

Honor Troop Application

We are troop number _____, and we have _____ Girl Scouts in our troop

Let's have the best year ever!

The Honor Troop program serves as a guide for troops to ensure a well-rounded year of Girl Scouting. It allows your troop to successfully ensure girls are exposed to diverse, girl-led leadership opportunities. Please plan accordingly and integrate the requirements into your troop plans for the year.

- All requirements must be completed within the Girl Scout 2025-2026 Membership Year (October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026) (except Early Bird requirement).
- Troop qualification must be verified with signatures from troop leader, girl troop members and your service unit manager (if applicable).
- Completed applications (including all signatures) must be emailed to info@gsdsw.org by October 31, 2026. Keep a copy for your records.
 - Applications received by the deadline and approved for eligibility, will be presented their award at the following Ceremony of Honors.
 - Honor Troop Applications submitted after the deadline of October 31, 2026 will be reviewed for eligibility and, if approved, presented at the Ceremony of Honors in the following membership year.
- Requirements and activities may be completed in any order.
- One activity may NOT be used to fulfill more than one requirement. No double-dipping.
- Virtual activities may be substituted for in-person activities when available.

Honor Troops recognized at the Ceremony of Honors will receive an official certificate, one Honor Troop Ribbon, and adult and girl Honor Troop patches (with order and payment)

Mandatory Troop Requirements

ALL requirements MUST be completed to qualify for Honor Troop

ADULT LEARNING

- ☐ All volunteers within the Troop are currently registered and have passed a background check.
- ☐ Leaders and Co-Leaders, as noted in your roster, have completed the “New Leader Onboarding Series” in gsLearn.
- ☐ At least one volunteer has taken an enrichment course to benefit the troop during the membership year. (Product Programs, First Aid & CPR certification or other required trainings do NOT qualify)
Volunteer Name _____
Course _____

PARENT ENGAGEMENT

- ☐ An informal, in-person or virtual, parent meeting was held within two months of starting your membership year (or troop start date) to establish two-way communication, outline expectations, and plan for the year.

Please attach a copy of dated parent meeting sign-in sheet (or virtual meeting equivalent)

MEMBERSHIP

- ☐ Renewal: At Least 70% of the girls and two adult volunteers in the troop as of March 31st renew for the following Girl Scout year by June 30th
- ☐ Retention: Troop must maintain at least two adult volunteers and five girls registered throughout the year. *For troops with Senior and/or Ambassador Girl Scouts only, if less than five Girl Scouts are in a troop, ALL must be retained*
- ☐ Growth: troop membership increased during the current membership year by at least one new Girl Scout

OR

- ☐ Troop worked with Service Unit Recruiter or council staff to host a table/activity at a community event

ENTREPRENEURSHIP

- ☐ Troop participated in Fall Product Program including working toward a troop goal.
- ☐ At least 70% of the girls in the troop participated in Cookie Product Program and worked toward a troop goal.

Mandatory Troop Requirements

ALL requirements MUST be completed to qualify for Honor Troop

SAFETY

- ☐ Current First Aid Kit available wherever the troop gathers.
- ☐ Emergency Procedures visibly posted or available at all gatherings.
- ☐ Health History Records for all Girl Scouts in the troop on file.

SERVICE UNIT PARTICIPATION

- ☐ A troop leader (or troop representative) directly affiliated with the troop attended at least 50% of the Service Unit Meetings during a 12-month period.
- OR
- ☐ If your troop does not have a service unit, a troop leader (or rep) directly affiliated with your troop, attended at least 50% of the monthly council-led Roundtables throughout the membership year.

VOLUNTEER TOOL-KIT

- ☐ Logged into VTK, checked the “My Troop” tab, and made corrections as needed.
- ☐ Selected a Troop Plan from the “Explore” tab
- ☐ Completed a badge or journey using resources in VTK
- ☐ Planned your year in VTK

GIRL-LED

- ☐ The girls in the troop have planned and executed a significant portion of the troop activities appropriate to their grade levels.
- ☐ Troop has planned and held each of the following ceremonies (include dates for each)
Investiture: _____
Court of Awards: _____
Bridging: _____

MONEY MANAGEMENT

- ☐ Troop must have at least two unrelated volunteers as authorized signers.
- ☐ Troop must be in good financial standing with council year-round.
- ☐ Transparency is Key. Troop finances have been regularly shared with parents and girls.
- ☐ The completed end-of-year Troop Financial Report was submitted to council by June 30th

Additional Requirements

20 of the 40 total options listed must be completed.

A minimum of 50% of the registered girls in a troop MUST participate in each activity to qualify.

OUTDOOR

- ☐ Participated in at least two outdoor activities.
- ☐ Participated in at least one overnight camp activity.
- ☐ At least one girl attended resident camp at Camp Mitre Peak.
- ☐ Troop has earned one of the council exclusive patches (Organ Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument Patch, White Sands National Monument, Monthly Challenges, etc.)
- ☐ At least one volunteer attended the annual Volunteer Conference

AWARD PROGRAMS

- ☐ At least one troop girl completed a Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award. Add extra pages to describe the award, include level, date completed, name of the girls completing their award and a description of the project.
- ☐ At least one troop girl completed a religious award program.
- ☐ Troop has submitted a nomination for Volunteer Awards.

TROOP GROWTH AND LEADERSHIP

- ☐ Used a form of troop government that encouraged girl planning and participation throughout the year.
- ☐ Troop began, completed, and earned the awards associated with at least one Journey.
Journey Name: _____
- ☐ As a troop, developed a Troop/Group Agreement and Kaper Chart to use at your meetings.
- ☐ There is a certified First Aid & CPR volunteer within the troop
- ☐ By the time you submit this application, your troops has more girls registered than were registered the year before.
- ☐ Troop hosted an event for all service unit Girl Scouts

Additional Requirements

20 of the 40 total options listed must be completed.

A minimum of 50% of the registered girls in a troop MUST participate in each activity to qualify.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- ☐ Participated in a Community Service or Take Action project.
- ☐ Created a community partnership with another organization to hold a community service project.
- ☐ Participated in at least one flag ceremony outside of your troop.
- ☐ Participated in a patriotic event (i.e., flag retirement ceremony, placing flags at cemeteries, parade, create your own, etc.)
- ☐ Participated in an event hosted by your Service Unit.
- ☐ Participated in an event hosted by Council.
- ☐ Planned, coordinated, and went on a troop trip.
- ☐ Planned and helped a summer troop activity aimed at maintaining interest in Girl Scouting over the summer.
- ☐ Planned and held a troop hosted family event.
- ☐ Created and sent a troop newsletter to troop families. (Attach a copy)
- ☐ Participated in creating community awareness of Girl Scouting (i.e., posters/banners to display in community, submitted an article to the local newspaper, etc.) (Attach photo)
- ☐ Wrote a letter to an elected official thanking them for their support of Girl Scouts. (Attach a copy)
- ☐ Took part in a community event to attract other girls to Girl Scouting (other than a service project).
- ☐ Created a 30 second video outlining the top five reasons girls should join Girl Scouts. (Submit a copy of the video)
- ☐ Financially supported GSDSW's annual giving program that supports our council by donating \$_____ on _____. Make all checks payable to GSDSW and mail to GSDSW, 9700 Girl Scout Way, El Paso, TX 79924.
- ☐ Financially supported the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund that supports girl travel experiences by donating \$_____ on _____.

Additional Requirements

20 of the 40 total options listed must be completed.

A minimum of 50% of the registered girls in a troop MUST participate in each activity to qualify.

TRADITION

- ☐ As a troop, celebrated Juliette Low's Birthday (October 31).
- ☐ As a troop, celebrated World Thinking Day (February 22).
- ☐ As a troop, celebrated Girl Scout Birthday or Weel (March 12).
- ☐ Troop learned about S.W.A.P.s, created some, and distributed them.
- ☐ As a troop, sang at least one Girl Scout song in each troop meeting.
- ☐ Submitted an Interview of a Girl Scout Alumni. Make sure to include a brief biography of her and ask her the following:
 1. What is your fondest memory of Girl Scouting?
 2. What did you learn because of Girl Scouting?
 3. How did Girl Scouting help you as an adult?

PROGRAM PILLARS

As a troop, a minimum of 50% of troop members completed:

- ☐ A Life Skills Badge.
Name of Badge: _____
Date completed: _____
- ☐ A STEM Badge or Journey.
Name of Badge/Journey: _____
Date Completed: _____
- ☐ An Entrepreneurship Badge.
Name of Badge: _____
Date Completed: _____
- ☐ An Outdoor Badge or Journey.
Name of Badge/Journey: _____
Date Completed: _____

The patches/bars are worn on the back of the uniform. Below is a placement example.

GSDSW HONOR TROOP

 2024 

 2025 

Additional Requirements

20 of the 40 total options listed must be completed.

We, the leaders of Troop _____, feel our troop deserves to be an Honor Troop because:

We, the girls of Troop _____, deserve to be an Honor Troop because:

Honor Troop Pledge and Acknowledgement

We, as Troop # _____ from _____ Service Unit, verify that our troop has, duly and with honor, completed the requirements to earn the Honor Troop recognition by the Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest as outlined in this packet. Electronic signatures are permissible. Include additional pages as necessary.

Printed Name	Signature	Date
Girl Name _____	_____	_____
Girl Name _____	_____	_____
Girl Name _____	_____	_____
Girl Name _____	_____	_____
Girl Name _____	_____	_____
Girl Name _____	_____	_____
Girl Name _____	_____	_____
Girl Name _____	_____	_____
Girl Name _____	_____	_____
Girl Name _____	_____	_____

I hereby affirm that this troop fulfilled the applicable requirements in this packet. Print and sign or use your electronic signature.

	<i>Printed Name</i>	<i>Signature</i>	<i>Date</i>
Troop Leader	_____	_____	_____
Troop Co-Leader	_____	_____	_____
Service Unit Manager (if applicable)	_____	_____	_____

Please submit complete application to info@gsdsw.org
Always keep a copy for your records.

Thank you for submitting your HONOR TROOP APPLICATION

12-month timeframe
submit to info@gsdsw.org
Due Oct 31st.

Make sure the following have been completed before submitting.

- ☐ All requirements we met within the 2025-2026 Membership Year (October 1, 2025 - September 30, 2026) (except the Early Bird requirement)
- ☐ Signatures from troop leader, girl troop members, and your service unit manager (if applicable) were received.
- ☐ At least 50% of the troop participated in each activity.
- ☐ Troop completed ALL the mandatory requirements AND at least 20 additional activities in this packet.
- ☐ Activities did not fulfill more than one requirement. No double-dipping.
- ☐ A copy has been kept for your troop records.
- ☐ *Optional: Attach 3-5 pictures of your Troop, with your application, to highlight during Ceremony of Honors if your application is approved.*