathways, plus direct and indirect volunteering)
- **What Girl Scouts Do** (GSLE, journeys, Girl's Guides, Bronze/Silver/Gold Awards)
- **Mission, Promise, and Law**
- **Girl Scout Cookies**
- **Staying Safe** (the Girl Scouts Safety Standards)
- **Ages and Stages: What Girl Scouts Are Like** (girl development for each grade level)
- **What's Next** (what will happen to the answers they submit via learning log; how to move forward with their local councils; how they are supported)

What does Girl Scouting 101 replace?

Girl Scouting 101 replaces the existing Online Volunteer Orientation, the GSLE Overview (commonly known as "Ask Sophia"), and Leadership Essentials Online.

Why is GSUSA getting rid of those pieces?

Though the Online Volunteer Orientation had great content, it was technologically dated and ready for a refresh—one that meshed with and complements the Journey adult guides, *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*, and *Volunteer Essentials*. At the same time, the GSLE Overview/Ask Sophia looks beautiful and has interactive features, but does not include information on *It's Your Story—Tell It!* or *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*. Finally, the information in Leadership Essentials Online overlaps much of what's in Girl Scouting 101.

How can all of the information contained in those three resources fit into Girl Scouting 101?

We've cut out redundant information, written a tight script, and given volunteers the option of bookmarking much of the information and revisiting it whenever they need to.

How do volunteers access Girl Scouting 101?

Your council will give volunteers the Girl Scouting 101 URL (<http://training.girlscouts.org>—the same one you've been using for the Online Volunteer Orientation and Leadership Essentials Online) and the password (aboutGS101), and direct them to choose Girl Scouting 101 from the menu. Volunteers will be able to view Girl Scouting 101 from any Internet-connected computer. Note: Please make sure that your volunteers know the name of your council, because they'll be asked to select it before they get started with Girl Scouting 101.

My council is going to keep using the existing Online Volunteer Orientation. Have you changed anything about accessing that orientation? And what is going to happen to The GSLE Overview/Ask Sophia and Leadership Essentials Online?

Nothing about accessing the Online Volunteer Orientation has changed. You'll give volunteers the URL (<http://training.girlscouts.org>) and the password (discover) and instruct them to choose Online Volunteer Orientation from the menu, and they'll be able to view the orientation from any Internet-connected computer. The GSLE Overview/Ask Sophia will be removed from www.girlscouts.org/gsle soon; the Online Volunteer Orientation and Leadership Essentials Online will be available until September 2012—we hope you'll transition to Girl Scouting 101 by that time. In the meantime, there's no reason to ask your volunteers to watch all of these resources. But if you've already planned to use existing resources this year, make the transition at a time that makes sense for your council.

Is there a Girl Scouting 101 face-to-face session?

Right now, there's no plan to create a face-to-face session to accompany Girl Scouting 101. However, if you'd like to gather new volunteers and show it to them all at one time, that's a possibility.

What about the face-to-face Leadership Essentials session?

GSUSA has no plans to update the face-to-face Leadership Essentials session. However, if you continue to use the Online Volunteer Orientation, you may want to offer the face-to-face Leadership Essentials session—just make sure to add information about [It's Your Story—Tell It!](#) and [The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting](#). (Click on the links for resources you may find helpful.)

Is Girl Scouting 101 available in Spanish?

Yes. Volunteers can choose to watch it in Spanish when they go to <http://training.girlscouts.org>.

Have the learning logs changed?

Yes and no. We've worked to make the learning log questions more fun and useful for new volunteers; instead of submitting their answers for the database, now the volunteers just answer the questions to themselves while watching Girl Scouting 101. Don't worry—you'll still be able to track volunteer participation. (See next question for more information.)

How do I track volunteer participation in Girl Scouting 101?

The Girl Scouting 101 administrator from your council should request to join the [Girl Scouting 101 Administrators community on Pearl](#). When that person is accepted, she or he will receive a Girl Scouting 101/Volunteering for Girl Scout Series and Events database password unique to your council. The password will allow the administrator to see which of your council's volunteers have watched Girl Scouting 101 and/or Volunteering for Girl Scout Series and Events.

Not all of my new volunteers have reliable Internet connections. What can I do?

You can download Girl Scouting 101 and burn it to discs that you can then distribute to volunteers who can't watch it online, or you can show it to a group of volunteers at your council. If you download Girl Scouting 101, however, volunteer contact information won't be collected like it is online. You will need to collect volunteer contact information and enter it into either the Girl Scouting 101 administrator database or Personify—wherever makes the most sense for your council.

How does Girl Scouting 101 fit into my council's overall learning plan for new volunteers?

Your council will look at the learning and support needs for each type of volunteer to determine how it will use Girl Scouting 101. After experiencing Girl Scouting 101, volunteers will be ready to explore other resources and courses (like *Volunteer Essentials* and position-specific courses/orientations) to help them be successful in their specific roles.

Where's the best place to talk/hear more information about Girl Scouting 101?

Join the conversation at the [Volunteer Preparation and Support Community on Pearl](#). We'd love to hear your feedback!