

So, Your Daughter Wants to Be a Girl Scout?

Your five-year-old just came home with a flier from school and says, “Mommy, I want to be a Girl Scout.” Your initial reaction is “Oh, no, here we go. One more place to take her, one more piece of my time gone, one more thing I have to do in an already tight schedule.” If this was your initial reaction, you’re not alone. But let’s step back for a moment and think about what saying yes to this opportunity means.

As a **Girl Scout Daisy (grades K-1)**, your daughter will benefit from a positive role model – and this person could be you. She’s going to learn the Girl Scout Promise and Law and what they mean. She’s going to learn what it means to give back to her community in small ways. She’s going to be introduced to the great outdoors by taking a tour of a nearby Girl Scout camp. She’s going to make new friends and begin to understand the value of the “three C’s”: Courage, Confidence and Character. She’s going to begin to understand such things as responsibility and respect.

As a **Girl Scout Brownie (grades 2-3)**, your daughter is going to continue to learn about the “three C’s” and what they mean to her. She’s going to take field trips that will expand her knowledge of the world around her. She’s going to do bigger community projects that help her learn about caring for people outside her family. She’s going to earn badges that deal with computer smarts, earth and sky, manners, music, wildlife, caring for animals – just to name a few. She’s going to begin to learn how her actions affect other people in a positive or negative way. She’s going to be able to participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program, which teaches marketing and sales skills. She’s going to learn to respect and enjoy the out-of-doors and why she should care about the environment. She’s going to spend her first night away from home at a Girl Scout camp and love it! She’s going to build relationships that will last her a lifetime.

As a **Girl Scout Junior (grades 4-5)**, your daughter is going to do community projects on a grander scale. She’s going to realize what a difference she can make in the lives of the people she touches. She’s going to go to Girl Scout camp and learn how to ride horses, canoe for the first time and learn she doesn’t really mind bugs. She’s going to earn badges that teach her values such as being a good sport, architecture, camping, caring for children, first aid and healthy living habits – to name a few. With other girls her age, she is going to plan her troop’s activities, work on budgets, set goals, learn what it takes to achieve a mission and then celebrate successes. She’s going to learn independence and team work as she earns her Girl Scout Bronze Award.

As a **Girl Scout Cadette (grades 6-8)**, your daughter is going to have opportunities to travel to places she’s only dreamed of. She’s going to be able to make life-changing decisions based on skills she’s learned. She’s going to be able to handle peer pressure because she is a more confident individual. She’s going to begin thinking about long-term goals and review career choices. She’s going to continue building the relationships that she started when she was 5 years old. She’s going to learn how to appreciate who she is and what she can do because of the things she’s learned. She’s going to earn her Girl Scout Silver Award and be proud of the project that made a difference in people’s lives.

As a **Girl Scout Senior (grades 9-10) and Girl Scout Ambassador (grades 11-12)**, your daughter is going to continue to make smart decisions. She’s going to continue to support community efforts to help those around her. She’s going to find her voice and advocate for positive change as she earns her Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award for Girl Scouts, which will give her pride at completion and make her eligible for scholarships. She’s going to begin sharing the things she’s learned with younger girls because she knows it made a difference in her life. She’s going to begin looking at colleges and making career choices ... because she can. She knows that she can do anything. She’s been given the courage, confidence and character to do these things ... and you helped, because when she was five, you said, “Yes!”



For more information about Girl Scouts, visit www.GSEIWI.org or call Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois at 800-798-0833.