Use this guide to relay basic Girl Scout information at your Troop Formation Event, in a way that feels natural. While this focuses on your conversations with adults, the full agenda can be found in the Recruiter Guide on pg. 18-19.

Review these resources ahead of time: ‘How to Talk to Prospective Families and Volunteers’ for ways to communicate, plan your girl activity using the ‘Girl Activities Ideas’ document, and show the girl video. Resources are available at Volunteers.GirlScoutsRV.org/Recruiter.

**TIP:** Use the ‘Recruitment Event PowerPoint’ if you have access to AV equipment. Available at Volunteers.GirlScoutsRV.org/Recruiter.

---

**Family Presentation GUIDE FOR TROOP FORMATION EVENTS**

1. Greet prospective members at the door and mingle with them before the event starts.

2. Have prospective members sign in as they enter. Hand out Girl Scout materials.

3. Welcome, introductions, establish a meeting agenda.

4. Check-in, share what you love about Girl Scouts, & show girl video.

5. Transition to family presentation and girl activity.

6. Family Girl Scout Presentation.

7. Group families based on school or grade levels.

8. Invite adults to volunteer as a troop leader.

9. Register girls and volunteers as new Girl Scout members.

10. Closing and thank you.

---

**SET EXPECTATIONS**

- Clarify purpose.
- Address the possible interest around being a troop leader, watch for reactions. In order to get a troop up and running, at least one adult per troop must volunteer to lead.
- Create an environment where it’s okay for families to not sign up for Girl Scouts.
- Prepare them for what the outcome could look like if no troop leader steps forward: Girls will be placed on our waiting list—which could last a month or longer until a spot opens, or she could choose to participate as an individual Girl Scout, called a Juliette.

**TIP:** Use the ‘Recruitment Event PowerPoint’ if you have access to AV equipment. Available at Volunteers.GirlScoutsRV.org/Recruiter.

---

**VOLUNTEER ASK**

Don’t be afraid to ask adults to become a troop leader—maybe they just have more questions or are waiting on you to help them ‘form’ their troop.

Bring up the team-led troop option if you find the adults are reluctant, unable to commit, or mention being too busy to lead a troop.

---

**START WITH Q&A**

Speak to what matters to your audience. It’s okay if you don’t have all the answers! Check the backside of this document for some answers to frequently asked questions.

---

**REGISTERING GIRLS**

Fill out the full registration form and collect payment. Mail forms and payment to Girl Scouts River Valleys at 400 S. Robert St, Saint Paul, MN 55107.

---

**WHEN CAN THEY EXPECT GIRL SCOUTS TO FOLLOW UP?**

If they joined that evening, they will receive a confirmation email within the next week. When a girl is placed in a troop, the troop leader will also receive an email letting them know they have a new member. Parents/guardians who have registered as troop leaders or volunteers will receive an email inviting them to complete their background check.

---

**TIP:** It’s super helpful to have older Girl Scouts help with the girl activity or share a Girl Scout story.
Commonly Asked Questions:

HOW OFTEN DO TROOPS MEET, WHERE DO THEY MEET, AND CAN WE SHADOW A TROOP BEFORE WE JOIN?
Troops tend to meet twice a month—one meeting may be a badge-earning meeting and one may be a field trip or event. We don’t have the option to shadow a troop before joining as we can’t share troop leader contact information until families are registered members and placed in a troop.

ARE THERE TROOPS THAT MEET AT THIS SCHOOL? ARE THERE OPEN TROOPS?
Some troops meet at—or are affiliated with—a specific school, others meet in the community (like the local library or community center) and have girls from multiple schools. It is more common for older girls (grades 3 and up) to join existing troops. For younger girls—particularly Kindergarteners—it is more likely that a new troop will form this fall. Attending an upcoming Troop Formation Event is a great way to get connected with local troops or form new ones. Troop openings in existing troops are first come—first served. We recommend girls register and get added to our wait list right away to have priority placement into open troops.

HOW LONG WILL I BE ON THE WAITING LIST IF I DON’T WANT TO BE A TROOP LEADER?
The only way we can form new troops is to first secure a troop leader. The amount of time that requires can vary. Wait times are shorter in the fall when lots of new troops are forming, it can take longer after November.

HOW MUCH DOES GIRL SCOUTS COST?
Here are some estimates:

- National Membership Dues................. $25
- Uniform and Books................................ $65
- Troop Dues........................................... $20
- Optional: Two Council Events............. $40
- Optional: Girl Scout Camp.................. $320
- Potential Total Cost:.......................... $110-440

HOW MUCH DO UNIFORMS COST, AND IS THAT SOMETHING THE TROOP LEADER PURCHASES, OR DO FAMILIES?
Families can visit a Girl Scout shop to purchase their My Girl Scout Kit as soon as they have their troop number. Some families wait until their first troop meeting to talk to the troop leader before making their purchase. Most troop leaders ask families to purchase their uniform individually since the troop is just getting up and running. Once the troop has participated in a cookie sale, they may decide to use their proceeds to purchase troop uniforms and badges for the following years.

DO ALL GIRL SCOUTS SELL COOKIES?
The Cookie Program is completely optional, though the money earned supports troop activities and gives girls the opportunity to develop essential life skills: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics.