

Beyond Badges: Her Girl Scout Growth Chart

Did you know Girl Scouts are more likely than other girls to get excellent grades, graduate from high school and college, and to expect a great future for themselves? Through Girl Scouts, your daughter will grow in ways that change everything about the way she holds herself, the way she expresses herself, and how big she dreams. This kind of growth is the most important outcome of her Girl Scout experience and what will help her harness her potential and live her best life.

Although some youth-oriented organizations pride themselves on handing out medals and awards to boost a child's sense of self, at Girl Scouts we believe in *education* over decoration. By that, we mean that our program comprises meaningful experiences that have been proven to teach girls about themselves and their own potential in their schools, communities, and society at large.

When your girl takes part in Girl Scouting, she's following in the footsteps of numerous female world leaders, astronauts, inventors, entrepreneurs, and artists. There's no limit to where Girl Scouts can take her!

Watch for and celebrate these five areas of growth in your girl:



STRONG SENSE OF SELF: She'll find confidence in herself and all that she's capable of as she tries new things, faces her fears, and learns from her mistakes—forming a healthy identity in the process. This will help her stand up for herself, avoid peer pressure, and stay authentic as she pursues her dreams—whatever they may be.



POSITIVE VALUES: She'll learn to act ethically, lead with honesty, be responsible, and show concern for others with every step she takes. These solid values will help her do the right thing even in the face of peer pressure from her school friends today or from her colleagues in the future.



CHALLENGE SEEKING: In Girl Scouts' all-girl environment, she'll feel free to take appropriate risks, which will open new opportunities and new experiences in her world. Importantly, she'll also learn that failure is never a reason to give up, only another opportunity to try something different.



HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS: She'll practice communicating her feelings directly and resolving conflicts constructively—the kind of relationship-building skills that will help her successfully navigate her school years, form treasured friendships, and understand how to navigate conflict with respect. These skills will also help her ace job interviews, manage teams, and lead with positivity and empathy as she grows older.



COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING: She'll identify problems in her school and neighborhood and create plans to solve them. And she'll always know her contributions are meaningful and filled with purpose. This will set her on the path to being an involved member of her community—one who not only speaks up for change but also brings innovative solutions to the table.

Bring the Magic of Girl Scouts Home

As part of the Girl Scout Law, girls promise to do their best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what they say and do. By helping her follow these principles not only at troop meetings but also at home, you'll reinforce the positive lessons she's learning and ensure they last a lifetime.

Be Honest

Make sure your girl understands that telling lies, even little ones, can erode trustworthiness, complicate relationships, and actually cause real harm. That said, because lying is a fairly natural and normal thing for children to do, it's practically inevitable that she will lie at some point. If your daughter *has* lied, ask her what or who could have been hurt by her lie. If she's not old enough to draw those conclusions herself, walk her through the realities of how her actions might have affected others.

Learn more about how to [help her be honest](#).

Be Fair

Complaining that something isn't right without also having a suggestion for how it could be made better isn't very helpful. So when your girl identifies something that's unfair, ask her what a more fair solution would look like and how it would work. There may be several different ways to solve the problem, so help her think through as many as the two of you can come up with, consider the pros and cons of each, and decide which one she thinks is best for all involved.

Learn more about how to [help her create a fairer and more equal world](#).

Be Friendly and Helpful

One reason the stereotype about "catty" mean girls exists is because girls are more likely to be ultra-competitive in coed environments where there's only one or two spaces for them to take the lead. But in all-girl environments like Girl Scouts? Girls have access to every leadership opportunity in every area, so they learn to champion one another and collaborate rather than feel threatened. Keep this feeling of sisterhood going at home by getting to know her female friends, ensuring she gets time with them outside of school and troop meetings, and standing by her as she cheers them on.

Learn more about [raising her to be friendly and helpful](#).

Be Considerate and Caring

Your children learn how to navigate this world by watching you—so model inclusion and respect. Mention the attributes that make people in your life different from you, and talk about why you think those things are interesting, wonderful, beautiful, or valuable. Tell your daughter how and why it's important to hear different opinions from friends, even those she might not agree with, because they help her learn and grow as a person.

Learn more about [raising her to be considerate and caring](#).

Be Courageous and Strong

Peer pressure is everywhere, and it's often easiest to go along with the crowd. Standing up for what she believes in, even when it's unpopular, takes strength and courage—but will go a long way in creating the kind of world she wants to live in. Talk to her about a time when you were nervous to speak up for what you believed was right but did it anyway. Ask her if she's ever been in that kind of a situation herself and how it went, then remind her that through bravery, she can make a big difference.

Learn more about [raising her to be courageous and strong](#).

Be Responsible for What She Says and Does

Of course you want your girl to feel pride when she masters a new skill or does the right thing, but it's also important for her to acknowledge and learn from her mistakes. When you notice less-than-awesome behavior in your girl, take the time to talk to her about it and understand what's going on rather than simply punishing her for her actions. Talking about her poor decisions can help her understand how they may have affected others, give her ideas for how she might be able to improve the situation, and think about how she might do better next time.

Learn more about [raising her to be responsible for what she says and does](#).