

# S'MORE NEWS

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## for leaders like you

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## New Leader Newsletter-September 2018

Congratulations on becoming a new troop leader! By now, you are registered and have been approved to volunteer. Hopefully you have met with your community engagement manager, signed up for the New Leader Workshop, and are looking forward to the monthly leader meetings from your service unit.

**Here are some common questions about leading girls...**

### **How much time will it take?**

Being a troop leader actually fits into a variety of schedules. We recommend that troops meet twice per month. Current leaders report spending approximately four hours preparing for and leading each troop meeting. Troop leaders choose the meeting day, time, and frequency of meetings.

### **I don't know how to do the things Girl Scouts do.**

You bring everything that you need to start leading your troop. We provide online meeting plans to guide you through each step of planning your troop's activities through the Volunteer Toolkit. You will also have a co-leader who will bring complementary skills and experience to share.

### **What support or help is there for leaders?**

Each troop has two leaders, so you will have a partner to help lead and to share the fun. We encourage you to invite another parent or friend to serve with you, or we will work with you and your community to help connect you with a co-leader.

Check out the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana website [volunteer section](#) for additional resources needed when starting your troops.

### **Getting parents involved in the troop.**

A troop needs at least two un-related, adults with a completed background check (one of whom must be female) to get started, and most leaders also look for additional help throughout the year. Troops can have more than two leaders, and they typically have additional volunteers to help with the cookie program, fall product program, as well as other adults to pitch in with snacks, field trips, and other activities. Parents of other girls in your troop are prime candidates to help out, but adults from the community might love this opportunity too. We can recruit online for your troop, but it may be more fun to work with people you already know.

## **Fall Product Program**

You probably already know about the Girl Scout Cookie Program that happens in January. In the fall, Girl Scouts of Central Indiana has the [Fall Product Program](#) to help troops get a little bit of money to hold them over until cookie season starts. At your September leader meeting, your service unit will have a Fall Product Program training. Your troop may participate in the magazine and candy sale which lasts for about a month. This is a great way for your troop to earn some income.

## **Volunteer Toolkit**

### **Preselected plans for the Volunteer Toolkit.**

For the 2018-19 troop year, you have **10 pre-selected track options** to choose from in the [Volunteer Toolkit](#). A year plan can be set up for your age level Badge Year, a Journey Year, or Select Your Own Badges and Awards. You can add, change or delete meetings at any time.

## **Monthly challenges**

### **1.) Have you found a meeting place for your troop?**

Remember that you can use your parents as resources. Common meeting places are schools, libraries, places of worship, community buildings and local businesses. We strongly discourage having your troop meetings in your home because Girl Scouts of Central Indiana cannot cover the meetings under their insurance.

### **2.) What is the primary way you will communicate with your troop?**

Remember that the Volunteer Toolkit has built in email communication. Many troops have a private troop Facebook page where you can share photos and communication just between the troop members.

### **3.) Have you found your service unit's Facebook page?**

This is a great resource where you can post questions and get answers from your Girl Scout network.

### **4.) Have you signed up for Kaleidoscope?**

Kaleidoscope is a fun-filled day of learning. You can learn a variety of core leadership skills and enrichments to help you lead girls to new experiences. Remember that [Kaleidoscope registration](#) closes September 28. As a new leader you are entitled to a discount for Kaleidoscope registration.