



The National Program Portfolio: A Nationally Consistent Program for Girls

Girl Scouts of the Missouri Heartland is excited to participate in a nationwide transition of Girl Scout resources that will help ensure a consistent and productive Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) for all girls. The first component of the National Program Portfolio has already been introduced – the Girl Scout journeys. The second part – *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* – will be available in fall 2011. Together, the Girl Scout journeys and *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* help girls develop leadership skills and experience the fifteen leadership outcomes of the GSLE.

About Girl Scout Journeys

Journeys are the core of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. They offer girls the opportunity to truly explore leadership, and to experience Girl Scouting's three leadership keys: discover, connect, and take action. Journeys can be completed in any order; as with all aspects of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, the decision-making process should be girl-led.

What's special about the journeys?

- They are the core of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.
- They are the only program resources that cover all 15 national leadership outcomes, ensuring that girls learn tangible and lifelong leadership skills.
- The awards earned through completing each journey represent a true and deep exploration of a topic.

About *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*

The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting will provide updated badge activities and handbook information for girls at all Girl Scout age levels. In the past, both a badge book and a handbook were needed, but this resource is a hybrid – one simple binder for girls to track their Girl Scout activity. *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* will include badges, handbook sections, an awards log, accessory pages, and more.

Badges are here to stay! Girl Scout Daisies will continue to earn petals, but Girl Scout Brownies through Ambassadors will now all earn badges for their age level. Each age level will have its own unique shape for badges (similar to the current triangular Brownie Try-Its, circular Junior badges, and rectangular Interest Project Patches).

FAQs

Q. What's in *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*?

A. There are three sections: Handbook (with grade-appropriate information), Badges (in five categories: Legacy, Financial Literacy, Cookie Business, Skill-Building, and Make Your Own), and My Girl Scouts (information about bridging, Girl Scout awards, and more).

Q. How many badges are included in *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*?

A. For Girl Scout Brownies, Juniors, Seniors, and Ambassadors, 12 badges per age level will be offered. Cadettes are offered 14. Daisies will be offered 10 Petals and Promise Center, and – new in *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* - two "leaves" each for Financial Literacy and Cookie Business.

Skill-Building Badge Activity sets, coordinating with each of the three journeys series, will also be available for each age level. Each set will include requirements for five badges. That means there are fifteen skill-building badges available for Brownies through Ambassadors *in addition to* the 12-14 badges in *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* and the badge awards available through the journeys.

Q. How do journeys and badges work together?

A. *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* will work with national leadership journeys to add skill-building to the leadership skills girls learn through the three keys of Discover, Connect, and Take Action. Journeys are the only program resources that cover all 15 outcomes. Badges build specific skills and are primarily aimed at the Discover "Girls develop a strong sense of self" outcome. National leadership journeys and *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* make up the program portfolio. Check out the journeys maps for each age level to learn more about how they work: <http://girlscouts.org/program/journeys/maps/>.

Q. When will the books be available?

A. The first shipment should arrive in late September. GSMH is taking pre-orders through July 15.

Q. Are there adult handbooks or guidebooks for *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*?

A. Unlike past editions of Girl Scout handbooks, there is no specific guide for volunteers. Volunteers are encouraged to have their own copy of the girl book, so they can advise and mentor girls through their activities and badges. Information about working with girls is available in *Volunteer Essentials*, and orientation document distributed to volunteers on CD each fall. Each journey series also has adult "How To" guides available.

Transition Tips

What should you do between now and fall 2011, when *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* is released? We recommend:

- Help girls choose a journey. Check out the journeys maps for each age level to learn more about how they work: <http://girlscouts.org/program/journeys/maps/>. Remember that journeys – the core of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience - may be completed at any time of the year, and in any order.
- If your girls are working on or want to work on a badge from a current handbook, contact a GSMH retail shop to make sure that it is available for purchase. We will work with council shops nationwide to find stock for you, but please bear in mind that inventory may become limited as the summer progresses.
- Check the GSMH website for updates; we will post information as we receive it.