VOLUNTEER TOOLKIT USER GUIDE:

Troop Volunteer

The Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) is your official source for delivering easy, fun troop meetings year-round! With this step-by-step guide, you can start your troop year strong and spend more time adventuring with your Girl Scouts!
Who Has Access

SERVICE UNIT/ADMINISTRATIVE VOLUNTEERS
Volunteers who hold a service unit or administrative role and support troop leaders and families in their respective geographical area. Access is granted through the council based on placement in designated support roles.

TROOP LEADERS AND CO-LEADERS
Active volunteers registered for the current Girl Scout membership year in a troop leadership role. There should be at least two volunteers with access to the same troop account in the VTK.

CAREGIVERS OF GIRL SCOUTS IN A TROOP
Each primary caregiver has access to see their troop’s VTK account. They have read-only permission for the meeting schedule and agendas, plus additional resources. (Caregiver accounts can only be accessed if the troop leader has set up a year plan.)

CAREGIVERS OF GIRL SCOUTS NOT IN A TROOP (I.E., INDIVIDUALLY REGISTERED MEMBERS)
Each primary caregiver of a currently registered Girl Scout who is not part of a troop will get troop leader-like access with their girl(s). Access is granted through the council based on confirmation of individually registered status.

TIP: If you hold multiple roles, you’ll have a Volunteer Toolkit account for each—all under one login! Look for the grey dropdown box in the upper left-hand corner of your screen to navigate between accounts.
Where To Find the Volunteer Toolkit

The Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) can be used from any computer, tablet, or smartphone with internet access. For best results, use a VTK-friendly browser such as Chrome or Firefox with a cleared cache and visit www.gshg.org.

In the upper right-hand corner of your screen, click MY GS.

Select Volunteer Toolkit to log in using the credentials provided by the council.

**NOTE:** The VTK does not work on Internet Explorer.

Basic Navigation

Welcome to the Volunteer Toolkit! We’ve outlined everything you need to know to get started and have the best troop year ever!

The Volunteer Toolkit is divided into tabs that each have unique tools to help you plan your troop year and manage each meeting. If you’re on a computer, you’ll see the **GREEN TABS** across the top of your browser window.

Mobile users will see a grey dropdown menu at the top of their screen, with tabs beneath.

**NOTE:** Not all councils have a FINANCES tab.

**TIP:** Print – Download – Help

You’ll notice these three icons on almost every page of the VTK.

- **Print** your current screen by clicking the green printer icon.
- **Download** the page or resource by clicking the green down-arrow bracket icon.
- Seek out additional help by clicking the green question mark icon OR by clicking the binoculars next to Take a Guided Tour.
Volunteer Toolkit User Guide:

My Troop

Meeting Plan

Year Plan

Explore

Resources

Troop Volunteer

This tab houses your complete girl roster along with each girl’s primary caregiver’s name and contact information. Click the green arrow next to each name to expand and see each girl’s information. Click the green arrow below each caregiver’s name and contact information for your troop. Staying current is part of the Girl Scout promise. You can see all the attendance and membership information for your troop organized in a snapshot view. If you’ve got questions, you’ll find the answers you need in the Resources tab.

Once you’ve made a choice, your year plan will be automatically populated. A year plan is required in the VTK before other features become available.

Volunteer before other features. Does your troop need a refresh? Just click the “X” next to each of the exciting options for your troop. You can always add, remove, or change your plan as you go, one meeting at a time.

Wondering where do badges belong on her uniform? Which awards can your girls earn at the next grade level? What’s an investiture ceremony? If you’ve got questions, you’ll find the answers you need in the Resources tab.

If your troop needs a refresh, try a troop roster with attachments information and a snapshot view of all badges, achievements, and more. It’s even printable, so you can easily preview tracks and badges and print a troop roster with attachments.

From this tab, you can also:

▶ CUSTOMIZE THE PAGE WITH A TRACK PHOTO
▶ RENEW MEMBERSHIPS
▶ PRINT A TROOP ROSTER WITH ATTENDANCE INFORMATION AND BADGES
▶ EMAIL CAREGIVERS

Don’t worry: you can always add, remove, or change your plan as you go, one meeting at a time. Once you’ve made a choice, your year plan will be automatically populated. A year plan is required in the VTK before other features become available.

Set meeting dates and locations. A customizable meeting schedule that you can rearrange or add and delete. Success! Here you’ll find:

▶ suggested scripts
▶ material lists
▶ a customizable meeting schedule that you can print
▶PREVIEW BADGES, JOURNEYS, AND ACTIVITIES TO YOUR PLAN
▶ ADD BADGES, JOURNEYS, AND ACTIVITIES TO YOUR PLAN
▶ SET MEETING DATES AND LOCATIONS
▶ Preview badge and journey requirements
▶ review badge, journey, and activity requirements
▶ Complete your activity schedule! To set meeting times and locations, you can see all the exciting options for your troop organized in a snapshot view. If you’ve got questions, you’ll find the answers you need in the Resources tab.

NOTE: Do you have more than one troop? Access each troop by one from the drop-down menu at the top of your screen.
Set Up Your Year Plan

The first time you log in to the Volunteer Toolkit, you'll need to start a year plan before you can customize meetings or activities.

If you aren't seeing the correct grade level for your troop, please contact Customer Care at 1-888-689-1912 or customercare@gshg.org

**TIP:** Start your year plan by exploring options under the **EXPLORE** tab.

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**IMPORTANT:** Each time you choose a new year plan from the **EXPLORE** tab, your entire year will be reset. Any activities added, meeting dates, and customizations will be lost. To add badges and Journeys to your existing year plan, use the buttons at the top of the **YEAR PLAN** tab.
**BUILD YOUR OWN**

allows you to build your year plan from scratch! You can mix and match badges, Journeys, and activities with the interests of your girl(s). **Build Your Own** also allows you to search through all badges and Journeys regardless of grade level.

Use the filters to sort through all available programming, and the **Select Meeting** checkboxes to choose which badges and Journeys to add to your year plan. Once you’re finished, click **Add to Year Plan** at the bottom.

**PRESELECTED TRACKS**

are a preset selection of meeting plans for a specific Journey or set of badges. Click **View Popular Tracks**, and from there you can preview each combination of awards. Once you’ve found the right one, click **Select Track** and your year plan will be created.

Once you’ve made your selection in the **EXPLORE** tab, you’ll automatically be taken to the **YEAR PLAN** tab. This is also the tab you’ll be brought back to each time you log in.
Add Meetings to Your Year Plan

Girl Scouts are ready for whatever comes their way—and that includes changes in meetings or their year plan. Start by using the green **Add badge/Journey** link at the top of the year plan or the **Search to Add Meetings** at the bottom of the year plan.

Use the search feature or filters to sort through available meeting types and choose which ones to add to your year plan. Meetings already in your plan will be clearly marked.

Once you’ve made your selections, click **Add to Year Plan**.

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**TAKE NOTE:** meeting titles with numbers at the end are part of a series and you’ll want to add all of them to meet the requirements for the award.

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**TIP: View Past Year Plans**

Each July the VTK resets. Your year plan will be archived and you’ll no longer be able to make changes. However, you’ll still be able to view the plan through the green **Past Years** link at the top of your **YEAR PLAN** tab.

Achievement and attendance records **DO NOT archive.** Please download a copy of this information for your records.
Add Dates and Locations

**Calendar.** To continue planning your year, you must set meeting dates for your year plan. What day will your meetings begin and how often will you meet? What time will your meetings generally start?

At the top, click the green **Manage Calendar** link. Using the pop-up widget, set the cadence for your meetings. Don’t worry, you can still make changes after this! Click **Update Calendar** when finished.

Once you’ve set this up, when you use the **Manage Calendar** link again, you’ll notice it looks entirely different! Now you can customize each individual meeting, add the location, or even reset the entire schedule.
EDIT MEETINGS. Select the green calendar icon to the left of each meeting date to change the date or time of that specific meeting. You can also choose to cancel one or more meetings or combine meetings. Select the two meetings you’d like to combine, then select the new date that meeting will occur. After you’ve made any changes, click Save and your year plan will be updated.

To the right, you’ll see a green gear icon. This takes you back to the original view of the Meeting Date and Location widget, where you can reset the entire cadence of your meetings if needed.

LOCATION. Now that your dates are set, you can connect an address to each one. If you’re meeting in multiple locations, add each address then connect it to the appropriate meeting using the checkboxes. Click Assign or Apply and then close out of the window.

You can also get to the Meeting Date and Location widget simply by clicking on a date in your year plan. Change a date quickly or select See More Calendar Options.
Add Activities to Your Year Plan

Meetings and badges are only one part of a go-getting Girl Scout’s troop year! You can add things like field trips, service projects, or cookie booth sales to your year plan as well. And the Volunteer Toolkit connects to your council website so you can browse and add council events, too. Any activity you add will appear in blue and show up chronologically.

Back at the top of the year plan, click Add Activity.

CUSTOM ACTIVITY. Add your activity name, date, time, location, and details to your year plan. Remember: caregivers will see this information too, so be sure event details are clear and any special instructions are included here.

▼ NOTE: Not all councils have a COUNCIL ACTIVITY tab.
Tools for Planning Your Meeting

Set yourself—and your troop—up for success at each meeting! The MEETING PLAN tab has a robust collection of tools and information to help you plan an engaging meeting every time.

**PLANNING MATERIALS.** High-level resources show you from start to finish what your girls will achieve during the meeting (1. Meeting Overview), what you’ll do and say (2. Activity Plan), and the meeting aids plus the materials you’ll need (3. Material List).

**MANAGE COMMUNICATIONS.** Send emails to caregivers to remind them of meetings and keep them up to date on what’s happening. Emails are prepopulated with relevant meeting information, but you can customize them based on your needs. You can even attach meeting aids or other relevant documents from your council website at the bottom of the screen before sending.

You can also **Record Attendance and Achievements** in this section. Use the checkboxes to mark who’s at the meeting—and if it’s a meeting where you’re finishing a badge or award, you can mark that too. You can see the full picture of what a girl has earned on the MY TROOP tab, with the option to download.

**MEETING AIDS.** These documents and videos are the leg-up you need for each meeting! Some are geared toward the adult supporting the meeting and some are for girls completing the activities. You can find more information on how to use these resources in the Activity Plan.

**AGENDA.** Wondering how you’ll kick off your meeting’s activities? Here, you’ll find instructions and details for each activity, materials needed, time it takes to complete, and the recommended sequencing. You’ll also find opening and closing activities to round out your meeting.
There are lots of ways to customize your meeting agenda:

▶ Drag and drop activities to reorder in the agenda.

▶ Use the dropdown on an activity to change the amount of time allotted for that activity.

▶ Delete an activity by clicking the “X” to the right of the activity. Just be careful you aren’t deleting a required activity for earning an award!

▶ Click Add Agenda Item at the bottom to add your own activities!

▶ Add a note at the end to remind yourself and/or other troop leaders about important things to remember for each meeting.

If at any time you want to replace or delete an entire meeting, just use the respective links at the top of the meeting plan.

Don’t forget, if at any time you want to download or print your year plan or meeting plan, look for these icons at the top of the page.

Questions?

Looking for more Volunteer Toolkit support? Contact Customer Care at 1-888-689-1912 or customercare@gshg.org.