

Simple Steps to Leading a Girl Scout Journey

Step 1: Girls Choose Their Journey

- ◆ Check them out from your council library
- ◆ Explore them online <http://gsbooks.docpit.com/>
- ◆ Exchange Journeys through your service unit
- ◆ Explore Journeys in your council shop

Step 2: Adults Get Prepared

Adult volunteer reads through the Adult Facilitator Guide looking for:

- ◆ the **Snapshot** that lists the goals to complete the Journey
- ◆ the **Leadership Awards** that can be earned within the Journey
- ◆ the activities that can be suggested to the girls
- ◆ **charts, graphs or organizers** to enhance the experience

All the while remembering the three program processes, see below.

Know Your Program Processes

- ◆ **Girl-Led** gives even the youngest girls the chance to make decisions and shape their own experiences
- ◆ **Learning By Doing** allows girls to do hands-on activities where they reflect on their learning and reapply it to future activities
- ◆ **Cooperative Learning** helps girls team up on projects so they share common goals, collaborate and problem solve as a team.

Step 3: Planning the Itinerary

Using the Journey theme, brainstorm with girls how they might like to explore that theme.

Brainstorming topics may include:

- ◆ What do the girls already know about the topic?
- ◆ What would they like to learn about the topic?
- ◆ What trips, outings, camps, speakers and/or people might help them discover new knowledge about the theme?
- ◆ During the Journey experience what awards and badges do the girls want to earn to build skills?
- ◆ What family and adult support may be needed to complete the Journey?
- ◆ What ceremonies, traditions, and celebrations could occur during their Journey?
- ◆ How will they finance and budget for their activities? (Fall Product Sale, Cookie Program or other money earning ideas?)
- ◆ What food choices do they want to include?
- ◆ Using troop form of government, how will the activities be scheduled? (Daisy Ring, Brownie Circle, Junior Patrols, CSA Executive Board, Town Meeting or Patrols)

After exploring the Journey topic and surrounding communities, what are the needs that might lead to a take action project?

Always evaluate and debrief each experience.

Step 4: Leader Guides the Girls To Take Action

After exploring and reflecting on the Journey experiences the leader can ensure the girls lead as much as possible in the planning, organization, set-up and evaluation of their take action project.

- ◆ What did the girls discover?
- ◆ How did they connect with others in the community around them?
- ◆ What did the girls identify were community needs?
- ◆ What steps did the girls determine were needed to serve the community?
- ◆ Are there community partnerships to support their service?
- ◆ How can the girls plan and lead the logistics of the project?
- ◆ What are the girl's reflection on their take action experiences?
- ◆ From the girls reflection what do they feel was gained from their project?



Step 5: Debrief The Total Experience and Celebrate

- ◆ What did you like best about the experiences?
- ◆ What did you like least about the experiences.
- ◆ What would you do differently next time?

Support Resources

- ◆ girlscoutsofwesternohio.org
- ◆ Girls Scouts of Western Ohio Blog (www.gswoblog.org)
- ◆ girlscouts.org
- ◆ Girl Scouts of Western Ohio shops (Cincinnati, Dayton, Lima and Toledo)
- ◆ Regional Girl Scout Resource Libraries (Cincinnati, Dayton, Lima and Toledo)
- ◆ Community Resource document for Girl Scout Journeys
<http://www.girlscoutsofwesternohio.org/What-We-Do/Girl-Scout-Resources/Journeys>
- ◆ Grade level Journey description document
<http://www.girlscoutsofwesternohio.org/What-We-Do/Girl-Scout-Resources/Journeys>
- ◆ Complete Journey Training workshop through each regional office

For Additional Support Contact:

- ◆ Service Unit Girl Scout Leadership Experience Chairperson
- ◆ Community Engagement Manager (contact regional office)
- ◆ Program and Partnerships Manager (contact regional office)