

Frequently Asked Questions New Journeys and Badges From Girl Scouts of the USA

NEW CONTENT:

In July, we are rolling out new Journeys in the VTK. These new Journeys are adding on to the choices that girls and volunteers already have. **Every Journey (whether new or old) is topic-specific, includes hands-on activities, and incorporates Discover, Connect and a Take Action project.** Depending upon the content, some Journeys are shorter and some are longer, but they have been made simpler to use and easier to deliver.

As of July 2017, there will be seven Journeys available for volunteers to choose from. They are:

- It's Your World—Change It!
- It's Your Planet—Love It!
- It's Your Story—Tell It!
- Outdoor
- Think Like an Engineer
- Think Like a Programmer
- Think Like a Citizen Scientist

It's Your World—Change It!:

- Available for purchase in council stores (adult guide and girl book) for D–A
- On the VTK for Daisies only as part of a 15 meeting Year Plan

It's Your Planet—Love It:

- Available for purchase in council stores (adult guide and girl book) for D–A
- On the VTK for Daisy, Brownie, and Junior as part of a 15 meeting Year Plan

It's Your Story—Tell It!:

- Available for purchase in council stores (adult guide and girl book) for D–A
- On the VTK for Daisy, Brownie, and Junior as part of a 15 meeting Year Plan

Outdoor:

- Available on the VTK for Brownie and Junior as nine sessions in total, which includes three outdoor badges plus three Take Action meetings and is part of a 15 meeting Year Plan.
- Available on VTK for Daisies as six sessions in total, which includes two outdoor badges plus two Take Action meetings and is part of a 15 meeting Year Plan.
- Available for Multi-level for D/B/J.
- Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador will be available for Back to Troop as PDFs on the VTK.

Think Like an Engineer:

- Available on the VTK for Daisy, Brownie, Junior, and Multi-level. The Journey is six sessions in total, including three Take Action meetings, and is part of a 15 meeting Year Plan.

Think Like a Programmer:

- Available on the VTK for Daisy, Brownie, Junior, and Multi-level. The Journey is six sessions in total, including three Take Action meetings, and is part of a 15 meeting Year Plan.

Think Like a Citizen Scientist:

- Available on the VTK for Daisy, Brownie, Junior, and Multi-level. The Journey is six sessions in total, including three Take Action meetings, and is part of a 15 meeting Year Plan.

For Back to Troop, we will have the following badges available:

- Daisy Outdoor badge: on the VTK and available for purchase in council stores
- Daisy Citizen badge: on the VTK and available for purchase in council stores
- Girls' Choice Troop Camping badges for Daisy–Ambassador: available on the VTK and for purchase in councils stores
- Robotics: Three progressive badges for each level for Daisy–Junior on the VTK and available for purchase in council stores.

Q. What are the four pillars?

A. The four pillars are: STEM, Outdoor, Life Skills, and Entrepreneurship

Q. When will there be an updated badge chart?

A. We will have an updated badge log available by Fall 2017.

STEM:**Q: Can you clarify what Multi-level versions will be available for the Journeys?**

A: There will be one Multi-level version of the Journey for Daisy/Brownie/Junior. **Q: What STEM program will be available for each grade level in 2017?**

A: There will be:

- 4 engineering Journeys: Daisy, Brownie, Junior and Multi-level
- 4 computer science Journeys: Daisy, Brownie, Junior and Multi-level
- 4 outdoor STEM Journeys: Daisy, Brownie, Junior and Multi-level
- 9 robotics badges: Daisy (3 badges), Brownie (3 badges), Junior (3 badges)

Q: Why did you focus on K–5 first for the STEM pillar?

A: There were several strategic reasons to focus on K–5 first:

- 75% of Girl Scouts are K–5. We can reach the largest number of girls (1.4 million) by starting with this demographic. It's the quickest way to achieve large impact.
- 51% of children decide whether they're interested in STEM by third grade. Once they've opted out, it's hard to re-engage them. By getting girls excited and engaged in their elementary school years, we'll be able to keep them involved in STEM as they get older.
- Organizationally, we've been focusing on building membership in K–5, which is the Girl Scout "sweet spot."

Q: What are the awards for the new Journeys?

A: See below:

- Engineering: Think Like an Engineer award, Take Action award
- Computer Science: Think Like a Programmer award, Take Action award
- Outdoor STEM: Think Like a Citizen Scientist award, Take Action award

Q: Will there be ancillary materials for the Journey to help volunteers?

A: There will be topic-specific ancillary materials, such as the Design Process poster that's used in the engineering Journey.

The content of many previous handouts is included in the sessions themselves. These include examples of Take Action projects and tips about how to incorporate cooperative learning and make the Journey experience girl-led.

Q: What kind of equipment will be needed for the computer science Journey?

A: The activities for the K–5 CS Journey are all "unplugged," which means that girls don't need any computer equipment or internet access. Girls learn the basics of computational thinking (i.e., algorithms, functions, etc.) through fun, hands-on activities that were curated for us by code.org.

Q: What kind of equipment or materials will be need for the engineering and outdoor STEM Journeys?

A: The engineering Journeys use everyday materials that can be easily found around the house or bought at a local store. We've selected citizen science projects that require either no equipment or common equipment, such as smartphones.

Q: When will older girls get new STEM program and what will they get?

A: In 2018, we will release:

- 4 engineering Journeys: Cadette, Senior, Ambassador and Multi-level
- 4 computer science Journeys: Cadette, Senior, Ambassador and Multi-level
- 4 outdoor STEM Journeys: Cadette, Senior, Ambassador and Multi-level
- 9 robotics badges: Cadette (3 badges), Senior (3 badges), Ambassador (3 badges)

Q: Will STEM training be provided for council staff/representatives or volunteers?

A: We are developing webinars to familiarize everyone with the program and provide facilitation guidelines. The webinars will be delivered in the summer. We have invited our content partners to be on those webinars as well.

Q: Will we get to review badge content before July (when it goes live on VTK)?

A: You have already received the Troop Camping badges which are part of the Outdoor Journey. Regarding the rest of the content, we are working at light-speed to get this done and we will not be able to have you review it prior to going live.

Q: Please clarify how badges are related to the new Journeys?

A: The Outdoor Journey combines current outdoor badges plus the new Girls' Choice Troop Camping badges, and adds another new Daisy badge plus a Take Action project for each level. The STEM Journeys are stand-alone. The robotics badges are separate from the Journeys.

OUTDOOR:

Q: Can you clarify why Girls' Choice Troop Camping is one of the badge requirements to the new Outdoor Journey?

A: Girls chose Troop Camping for their newest outdoor badge and we felt it was valuable to include it as a requirement towards earning the new Outdoor Journey.

Q: Please clarify how badges are related to the new Journeys?

A: The Outdoor Journey combines current outdoor badges and adds one new Daisy badge, the new Girls' Choice badges (K–12), and a Take Action project. The badges are progressive and as girls earn each badge, they will gain the skills needed to create and implement a Take Action project.

Q: Are the new outdoor badges K–12?

A: Yes, they are—along with a guide for Multi-level troop leaders. There will be a Multi-level guide for D/B/J and one for C/S/A.

Q: What are the awards for the new Journeys?

A: The awards for the new Outdoor Journey are the badges. There will also be a Take Action award.

Q: Will there be more outdoor Journeys in the future?

A: We hope so. The badge-focused format for a Journey is new. We would like to see how girls like this format before proceeding to design additional outdoor Journeys.

Q: What levels will be included in Multi-level for the Outdoor Journey?

A: Information for Multi-level troop leaders will focus on K–5 leaders and will be posted on the VTK. We will have Multi-level information for C/S/A leaders by Back to Troop 2017.

Q: Will the new C/S/A levels of the Outdoor Journey be a year plan on the VTK?

A: No, the VTK is designed for K–5. However, the C/S/A materials for the Outdoor Journey will appear in the Resources section on the VTK in Fall 2017.

Q: Will the new Outdoor Journey be a prerequisite for the GS Gold Award?

A: Yes! Girls may choose the Outdoor Journey to complete their award prerequisites.

HIGHEST AWARDS:

Q. How will the new Journeys impact the Highest Awards and its prerequisites?

A. The new Journeys will be added to the existing Journey prerequisites for earning Highest Awards (Bronze, Silver and Gold) by Girl Scout level.

- Bronze Award: One Junior Journey
- Silver Award: One Cadette Journey
- Gold Award: Two Senior or Ambassador Journeys or one Senior or Ambassador Journey if they earned their Silver Award

Q. Does a Journey done at a younger level count towards Highest Awards prerequisite, or do girls still need to do the new Journey at the level they receive the Highest Awards?

A. Girls are still required to complete a Journey at the grade level that matches the level of the Highest Award that they are about to pursue.

Q. How will the new Journeys impact the Summit Awards and its prerequisites?

A. Girls will still be required to earn the Summit Award once they have completed ANY three Journeys for their grade level, including the new Journeys.

Q. When will the Go Gold portal be updated to reflect this, as well as the 5 outcomes?

A. We are currently in the process of updating Go Gold to reflect the 5 outcomes. The changes will be completed by late July 2017.

VOLUNTEER:

Q. What type of training will be provided for program staff and volunteers?

A. The Volunteer & Service Delivery team and the Girl Experience team are working to develop trainings for program staff. This will include marketing and communications assets. In addition, several webinars will be held at the end of June for administrative volunteers.

As part of a larger strategy, the Volunteer & Service Delivery team will be developing national trainings for program staff to utilize with their volunteers. This rollout will take place over the next year, but the planning will begin this summer.

Q. What is the current plan for Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador program content within the Volunteer Toolkit?

A. Even though the VTK is for K–5 use, we will be posting the Outdoor Journey for C/S/A troops as PDF resources (planned to be posted in the Resources tab of VTK) by Fall 2017. The enhancements to K–5 usability (features, functionality, and enhancement requests) are currently prioritized for the remainder of the 16–17 membership year.

Q. If the girls won't have their own books, will they be able to complete them as individually registered Girl Scouts? Do girls have access to Volunteer Toolkit? A. Girls do not have access to VTK.

Q. If the new Journeys are only available on VTK, how will families access them?

A. Parents have access to the VTK currently; they could see them through their parent login.

Q. Is there a plan for easy staff access to VTK so we can access new badge content?

A. Staff have access to the VTK demo site which displays all of the program content. Some councils also assign staff to troops so they can log in and see the VTK that way. It should provide a view for staff into all of the new program content.

Q. When will the third Journey be uploaded for Brownies and Juniors on VTK?

A. We do not have a specific date for that currently, but are putting together the roadmap now for the next 1–2 years of VTK development.

GSM:

Q: How and where will the requirements for the new Journeys be available?

A: The requirements for the new Journeys will be available on VTK. There will not be any printed materials for sale in the council stores. The Journeys may be downloaded at no cost from VTK and will be available by July 1.

All badge requirements will be in council stores for Back to Troop 2017.

Q: Are the new Journeys available for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors?

A: At this time the new STEM Journeys are only available for D/B/J and Multi-level troops. The Outdoor Journey will be available by July on the VTK for Daisy, Brownie, Juniors, and Multi-level, and for Cadetter, Seniors, and Ambassadors Fall 2017.

Q: Will there be grade level specific award sets for the new Journeys?

A: There will be one badge for each level: Daisy, Brownie, and Junior. It will not be a Multi-level set like the previous Journey awards.

Q: What is the award for doing a Multi-level Journey?

A: If the Multi-level Journey was done, the girl will get the award specific to her level.

Q: When will the new awards be available?

A: All new awards will be available online and in council stores in August.

Q: Where will the new Daisy badges be placed on the uniform?

A: The Daisy badges will go on the right side of the vest and on the bottom of the tunic, above the pocket. The Daisy Journey awards will go on the left side of the vest and on the pocket of the tunic.