

A Girl Scout Time Line

1908 - 2000

1908

Lord Robert Baden-Powell founds Boy Scouting in England.

1909

Agnes Baden-Powell (Lord BP's sister) starts Girl Guides in England (on request from Lord BP because girls could not join Boy Scouts and there was a need for an organization for girls).

1910

Agnes adapts the Boy Scouts handbook for use with girls and titles it *How Girls Can Help Their Empire*.

1911

Juliette Low is 50 years old when she meets Lord BP during the summer while she is renting a house in Scotland. Juliette immediately becomes a Girl Guider.

1912

Juliette Low boards a cruise ship with plans of beginning Girl Guides in America and heads home to make the dream come true. Lord Baden-Powell boards the same ship to begin a world tour of visiting Boy Scout units. While on board, Sir Robert meets and becomes engaged to Olave Soames. (That put Juliette, Lord BP, and the future Lady BP all in the same boat, so to speak.)

Juliette returns to Savannah, GA, and on March 12 organizes the first troop (18 girls) of the newly-formed USA Girl Guide organization.

Six troops form during this first year, some troops having as many as 60 - 70 members. The uniform is navy blue.

In December, Sir Robert and Olave marry at a small church in Poole, England. She is 23, he is 55.

1913

In June, a national headquarters is established in Washington, D.C. In July the name is changed to "Girl Scouts" and the uniform changes to olive drab khaki.

The first Girl Scout handbook, *How Girls Can Help Their Country* - an adaptation of the original Girl Guide book - is printed. The handbook includes 22 proficiency badges, and covers such titles as "Knowledge for Treatment of Snakebite," "Ivy Poisoning and Frostbite," "How to Stop a Runaway Horse," and "What to Do in Case of Fire."

Registration of Girl Scout troops begins.

1914

The Girl Scout trefoil is patented and is used on the first membership insignia - the Tenderfoot badge (which is a pin).

Girl Scout uniforms are manufactured for the first time (by the same company that manufactures uniforms for Boy Scouts).

Membership has exceeded 1000.

1915

The Girl Scout organization is incorporated as Girl Scouts of America. A Constitution and Bylaws are adopted at the first annual convention, held in Washington, D.C. National officers are elected and Juliette Low serves as president until 1920.

Annual registration is begun and dues are instituted at 25¢ a year.

Membership is expanding at a rapid rate and is now at over 5000 in 150 cities.

1916

The first gathering of Girl Guide "Commissioners" is held in London, England, and Olave Baden-Powell is elected Chief Commissioner of the Girl Guide Movement.

The Girl Scout National Headquarters is moved to New York City.

The first local Girl Scout council charter is issued to Toledo, Ohio.

The first Brownie troop is organized in the USA, establishing two registration levels: Brownies (ages 7 - 10) and Girl Scouts (ages 10 - 17). Brownies are often referred to as "Junior Girl Scouts," and they do not become an official level of Girl Scouting until 1938.

The Golden Eaglet is established as the highest award Girl Scouts may earn. It retains its status until 1938.

1917

America enters World War I. Girl Scouts are involved in many aspects of aiding the war effort on the homefront, and they develop new skills that are progressive for the period. Mrs. Woodrow Wilson is elected the first honorary president of the Girl Scouts.

The first Girl Scout magazine, *The Rally*, is published.

The first National Training School for Girl Scout leaders is established in Boston.

The national Equipment Department is organized to meet the demands for uniforms, badges, and other items that are described in the Girl Scout handbooks.

A uniform for Brownies is introduced - khaki in color and similar in style to the Girl Scout uniform.

The first troop of physically disabled girls is organized in New York.

There are now approximately 9,000 registered Girl Scouts.

1918

Olave Baden-Powell is elected Chief Guide of the United Kingdom Girl Guides.

“The Golden Eaglet,” the first Girl Scout movie, is made.

Juliette Low adapts the *Girl Guiding* book written by Sir Robert Baden-Powell into the first *Scouting For Girls* handbook.

Membership reaches almost 10,000.

1919

Lady BP founds the “International Council” to provide a way to keep in touch with the Girl Guide/Girl Scout Movement around the world. The women of the Council correspond with any country that interests them.

The first celebration of Girl Scout Week takes place beginning on October 31 and including the first part of November.

Girl Scout membership in the USA has risen to 41,225.

1920

The International Council holds its first conference. Delegates and visitors from 15 countries attend. Lord Baden-Powell is elected “Chief Scout of the World.”

October 31 (Juliette Low’s Birthday) is declared “Founder’s Day.” Juliette Low retires as president of Girl Scouts of America but remains active in the organization until her death in 1927.

The Rally is renamed *The American Girl*, and it continues in publication until 1979.

Girl Scout membership exceeds 50,000.

1921

The first all-American *Scouting For Girls* handbook is printed. It will be revised in 1927 but will not be replaced by an entirely new handbook until 1933.

The first American Indian troop is established on the Onandaga Reservation in Syracuse, NY.

Membership has increased to over 95,000, and Girl Scout councils have been organized in every state and in Hawaii, Alaska, and Puerto Rico.

1922

Camp Andree Clark, at Briarcliff Manor, New York, is established as the first national Girl Scout camp.

A magazine named *Field News* is launched. In 1923 it is renamed the *Girl Scout Leader*. The first suggestion to bake and sell cookies appears in *The American Girl*.

1923

Formal training is made a requirement for leaders to insure that high leadership standards are maintained.

1924

The first World Camp and third World Conference are held together in the United Kingdom.

The first manufactured uniform for Brownies is introduced. Its color is brown and it takes on a style of its own.

1925

The World Association begins publication on a magazine titled *The World Bulletin* as a way for WAGGGS members to remain current on happenings within the Girl Guide/Girl Scout movements.

1926

Camp Edith Macy (later renamed Edith Macy Training School) opens just in time for the 4th World Conference to be held there. It is the first World Conference held in the United States. At the conference the idea of establishing a “Thinking Day” (to think good thoughts and to think of one another with love and friendship) is proposed and accepted. February 22 is chosen, as it is the birthday of both Lord and Lady Baden-Powell.

The first guide for Brownie leaders is printed and distributed, the first Brownie uniform is put on the market, and the first Brownie Wings are produced (and will not be altered until 1935).

1927

On January 17, Juliette Gordon Low dies. She is buried in her Girl Scout uniform. The Juliette Low World Friendship Fund is established in her memory.

The World Bulletin is renamed the *Council Fire*, and it will remain in publication until mid-1983.

A newly-revised *Scouting For Girls* is released. In June the first registration of United States Girl Scout Troops On Foreign Soil (its common reference will become “TOFS”) takes place.

The Girl Scout uniform changes from khaki to gray-green.

1928

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (commonly referred to as WAGGGS) is formed, replacing the International Council. A new World Committee is elected by the Association, and the World Bureau is begun in London.

1929

At the World Committee meeting in the Netherlands it is decided to open a World Center in Switzerland.

Girl Scout membership has reached approximately 200,000.

1930

Olave Baden-Powell is elected World Chief Guide.

In the US, long-term planning is recorded in two five-year plans - one to reach a goal of 500,000 members by the end of 1935, and the other to organize the country into 12 Girl Scout regions.

The first recorded all-Indian Girl Scout troop is registered at the Indian Boarding School in Pawnee, Oklahoma.

1932

The first World Center, Our Chalet, opens near Adelboden, Switzerland, on July 31. The first session (in August) includes girls from 7 countries, including the USA.

Belgian delegates to this year’s World Conference suggest giving “a penny with their thoughts” on Thinking Day, and it is the beginning of the Thinking Day Fund.

March 12 is designated as the official Girl Scout Birthday.

1933
The first *Girl Scout Handbook* is published and is transcribed into Braille and large type.

1934
The Mariner Scout program is begun for older girls interested in boating and sailing.

1935
The Brownie Wings are redesigned - a design still in use in 1996.

1936
In March the first international conference of leaders of disabled Girl Scouts and Girl Guides is held in London, England.

The Girl Scouts introduce the first nationally-franchised cookie sale.

1937
A Silver Jubilee Encampment (in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of Girl Scouting) takes place at Camp Andree Clark. It is the first international gathering of girls hosted by Girl Scouts of America on US soil.
Three levels of Girl Scouting are established: Brownie Girl Scouts (ages 7 - 9), Intermediate Girl Scouts (ages 10 - 13), and Senior Girl Scouts (ages 14 - 17); and the first official Senior uniform is produced.

Membership has reached over 400,000.

1938
Over one million boxes of Girl Scout cookies are sold.
The first national Senior Encampment is held in Utah.

1939
The second World Center, Our Ark, opens near Buckingham Palace in London, and it serves as a refuge to those forced to leave their homelands at the onset of World War II. Pennies contributed by Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from all over the world help to make it possible.
Printing is begun on a Senior Girl Scout handbook, and the first half is titled *Ideas For Girl Scouts Book*.

Girl Scout membership passes the half-million mark.

1940
The first Girl Scout troops from institutions for mentally and socially disabled people are registered.
The second half of the Senior Girl Scout handbook is printed and is titled *Planning Book For Seniors*.

The Curved Bar replaces the Golden Eaglet as the highest award in Girl Scouting.

1941
Sir Robert Baden-Powell dies on January 8. Lady Baden-Powell continues her work with Girl Guiding and is active in the organization until 1970.

1942
The Wing Scout program is begun for Senior-age girls interested in aviation.

1943
It is recorded that Black Girl Scout membership more than doubled. (No numerical statistics are available.)

In February the first Girl Scout calendar, dated 1944, is produced by the national organization for council fund-raising.

The membership slogan is "A Million or More by '44."

1944
It is estimated that more than 250,000 Girl Scout members have enjoyed a camping experience. Conservation and camping are important to Girl Scout program during the decade.

The membership goal is more than obtained with 1,006,644 members.

1945
The first complete Senior handbook, *Senior Girl Scouting*, and the first *Wing Scout Manual* are published.

Membership is expanding rapidly, and it is anticipated it will more than double by the end of 1950.

1947
Eight girls from the United States are chosen to participate in the first post-war Boy Scout/Girl Guide/Girl Scout international event. Its theme is "folklife," and the American girls chosen are from Kentucky. The event involves boys and girls from 13 countries and is held in London, England.

The national organization changes its name from Girl Scouts of America to Girl Scouts of the United States of America, and national dues go up to \$1.00.

1948
The 12th World Conference - the first World Conference that takes place in the USA - is held at Cooperstown, NY. Girls from Canada, Bolivia, and the USA participate in a primitive camping event nearby that is visited by the conference delegates and Lady Baden-Powell.

The US Postal Service issues the first Girl Scout stamp (a 3-cent stamp) commemorating Juliette Low. *Life* magazine covers the event.

1949
Brown remains the color of the Brownie uniform, and the uniforms for Intermediates, Seniors, and adults take on a greener color.
Girl Scout membership reaches nearly 1.5 million. By this time approximately 6.5 million girls have known the benefits of the Girl Scout organization since its founding in 1912.

1950
On March 16, Girl Scouts of the USA is reincorporated under Congressional Charter.

1951	1963
The first <i>Brownie Scout Handbook</i> is published. It is the first handbook written for girls; all others before this issue have been written for leaders.	The second World Center, Our Ark, is renamed Olave House as a tribute to Olave, Lady Baden-Powell.
Girl Scout membership reaches 1,500,000.	Girl Scouting changes to four levels: Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, and Seniors.
1953	1965
Juliette Gordon Low's birthplace in Savannah, Georgia, is purchased by GSUSA.	First Class replaces the Curved Bar as the highest Girl Scout award.
Membership figures show over 2 million registered Girl Scouts.	A new <i>Safety-Wise</i> is published and it standardizes the expected criteria for safety for all Girl Scout activities.
1954	1966
The annual Girl Scout Week celebration is changed permanently from October 31 and early November to the week that includes March 12.	Sangam (a Sanskrit word meaning "going together") is opened as the fourth World Center in Poona (later Pune), India. Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from all 68 WAGGGS member countries attend the opening.
Approximately 250 executives and 450 office personnel have been hired in the national headquarters (now located in New York City) and in Girl Scout councils throughout the 12 regions.	1967
1955	A national conference for Senior Girl Scouts is held in Indianapolis. Its theme is "Girl Scouting Makes the Difference," and its subject is the inner city.
Both the Mariner and Wing programs become part of Senior Girl Scouting.	1968
1956	Girl Scout National Center West opens at Ten Sleep, Wyoming, for traveling troop camping experiences and outdoor events for older girls. Fourteen thousand acres are purchased, and 640 additional acres are donated by the United States for the program center.
Our Cabaña, the third World Center, is dedicated on Thinking Day.	Campus Girl Scouting is officially recognized as a level of Girl Scouting for college students.
The first Senior Roundup, the largest national encampment to date, brings 5,000 girls and 1,000 adults together at Pontiac, Michigan. They represent every state and territory in the United States.	1969
The Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace (Savannah, GA) is dedicated as a National Program Center for Girl Scouts.	National membership dues are raised to \$2.00.
The site where the 8th national headquarters will be built is purchased in New York City.	Membership reaches an all-time high of 3,900,000.
1957	1971
The Girl Scout organization's 45th birthday coincides with the 100th anniversary of Lord Baden-Powell's birth.	Accident insurance for Girl Scouts is introduced and included as a benefit of membership.
Our Cabaña officially opens in Cuernavaca, Mexico.	A publication, <i>Runways</i> , describing national wider opportunities for older girls is issued for the first time. This magazine is renamed <i>Wider Ops</i> in the late 1980's.
National headquarters moves into its new building at 830 Third Street, New York City. It will remain there until 1992.	1973
Girl Scout membership reaches 3 million, the 1960 goal.	Brownie membership officially includes first-graders (6-year-olds) for the first time.
1959	1974
New quarters are needed for Our Ark, and it is relocated to larger facilities in London. It remains in this location until 1990.	The <i>Daisy</i> magazine begins publication for Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts.
1960	Girl Scout membership shows its first decline and recedes to 3,291,000.
The Centennial year of Juliette Low's birth is celebrated all over the United States.	1975
1962	The World Association of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting adopts the Thinking Day symbol.
Girl Scouts around the country celebrate the fiftieth Anniversary of Girl Scouting. A new 4-cent US postage stamp is issued in celebration of the event.	The National Council affirms that Girl Scout membership will continue to be open only to girls.

1977
Olave Baden-Powell dies, and her autobiography, *A Window On My Heart*, is printed.

The Worlds To Explore program theme is introduced with the new Brownie and Junior combined handbook.

1978
A new Girl Scout Trefoil design is introduced to present a contemporary image. Because of requests from adult members, the traditional trefoil pin is continued in order that members may individually choose which trefoil design they prefer to wear.

1979
The final issue of *American Girl* is published in the spring.

Juliette Gordon Low is installed in the Women's Hall of Fame in Seneca Falls, NY.

1980
First Class is discontinued, and the Girl Scout Gold Award for Seniors is introduced as the highest award Girl Scouts can earn.

Membership decreases to 2,784,000.

1981
The last issue of *Daisy* magazine is published.

Girl Scout membership increases for the first time in nearly a decade to 2,829,000.

1982
The World Association decides to build a new center that will replace Olave House and that will include the World Bureau as well, thereby realizing a long-standing dream of Olave Baden-Powell of having the two facilities side by side. Girl Scouts and Girl Guides become a part of fund-raising for the new center by buying "bricks" (at 10 cents per brick) for the new buildings.

April 22 is designated "Leader's Day."

Edith Macy Conference Center opens, replacing Edith Macy Training Center. The new center will accommodate both Girl Scout and professional non-Girl Scout groups.

1983
The final issue of *Council Fire* is published.

A federal building in Savannah, GA is named after Juliette Low. It is the second federal building in the US to be named after a woman.

1984
The 25th World Conference is held at Marymount College in Terrytown, New York. It is only the second World Conference held in the US, and girls from across the country are selected to entertain the delegates throughout the conference.

Girl Scout membership expands to include Daisy Girl Scouts (age 5), thereby beginning 5 levels of Girl Scouting.

1985
"Girl Scout Troops On Foreign Soil" is renamed "USA Girl Scouts Overseas."
The first booklet in a series of program resources on contemporary issues is published by GSUSA. It is titled *Tune In To Well-Being: Say NO To Drugs*. (Booklets are added periodically, and by 1993 there are 11 booklets in the series.)

1987
WAGGGS now includes 108 member countries.
Girl Scouting celebrates its 75th Anniversary. By this time, Girl Scouting has shaped the lives of over 52 million girls and women since its inception.

A third US Postal Service commemorative stamp (22-cent) is issued to honor the world's largest voluntary organization for girls.

1989
National Center West, the Girl Scout center in Ten Sleep, Wyoming, is closed, and the property is sold in 1991.

1990
This year's 27th World Conference in Singapore is attended by Eastern Bloc countries, most of which had been forced out of World Association membership by Adolph Hitler before World War II or by their political change to Communism.

Girl Scout membership has increased to 3,268,630, and membership dues increase to \$6.00.

1991
There are now 118 member countries in WAGGGS, including the reinstatement of Czechoslovakia - one of the founding members of the World Association - which had resigned its membership when it became a Communist country.

The newly-built Pax Lodge (named for the Latin word meaning "peace") and Olave Center open in London, replacing Olave House and the World Bureau.

1992
Girl Scouts of the United States of America celebrates its 80th Anniversary.
GSUSA moves its offices to a location not far from site of the first New York national headquarters office in 1916.

Girl Scout membership increases to nearly 3½ million. The largest adult membership in the history of the organization is recorded this year. One in every nine girls ages 5 - 17 is a Girl Scout.

1993
The 28th World Conference is held in Denmark. There are now 128 member countries in WAGGGS.

New Daisy and Brownie resources are introduced. For the first time Daisy girls' books are available - *Who Is A Daisy Girl Scout?/The Story of Juliette Low* and *My Daisy Girl Scout Activity Scrapbook*.

The National Council Meeting is held in Minneapolis, MN and the delegates vote to allow the word "God" in the Promise to be substituted - in recitation - for another spiritual word that is appropriate to an individual's religious beliefs, thereby making the Promise applicable to all religions. The wording of the Promise will continue to contain "God" as representation of higher spiritual guidance.

GSUSA collaborates with Scholastic, Inc. to publish a new magazine, *G*I*R*L**, appropriate for Junior and Cadette age levels. The magazine is introduced at the National Council Meeting, and the first issue of the magazine is printed in 1994.

1994

WAGGGS is included in the first world-wide conference for women held in Beijing; an International Year of the Family award is presented to WAGGGS.

GSUSA emphasizes a strategy toward institutionalizing pluralism in Girl Scouting through a Think Tank module (introduced in 1993).

New Junior program resources and uniforms are introduced.

1995

The World Association combines efforts to aid in a world-wide "Peace Pack" project. Girl Scouts and Girl Guides gather supplies for use by children in refugee camps around the world.

New resources and uniforms for Cadettes and Seniors are introduced; handbooks are printed separately for each age level.

Health issues take the forefront in GSUSA initiatives, and sports, fitness, and nutrition are emphasized. The first Be Your Best Day is held.

1996

The 29th World Conference is held in Nova Scotia, Canada, and there are now 136 member countries in WAGGGS. Special assistance is offered to Russian countries following the reconstruction of the United Soviet Socialist Republic.

Girl Scouting's 47th National Council Session is held in Fort Worth, TX and delegates vote to adopt new wording for the Girl Scout Law. National membership dues are increased to \$7.00.

Publications on science and technology are introduced, and Girl Scouting places an emphasis on encouraging girls to explore the sciences. Emphases are also being placed on gender issues and literacy.

*G*I*R*L* magazine is discontinued after 1½ years of publication.

Membership shows an upswing and reaches over 3,340,000.

1999

The 30th World Conference takes place in Dublin, Ireland. There are now 140 member countries in WAGGGS. Plans to open a World Center on the African Continent are postponed due to political unrest.

Girl Scout membership exceeds 3.7 million.

2000

New publications for Daisy and Brownie age levels are available. A Daisy "earned" patch program is introduced.

Safety-Wise is rewritten, the first major revision since 1990.

For additional information on Girl Scout history, refer to *Highlights in Girl Scouting, 1912-1996*.