

Parent Information for Troop 42

Girl Scout Troop 42 is divided into three levels:

Troop Level	Co-Leaders	2008-09 Grade Levels	2009-2010 Grade Levels
Daisy	Jennifer Hoop Jennifer Ruggles	K	K-1
Brownie	Bethann Buddenbaum Judy Woodruff	1-2	2-3
Junior	Jane Lavey Kathy Vasil	3-5	4-5

Committee Members:

Membership Registration:	Kathy Johnson / Marie Ameis
Badge Coordinator:	Marie Ameis
Publicity / Secretary:	Kristin Ullom / Cindy Williams
Scrapbook Coordinator:	Judy Woodruff / Kristin Ullom
Snack Coordinator:	Sandy Brinkman

The troop number of all levels is 42. Troop 42 is part of the Greater Irvington Service Unit and the Girl Scout of Central Indiana Council.

Please turn in the following at the August meeting or by mailing to

Marie Ameis, 270 Monticello Drive, Greenwood, IN 46142 (Ameis@sbcglobal.net). Forms are available on the Yahoo group, at the Troop meeting, and on GS website under "Forms":

- Girl Registration form (If auditing, write "AUDIT" on top of form. See FAQs for auditing info)
- Product Sale Program Permission form (for selling GS cookies)
- Blanket Permission form
- GS Adult Volunteer Application
- If JOINING, \$10 check to "Troop 42" (for national dues). No payment for girls auditing.
- If adults want to join GS, GS Adult Registration form (plus \$10 to Troop 42 for national dues). Leaders MUST be registered Girl Scouts.

Join the Yahoo Group

Request to join Yahoo group, "GirlScoutTroop42."

Uniforms

Troop 42 requires Scouts to wear the Sash/Vest/Tunic with appropriate signage:

- Flag
- Council ID Set
- Troop Numerals: "42"
- GS Pin / Brownie pin

A diagram of signage placement was uploaded to the Yahoo group (also on GS website). We strongly encourage the Scouts to wear khaki pants/skirt/shorts and white polo shirt or the other uniform pieces. The official uniform for Juniors is Sash/Vest, Khaki pants/skirt/shorts, and white polo shirt. Brownies and Daisies are welcome to wear this also. Don't panic if you already have the other uniform pieces, go ahead and wear those (i.e. green Junior skirt, blue Brownie shirt, brown Brownie skirt, etc.).

You can order uniform pieces on-line or visit the GS store at the council office: Click on "Shop Online" at <http://www.girlscoutsindiana.org/>, Council address: 1800 N. Meridian Street, Indianapolis

FAQs

Who can join Troop 42?

Troop 42 consists of girls in grades K-5 who are adopted from China and other Asian countries. The troop is based in Indianapolis but welcomes girls from surrounding communities.

How often does Troop 42 meet?

We usually meet once per month year-round, typically on the third Sunday.

Where and when does Troop 42 meet?

We meet at locations (i.e. churches) in Indy and surrounding communities, depending upon the activity.

Do all levels meet at the same time?

We typically meet at the same time but may split the girls by level for more age appropriate activities. We will try to continue this practice; however, exceptions may need to be made depending upon the activity.

Can my daughter join a troop at her school?

Yes! Many girls in Troop 42 are also a Scout in a school troop. The girls cannot JOIN both troops. They will need to JOIN one (that means pay the \$10 national membership fee) and AUDIT the other (not pay national fee). You can choose which troop you want to JOIN and AUDIT. Troop 42 has a mixture of decisions. Note: Scouts can only sell GS cookies for the troop they JOINED.

How is Troop 42 different from my daughter's school troop?

Troop 42 is a great way for your daughter to maintain her cultural ties and to develop friendships with other girls adopted from China. Our mission is to educate troop members about Asian cultures through traditional Girl Scout activities and programs. The girls have learned about Asian festivals, Panda conservation, and even visited Chinatown in Chicago. We include non-Asian activities in our programs also, like Theatre and Horseback Riding. Our troop encourages giving back to the community. We gave GS cookies to the Indy Children's Guardian Home, sponsored a deaf orphan in China for a year, made a donation toward the snow emergency in China earlier this year, and collected money for the recent China earthquake victims.

Who are the troop leaders and how do I know who they are?

Co-leaders and committee members will wear red GS shirts at meetings.

How are announcements communicated?

Announcements are made at meetings and via the Yahoo Group. Joining the Yahoo Group is critical in receiving communications.

What is the website for the Girl Scouts of Central Indiana Council? <http://www.girlscoutsindiana.org/>

How will my daughter react to such a large troop?

One common concern in a troop this size is making friends and feeling comfortable. We will try to encourage this through activities but do not be surprised if your daughter feels intimidated. It takes time to develop a comfort level in this troop. As the girls get older, they tend to develop stronger ties with troop members.

What is a parents' role in the troop meetings?

Parents are welcome to stay for meetings or leave, if needed. Many parents do stay as they want to learn about the culture also. As with the Scouts, developing relationships with other parents takes time so please be patient. We are going to ask Scouts and parents to wear name tags to improve developing relationships. We will also try to have a printed summary of our meeting to encourage discussions after the meetings.

Will there be snacks at meetings?

We ask parents to volunteer at least one time per year for snacks. Sandy Brinkman is the coordinator.

What if I cannot afford the membership fee or uniform?

Please contact one of the co-leaders as scholarships are available to help in these situations. Please do not let money be the reason why your daughter does not join!

What type of badges will be daughter earn?

Juniors earn “badges,” Brownies earn “Try-Its,” and Daisies earn “Petals.” We structure our activities to earn these as a troop. Scouts can also earn these on their own. Badges are to show (age appropriate) competency for the activity while Try-Its are for trying something.

How does my daughter earn badges on her own?

First, determine what badges your daughter is interested in earning. An index for the Junior badges has been uploaded to the GS Yahoo Group. You can also ask the co-leaders for more information or look through the badge book at the GS store. There are “Council’s Own” badges, not in the badge book, that are on the council website. For Juniors, if your daughter wants to earn a specific badge, please contact Jane Lavey who will upload the requirements to the GS Yahoo Group. For Brownies/Daisies, contact your co-leader.

Do I need to purchase badge books?

No. Co-leaders can make copies for you as needed or you can get copies at the GS store. We do, however, encourage Juniors to purchase the Junior Girl Scout Handbook if they are interested in earning badges/awards on their own. (Do not confuse this with the Junior Badgebook.)

What needs to be done to earn a Junior badge (and similarly Try-Its and Petals)?

To earn a Junior badge, the Scout must complete at least six of the 10 possible activities. The Scout needs to show a co-leader or Marie Ameis (badge coordinator) that these activities were completed. For example,

- If a poster was to be created, show the poster.
- If an interview was to be done, tell who was interviewed and what learned.
- If the Scout needs to share something with troop, the co-leaders will give you time to do so.
- If an event was attended, bring the ticket stub.

We will not be stringent on the documentation, but we do require more than a note for mom saying that my daughter completed the six requirements for the badge. The Juniors need to be taking more responsibility.

The troop will purchase the earned badge and give to the Scout.

Are there other awards that can be earned in addition to badges?

Yes! Juniors can earn leadership awards, the bronze award, and others, all listed in the Junior Handbook. This is an ideal troop to earn leadership awards since Juniors can work with the Brownies and Daisies!