



Girl Scouts of River Bluffs Council

Important information about my daughter's troop:

Troop # _____ Service Unit # _____

Grade Level: Daisy Brownie Junior Cadette Senior Ambassador

Meeting Day _____

Meeting Times: From _____ to _____

Meeting Location _____

Procedure in troop if parent/guardian is late picking up daughter:

NOTE: Prior notice by guardian or custodial parent required if another person is picking up child.

Troop Dues: Amount \$ _____ per _____

Service Unit and Council Information

Leaders/Advisors (Volunteers):

_____ Phone: _____

Troop Organizer/Consultant (Volunteer who supports work of leader/advisor):

_____ Phone: _____

Service Unit Manager(s) (Volunteer Manager/Supervisor of G.S. Program in specific area):

_____ Phone: _____
_____ Phone: _____

Membership Development Manager (*Council staff who directs and supervises the work of volunteers*): _____ Phone: _____

For more information about events, publications and information about your Council, go to our web site at www.riverbluffs.org.

Girl Scouts of River Bluffs Council

Corporate Service Center • #4 Ginger Creek Parkway • Glen Carbon, IL 62034

(618) 692-0692 • (800) 345-6858 • FAX: (618) 692-0685

Regional Service Center • 1207 Network Centre Blvd., Suite 3C, Effingham, IL 62401

(800) 345-6858 • Fax: (217) 342-3669

www.riverbluffs.org • gsrcbc@riverbluffs.org



A United Way Member Agency

Welcome to the Wide World of Girl Scouting!

Grade Level

- ▲ Girl Scout Girl Scout (K-grade 1)
- ▲ Girl Scout Brownie (grades 2-3)
- ▲ Girl Scout Junior (grades 4-5)
- ▲ Girl Scout Cadette (grades 6-8)
- ▲ Girl Scout Senior (grades 9-10)
- ▲ Girl Scout Ambassador (grades 11-12)

River Bluffs Council

- Over 2,800 - adult volunteers (Troop leaders undergo a background check prior to appointment.)
- Over 9,500 girl members
- Serves 12 1/2 counties: Madison, St. Clair, Jersey, Calhoun, Monroe, Effingham, Jasper, Coles, Crawford, Cumberland, Clark, Edgar and parts of Clinton and Macoupin
- Many services provided from the service center located in Glen Carbon and Effingham by trained, professional staff
- Funded by United Way, product sales, program fees, donations-completely dependent on community support

Girl Scout Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of **courage, confidence and character**, who make the world a better place.

The Girl Scout program is based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law:

THE GIRL SCOUT PROMISE

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

THE GIRL SCOUT LAW

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place,
and be a sister to every Girl Scout.



Our Goals for Girls

Discover
+
Connect
+
Take Action
=
Leadership



Our Ways

1. Small Groups
2. Self-Government
3. Girl-Adult Partnership
4. Progressive Program
5. Preventive Program



Special Programs

1. Day Camps
2. Science and Technology
3. Cookie Sale Program
4. Service in Community
5. Sports & Fitness
6. Outdoor Exploration
7. Team Challenge Course



Our Camps

- **ChanYaTa**, Worden, IL
- **Torqua**, Edwardsville, IL
- **Butterfly**, Farmington, MO
- **Wassatoga**, Effingham, IL



Your leader needs you to . . .

- ◆ See that your daughter is dropped off and picked up on time.
- ◆ Complete all required paperwork in a timely fashion.
- ◆ Support your daughter's troop by assisting with making phone calls, transporting girls, sending refreshments, doing paperwork or helping at social events.
- ◆ Keep informed.



What parents can do . . .

- ◆ Encourage your daughter by showing pride in her accomplishments.
- ◆ Contribute financially to Friends of Girl Scouting or help with council fund raising events.
- ◆ Become a registered adult Girl Scout volunteer - adults must be at least 18 years of age

How Can I Assist?

Because there are only so many hours in a day, girls, along with their parents and guardians, have to balance many growing interests, commitments, and responsibilities. You'll be surprised at how flexible Girl Scouting is today. You can choose how little or how much time and energy you can give—an hour, a day, or maybe just a "thank you" to your Girl Scout's troop or group leader/advisor. Troop leaders/advisors need the help of all parents to make the Girl Scout experience valuable for each girl. Complete the parents needed survey from your leader today to determine the best role for you!



Customize Your Role

From being the "head cheerleader" who encourages and supports her daughter in Girl Scouting, to accompanying the girls on a field trip to a local museum, to helping raise the funds and traveling with a group, you can use your skills and explore your interests. Here are a few of the many ways you can support your Girl Scout:

- Become a co-leader
- Help plan a fun day trip
- Set up a phone tree
- Coordinate transportation for an outing
- Be a guest speaker
- Teach girls a new skill
- Tell your daughter you're proud of her
- Design a troop photo album
- Join girls on a field trip
- Learn first aid at a Girl Scout council sponsored training session so that you can support girls on their outings
- Become an advocate in your community for Girl Scouting

Family Giving

Help ensure that every girl has the opportunity to build courage, confidence, and character. By contributing to River Bluffs Girl Scouts, you are supporting programs, camp facilities, financial assistance, training and much more within the southern Illinois area. Your contribution is tax deductible to the amount that the law allows and is not a requirement of membership. Whether your gift is large or small, designated for a special purpose or used for annual operating support, your gift helps girls realize their dreams and become the leaders of tomorrow.

Leader/Advisor Appreciation Day is April 22

April 22nd is Leader/Advisor Appreciation Day. This is the day to thank your daughter's leaders/advisors for all their hard work. Here are just a few ideas to get you going:

- Nominate her for an Outstanding Leader Award
- Take her out to lunch
- Have the troop plant a tree or a garden in her honor
- Give flowers, a homemade item, or something from the Girl Scout shop
- Write a letter to the local newspaper
- Give a plaque/gift certificate
- Have a special delivery of balloons
- Have a pizza and videotape delivered to her house
- Trace each girl's hand and reproduce it with appliqué, liquid embroidery, or fabric crayons on a sweatshirt, apron, or tote
- Ask the school for space to recognize leaders/advisors & troops
- Make an audio/videotape of girls singing and each one saying thank you in their own special way.
- Create a collage of the troop
- Make a booklet of thank you pictures
- Offer a free evening of babysitting

Leaders/Advisors are essential to the Girl Scout movement. They are the unpaid and often unsung heroes of Girl Scouting. Please be sure your leader/advisor knows how much you appreciate her donation of time and talent. Our organization could not provide all of the opportunities to girls without them!

Girl Scouting is a **volunteer organization** comprised of leaders/advisors, co-leaders, cookie chairs, delegates, board of directors and the chair, administrative volunteers, trainers, and committee members, to name a few.

Without volunteers this organization would not exist.
Please consider volunteering your time or talent to help the future of our girls.
Call the service center today at
1-618-692-0692 or 1-800-345-6858

What will Girl Scouting cost?

National Membership

Dues \$10.00

Required

The proceeds from annual membership dues go to the national organization-Girl Scouts of the USA which; publishes written resources, provides technical assistance to councils, and promotes public understanding of Girl Scouting.

Troop Dues

Variable amounts

Strongly Recommended

This amount is determined by girls together with their leader/advisor. It is based on the program activities and supplies the troop wants to have during the year. To keep dues at a minimum, troops support themselves through product sales and money-earning projects.

Uniforms

Prices vary.

Optional

Uniforms are not a requirement of membership; however, should be worn properly if used. See below for locations where uniforms may be purchased.

Helpful Hint: Uniform exchange: Contact troops moving to next level for uniforms. Patterns and fabric are also available if you wish to make uniforms.

Awards and Insignia

Variable prices

Optional

Earned by the girls with adult guidance. Petals, Try-Its, badges, charms and Interest Project patches and Journey awards may be ordered **ONLY** by troop leadership.

Handbooks

Price varies with program level

Strongly Recommended

Handbooks are not a requirement of membership; however, beneficial for girls to use at troop meetings and to earn recognitions.

Assistance through the opportunity fund is available on a confidential basis for membership fees, troop dues and sash with insignia. Contact your leader/advisor or the Girl Scout Service Center for an application.

Girl Scout Uniforms, Insignia and Equipment

Uniforms, equipment, and other supplies may be purchased at the following locations:

- ▶▶ Girl Scout Service Center (Glen Carbon): 800-345-6858 • 618-692-0692
- ▶▶ Girl Scout Service Center (Effingham): 800-345-6858
- ▶▶ Girl Scout Catalog
- ▶▶ Parent-Teacher Tools, Inc. (Fairview Heights): 618-632-3777 (uniforms & books only)
- ▶▶ Parent-Teacher Tools, Inc. (Alton): 618-466-5587 (uniforms & books only)



Call ahead for hours of operation and to be sure the store has the item(s) you wish to purchase.