



GIRL SCOUTS

Girl Scout History

Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, for a local Girl Scout meeting. She believed that all girls spiritually. With the goal of bringing girls out of isolated home environments and into community service and the open air, Girl Scouts hiked, played basketball, went on camping trips, learned how to tell time by the stars, and studied first aid.

Within a few years, Daisy's dream for a girl-centered organization was realized. Today, Girl Scouts of the USA has a membership of over 3.2 million girls and adults, a significant growth from its modest beginnings nearly a century ago. We invite you to learn about our organization and its rich history. Girl Scouts is dedicated to every girl, everywhere.

In Girl Scouts, girls discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together. Girl Scouting helps girls develop their full individual potential; relate to others with increasing understanding, skill, and respect; develop values to guide their actions and provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and contribute to the improvement of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and cooperation with others.

Girl Scouting is worldwide with representation in more than 145 countries and a family of over 10 million girls and adults.

Sharing traditions with millions of Girl Scouts—and the huge network of Girl Scout alumnae who came before them—helps remind girls they belong to a big, powerful sisterhood.

Here are a few other popular traditions for Girl Scouts to enjoy.

Girl Scouts make the **Girl Scout sign** when they say the Girl Scout Promise. The three fingers represent the three parts of the Promise.

The **Girl Scout motto** is "Be prepared." In the 1947 *Girl Scout Handbook*, the motto was explained this way: "A Girl Scout is ready to help out wherever she is needed. Willingness to serve is not enough; you must know

how to do the job well, even in an emergency." The same ideas are true today.

The **Girl Scout slogan**, which has been used since 1912, is "Do a good turn daily." The slogan is a reminder of the many ways girls can contribute positively to the lives of others.

Girl Scouts can greet each other with the **Girl Scout handshake**, used by Girl Scouts and Girl Guides all over the world. The handshake is made by shaking hands with the left hand and making the Girl Scout sign with the right. The left hand is nearest to the heart and signifies friendship.

The **friendship circle** stands for an unbroken chain of friendship with Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world. Everyone stands in a circle, crosses their right arms over their left, and clasps hands with their friends on both sides. Everyone makes a silent wish as a **friendship squeeze** is passed from hand to hand.

Girl Scouts often make small tokens of friendship to exchange with the Girl Scouts they meet when they travel. These little gifts are called SWAPS, which stands for **S**pecial **W**hatchamacallits **A**ffectionately **P**inned **S**omewhere or **S**hared **W**ith **A** **P**al.