

Introduction

Girl Scouts USA has been trying to broaden their appeal and recruit as broad a range of girls as possible, and the result seems to be a watered-down product that nobody is particularly happy with. This plan allows Girl Scouts to keep the “Pathways” direction that they are currently rolling out, while also recognizing that leaders need more program support, and girls and families want more badges.

The following programming ideas can be rolled out very quickly, if development begins promptly: the first two Pathways books (one at each of the two levels) should be available for sale by August, 2015, and new ones rolled out every 2 months for the following year. Books should be no more than \$6.99 each (\$38 for the box set of all 6), and should be reverse engineered with a final price point in mind.

Troop Organization

The new organization has 5 levels, and three sets of books.

- **Daisies** are in kindergarten and first grade. They have 3 badge books: Petals, Community, and Experiences. These badge books can be slightly more expensive (no more than \$11.99) because they should have some nice illustrations (more age appropriate than the current Daisy Journey books, please!) that appeal to pre-readers.
- **Brownies** and **Juniors** share a badge book. Their badges are the same, except Juniors have additional, higher-level, requirements to earn those badges. Brownie badges are triangular with brown edges, and Junior badges are circles with green edges.
 - o **Brownies** are in 2nd and 3rd grade. Their badge requirements are encouraged to introduce girls to each skill, and most of the requirements involve hands-on activities.
 - o **Juniors** are in 4th and 5th grade. Their badges require the same steps as Brownies, but with additional research and reporting requirements to show a higher level of comprehension and mastery. There may also be additional required activities.
- **Cadettes** and **Seniors** share a badge book. Their badges are the same, except that Seniors have additional, higher-level requirements to earn their badges.
 - o **Cadettes** are in 6th, 7th, and 8th grade. Their badges are shaped like squares, with a brown border around each badge. Badges require a basic level of mastery of the subject.
 - o **Seniors** are in 9th, 10th, 11th, and 12th grade. Their badges are shaped like squares, with a green border around each badge. Badges require a high level of mastery of each subject. Requirements include all of the requirements for the Cadette level badge, plus additional activities, research, and documentation.

The above organization makes it considerably easier to have multi-age troops. This should be particularly encouraged at the Cadette and Senior level, where the older girls can act as role models and encourage the middle school aged girls to stick with the activity during the years when Girl Scouts may be seen as “uncool.”

It also allows girls to continue subject badges that they enjoy from one level to another. While the badges in the Brownie/Junior and Cadette/Senior books are not exactly the same, there should be a great deal of continuity between the two books, so that a girl who enjoys hiking, or pottery, or learning about Girl Scout history as a Brownie can continue improving her skills at each level.

The Pathways

The new Girl Scout program provides 6 Pathways. Troops can dedicate themselves solely to one Pathway, or can mix things up and earn badges from multiple Pathways. These Pathways cover the various realities of Girl Scout programming today, and provide considerably more leader and girl guidance than current programming.

The Pathways are for Girl Scouts in grades 2-12. The new Daisy programming recognizes the Pathways model, but has a much narrower focus. We will discuss the Daisy programming later in this document.

Each Pathway has two books: one with badges for Brownies and Juniors, and one with badges for Cadettes and Seniors. Girls can purchase books for as many Pathways as interest them. Each book has badge requirements (there are 20-50 badges available in each Pathway), information about that Pathway, and practical information about how Girl Scouts can use that information.

The six Pathways for Girl Scouts in grades 2-12 are as follows.

- **Club Juliette Pathway:** This Pathway contains badges about Girl Scout history and songs, games, drama, storytelling, health, and different cultures. This is the ideal Pathway for in-school pullout programs, or after-school programs. All of the badges can be earned with minimal mess, parental help, or access to the outdoors.
 - o Sample badges include: Girl Scout Songs, Chess, Folk and Fairy Tales, Drama, Storytelling, Eating Healthy, Yoga, Holidays Around the World, Bookworm.
- **Team Effort Pathway:** This Pathway prioritizes working together as a team, personal organization, travel, and interpersonal relationships. It is an excellent Pathway for teams, such as sports teams or Lego Robotics teams, to concentrate on.
 - o Sample badges include: Diversity Awareness, Project Management, Good Winner/Good Loser, Travel Planning, Foreign Languages, Personal Organization, Budgeting, Biography
- **Be the Change Pathway:** This Pathway is based around the current Journey program, and is about building leadership skills and learning how individuals can change the world. It would be great in a classroom, and for girls who are really dedicated to one of the specific causes that the Journeys concentrate on.

- Sample badges include all of the current Journeys, as well as additional badges about history, government, current events, ecology, and historic preservation.
- **My Community Pathway:** This Pathway is for girls who want to learn more about their community, and how they can give back. It is a great Pathway for girls who enjoy field trips, who enjoy actively participating in pre-existing community service ventures, and who want to learn more about how their community functions. Several badges also require girls to get outdoors and experience small scale adventures in their own backyards.
 - Sample badges include Fire Safety, Health Care, Local History, Museums (go behind the scenes at a local museum), Homeless Awareness, Food Banks, Public Libraries, Local Government, Local Plants, Parks, Geocaching.
- **Arts Pathway:** There's a lot of criticism that Girl Scouts is all about "crafts and cookies," but the fact is that lots of girls and lots of leaders LIKE crafts. This Pathway is for those Girl Scouts! Most of the badges in this Pathway require girls to work with their hands, get messy, and make cool things.
 - Sample badges include drawing, painting, basket weaving, knitting, quilting, sewing, paper engineering, and weaving.
- **Adventure Pathway:** This Pathway is for the people who want to put the "outing" in Scouting. This Pathway sets high expectations for outdoor camping, hiking, and nature skills. Gentler nature badges can be found under the "My Community" Pathway... this one really is for girls who want adventure and hard work.
 - Badges include swimming, sailing, canoeing, tree identification, camping, winter camping, hiking, birds, and rock climbing.

Daisy Directions

The new Daisy program has three Directions, which are meant to be a precursor to the Pathways. Each Direction has a book, designed to be enjoyable for the Daisy to page through and easy for a parent or troop leader to read with the Daisy.

- **Daisy Petals:** this is based on current programming, though there are more specific suggestions for each petal. The badges look the same as the current large Daisy.
- **Daisy Community:** Daisies can earn badges for touring and learning about important spots in the community. There should be badges for the library, fire station, animal shelter, hospital, school, supermarket, and police station. It should be easy for troop leaders to customize these badges to reflect specific locations in their community. These badges are shaped like triangles, with yellow borders.
- **Daisy Experiences:** 12 badges that reflect basic skills and directions of the different Pathways. 2 badges for each Pathway, so that troops can do 1 per year, if they wish. These badges are shaped like triangles, with white borders.

Badges

Badges can be earned either as a troop, or by an individual girl. At the Junior, Cadette, and Senior level, Scouts are required to submit a portfolio of work to earn a badge. The requirements for this portfolio should not be onerous, but should prove that the girl worked hard to learn the required skills. It should be neat (either hand written or typed) with a cover page clearly stating the badge name, her name, and the date.

Below is an example of two badges and their requirements. Junior and Senior badges require work from the Brownie and Cadette lists. If those badges were already earned, the steps must be repeated. Girls can choose to either repeat work already done, or to select new options from the younger badge list.

Star Gazer

Brownies

Do 5 of the following options:

- Be able to recite the names of the planets, in order.
- Make a 3-D model of the solar system, to scale. You will need a lot of space for this: a long sidewalk, or a playing field.
- Explain how to find the North Star, and why the North Star is important.
- Describe what a “shooting star” actually is.
- Visit a Planetarium, an observatory, or an astronomy club.
- Learn the phases of the moon.
- Use a telescope. How does it work? Learn how to move it and focus it.
- View a meteor shower. These happen every few years around the country, and one might happen while you’re a Brownie or a Junior.

Juniors

Pick 5 of the requirements for the Brownie badge, and write a 1 page summary of what you’ve learned. Then pick an additional 3 options from the following list:

- Make a model rocket and blast it off. How is your model rocket the same, and how is it different from a space shuttle? Draw a diagram of your rocket, and a diagram of a space shuttle.
- Learn about different types of telescopes, where large telescopes are located, and who uses them. Draw a diagram of a telescope
- Find out about NASA’s latest class of astronauts. Read their biographies (available on the NASA website). What career history and education do they have? Write a pretend biography for your future astronaut self: what education and experience do you think you would need to have to go into Space? What would your area of expertise be?

- Find traditional stories from around the world about the night sky. Write and illustrate your own myth or folk tale about the night sky.
- What is light pollution? Where does it come from? Write up a flier to educate people about what light pollution is, and how to prevent it.

Put your summary, and the additional Junior-level badge work, in a portfolio. Title it "Star Gazer Badge Work," and include your name and the date. Submit it to your troop leader for approval.

Astronomy

Cadettes

Do any of the following 5 options:

- Travel to an observatory or astronomy club. What telescopes do they use? How do they work? Write a paragraph about your experiences.
- Be able to identify 10 major constellations. Learn the name, how to find them, and the story behind the name. Draw them out in diagrams, naming any major stars in them.
- Look up the locations of major telescopes around the world. Find two and research them: who funds them? Who uses them? Do they give tours to the public? How would you get to them? Plan a trip to visit one, and write a travel brochure for it.
- Learn about the different types of stars. Draw diagrams of them.
- Find out about 3 women astronomers. Who are they? What did they do? Find out three interesting facts about each. Write a paragraph about each.
- Learn about the history of trips to the moon. Draw a diagram of the moon, labeling major landmarks.
- Learn about the composition of the sun. What kind of star is it? Write a paragraph about the differences between red stars, blue stars, and yellow stars.

Put your work in a portfolio. Title it "Cadette Astronomy Badge Work," and include your name and the date. Submit it to your troop leader for approval.

Seniors

Pick 5 options from the Cadette badge, and a further 3 from the following list:

- Learn about the history of Pluto. Why is it no longer a planet? What is a planet? Write a short composition about what you've learned.
- Learn the 12 constellations of the Zodiac, and the stories behind them. Draw diagrams of the constellations.
- Host an astronomy evening for the public. Provide telescopes. Be prepared to answer their questions. Document the event,

including your preparation (advertising, contacting groups who might be able to lend you telescopes, etc), and write a brief report about how the event went. How did you deal with questions you didn't know the answer to? Did you learn anything new from your guests?

- Lead a Star Gazer badge workshop for Girl Scout Brownies or Juniors. Write a brief report about how you prepared, what you did, and what the girls got out of it.

Put your work in a portfolio. Title it "Senior Astronomy Badge Work," and include your name and the date. Submit it to your troop leader for approval.

Awards

The new programming has more specific requirements for each of the major awards, as well as some recognition of the different Pathways that troops can take.

The metal awards are as follows:

- The **Bronze Award** can be earned by Junior Girl Scouts, and involves earning 15 badges and producing a final project. Requirements are as follows:
 - o The girl must have earned at least 2 badges from each Pathway during their two years as a Junior.
 - o The girl must have also earned specific badges that cover Girl Scout history and traditions, local history, US government, Junior-level First Aid, and Community Service.
 - o The girl and/or the troop must produce a project designed to educate people about an issue facing their community.
- The **Silver Award** can be earned by Cadette Girl Scouts, and requires concentrating on mastering a single pathway, earning specific badges that reflect the skills all Scouts should have, and completing a neat final written product. Requirements are as follows:
 - o The girl must have completed her Bronze award.
 - If she did not complete it as a Junior, slight modifications to the requirements may be made, with prior approval from the council.
 - If time is tight, and depending in her reasons for that time being tight (for example, if she only joined Girl Scouts in 8th grade but would still like to work towards her Silver Award, and she shows appropriate initiative), she may be required to earn only 1 badge from each Pathway.
 - Cadette-level badges which teach the same skills should be completed, instead of the required Junior badges.

- At the Silver Award level, the girl is expected to concentrate on a specific Pathway.
 - The girl must earn 10 badges in the Pathway of her choice.
 - The girl must plan and lead 1 badge workshop in that Pathway for younger Girl Scouts.
 - The girl must complete a written portfolio about the Pathway. It should include:
 - Information about the badges she has earned in that Pathway over her Girl Scout career.
 - A brief essay (1 page) about why the Pathway is important to her.
 - A research project about a topic relating to the Pathway (to be about 3 pages long, with at least 3 sources, none of them Wikipedia)
 - An essay about women involved in that Pathway, which includes interviewing 3 professional women in the field.
- The girl must also earn further specific badges about Girl Scout history and traditions, US and local government, Cadette-level First Aid, and Community Service.
- The Gold Award can be earned by Senior Girl Scouts, and requires the completion of a major service project, as well as mastery of several badge areas that all adults should know.
 - The girl must have completed her Silver Award
 - If she did not complete it as a Cadette, slight modifications may be made, with prior approval from the council.
 - The girl must complete a Gold Award project. This project must be fully designed and executed by the girl, and be documented in a final portfolio to submit to the council.
 - Girls must also earn specific badges about women's health, personal finances, computer skills, Senior-level First Aid, and government.

The above metal awards are designed to encourage girls to be well rounded, organized, and to have the skills expected of a Girl Scout and required for successful adult life.

However, not every girl or every troop is interested in the above awards. To that end, Girl Scouts should offer some additional awards, for girls who are proud of their accomplishments, even if those accomplishments are not in line with the metal awards. Additional awards are as follows:

- Achievement Awards are designed to reward a high level of dedication to Girl Scouts.
 - **Pathways Award** – Earn 15 Badges in a specific Pathway at your level. This award does not travel to your next uniform.

- I'd like there to be some additional achievement awards, but I'm still thinking about them.
- Historic Awards are four small, diamond-shaped pins that can fit together to make a larger diamond (similar to the Cub Scout level pins). They can move up to the next uniform.
 - **Tenderfoot Award** – (Juniors+) The requirements for Tenderfoot Scout as laid out in the 1925 edition of Scouting for Girls.
 - Know the Promise, Law, Salute, and motto
 - Describe how respect to the American Flag is expressed, and recite the Pledge of Allegiance
 - Know the first and last stanza of the Star Spangled Banner
 - Know the full name of the president, and your state's governor. Know the name of the town you live in
 - Make or draw an American flag, using correct proportions.
 - Be able to tie reef, bowline, clove-hitch, and sheep-shank knots. Whip the end of a piece of rope, and define three parts of a rope.
 - Prove that you have saved or earned enough money to purchase some part of the Scout insignia.
 - **Second Class Award** (Cadettes+) The requirements for Second Class Scout, as laid out in the 1925 edition of Scouting for Girls.
 - Have earned the Tenderfoot Award
 - What is the history of the American flag, and for what does it stand?
 - Describe six local animals, six local birds, six local trees, and six local flowers.
 - What are the 16 points of the compass? Show how to use a compass.
 - How may fire be prevented, and what should a Scout do in case of fire?
 - Send and receive the alphabet in ASL, semaphore code, or Morse code.
 - Demonstrate the ability to observe quickly and accurately the contents of a room, table, or countryside.
 - Lay and light a fire, using not more than 2 matches
 - Cook a simple meal
 - Set a table correctly
 - Make ordinary and hospital bed
 - Know how to sew a straight seam, do a basic knit and purl stitch, and how to iron your uniform.
 - Demonstrate how to stop bleeding, remove a speck from the eye, tread poison ivy, bandage a sprained ankle, and remove a splinter.
 - Be able to discuss how to keep healthy.
 - Know your height, weight, and BMI.

- Earn or save enough money for some part of personal or troop equipment.
- **First Class Scout** (Seniors only) The requirements for First Class Scout, as laid out in the 1925 edition of Scouting for Girls.
 - Have earned the Second Class Award
 - Draw a simple map of a territory seen on a hike or about a camping place.
 - Demonstrate ability to judge correctly height, weight, number and distance.
 - Demonstrate ability to find the four cardinal points of the compass, using the sun or stars as a guide.
 - Send a receive messages in Semaphore, Morse code, or ASL at the rate of sixteen and thirty letters per minute
 - Earn the Senior First Aid Badge, the Girl Scout History badge, and 3 badges that represent a career you might choose as an adult.
 - Take an overnight hike carrying all necessary equipment and rations, or take a group of younger girls on a hike (planning the entire trip, including path, food, transportation, etc).
 - Be able to swim 50 yards.
- **Golden Eaglet** (Seniors only) The girl must have earned First Class Scout, as well as 25 badges at the Senior level, 13 of which are the following specific badges: Car Repair, Child Development, Computers, Cooking, Etiquette, Gardening, Senior First Aid, Small Business, Sewing OR Knitting, Personal Finance, Personal Organization, Women’s Health, World Traveler.
- Community Awards:
 - **My Promise, My Faith** remains the same as it currently is.
 - **Community Service Award** is for girls who plan and execute community service projects of their own. Girls can only earn one of these per year, and they can move up to the next uniform. The award is a little star with “community service” written on it.

In Conclusion

The above program description is designed to remedy the current issues with Girl Scout programming in a practical, reasonable manner. It allows Girl Scouts USA to continue with the programming that it likes, while allowing troops and individual girls a significantly wider range of options.

If anyone from GSUSA wants to hire me, I need a job. Resume available upon request.