

10 Easy Steps to Start a Girl Scout Troop

1. Complete Girl Scouting 101 online. (45 minutes)
Learn the Girl Scout basics by completing Girl Scouting 101 online. (45 minutes) This national online orientation introduces all new volunteers to our organization and includes information on the history of our movement, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, program resources, cookies and safety tips. To access, visit training.girlscouts.org. The password for Girl Scouting 101 is aboutGS101. Please be sure to select Hornets' Nest from the council drop-down menu when entering your contact information.
2. Submit [Criminal Background Check](https://www.hngirlscouts.org/resources/forms/volunteers/) information securely online at www.hngirlscouts.org/resources/forms/volunteers/. Click on Background Check and follow the instructions.
3. Register for Volunteer Essentials on-line training at www.hngirlscouts.org/adults/leaders. This training is an introduction to the troop leader position and covers organizing and registering a troop, working with parents, troop finances and council policies. This training **MUST** be completed prior to your first Girl Scout troop meeting.
4. Register as a member of Girl Scouts of the USA (\$20 yearly registration fee) and agree to abide by the Girl Scout Promise & Law. Go to www.hngirlscouts.org and click the green Join Us button.
5. Once you are notified via email that your background check has cleared and you have completed Leader 101, your GSHNC Membership Specialist will contact you with your troop number and eCouncil access (this will give you access to girl/parent information). You will also receive name and contact information of your New Leader Mentor.
6. Please be mindful that you will need a co-leader. Every troop needs two registered unrelated adults at all meetings. If you need assistance finding a co-leader/assistant leader your please reach out to the council at 704-731-6500.
7. Decide on a meeting location/day/time and the frequency of your meeting, i.e. weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. If you need assistance finding a meeting location your New Leader Mentor and/or Membership Specialist can help. Note: You may meet at your home or reach out to any location you see fit, provided there is no cost to your troop.
8. Begin contacting parents to introduce yourself and let them know when you will start meeting and let them know how they can support the troop. You can also welcome additional girls to join your troop.
9. Hold your first parent meeting to engage your parent volunteers and set expectations– lots of information, tips, and a sample agenda are included in your Leader 101 class.
10. Begin meeting with the girls and plan your Girl Scout journey together!
11. Have fun!