 

Mercer Island Girl Scout Basics 101

Over 30 troops and about 300 girls participate on Mercer Island. We are Service Unit 430.

* Mercer Island Girl Scouts Website [www.mercerislandgirlscouts.org](http://www.mercerislandgirlscouts.org/)
* Facebook Public Page, Facebook Group for Leaders, Instagram
* Girl Scouts of Western Washington: [www.girlscoutsww.org](http://www.girlscoutsww.org/)
* Girls Scouts (national site): [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org/)
* Kathy McDonald (MI Service Unit Manager): volunteer@mercerislandgirlscouts.org
* Denise Moriguchi (MI Recruitment/DEI)

# Girl Scout Levels: When you move up to a level, it’s called “Bridging”. Colors are of uniforms.

* Daisy (Blue- K & 1); Brownie (Brown - 2 & 3); Junior (Green - 4 & 5); Cadette (Tan – 6, 7, 8); Seniors (Tan – 9 & 10); Ambassador (Tan – 11 & 12)

# What do Girl Scouts Do & Why is it a Great Activity for Your Daughter?

* Girl Scouts is low key, non-competitive, high-rewarding commitment for all families!
* Girls for Troops of 5-15 girls usually of the same age and grade level but not necessarily from the same school.
* Make friends by meeting regularly (usually once or twice a month in someone’s home or a community location like a church). While troops often meet in a church, Girl Scouts has no religious connection.
* About Covid: Girls meet inside with masks on in groups no larger than 15. There are “Girl Scout Ready” forms to fill out to make sure everyone is safe and ready to participate
* Learn and earn badges
* Sell cookies to earn money for their troop (MI Troops sell about 30,000 cookies each year!)
* Go hiking and camping with other Girl Scouts on Mercer Island
* Learn songs and sing them constantly…
* Do arts and crafts
* Volunteer in the community
* Juniors can earn “Bronze” awards; Cadettes can earn “Silver” awards; Seniors and Ambassadors can earn “Gold” awards
* Become part of a lasting tradition
* Attend Service Unit Events like FUN Fridays, hiking, volunteering and more…

As Girls get older (4th and 5th grade) they become leaders and mentors and teachers to the younger girls and it is simply magical…Middle School Scouts also have GNOMS (Girls Night Out for Middle Schoolers) monthly activities.

One of the best things about Girl Scouts of Western Washington are the Camps Sites that we have access to with lakes, rustic accommodations, trails, and history. We have two all MI Girl Scouts Encampments: Fall and Spring. Many troops do their own overnights as well.

Each troop has its own personality, but all follow a basic format. We will have a grade-level groups and help all groups get off the ground. We can also set up a buddy troop.

# How do I set up a Troop?

* Two co-leaders and 5 girls to get set up.
* Treasurer, Cookie Manager
* Two models: Troop Leader or Co-Op Model.
* No set curriculum – Girl Led activities
* Most Daisy Troops focus on doing the Pedal Activities/Badges
* Lots and lots of activities and events in person and online that are easy to sign up for provided by Girl Scouts of Western Washington and the National Girl Scouts
* Troop leaders and volunteers do on-line training and background checks
* Troops decide when, where and how often to meet up
* Plan the year out, fill out forms, do on-line training modules and start your troop

**What does it cost?** $25 per child and $25 per adult to register with Girl Scouts of Western Washington.

$69 for a uniform kit for Daisies and less after that. Some other activities like camping will have additional costs. Some troops collect nominal troop dues at the beginning.

**How often do troops meet?** Most troops meet only once or twice a month and usually in a home or a location like a church for 1 hour.

# MI Girl Scouts Yearly Calendar

* Troop Leader Meetings: 2nd Tuesday of each month at the same time and place Mercer Island Presbyterian Church 6:45-8:00 pm.
* September: Fall Encampment Overnight
* October/November: Juliette Gordon Lowe (founder of Girl Scouts) Birthday Party Ice Skating Event
* December: Brownies Making Brownies at MI Firehouse Munch
* December: Secret Santa Scouts
* January to March: Cookie Season – selling individually or site sales at grocery stores
* March: Gals and Pals (event for Daisies and Brownies) at Camp River Ranch
* March: Spring Songfest
* March/April: Spring Encampment Overnight
* June: All Island Bridging Ceremony