



Training FAQs

GSUSA and River Valleys have designed training sessions that help you be effective in your Girl Scout volunteer position. Training sessions are available either as a facilitated classroom setting, paper-based self study, or online. Facilitated classroom training sessions are offered in all geographic regions of River Valleys.

1. Why do I need to take training?

Training is offered to help volunteers gain the skills and knowledge to provide excellent Girl Scout program.

2. If I am a troop leader, what training sessions should I take?

The recommended leadership sequence for new troop leaders is:

- GUSUA Volunteer Orientation (30 minutes)
- Fast Start Meeting for New Leaders (one leader per troop) (1.5 hours)
- Leadership Essentials for New Leaders (3 hours)

These three training sessions (5 hours) help you develop our future leaders.

3. What are Beyond the Troop training sessions?

Beyond the Troop training sessions should be completed for activities that take you outside the normal troop meeting.

4. Does the troop leader need to complete the Beyond the Troop training sessions?

No, a parent volunteer may register for the Beyond the Troop training sessions if they will be accompanying the troop on their outing.

5. Who facilitates River Valley's classroom training sessions?

Most River Valleys training sessions are facilitated by volunteers. These experienced volunteers are happy to share their time, knowledge, and love of Girl Scouts with other Girl Scout volunteers.

6. Why do I need to register for training sessions?

- By registering, River Valleys and your volunteer facilitator know how many participants will be in attendance and will be able to prepare enough materials for the registered participants.
- If there are not enough registered volunteers, a training session may be cancelled. If a session is cancelled, only registered participants will be notified.

- We want to be respectful of our volunteer facilitators. If they know who to expect, they will know when they can start the session. Please plan to arrive on time to your training session.

7. How do I register?

Online registration is available for all training sessions. You can view upcoming training sessions, locations, and register on the [River Valleys website](#). There is also a [registration form](#) available.

8. When do I use a registration form?

Use a [registration form](#) when you are paying with a check or are requesting a grant.

9. What if I don't find the training session I need listed on the website?

The adult development department offers training sessions throughout the calendar year and in all geographic areas of River Valleys. If you can't find a specific training session, please contact the [adult development department](#) for assistance to find the session nearest you.

Some specialty training sessions, like outdoor skills, archery, or canoe, may be offered only at specific locations or at specific times of year. If you don't see what you need, contact your [adult development department](#).

10. Are there training sessions for volunteers with disabilities?

Training sites are accessible. Please contact the [adult development department](#) regarding accommodations. American Sign Language interpreters are available with two weeks advanced request.

11. Can I bring my child to a training session?

It is important that you use child care in order to ensure a good atmosphere for adult learners. Troop funds may be used to pay for child care.

12. Can I use troop funds to pay for my training sessions?

Certain activities the girls may want to do require a specifically trained volunteer. Some of these training sessions have a fee associated with them. If so, troop funds may be used for to pay the fee because the money is "going to the girls." Without training, the girls may not be able to participate in this activity. Financial assistance is also available to volunteers for required training fees.

13. Why are training sessions sometimes cancelled?

A training session may be cancelled if we determine the session does not have enough participants to make learning interactive. Self study options are available if necessary.

14. What if there is severe weather?

A training session will take place unless there are dangerous transportation conditions for the volunteers and facilitator. If there is a question about severe weather, call the River Valley's weather cancellation line at 866-445-5812.

15. What if I can't attend the training session?

Call 800-845-0787 or email us at training@girlscoutsrv.org as soon as possible. Your cancellation will make space available for someone else to attend the training session. Also, our volunteer facilitators like to know the number of attendees so they know when to start the training session.

16. Can I receive a refunded payment?

To receive a refund, the cancellation must be received in writing no less than five days before the training date. If River Valleys cancels a training session, your payment will be fully refunded.

17. Does River Valleys keep track of my training?

River Valleys maintains records of all required training sessions in our database because training sessions are designed so that volunteers complete training sessions only once. Please contact your local service center or inquire at training@girlscoutsrv.org for further information.

18. What if I was trained in another Girl Scout council?

Contact us at training@girlscoutsrv.org with your information so we can verify your training record with our sister council.