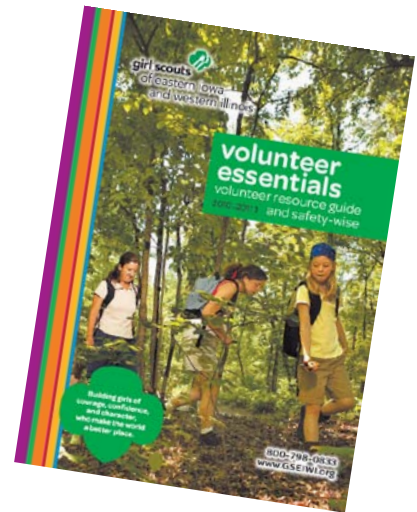




## Volunteer Essentials 2010-11 Q & A

A new document will be offered this fall that will replace the Volunteer Resource Guide and Safety-Wise. It is a national publication that we were able to customize to meet the needs of Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. The only thing missing from what was in Safety-Wise is the Activity Checkpoints which can be found on our website at [www.GSEIWI.org](http://www.GSEIWI.org).



### Where can I get Volunteer Essentials 2010?

We are "Going Green" this year and are putting as many documents that we can online. It can be located on our website at [www.GSEIWI.org](http://www.GSEIWI.org).

### What is Quick-Start Guide?

Do you have prospective volunteers or community leaders that ask you about Girl Scouting? The first 5 pages give you an overview of who we are and what we stand for. It includes the promise and law and our mission statement. It includes information about our national and international organizations. It includes service unit information, the resources (books) that we use as well as meeting for the first time with girls. It also gives a brief overview of what the Safety-Wise Activity-Checkpoints are.

### Where do I find information about GSEIWI policies?

Our policies can be found in Chapter 1 under GSEIWI Council Policies and Procedures (page 11 ) which includes Site use, tobacco-free environment, group trips, camping and treasuries, tax-exempt status, and signing contracts. The GSEIWI Volunteer Development System Policies can be found right after that on pages 12-18. These are the operational policies that protect our council, you as a volunteer and the girls we serve. Examples include the process for a new volunteer, the training needed, financial responsibilities of the volunteer, sexual harassment, child abuse, release/separation of a volunteer and the volunteer grievance process.

### Where can I find information about being a troop leader?

Chapter 3 has a wealth of information on running a troop. From finding a location to meet, inspiring open communication with girls, information about dealing with sensitive issues, as well as some tools for conflict management and working with parents and guardians. Girl/adult ratios can be found under Knowing How Many Volunteers You Need in Chapter 4 (page 41). The Appendix: For Troop Volunteers also has great information on forming a troop committee, conducting troop meetings and "who pays for what?"

### **Why did they take away Safety-Wise?**

Safety-Wise had not been reprinted in its entirety since 2000. Various updates have come out over the years, but it is very difficult to keep these updates in people's books. With the forming of the new Girl Scout Leadership Experience, changes have been made to grade level groups, ratios, inclusion of various pathways in which girls can join, etc. This new format will be easier to read and it has combined all of the resources in one spot for you to look for information. The only thing missing is the Activity-Checkpoints. These have been made easier and concise. They also have been able to be modeled with local laws that will make it easier for leaders. They all have the same format and are easy to print out.

### **Where do I go to make sure I am following the safety guidelines?**

Most everything that was in Safety-Wise can also be found in Volunteer Essentials. The table of contents will be your guide to the subjects you would like to look for. Girl/Adult ratios are on page 41, Money Earning activities information can be found on page 50, Travel/trip information can be found under Transporting Girls on page 42 and in the Appendix: For Troop Volunteers starting on page 59. Activities that require council approval can be located on page 44. First Aid information can be found on page 47.

### **Why is the new document only found online?**

With an online version we can make changes yearly without having reprinting costs. As new information becomes available, it will be much easier to keep updated. And just think of how many trees will be saved by not printing this document, but having it as a reference tool on line!

### **Why are there appendices for Troop Volunteer and Travel Volunteer?**

Troops and travel are two pathways in which girls can be a part of Girl Scouting. Other ways include camp, series, events and virtual. Over the next couple of years, the rest of the pathways will have information specific for them. Another great reason to have it on line so it can be updated easily!!

### **How often will the document change?**

We will make changes on a yearly basis. Same as we would have done for our Volunteer Resource Guide.

