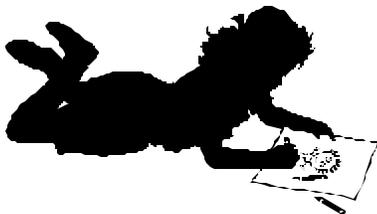




OPTIONS

Program Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders



Daisy Girl Scout Troop Finances

TOP SHEET

In 1995, to find out what financial resources are needed to operate a Daisy troop, Daisy Girl Scout leaders were surveyed in order to assist you, the new Daisy leader, in determining the financial needs of your troop. The tips are listed below and are based upon their responses. Keep in mind that the dues information listed below is based on this 1995 survey – please consider inflation when thinking about annual dues for your troop.

Safety-Wise standards regarding Daisy Girl Scouts and activities involving money are:

- Daisy Girl Scouts are not involved with handling any money, including troop dues. Adults associated with the Daisy Girl Scout (Leaders, parents, etc.) handle the money and meet the modest costs of the troops activities.
- Daisy Girl Scouts do not participate in troop money-earning activities.

? TIPS ?

- ? **Tip 1:** **TRAINING IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TIP!!!** Daisy Leader survey responses say that Introduction to Girl Scouting and Daisy Basic Age Level training gave them a great start. Check the current issue of the *Volunteer Development Bulletin* for dates, times and locations.
- ? **Tip 2:** Until you can get to training, use Daisy Girl Scout *Options* (you're doing that now!).
- ? **Tip 3:** **While there is always the temptation to do so, DO NOT SUBSIDIZE TROOP ACTIVITIES YOURSELF!!!**
- ? **Tip 4:** Most Daisy Troop Leaders have determined the amount needed per girl by discussing estimated expenses with experienced Troop Leaders, Troop Consultants, Troop Organizers, Neighborhood Chairs, etc.
- ? **Tip 5:** Have a parent meeting early in the year to review plans and costs.
- ? **Tip 6:** In 1995, most Daisy Troop Leaders found that approximately \$25.00 per girl annually covered their costs. Please take inflation into consideration when determining annual dues for your troop.
- ? **Tip 7:** Keep field trips simple and low cost.
- ? **Tip 8:** Go to your Neighborhood meetings. You'll get great ideas and in addition to asking for:
 - Help with craft supplies (egg cartons, material scraps, bits of yarn, etc.)
 - Older girl troops to help with songs, games, and outdoor crafts/skills at troop meetings.
- ? **Tip 9:** Know the total cost of recognitions for the entire year. Current prices can be found at the G.S. Shop and G.S. EXPRESS. Be sure to check out the entire cost before determining yearly dues for your troop. The Daisy Girl Scout tunic, Daisy Activity Book and Daisy Learning Petal sets are optional purchases, which are the responsibility of each girl's family.

OPTIONS

Girl Scout Leaders today are usually juggling some combination of family, career, volunteer commitments and leisure activities. Finding the time for all of these could, at best, be described as difficult. Planning time is even more precious. Here, then, are *OPTIONS* for the busy Girl Scout leader. *OPTIONS* are offered for each of the five levels of Girl Scouting: Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette and Senior Girl Scouts.

Each set of *OPTIONS* is designed in the same fashion. They offer nine months of troop meeting ideas from September through May. They additionally present a collection of openings and closings to be mixed and matched at meetings throughout the year. To implement *OPTIONS*, certain resources are necessary. Each *OPTIONS* identifies those resources considered primary (used at nearly every meeting) and secondary (used at certain specific meetings).

OPTIONS should be used as meeting outlines for planning your own calendar of troop meetings or used occasionally when you've had little or no time to plan. *OPTIONS* is here to help you – do not think your troop year must be planned around what is written here. The girl/adult partnership always has been a fundamental concept in Girl Scouting; it is one of our unique strengths and values. In Girl Scouting, a girl can learn to make decisions, accept the consequences of those decisions, and help plan activities for her troop or group. It is difficult to stand back and let someone else participate in decisions when they obviously aren't as well equipped as we are. But that is exactly what we need to do if we sincerely want to help girls learn the decision making process.

So feel free . . . to change, adapt, modify and use *OPTIONS* in planning your troop year. Additional ideas and options for troop meetings and activities can be found in *Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders* (GDGSL), Pep Session Packets and in each issue of *Leader Program Bulletin* (LPB). Your Neighborhood Chair will also serve as wonderful resource in finding out about Neighborhood and/or District events offered to Daisy Girl Scouts in your area (i.e. World Thinking Day activities, School Bringing Ceremonies, etc.).

FYI: Training is the most important tip we can offer to first time and repeating Girl Scout Leaders. Daisy Leader survey responses say that Introduction to Girl Scouting, Daisy Basic Age Level courses and other trainings have offered immense support. Check out the *Volunteer Development Bulletin* for dates, times and locations.

OPTIONS - DAISY GIRL SCOUTS

Daisy Girl Scouts are ages 5-6 or in kindergarten or first grade. The Daisy Girl Scout troop offers girls an opportunity to develop their own unique strengths, talents, gifts and to expand their family circle.

Daisy meetings should last approximately 40-60 minutes. They may be held before or after school or on a weekend day. This will depend on your schedule and the girls' schedule. Meetings may be held in a school room, church hall, day care or recreation center, in the Leader's home, or other places where space is available.

Some things to take into consideration when working with the Daisy Girl Scout are:

- ❖ Permission slips, notices of future meetings, parents' letters, etc., should be given to the girls at the end of the meetings as the girls are going home.
- ❖ It is important to let each girl express herself and experience activities in her own way at her own speed within an environment of support and trust. At the Daisy Girl Scout level, the creative "process" is more important than the finished product.
- ❖ Family involvement is encouraged by inviting the participation of family members (parents, guardians, foster parents, grandparents, older brothers and sisters, aunts and uncles, etc.) in troop activities. A welcoming ceremony may be held in the very beginning of the year to welcome the girls and their parents/guardians to Girl Scouting.
- ❖ Plan for a "Sharing Time" in each meeting. It is important for girls to have an opportunity to talk about the events of their day or the past week.

Troop meetings for the Daisy Girl Scout have a certain structure. They should begin with a short opening ceremony that might include a song, the Promise or a flag ceremony. The opening can be followed by a sharing time and possibly a snack. Check with parents/guardians BEFORE you begin your meetings to find out if anyone has an allergic reaction to certain foods. Once a month or less frequently, the Daisy Girl Scout Circle is used to plan for future activities with girls (*GDGSL*). The program activity may be a trip, game, art project, a story or a dramatics project. The meeting should have a definite closing - a song, a game, the Girl Scout handshake or the friendship circle.

Some meetings may need more time for an activity. Flexibility, wise planning and observing how things are going will help you judge the proper timing of a meeting.

Daisy Girl Scout *OPTIONS* Resources

Please always refer to the current versions of both primary and secondary resources.

Primary:

The Guide for Daisy Girl Scout Leaders (GDGSL)

Daisy Girl Scout Activity Book (DGSAB)

Girl Scout Pocket Songbook (GSPSB)

Leader Program Bulletin (LPB)

Secondary:

Perfectly Effortless Program Session Packets (PEP Session Packets) – available in the Resource Center and on the G. S. EXPRESS

Highlights in Girl Scouting 1912-2001 – provides information on the exciting history of Girl Scouting. (This book is available for purchase in the G.S. Shop and G.S. EXPRESS or for check out at the Resource Center and G.S. EXPRESS).

Trips and Tours – A resource designed to for Girl Scout Leaders to explore the many outstanding venues in and around the St. Louis region. *Trips and Tours* is available online at www.gscgsl.org or at the Resource Center or G.S. EXPRESS.

Children enjoy repetition and opening and closing ceremonies offer them the comforting feeling of having “traditions” at the meeting and knowing what to expect. The PEP Session Packet – Ceremonies in Girl Scouting and various books in the Resource Center have descriptions of numerous Ceremonies that are appropriate for meeting openings and closings.

Daisy Meeting Opening:

Begin with a song such as “Hello! Hello!” (*GSPSB*). Say the Girl Scout Promise (*GDGSL*) using the Girl Scout sign, or complete the flag ceremony, recite the Girl Scout Promise/Law, or form a Friendship Circle (see below).

Friendship circle: In a friendship circle, you stand in a circle with other girls. Place your right arm over your left arm. Hold hands with the girls next to you. The friendship squeeze begins when you hold hands in a friendship circle. On girl or the Troop Leader should start. With her right hand she squeezes her neighbor’s hand. Then that girl squeezes with her right hand. One by one, each girl passes on the squeeze until it travels all around the circle.

Daisy Meeting Closing:

Say the Girl Scout Promise and sing “Make New Friends” (*GSPSB*). Eventually, introduce the friendship squeeze (*GDGSL*) or complete the flag ceremony or recite the Girl Scout Promise and Law. (See *GDGSL* and Resource Center for more options.)

SEPTEMBER

- Meeting 1:** Read the story of Daisy Low to the girls (*GDGSL*). Have girls act out some of the things that Daisy enjoyed doing when she was a young girl. Play the “Daisy to Daisy” game from *GDGSL*.
- Meeting 2:** Read the Girl Scout Promise & Law to the girls. Discuss – “What does it mean to make a promise to do your best?” Before the Investiture Ceremony it is very important for the Leader to develop the ideas of the Girl Scout Promise and Law with the girls on their level. Through discussion, examples and acting parts they will be able to comprehend the basics of the Girl Scout Promise and Law. See the PEP Session Packet – *Ceremonies in Girl Scouting*, for information about the Daisy Learning Petals ceremony of the Girl Scout Promise & Law.
- Meeting 3:** Let each girl make her own Daisy Girl Scout scrapbook.

Have girls create their own special design for the cover of their Daisy Girl Scout Scrapbook. See *GDGSL* for suggestions on various art mediums for girls to express themselves. After girls have completed their cover, the Leader may wish to help preserve and prolong the life of this “work of art” by covering it with clear contact paper. If necessary, a piece of sturdy poster board or cardboard can be cut to reinforce the cover.

Some ideas of mementos to include in the scrapbook are: event patches, photographs of troop members, brochures from field trips, drawings and the Bridging Certificate. It is not necessary to have a memento of every troop meeting in the scrapbook.

Another option for your troop at this meeting could be to make invitations for their parents to attend next week’s Investiture Ceremony.

Meeting 4: Investiture

The Daisy Girl Scout Investiture Ceremony can be found in *GDGSL* or the *Ceremonies in Girl Scouting* - PEP Session Packet. Girls should receive the Girl Scout Promise Center as they recite the Girl Scout Promise or complete activities that are associated with it. The Promise Center is the foundation of the Daisy Learning Petal program that you and your troop will work to complete throughout the year. See the *GDGSL* and *DGSAB* for more information.

OCTOBER

- Meeting 1:** Talk about what “Doing a Good Turn Daily” can mean. This is the Girl Scout Slogan. Then make a “Good Deed Daisy” or “Miss Good Turn Mouse.” Each time a Daisy Girl Scout performs a good deed; she can put a colored star on the daisy petals or tie a knot in Miss Good Turns tail.

To make a “Good Deed Daisy” you will need white, yellow, green and blue construction paper. Cut the daisy petals out of the white; cut a circle for center out of yellow; and cut the stem and leaves out of the green. Have the girls paste their daisy on the blue. Give each girl a supply of multi-colored stars to stick on her daisy petals as she does a good deed.

To make “Miss Good Turn Mouse”: cut a mouse shape out of a piece of gray cardboard or construction paper; cut inner ear circle and nose out of pink felt or construction paper, have girls paste them on the mouse shape, and draw a face. Show girls how to tie an overhand knot and have them paste or tape a piece of pink yarn to the back of the mouse shape for Ms. Good Turns tail.

This activity also can become a page in their Daisy Girl Scout Scrapbook.

- Meeting 2:** Look into taking a field trip with your troop. Check out *Trips & Tours* for ideas on exciting locations to visit in and around the St. Louis area. Your Neighborhood Chair will also be a good resource for finding out what District and Neighborhood events are available to your troop. Present several activities to your troop and let them choose one they would like to participate in.
- Meeting 3:** Me on Paper – Check out the *GDGSL* and the *DGSAB* for activities to help your girls learn more about themselves and the other girls in the troop.
- Meeting 4:** Have a birthday party for Juliette “Daisy” Low! Design and develop your own celebration or see if the Resource Center has a suggestion.

NOVEMBER

- Meeting 1:** “I WILL DO MY BEST TO BE...”
Devote a meeting to each of the Girl Scout Laws. Each of the “Laws” is associated with one of the Daisy Learning Petal colors (*GDGSL*). Girls should receive the petals as they earn them throughout the year.

Begin with the first law (the LIGHT BLUE Daisy Learning Petal) ... A Girl Scout will do her best to be honest and fair. Discuss what it means to be honest, how you feel when you tell the truth and how you feel when you didn't (*GDGSL*).

- Meeting 2:** Law #2 (the YELLOW Daisy Learning Petal) ... friendly and helpful.
Let the girls divide something up in a fair way.
- Meeting 3:** With Thanksgiving just around the corner, have the girls make cornhusk dolls. They were play things for Indian children and were quickly adopted by the children of the Pilgrims and other early settlers. (OR try a “harvestime” activity. Ideas often are listed in the fall issue of *LPB* and in various Resource Center resources.)

Materials:

- ❖ Corn Husks – Use the inside layers since they are softer and more easily handled. Discard the coarse outer leaves and the mildewed ones. (similar items may be found at a local craft store – natural corn may not be in season at your local grocer.)
- ❖ Corn silk, raffia or string

Instructions:

Green husks will mildew. They must be dried before using. This should be done indoors so that their color will be retained. Stained leaves may be bleached with a strong solution of household bleach or by laying them in the sun. For more colorful dolls, dye the husks with food coloring and rinse in cold water to set the dye.

1. Take 6 to 8 of the ragged or discolored husks in your hand and tie tightly, one inch from the top, with a cord or piece of raffia. Tie three, well-bleached pieces around the top to form a smooth head.
2. Tie so that the waist is about one inch from the neck. Put a very wide clean piece in the front and one in the back to form a skirt, overlap, tie the doll and trim evenly around the bottom.
3. To make the hood, cut a piece of corn husk long enough to cover the head and shoulders. Fold in at the back neatly and tie the hood in place. Trim, but leave a little collar.
4. To make the hair, wet a little corn silk and shape it in your hands to form a small roll. Put this under the hood, letting a little show over the forehead. When the doll is completely dry, make a face with colored pencils or paint.
5. Not all corn husk dolls need to be Pilgrims. Add extra husks and braid arms and legs. Make the shirt shorter or make trousers.

Meeting 4: Thanksgiving week – no meeting.

DECEMBER

Meeting 1: Make Seasons of Giving crafts. Check with your Neighborhood Seasons of Giving Coordinator for gift suggestions that the agencies assigned to your neighborhood have requested.

Meeting 2: Law #3 (the SPRING GREEN Daisy Learning Petal) . . . considerate and caring. Follow up Seasons of Giving activities by discussing compassion... ask girls to make get well cards or holiday decorations for children in the hospital, etc. (*GDGSL*).

Meeting 3: Make a holiday craft. An idea:

Silver Bells – Materials needed: one 3 oz. flat bottomed paper cup, aluminum foil and 6” x 12” yarn or narrow ribbon.

Place aluminum foil, shiny side down, on table. Place paper cup upright in the center of the foil. Fold long ends of foil into the cup, smoothing on inside walls. Flatten rest of foil on the outside of cup, bringing edges inside the cup. Fasten yarn or ribbon on top of bell.

Meeting 4: Happy Holidays! – no meeting.

JANUARY

Meeting 1: New Years Week – no meeting.

Don't Forget! Check out the spring issue of *LPB* for council-sponsored activities that your troop can participate in later this spring. Be sure to check the *LPB* for registration deadlines as you plan ahead for the spring. Your Neighborhood Chair will also be a good resource for finding out what District and Neighborhood events are available to your troop.

Meeting 2: Law #4 (the RED Daisy Learning Petal) ... courageous and strong.
Have the girls think about things they would like to do but may not always have the nerve to do and vote as a group on which ideas to carry out.

Meeting 3: Conduct an activity that encourages your girls to “Grow Strong.” This can involve exercises, stretching and a discussion of its importance, or you may want to focus on diet or even on health and safety issues.

Meeting 4: Law #5 (the ORANGE Daisy Learning Petal) ... responsible for what I say and do.
How do they treat new girls in the troop, at school or in the neighborhood? How would they like to be treated if they were the “new girl?” What do the girls think it means to be responsible? Ask girls to think about “helping” words such as “Sorry” and “Thank you.” Ask them to describe a time that their actions caused a problem. The friendship circle can be used to end the meeting (See pg. 3).

FEBRUARY

Meeting 1: Valentine's Day – get ready for next week by making Valentines now. See *GDGSL* to determine which medium would be best for your troop. Prints may work best for greeting cards.

Meeting 2: Valentine's Day Celebration!

Meeting 3: Law #6 (the PURPLE Daisy Learning Petal) . . . to respect myself and others.
Have girls think about the ways in which respect is given to others in our society – handshakes, giving your bus seat to an elderly person, not interrupting when someone else is talking (*GDGSL*).

Meeting 4: World Thinking Day. (February 22) World Thinking Day is a time when Girl Scouts all around the world think about each other. Choose one country, Mexico for example, and play Mexican games, eat Mexican food and follow their traditions. Also, no matter what country you may choose, think about how Girl Scouting in that country is both similar and different from Girl Scouting in the U.S.A. You also may choose to award the girls with their World Trefoil Pin as part of your World Thinking Day celebration. See the *GDGSL* for information about the placement and significance of this pin. Also see the PEP Session Packet – Ceremonies in Girl Scouting for World Pin ceremony options.

MARCH

Meeting 1: Law #7 (the MAGENTA Daisy Learning Petal) ... to respect authority.
What people do the girls respect? Why do they respect them? How do they show respect for authority? This includes their Girl Scout Leaders (*GDGSL*).

Meeting 2: Girl Scout Birthday (*GDGSL*). Try some of the activities listed under March 12, Girl Scout Birthday.

Meeting 3: The World Centers introduced the concept of National and International Girl Scouting (*GDGSL*). Check out the PEP Session Packet: *People Near and Far* for ideas on how to introduce this concept – and for activities that relate to the topic. You also may choose to take time during this meeting to review the Girl Scout Sign, Handshake, Quiet Sign, Motto and Slogan.

Meeting 4: Law #8 (the GREEN Daisy Learning Petal) ... to use resources wisely. Discuss with the girls how they can conserve our natural resources (*GDGSL*).

APRIL

Meeting 1: Spring Break/Vacation – no meeting.

Meeting 2: Law #9 (the ROSE Daisy Learning Petal) ...to make the world a better place. Decide to clean up or keep clean one particular area in their world. As a troop, keep your meeting area tidy, and your own room and yard at home neat. Remember to put litter in trash cans. **Participate in April Showers, the annual council-wide personal care item drive.** Discuss how such an event helps the community.

Meeting 3: No meeting – Attend a Daisy Girl Scout council-sponsored program. If you have not already registered for an event that is now full – try simply holding your meeting outdoors. See the PEP Session Packet – *A Day At a Time in the Out-of-Doors* for ideas.

Meeting 4: Begin working on the Bridge to Brownie Girl Scout patch. Invite some Brownie Girl Scouts from the troop your girls will be bridging into or from a Brownie sister troop to your troop meeting. Have the Brownie Girl Scouts take turns reading the Brownie Story from their handbook to your troop. Have the girls draw a picture of their favorite part (Step 1). Then have the Brownie Girl Scouts tell about some of the things they do in their troop (Step 2).

MAY

Meeting 1: It's springtime! What a wonderful time to have a meeting outdoors. Check out recreational ideas in books like *Games for Girl Scouts*, the PEP Session Packet *A Day At a Time in the Out-of-Doors* and other resources available at the Resource Center and the G.S. EXPRESS.

Meeting 2: Law #10 (the VIOLET Daisy Learning Petal) ...be a sister to every Girl Scout. Talk about the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund (see current *LPB* or invite someone who knows about Girl Scouting or Girl Guiding in another country to talk to the troop). What can the girls do to be a sister to each girl in their troop?

Meeting 3: Do bridging Step 3 by visiting a Brownie Girl Scout meeting and participating in some of their troop's activities. Also, complete Step 4 by planning next week's bridging ceremony with the Brownie Girl Scout troop.

Meeting 4: Court of Awards/Bridging Ceremony
The Brownie Girl Scouts may do a simple flag ceremony (see *GDGSL* or the PEP Session Packet - *Ceremonies in Girl Scouting*). Give each girl her Bridging Certificate and Membership Star (with blue disc that fits behind it) – then proceed to celebrate in any way that you and your troop see fit! Girls should have received their Daisy Learning Petals as they were earned throughout the year. You may want the girls to showcase these petals at the celebration.

Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis

OPTIONS EVALUATION

Name: _____ Troop #: _____

District: _____ Neighborhood: _____

_____ DAISY _____ BROWNIE _____ JUNIOR _____ CADETTE _____ SENIOR

Please mark the space that most accurately reflects your feelings on each topic.

1. What is your overall rating of this resource?

_____ Excellent _____ Satisfactory _____ Average _____ Unimpressive _____ Poor

2. Did you feel that the "options" presented here were clear and easy to follow?

_____ Very _____ Reasonably _____ Clear _____ Unclear _____ Muddled

3. How many times during the troop year did you refer to Options?

_____ 1-2 _____ 3-4 _____ 5-6 _____ 6 or more

4. Which program ideas were most useful?

5. Which program ideas were least useful?

Please use the reverse side for any other comments and return to:

Girl Scout Council of Greater St. Louis

Attn: Options Evaluation

2130 Kratky Rd.

St. Louis, MO 63114