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General Tasks for New Leaders

1st Month

- Submit Volunteer Application
- Take [Orientation](#) Training
- Meet with [Regional Membership Manager](#) to organize girls
- Take [Getting Started](#) Training
- Collect registration forms, fees, etc.
- Conduct [Parent Meeting](#)
- Check out the [Parent Handbook](#)
- Don't forget to look at the [New Leader](#) Support button on the website

2nd Month

- Take [Leadership Essentials](#) training
- After leader approval, hold your [first troop meeting](#)
- Continue recruiting [troop team committee](#)
- Find a consistent [meeting space](#)
- Open your [troop bank account](#)

Monthly Activities for New Leaders

August

- Attend Service Unit meeting
- Connect with Leader Mentor

September

- Attend Service Unit Meeting
- Connect with Leader Mentor
- Understanding [the Girl Scout Leadership Experience](#):
 - **Discover** how Girl Scouts began
 - **Connect** with each other – begin becoming a team
 - **Take Action** with fun, hands on activities
- Begin [planning with the girls](#) for the troop year
- Jump into Girl Scouting! Start using the [Journey materials](#) for your grade level.
- Help girls begin to learn and talk about the [Girl Scout Promise and Law, Motto and Slogan](#)
- Include cooperative and team-building games in your troop meetings

October

- Attend Service Unit meeting
- Go out! Take a hike around the block or around the building to discover how fall is coming to your community
- Continue working with the Journey materials
- Show girls how to plan their [Investiture Ceremony](#) by helping them choose the opening, main part and closing. Here is additional help in [planning ceremonies](#).
- Invite older, more experienced Girl Scouts to your troop meeting to teach songs
- Increase your troop's bank account; take part in the Fall Sale Program
- Celebrate the birthday of our founder, [Juliette Gordon Low](#). Help girls plan a party, a ceremony, or a take action project.

November

- Attend Service Unit meeting
- Encourage girls to choose a simple community service project, such as Thanksgiving place mats for the elderly, collecting canned goods for a food bank or collecting gently-used blankets and coats for a homeless shelter.
- Banish stereotypes from your troop meetings! Look for stories, plays, crafts and foods that will give girls an authentic picture of the first Thanksgiving.
- Finish up paperwork and reports for the Fall Sale Program

December

- Attend Service Unit meeting
- Decide if the troop will meet for "fun and frolic" during the winter school break. A family bonfire with girl-made cookies and cocoa is always fun!
- Revisit community service project ideas if not done in November
- Don't be afraid to go on a short hike at a state park or nature center, just to see how plants and animals adapt to cold weather.
- Start talking about goal setting for [the Cookie Sale Program](#). Research shows that girls who set goals have increased sales!

January

- It's [Cookie Time](#)! Lots of role-play will help girls knock on doors safely and use the telephone correctly for order taking. Attend a Cookie Rally in your area!
- The Martin Luther King Day observance usually offers lots of community service opportunities – or girls can choose their own.
- Help girls choose and begin to plan activities for [World Thinking Day](#) (Feb 22)

February

- Resident Camp information will be available soon! Take some time to sit with girls and talk about camp and how they can attend. Cookie Program Credit can be used to help with fees. Attend a Camp Rally in your area.
- February 14** – Celebrate Valentine's Day with heart healthy learning activities, games and snacks
- February 22** – [World Thinking Day](#) gives girls an opportunity to learn more about their sister Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world and plan to celebrate with a party, ceremony or take action project.

March

- Cookies arrive! Time for girls to practice their addition, subtraction and change-making skills (more role playing). Work on customer service skills with girls.
- March 12** – [Girl Scout Birthday!](#) Girl Scout Sabbath is the Saturday before March 12; Girl Scout Sunday is the Sunday following the March 12. Encourage girls to plan something special for this week.

April

- Another great month to “get out!” Move troop meetings outdoors or spend a day at a park or camp so girls can learn and practice outdoor skills.
- April 22** – Earth Day and Leader's Day. Do the girls like to make things? Spring is a good time to make bird feeders and houses, either using recyclables or simple wood-working projects.
- Be sure to get your girls re-registered for the coming year. Your Spring Registration packet will have a Troop [Leader Review](#) and a yearend [Troop Finance Report](#) form to be completed.

May

- With trained adults and girls, an [overnight in a backyard](#) or cabin is the next step in overnight troop camping. Check the [Adult Learning calendar](#) for training dates.
- Are your girls ready for a [road trip](#)? There are some [rules regarding trips](#) that you need to be aware of, but you can begin the conversations.
- Family picnics/cookouts and field days are a “fun” way to celebrate the end of school
- Troops that will not be meeting throughout the summer may want to have a final [awards ceremony](#) and decide on ways to keep in touch until school starts again. [Click Here](#) to watch a Court of Awards video.

June and July

- Some troops take a short vacation from troop meetings during one or both of these months; other plan to get together and have fun with whoever is in town!
- Girl Scout day camp and resident camp expand the Girl Scout experience for many girls each summer.
- Some girls love this school-free stretch of time to work on Girl Scout awards; help them set up guidelines for individual work before school is out.

What About Bridging?

- [“Bridging”](#) is when Girl Scouts move to the next grade level. Daisy to Brownie, Brownie to Junior, and so forth.
- Bridging **activities** are when girls from different grade levels meet, work, play, camp or otherwise get together in a structured situation. Girls may use these activities to build new Girl Scout friendships, learn about the next level and complete requirements for bridging awards.
- [Bridging ceremonies](#) celebrate the actual transition to the next Girl Scout grade level. Most troops hold their ceremony at the end of the school year, but others wait until the new school year begins.
- The only requirement for bridging to the next level is a grade-level requirement: Girl Scout Daisies bridge to Brownies at the end of the first grade; Brownies to Juniors at the end of the third grade; Juniors to Cadettes at the end of the fifth grade; Cadettes to Seniors at the end of the eighth grade; Seniors to Ambassadors at the end of the tenth grade; and Ambassadors to Adults at the end of 12th grade.

