

Your Guide to Leading a Community Troop



girl scouts 
of southern nevada



Dear Girl Scout Troop Leaders/Mentors,

Welcome to the Girl Scouts family—and thank you for stepping into one of the most meaningful volunteer roles in our community! We are thrilled to have you join us as a new troop leader. By choosing to lead, mentor, and support our girls, you are helping create a space where they can discover their strengths, explore new possibilities, and grow into confident young leaders.

As a troop leader/mentor, you are at the heart of the Girl Scout experience. You will help girls build friendships, develop skills, embrace challenges, and make memories that last a lifetime. Whether you're planning an outdoor adventure, guiding a service project, or simply encouraging a girl to try something new, your presence makes a real difference.

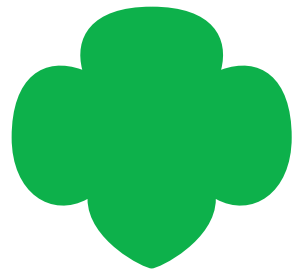
You are never alone on this journey. Our Community Department council staff, program, and membership staff are here to support you every step of the way—with training, resources, ideas, and a community that understands the importance of your work. When you need a hand, inspiration, or just a friendly conversation, we're here.

Thank you again for saying “yes” to leadership, learning, and laughter. Your commitment helps ensure that every Girl Scout has the opportunity to shine. We can't wait to see what your troop will accomplish this year!

With appreciation,

Talitha Burris

Community Engagement Manager
Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada



Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:

To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be

honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,

and to

respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Girl Scout Levels

Daisies: Kindergarten-Grade 1

Brownies: Grades 2-3

Juniors: Grades 4-5

Cadettes: Grades 6-8

Seniors: Grades 9-10

Ambassadors: Grades 11-12



Our Mission

The mission of the Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Our Community Troops

Community Troops provide girls, especially those who may not otherwise have access to Girl Scouts, with meaningful opportunities to grow through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. These troops are led by trained Girl Scout staff or supported volunteers, known as Community Troop Specialists, who guide girls through activities at schools, churches, and community centers. Girls enjoy engaging, challenging, and fun experiences such as earning badges, selling cookies, exploring STEM, spending time outdoors, and giving back through community service, all of which are core parts of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE)

Everything we do is rooted in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, which helps girls grow through hands-on learning, teamwork, and fun. Our programs are built around four key pillars:



Outdoors

Girls explore, adventure, and connect with nature building confidence and a lifelong appreciation for the outdoors.



Life Skills

Girls learn to care for their health, build strong relationships, advocate for others, protect the environment, and explore who they want to become.



STEM

Through engaging science, technology, engineering, and math activities, girls spark curiosity and discover new possibilities for future careers.



Entrepreneurship

Girls think like entrepreneurs by learning 5 essential business skills: Goal Setting, Decision Making, Money Management, People Skills, and Business Ethics.

These Experiences Help Girls:

- Grow physically, emotionally, socially, and mentally in a supportive environment.
- Feel a sense of belonging while being valued as unique individuals.
- Develop leadership, responsibility, and confidence in their own abilities.
- Experience joy, curiosity, wonder, and a sense of responsibility for the world around them.
- Build pride through accomplishment and meaningful challenges.
- Appreciate and respect the natural world and the importance of its resources.
- Have fun, try new things, and enjoy adventure—always with safety and supervision at the center.

Welcome, Troop Leaders!

Thank you for the time, care, and energy you give to Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada (GSSNV). As a troop leader, you are a trusted role model and mentor who helps girls build courage, confidence, and character. This guide outlines our shared expectations so every girl can learn, grow, and feel safe.

Troop Leader Expectations

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) and GSSNV recognize troop leaders as the heart of the Girl Scout experience. All staff and volunteers are expected to:

- › Act as positive role models, demonstrating kindness, integrity, and respect both during and outside of Girl Scout activities.
- › Be honest, fair, and thoughtful in all communication with girls, families, staff, and volunteers.
- › Support girls as they build confidence, learn new skills, care for others, and respect nature.
- › Treat all girls and adults with dignity and respect, embracing diversity and inclusion.
- › Never use abusive language, corporal punishment, humiliation, or intimidation.

Harassment, Discrimination & Whistleblower Policies

GSSNV is committed to providing a safe, welcoming, and inclusive environment for everyone.

- › Discrimination, intimidation, or harassment of any kind, including sexual harassment, is not tolerated.
- › Derogatory language of any kind is not tolerated.
- › Harassment based on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, religion, sex, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, or any protected characteristic is strictly prohibited.
- › Reports of inappropriate behavior will be handled as confidentially as possible and



investigated promptly. Those found to have violated our policies are subject to corrective action and possible termination.

- › Anyone found to be in violation of these policies may face corrective action, up to and including removal from their role.

Need Support or Want to Report a Concern?

Email: customerservice@gssnv.org
Phone: 702-385-3667

GSSNV also maintains a whistleblower policy to protect leaders, volunteers, and team members who report serious concerns in good faith.

Nondiscrimination Commitment

GSSNV programs are open to all eligible participants. No one will be excluded or treated unfairly based on race, ethnicity, color, citizenship, national origin, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, age, political affiliation, veteran status, disability, familial status, or any status protected by law.

Please note: GSSNV is an independent council. Employees of GSSNV are not employed by GSUSA.

Conducting Great Troop Meetings

Consistency creates comfort and confidence. A well-structured, predictable meeting routine creates a safe and supportive environment where girls feel comfortable trying new things and growing. Clear schedules also boost engagement and reduce time spent on transitions.

This section includes simple timing guidelines and best practices to help you run meetings that are fun, meaningful, and aligned with the Girl Scout experience. Establishing a routine now sets the stage for a successful and smoothly run troop year.

Sample Meeting Structure (60–90 minutes)

SECTION	TARGET TIME	FOCUS
1. Start-Up Activity	5-10 minutes	Quietly engage early arrivals with puzzles, coloring, quick craft prep, etc.
2. Opening Ceremony	3-5 minutes	Girl Scout Promise & Law. Keep it quick.
3. Troop Business	5-10 minutes	Must be efficient! Focus on 1-2 critical announcements (cookie sales update or next field trip date)
4. Main Activity	40-60 minutes	Work on a badge step, Journey segment, or service project. Keep it hands-on and active.
5. Clean Up	5 minutes	Quick and mandatory group effort.
6. Closing Ceremony	3-5 minutes	Friendship Circle & Squeeze. Short song or quick share (“favorite thing we did today”)

Girl Scout Experience Box

The Girl Scout Experience Box is a free monthly kit for new Daisy (K-1) and Brownie (2-3) troop leaders in participating councils. Designed to make meeting planning easy, each box includes ready-to-use supplies, step-by-step instructions, helpful scripts, and engaging activities aligned with the First Year Troop Plans. It’s a turnkey resource to help leaders host fun, meaningful, and stress-free meetings with minimal preparation.



Troop Meeting Tips

1. Leader Mindset & Culture YOUR APPROACH

These tips shape your leadership style and set the tone for every meeting.

- › Be flexible and open to last-minute changes. Find great teachable moments that pop up unexpectedly.
- › Be playful, get messy, and don’t take yourself too seriously. Fun fuels learning.
- › Praise girls often. Thank them for positive choices, effort, teamwork, and thoughtful discussions. Make sure every girl is recognized in some way.

2. Preparation & Opening SETTING THE STAGE

How you start the meeting helps girls feel welcomed and connected.

- › Greet girls with enthusiasm and use their names when you can.
- › Allow time for girls to chat and reconnect, especially since meetings may be their main time together.
- › Begin each meeting with the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Invite girls to take turns leading.

3. Activity Delivery & Engagement MAIN ACTIVITY

Keep energy high and learning meaningful.

- › Plan activities that are fun, hands-on, and connected to girls’ interests.

- › Use a variety of teaching styles. Talk it out, write it down, act it out, sing it, or draw it.
- › Build in movement. Let girls work in small groups, rotate stations, or take stretch breaks.
- › Connect activities to real-life experiences girls can relate to.
- › Ask open-ended questions to encourage thinking, sharing, and discussion.

4. Closing RESPONSIBILITY

End meetings on a positive, responsible note.

- › Always save time for group clean-up before the closing ceremony.

Volunteer Toolkit (VTK)

The Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) is your official digital resource for planning and managing your troop year. It includes:

- › Step-by-step meeting guides for badges and Journeys
- › Materials lists and printable resources
- › Tools to track attendance, record achievements, set the troop calendar, and communicate with families

Accessible through MyGS, the VTK reduces administrative work so you can focus on mentoring and engaging girls. GSSNV Community Troop Facilitators provide training to help you use this resource effectively.

Troop Leader Responsibilities & Requirements

The Girl Scout Troop Leader serves as a mentor, guide, and role model, inspiring girls to grow in courage, confidence, and character. Leaders create a safe, inclusive, and fun environment where girls can build friendships, explore their interests, and develop essential life skills through STEM, outdoor adventures, life skills, and entrepreneurship. This includes planning and leading meetings, following safety guidelines, and communicating regularly with families. Above all, Troop Leaders empower girls to discover their talents, connect with their community, and make a positive impact on the world.



Training

- All Troop Leaders must complete the mandatory GSUSA Online Training within 90 days of the troop start. This ensures leaders are prepared and enables participation in all product program initiatives.
- After the first four weeks, GSSNV staff will provide a meeting schedule and comprehensive Leader Book to guide leaders and support confident, independent facilitation.

Attendance

- Take attendance at every meeting.
- The attendance sheet should include the first name, last name, and grade of the girl.
- Submit attendance records to your Community Facilitator after each meeting.

Planning

- Leaders should plan for 4-6 hours per week, including 1-2 hours for meetings and 2-4 hours for preparation (planning, gathering materials, administration, and parent communication).

- Consistency is key for the girls. If you cannot attend a meeting, contact your Community Facilitator immediately.
- For extended absences, provide return dates so a substitute or interim coverage can be arranged to maintain programming continuity.

Adult Membership & Background Checks

- All adults working directly with girls must be registered GSUSA members and complete a mandatory background check before supervising or interacting with girls.
- This membership provides insurance coverage and authorizes participation in troop activities.
- Volunteers will receive an email from the background company and required information to start the process.

Recruitment

- New Daisies, Brownies, or other level Girl Scouts can join your troop any time during the year.
- Please notify your Volunteer Support contact when a new girl joins so she can be properly registered and added to your roster and activities.

Entrepreneurship Programs

Cookie Program (Required)

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the world's largest girl-led entrepreneurial program. It funds troop activities and teaches five essential skills: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics.

All troop leaders and cookie volunteers must complete annual training before participating. This training ensures you are fully prepared to manage inventory, utilize the digital platforms (like Smart Cookies), and coach your girls effectively.

Fall Product Program (Optional)

The Fall Product Program is an optional, annual activity that gives girls an early chance to practice the entrepreneurial skills they'll use in the Cookie Program by selling magazines and nuts/candies. While participation isn't required, it's highly encouraged as a valuable learning experience.

The program helps girls and leaders get comfortable with goal setting, taking orders, managing inventory, and using online sales tools. Funds raised can also help cover troop start-up costs, like dues and basic supplies, at the start of the school year.

Outdoor Opportunities

Camp Frias Frontier

Just 90 minutes away in Alamo, Nevada, Frias Frontier offers campers a fun and engaging experience. Girls can enjoy hands-on challenges, friendly indoor and outdoor games, creative expression through songs and arts & crafts, and all the classic camp favorites that make memories last a lifetime.

Planning Events

All troop events, whether planned by leaders or sponsored by the Council, must follow Safety Activity Checkpoints (SACs) and any applicable school or district policies.

For troop-planned events, leaders must get approval from the school administrator or coordinating body before notifying parents or booking venues. This ensures activities are safe, age-appropriate, and properly supervised, following the Two-Deep Leadership standard.

Activities with added risks, such as swimming, climbing, or significant travel, also require parental permission slips and may need a pre-event risk assessment to ensure safety and compliance.

Taking Photos & Videos

Troop Leaders may take photos of girls during activities, as parent consent is given during registration. Photos containing identifiable information will not be shared publicly without a separate photo release.

Newsletter

Troop Leaders will receive a monthly email newsletter with important updates, council news, upcoming events, service project opportunities, and helpful tips to make your Girl Scout year a success.

Please share updates of your troop activities so that GSSNV can share the exciting activities you are doing with the rest of the Council. Send stories and photos to marketing@girlscoutsnv.org.

Watch your inbox at the start of each month!



Safety Guidelines

The emotional and physical safety of all girls is our top priority, guided by the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Troop Leaders should be familiar with the emergency procedures at their meeting site. This section complements those site-specific procedures.

- › Know your site's medical policies and procedures, including the location of first aid kits and AEDs.
- › CPR classes are available through GSSNV for a nominal fee if you are not yet certified.
- › If an incident occurs, complete the incident form provided by your site and share a copy with your GSSNV Community Facilitator as soon as possible.

General Safety Guidelines

- Never leave a girl alone—at any time or place.
- Count girls frequently, especially at the start and end of activities and before and after off-site trips.
- All activities must be supervised by a trained staff member or approved volunteer.

Adult to Girl Supervision Ratios

Maintaining proper adult-to-girl ratios is essential for safety, supervision, and liability. At least two unrelated, registered, Girl Scout-approved adults, including one female, must always be present. This ensures accountability, protects girls, prevents misunderstandings or abuse, and provides a backup adult in case of an emergency.

Minimum Supervision Ratios

- › Daisy: 1 adult per 6 girls
- › Brownie: 1 adult per 12 girls
- › Junior: 1 adult per 16 girls
- › Cadette: 1 adult per 20 girls
- › Senior/Ambassador: 1 adult per 24 girls

There should also be one extra registered, approved, adult volunteer for every additional:

- › 1-4 Daisies
- › 1-6 Brownies
- › 1-8 Juniors
- › 1-10 Cadetts
- › 1-12 Seniors/Ambassadors

Social Media & Online Safety

Protecting our Girl Scouts' privacy and digital well-being is a top priority. Personal online interactions between leaders and girls are not allowed. These boundaries keep everyone safe, uphold Two-Deep Leadership, and maintain professionalism.

- › Leaders may not post pictures of girls on personal social media, friend them, or message them directly (e.g., Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat).
- › All troop communication should use official channels, such as troop email addresses or approved parent communication apps.
- › Leaders should never share personal phone numbers or social media accounts with girls.
- › Families should be directed to official GSSNV social media accounts and email for all communication.



First Aid

Wounds

Major Open Wounds

- › Apply direct pressure with sterile dressing
- › Elevate
- › Apply roll of bandage or bandages over area
- › If bleeding does not stop, put pressure on nearby artery (pressure point)
- › Once the site's policies and procedures are followed and the site coordinator no longer requires your assistance, notify GSSNV Program Manager

Puncture Wounds

- › Do not remove an impaled object
- › Bandage around area; seek medical attention
- › Once the site's policies and procedures are followed and the site coordinator no longer requires your assistance, notify GSSNV Program Manager

Abrasions & Scrapes

- › Clean thoroughly with soap and water, then dry
- › Apply sterile dressing

Head, Neck & Back Injuries

- Do not move—minimize movement of head, neck and back
- Maintain open airway
- Keep the victim from getting chilled or overheated
- Seek medical attention.

Muscle, Bone & Joint Injuries

- Immobilize injured part
- Immediately notify Site Coordinator

Strains & Sprains

- › Ice in position you find injury
- › Elevate if you do not suspect fracture/dislocation
- › Apply ace bandage, if needed

Suspected Fractures

- › Do not move the injured area
- › Apply ice

Other

Nosebleeds

- › Sit and have participant lean forward and pinch nostrils together until bleeding stops

Knocked-Out Tooth

- › Immediately notify Site Coordinator
- › Place sterile dressing in space left by tooth
- › Put tooth in container of saliva or milk

Eye Irritation

- › Do not rub eye
- › Flush with clean water for 5-10 minutes
- › If serious, contact the Site Coordinator

Seizures

- › Immediately call 911
- › Protect head from injury and keep airway open
- › Notify Site Coordinator immediately

General Precautions

- Avoid contact with body fluids, if possible—always wear disposable gloves
- Place barriers—such as a clean, dry cloth—between the victim's body and yourself
- Cover any cuts, sores, scrapes, and skin conditions you may have
- Dispose of all blood-soaked debris properly
- Wash hands with soap and water immediately after giving first aid

Incident Reporting

All incidents—including medical issues, bullying, or self-harm—must be reported within 24 hours, either manually or online. The report should include what happened, actions taken, and follow-up measures. A copy of the completed form should be attached to the Emergency Action Plan. When appropriate, parents should be contacted once the situation is under control or resolved.

Child Abuse

Child abuse is any act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation, or an act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm to a child. Recognizing the signs—such as unexplained injuries, changes in behavior, withdrawal, or fear of a specific adult—is crucial. As a mandated reporter in a supervisory role, you are legally required to report any suspected abuse or neglect to the proper authorities immediately to ensure the safety and well-being of the child.

Physical Abuse

An injury or pattern of injuries that happen to a child that is not accidental. These injuries may include beatings, burns, bruises, bites, welts, strangulation, broken bones, or death.

Possible Indicators of Physical Abuse

- › Wary of adults
- › Frightened of parents or going home
- › Either extremely aggressive or withdrawn
- › Exhibits a drastic behavior change when not with parents or caregiver
- › Manipulative
- › Self-mutilating
- › Exhibits suicidal gestures or attempts suicide
- › Unexplained bruises or welts, often clustered or in a pattern
- › Unexplained or unusual burns (cigarettes, doughnut shaped, object patterned)
- › Unexplained bite marks
- › Unexplained fractures or dislocations, or abrasions or lacerations

Neglect

Neglect occurs when adults responsible for the well-being of a child fail to provide for or protect the child. Neglect may include not giving food, clothing, or shelter; failing to keep children clean; lack of supervision; and withholding medical care.

Possible Indicators of Neglect

- › Begs for or steals food
- › Attempts at suicide
- › Uses or abuses alcohol or other drugs
- › Extremely dependent or detached
- › Appears exhausted
- › States frequent or continual absence of parent or guardian
- › Frequently dirty, unwashed, hungry, or inappropriately dressed
- › Engages in dangerous activities
- › Tired and listless
- › Unattended physical problems
- › Appears overworked or exploited

Emotional Abuse

Any chronic and persistent act by an adult that endangers the mental health or emotional development of a child including rejection; ignoring; terrorizing; corrupting; constantly criticizing; making mean remarks; insulting; and giving little or no love, guidance, or support.

Possible Indicators of Emotional Abuse

- › Overeager to please
- › Seeking out adult contact
- › Views abuse as being warranted
- › Excessively anxious
- › Depression
- › Unwilling to discuss problems

- › Exhibits aggressive or bizarre behavior, or exhibits changes in behavior
- › Withdrawn
- › Apathetic
- › Unprovoked fits of yelling or screaming
- › Attempts suicide
- › Low self-esteem or lacks self confidence
- › Exhibits a gradual impairment of health or personality
- › Impatient
- › Unable to communicate or express their feelings, needs, or desires
- › Sabotages their chances of success
- › Self-deprecating and has a negative self-image
- › Hyperactive
- › Exhibits disordered eating

Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse is the sexual assault or sexual exploitation of children. Sexual abuse may consist of numerous acts over a long period or a single incident. Children can be victimized from infancy through adolescence. Sexual abuse includes rape, incest, sodomy, fondling, exposing oneself, oral copulation, penetration of the genital or anal openings, as well as forcing children to view or appear in pornography. The perpetrator keeps the child from disclosing through intimidation, threats, and rewards.

Possible Indicators of Sexual Abuse

- › Withdrawn or unwilling to participate or extreme compliance or defiance
- › Exhibits unusual sexual behavior or knowledge beyond what is common for their age
- › Has poor peer relationships
- › Either avoids or seeks out adults
- › Is manipulative
- › Is self-conscious
- › Has problems with authority and rules
- › Is self-mutilating or exhibiting suicidal gestures or attempts suicide
- › Is fearful or anxious
- › Has pain or itching in the genital area

- › Has difficulty walking or sitting
- › Experiences pain when using the bathroom

Guide for Responding to the Abused Child

We are mandated reporters and must report suspected child abuse immediately. Feelings of anger, guilt, denial, confusion are normal reactions to have. The way we respond to children will affect them. The best response is to go slowly, not to ask for too much information too quickly, and to keep the focus on the child's needs.

Believe the Child

- › Experience in treatment and reporting indicates that children seldom make up stories about abuse. Even if the story is false or exaggerated, there may still be serious family problems.

Be a Good Listener

- › Allow the child an opportunity to talk freely with you if he or she is comfortable but also remember to respect the child's right to silence.

Reassure the Child

- › Let the child know that sharing this information with you was the right thing to do. Let the child know that you will try to keep him or her safe and help the family. Be honest with the child regarding your responsibility to report the incident. Be careful not to make any promises about what may or may not happen.

Help Relieve the Child of Guilt

- › Children often believe they are to blame for the abuse. Explain that what happened was the responsibility of the adult or the bigger child.

Be Available to the Child

- › For some children, the abuse may not have been traumatic, but the subsequent intervention was. The child may need your support and understanding during this family crisis.

Protect the Child's Right to Privacy

- › You may assume the special role of advocate for the child by reminding his or her peers or staff about the child's right to privacy.

Follow Up

- › Mandated reporting sources usually wonder about the results of having made a report. They can call child protective services and find out if the case has been opened, the name of the assigned worker, and if the child has been placed in a foster home. They can also ask for a report on the child’s progress. Because the family’s right to privacy is very important, however, the child protective services worker may not be able to give certain information.

Child Abuse Reporting Procedures

In the event of observed child abuse, Troop Leaders should take prompt and immediate action as follows:

1. Notify site leadership and the Community Engagement Manager. It is the policy of GSSNV and the Troop Leader to keep the names and contact information of those involved confidential.
2. Record the following immediately:

Who?

- › Who is completing the report?
- › Who reported the observations?
- › Who is involved in the incident?
- › Who else witnessed the incident or who else can verify information?

Behavior Guidance

When behavior issues arise, it’s important to address them quickly and redirect disruptive or inappropriate actions. Even small infractions can affect the experience for the whole group, especially in shorter sessions. The tips below can help you manage discipline effectively while keeping the troop positive and fun.

What?

- › What caused you to become concerned or to document the information?
- › What did you observe? Take photographs if possible (without violating privacy)
- › What happened before, during, and after the incident or accident?
- › Be specific when listing what you observed—don’t surmise or speculate
- › List only what you know
- › What are the signs or symptoms that you observed?

When?

- › Day and time

Where?

- › Facility
- › Program area
- › Specific place in the room
- › Where on the child’s body did you observe signs?
- › Other relevant information

NOTE: Avoid making a judgment, diagnosis, or accusation in your report. That is not your responsibility; it is the job of the investigation agency or medical personnel.

Set Boundaries

- › Establish clear rules on the first day and enforce them consistently
- › Be proactive, keep rules simple, and ask for help when needed

Be Clear

- › Communicate expectations and consequences in a firm but kind tone
- › Help girls develop strategies to improve behavior
- › Listen actively and model learning from mistakes

Be Fair

- › Lead by example and admit your own mistakes
- › Follow through consistently on consequences
- › Show empathy while holding girls accountable

Troop Leaders Should Never:

- › Use physical, abusive, or frightening punishments
- › Use verbal threats, harsh language, or humiliating tactics
- › Embarrass girls in front of others
- › Withhold food or water as discipline
- › Use physical restraint except to protect safety

Creating an Inclusive Troop

Every Girl Scout deserves to feel valued and included. Use these strategies to support girls with varying abilities:

Structure, Predictability & Communication

- › Post schedules visually and give advance warnings before transitions
- › Re-teach or prompt skills in new contexts
- › Offer instructions in multiple ways (verbal, visual, written)

Sensory & Emotional Regulation

- › Provide a quiet “cool-off” space for overstimulation or frustration
- › Redirect repetitive questions calmly
- › Minimize sensory overload (adjust lights, sounds, and materials as needed)

Social & Physical Inclusion

- › Use a buddy system to help girls navigate social situations
- › Modify activities, not expectations (e.g., seated yoga instead of standing)
- › Ensure meeting spaces and materials are physically accessible
- › Model acceptance and respect for all participants

Bullying

Bullying goes against the Girl Scout Law. Leaders should help girls understand what bullying is and how to respond.

What Bullying Is

- › Behavior that is repeated and involves a power imbalance
- › Can be:
 - **Verbal:** Name-calling, teasing, rumors
 - **Social:** Exclusion, ignoring, encouraging others not to be friends
 - **Physical:** Hitting, pushing, tripping, taking or breaking belongings

The Girl Scout Response

- › Connect to the Law: “Being considerate and caring means treating everyone kindly.”
- › Turn bystanders into upstanders with the Four D’s:
 1. **Direct:** Speak up if safe (e.g., “Stop that, it’s not okay.”)
 2. **Distract:** Interrupt the situation with another activity or topic
 3. **Delegate:** Seek adult help immediately
 4. **Distance/Document:** Walk away and record what happened if safe

Troop Expectations

- › Troop meeting spaces are safe zones
- › Troop rule: “We use our words to build each other up, not tear each other down.”
- › Respect differences and follow the Girl Scout Law
- › Leaders take immediate action to stop bullying

Thank you!

Your leadership makes a lasting difference. By creating safe, inclusive, and joyful experiences, you help girls discover who they are and who they can become.
We're grateful to partner with you in this important work.



Contact Us

Girl Scouts of Southern Nevada (Council #660)
2941 Harris Avenue, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

(702) 385-3677 | www.girlscoutsnv.org
customerservice@girlscoutsnv.org

girl scouts 
of southern nevada