Let's Plan: Events Toolkit





Introduction

Thanks for making a difference here and now by helping to plan a Girl Scout Event!



In this toolkit, you'll find resources and links referred to in the Let's Plan Learning Path in gsLearn. Be sure to check out the courses in gsLearn and to access the most recent versions of required forms by following the links in the Event Planning Checklist to the GSME website.

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My Action Steps and Back Burner Items

	Due Date:
	Due Date:
Back Burner Items	
*	
*	
◆	

Definitions: Opportunities, Events, & Camporees

Opportunities

An opportunity is an activity being offered to the Service Unit, or beyond, that allows the girls to represent Girl Scouts and/or experience the larger sisterhood of Girl Scouting while participating in a common activity. These do not necessarily include organized programming. Examples of opportunities include: roller-skating, parades, community events being promoted to GS, bowling.

Criteria for Opportunities

- GSLE Content: Opportunities are not required to include badge or journey work but are encouraged to include at least one of the 3 Processes as possible.
- Committee/training requirements: Opportunities should be organized by a minimum of 2 adults with at least one who has completed the *Let's Plan: Events!* training.
- Intent Form: Opportunity Intent forms should be signed off by the Service Unit Program Coordinator and received in the GSME Service Center no later than 1 month prior to the opportunity. If the opportunity is a high-risk activity, the intent form should be received 2 months prior to the opportunity.

Events

Service Unit Events are considered any activity beyond troop experience being offered to the greater Service Unit or beyond, that includes organized programming. An event may be indoors or outdoors but does not include organized overnight outdoor camping (see Camporee requirements). The majority of programs or activities offered by a Service Unit should fall under either small or large events.

Examples of events include:

Cookie Rally, Outdoor Skills Day, World Thinking Day, STEMposium, Founder's Day, cooking events, Grand Prix, Dances, Badge workshop.

Events can be differentiated by their size and/or scope of the activities.

- Small Events: Aim to serve fewer than 50 girls and/or offer 3 or fewer workshops or activity stations. Small events should be planned by a committee of at least 4 people (ideally with at least 2 girls on the committee) and include girl input in the planning process.
- Large Events: Large events aim to serve 50 or more girls and offer 4 or more workshops or activity stations. Large events should be planned by a committee of at least 5 people (ideally with at least 2 girls on the committee) and include girl input in the planning.

Criteria for Events

- GSLE Content: Events must include at least one of the 3 Girl Scout Processes and be linked to at least one Girl Scout badge or journey.
- Committee/training requirements: For all events, at least 50% of the planning committee should have completed the *Let's Plan: Events!* training prior to planning the event.
- Intent Form: Event Intents should be signed off by the Service Unit Program Coordinator and received in the GSME Service Center no later than 2 months prior to the event.

Camporees

A Camporee is considered any outdoor, overnight activity beyond a troop being offered to the greater Service Unit or beyond. It will include organized programming for more than 30 girls and/or 4 or more workshops/activity stations. A Camporee is a Large Event.

GSLE Content: Camporees must include at least the 3 Girl Scout Processes and be linked to at least one Girl Scout badge or journey.

Committee/training requirements: Planned by a committee of at least 5 people, including at least 3 adults and 2 girls. Camporees must have at least 50% of the committee complete the *Let's Plan: Events!* AND the *Let's Plan: Camporees!* training prior to planning.

Intent due (who/when): Camporee Intents should be signed off by the Service Unit Program Coordinator and received in the GSME Service Center no later than 6 months prior to the Camporee. The intent will be held by the statewide Camporee Coordinator, who will work closely with the Program Specialist and facilities personnel to ensure the committee is preparing for success.

Event Checklist Grid

Responsible Accountable Consulted Info	rmed	More	Than 2 M	Ionths Pri	ior to the F	Event
Names						
Determine purpose and initial goals of the event.						
With your core committee or Service team, determine the date, time, and location of the event.						
Form a committee at least meeting the requirements.						
☐ Take or confirm <i>Let's Plan: Events</i> participation						

At Least 6-8 Weeks Prior to the Event

Names			
Arrange for and contact presenters.			
Arrange for event first aider per the <u>Safety Activity</u> <u>Checkpoints.</u>			
☐ Develop the <u>Event budget</u> .			
Complete the Event budget form.			
☐ Submit the budget to the Service Team for approval.			
Confirm the site/location and that it meets the <u>Safety Activity</u> <u>Checkpoint</u> standard for a large group gathering.			
Develop a written Plan B and cencellation plan.			
Publicize the event for registration.			
			



Names			
At least the early Registration deadline at 4 weeks prior to the event.			
☐ Check in with presenters.			
Develop the event's check-in and check-out procedures.			
Continue to publicize the event for registration.			
Continue to develop the program, including some practice of new (or new to the session leaders) activities.			
Request event insurance from Customer Care.			
Finalize the program for the event.			
			

Responsible Accountable Consulted Informed

At Least 2-4 Weeks Prior to the Event

Names			
Process registrations and send out confirmations.			
Order participants' recognitions.			
Check in as a committee to review what has been done and what still needs to be done.			
Review as a committee who will be responsible for what before, during, and after the event.			
Review the event schedule and program for potential problems.			
Develop an evaluation form or procedure for the event.			
Communicate with any presenters to ensure they are still attending.			
☐ Create event signs, such as parking, directions, etc.			
☐ Visit site again for last minute details, such as parking, traffic patterns, set-up, etc.			
For High Risk Activities, request a certificate of liability from the facility.			

Responsible Accountable Consulted	Informed	Durir	ng the last	2 Weeks	Prior to th	e Event
Nan	1es					
☐ Catch up everything not completed.						
	_					
	_					
	_					
	_					
Develop a list of tasks for day of that you can delegate to non-committee members who want to be helpful)					
Plan how you will set up the facility—traffic flow, furniture,						
Have a final committee meeting to go over what the gro has done and what lies ahead.	oup					
Review the schedule of the event.	e					
☐ Troubleshoot.						
Schedule a wrap-up meeting for the week after the event	ng					
All receipts should be turned before the event.	ed in					
☐ Breathe.						
	_					

Names			
Arrive early to meet as a committee to review responsibilities, have a pep-talk, and set up.			
Post direction signs first.			
Set up the check-in station and the first aid station, next.			
Greet presenters. Help them set up/clean up their space. Provide them with a basic packet. Go over the day's schedule. Make sure they have a committee contact number.			
Communicate expectations of the day to presenters, and participants			
☐ Put on a great event!			
Have participants and presenters complete an event evaluation			
Leave the site clean and picked up—better than you found it!			

Names			
☐ Hold a committee meeting to evaluate and celebrate the event.			
What went well, What will you do differently next time			
Review participant evaluations.			
Collect any outstanding receipts			
☐ Pay any outstanding bills.			
Complete and turn in the Event Final Report Form to the Service Team Program Coordinator, to your Volunteer Support Specialist, and to the Program Specialist.			
Complete and turn in the finalized Event Budget Worksheet to the Service Team Program Coordinator or Treasurer.			
☐ Send Thank you notes			
Report out to the whole Service Unit at the next leaders' meeting.			

There's no I in Team

Foundations are critical to your success at... anything.

That you have a committee and that you take time to build team with that committee is vital to your success with Girl Scout Events.

Start at the very beginning, even if you already know each other individually. Take time to get to know each other, to talk about everyone's expectations, hopes, and dreams for the event, to make agreements, to discuss Plans B, and to get to know each other some more.

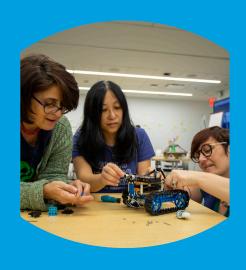
Our booklet <u>GSME Taking Care</u> includes a section called Community Care filled with terrific Team Building activities, as well as ideas for handling conflict. Here are some links from page 20 to get you started:

Here are some favorites with links:

- <u>Ungame Questions</u>—you'll need a deck of playing cards.
- Two Truths and a Lie
- Birthday Line Up (#5)
- Trust Walk (#6)
- Fingertip Hula Hoop (#13)
- No hands cup stacking (#17)
- Scavenger Hunt (#2)—do this as a team
- Someone Like Me
- <u>Just Like Me</u> (one way)
- Just Like Me (another way)
- See What I mean? (#5)
- Also, <u>these</u>
- And these virtual ones







Event Planning Worksheet

General Description:		
Working Title:		
Goals & Outcomes	Map it Out:	
	$ \mathbf{X}$	
	OL - I	
	- 120	X
	Designed by Vect	End
What are key activities we	e want to include?	
	Girl Scout Leadership Experience and ties? (See the <u>Badge Connections Toolk</u>	

Current Committee Members List names and strengths	Ideal Committee Make-Up:
	Who might we specifically ask to help?
	What other human resources do we need?
	What is our budget?
	What are our space requirements?
	Where do we want to hold this?
	Back up choices?
	What do we need to think about for plan B?
	How will we publicize this event
	What is our Go/No-Go number?
	Other thoughts?

GSLE

Thinking about what you've brainstormed on the Event Planning Worksheet, review these concepts of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience:

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

If it is a multi-level event, how will you provide progression activities to allow for age/developmentally appropriate learning to take place? Check all that apply:						
Activities are level-specific						
Activities are adapted for	different levels (increased difficulty)					
Girls are given more respo	onsibility/choice within the activities	as they get older				
Other						
How will you include at least one opportunities).	of the following processes? (Required)	for all events and recommendations for				
Girl Led	Learning by Doing	Cooperative Learning				
Girls are involved in the planning of activities	Activities are not only hands on but also minds-on	Girls teach one another or present to one another				
Activities involve the girls in decision making	Girls are involved in determining next steps based on outcomes	Girls work together to solve a challenge or complete an activity				
Questions/activities are open ended and allow girls to think critically	Activities involve role	Girls see how they can make a difference in their community				
Girls take the lead in discussions	Girls have a chance to pracetice	Girls have a chance to reflect on the activity as a group				
☐ Girls are offered choices ☐ Other	the skills they learn Games are used to teach	Girls work on activities that are developmentally				
otner	skills	appropriate in small groups				
	☐ Other	☐ Girls learn from professionals in the field				
		Other				
What journeys, badges, or GSME patches will your event address? (Required for all events) Please list the corresponding badges steps/activities if known.						
\square Check here if you need more information on badges/journeys or how to incorporate them into your event.						

Six Parts of a Event Template

Part & Topic	What will we do?	Why are we doing it? Desired outcomes	Who will do it?	What materials do we need?
Start Up				
Opening				
Business				
Activities				
Clean Up				
Closing				

Sample Event Schedule

The length of your event will depend on the number of participants attending and the number of stations or activities you offer. If possible, have separate stations for younger girls and older girls so that they can have a richer experience focused on level appropriateness. If you anticipate having a large number of girls in any age bracket, Daisies/Brownies/Juniors and Cadettes and up, you might consider having multiple rotations.

Be sure to consider your location or facility to allow for the best place for certain activities and travel time between stations. Select spaces that will support particular activities and create a traffic flow that will allow people to move well between those activities.

It's important to give time in between workshops for presenters to regroup and set up, and for troops to travel to their next station. Food breaks and bathroom breaks are important, but you don't want too many of them.

m.		
Time	Activity	Description
60+ minutes	Event staff set- up Venue	 Set up outdoor directions to guide people to check in, Organize check-in area and First aid station, Arrange tables, chairs, stations, Orient your volunteers and do a pep huddle, and Ensure any last minute details are completed.
30 minutes	Check-in Presenter set-up Start-up Activity	 Using your pre-determined check-in procedures, check-in the troops as they arrive. Give any special instructions as needed. Hand out the pre-opening activity and provide instructions as needed for girls to complete
15 Minutes	Opening	 Welcome everyone to this awesome event!! Introduce yourself and volunteers, Briefly go over what will happen at the event, Make sure everyone knows where the bathrooms are and go over any special instructions for the day. Conduct your opening flag ceremony.
45 minutes	Activity Rotation	The girls/troops will rotate through the stations as assigned.
5 minutes	Passing time	Moving from one session to the next
45 minutes	Activity Rotation	The girls/troops will rotate through the stations as assigned.
15 minutes	Break	This is a time for girls to have a snack and go to the bathroom as needed and for the volunteers to set up for the next activity.
45 minutes	Activity Rotation	The girls/troops will rotate through the stations as assigned.
5 minutes	Passing time	Moving from one session to the next
15 minutes	Clean-up & Closing	 Ask everyone to clean up something Thank participants for coming, Have a Friendship circle, and Have troops complete the evaluations.
30 minutes	Event staff final clean-up and check-out.	Remember, a Girl Scout always leaves a place better than she found it. Make sure you remove your items, put tables and chairs back (if applicable), check the bathrooms, and collect any lost and found items.

Materials List

Based on the activities your committee chooses, create a materials list for acquiring or shopping for your supplies.

Item	Quantity	How acquired:	Person responsible

Be sure to remember the basic supplies:

- Name tags
- Pencils/pens
- Markers
- Tables
- Chairs
- · First aid kit
- Tape
- Scissors

- Flags- American flag (required) and optional: World Association flag, Girl Scout flag, Service Unit Flag
- Bell or other signaling device to let troops know when it is time to switch stations
- · Any other materials needed

Other Forms that May be Helpful

Agreement for Renting or Borrowing a Non-Council Owned Site

It is agreed that	(campground, school, facility)	
will \square rent \square loan to	(service unit)	property in
		, described as the following:
(town/city)		,
	portion of building, facility or groun	
for use during	(event)	on
for a total payment of	·	(uute)
In addition to the above facilities the		
bathroom facilities	extra tables	
# of sites or rooms	AV equipment	
access to phone	coffee pots	
parking facilities	extra chairs	
use of kitchen	custodial care	
access to outlets	trash pickup	
access to water	other	
wood for campfires		
The owner of the facility assumes respontermination of this agreement, the represas good condition as it was accepted, subtany restrictions on the use of the site, equal to the site, equal to the site, equal to the site of the site, equal to	entatives from Girl Scouts of Ma ject to reasonable wear and tear	ine will deliver up the property in
Program Coordinator/Service Unit Manag	ger	Date
Site Manager		Date

Site Approval Checklist for Non-Council Sites

Βu	iilo	lin	ıgs

\Box	Commission with all applicable large and magnifetions		TT 1 1 1 0 11 1
Ш	Complies with all applicable laws and regulations, building codes, fire and health regulations.	П	Hand washing facilities provide water supply, soap dispensers, materials for drying hands and a
	Every building or structure has exits and other		trash receptacle.
	safeguards sufficient to permit the prompt escape of occupants (think about # of people vs.	Ου	ıtdoor Cooking Areas
	# of exits).		Built on existing sites (established fire circles).
	Exits are maintained to provide free and unobstructe degress from all parts of the building.		Located in an area reasonably protected from the elements.
	No lock or fastening is installed to prevent free escape from the inside.		Away from trails or traffic patterns.
	•		Are picnic tables available? yes no
닏	Exits clearly visible and illuminated.		Away from overhanging branches, steep slopes,
Ш	Smoke detectors in working order.		rotted stumps or logs, dry grass and leaves, and
	Recently inspected fire extinguisher available in all buildings.		cleared of any burnable materials. Fire circles and other sources of open flames
	Carpeting, floor tiles, and floorboards for tripping hazards.		are located at least 30 feet away from any structure, including tents.
	Sharp items removed or clearly marked.		Water for Human Consumption – meets requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
	Is facility handicapped accessible? yes no	П	Facility on city water OR
	Is accessibility necessary for this event and/or audience? yes no		Written evidence of current tests performed to
П	Phone is available for emergency use.	me	et these requirements.
	Adequate shelter from possible inclement weather available at site or a plan to get to adequate	□ resi	Solid Waste – garbage is stored in fly-tight, rodent istant containers until it can be removed.
	shelter (required).	Se	curity
То	ilets		·
		Ш	Seek out boundaries and determine if they are
Ш	All toilets meet applicable standards for health, construction, maintenance, cleanliness, are flytight, ventilated and partitioned for privacy.		rked. Are the boundaries difficult for intruders to netrate?
	Have an outside light or luminescent sign for safety at night.		Look for hazards, natural or manmade cliffs,
П	Outdoor toilet facilities have tight fitting toilet lids	rive	ers, exposed wires, etc.
ш	and self-closing doors.		Look for stumps, holes and tall grass in program
	At least one toilet and one adjacent hand washing	area	as that could be hazardous.
	facility are provided for the following:		Is there public access? \bigcirc yes \bigcirc no
	- all day events = 1/ every 100 people- large events w/ overnight = 1/every 50 people		How will the public access be controlled during
	Toilets and hand washing facilities located close	pro	gram?
	to areas for use and must be within 150 feet of	nro	Can and how will the site be secured when gram is in session?
	the sleeping quarters, in or near health center, near FA areas, in or near the food service area.	pro,	S. W. 1. 10 11 00001011.

Si	te Overall
	Adequate outdoor/indoor program space.
	Parking spaces available adequate for event size.
	Shaded and non-shaded areas for outdoor program.
Ren	quatic Sites nember, additional permission may be required if utilizing waterfront facilities. Some of this information y not be evident at first. In some cases, equipment and lines to mark off swimming areas will be brought o the site specifically for the event.
	The design, construction and maintenance of all boat docks, slips and mooring areas meet the safety standards and regulations of the local, state, federal authorities and the U.S. Coast Guard, where applicable
	Small craft and all waterfront equipment comply with U.S. Coast Guard and other regulations, where applicable.
	Piers, floats, docks and platforms are kept in good repair. There is documentation of all maintenance completed.
	Water depth is indicated by printed numerals on the deck or planking at 3 to 4 foot intervals.
	Where water depth fluctuates, depth is also indicated on a vertical marker.
	The swimming area is as free as possible from hazards.
	In natural bodies of water, all aquatic activity areas (swimming and boating) are physically separated and clearly marked or the activities do not take place at the same time.
	Swimming areas for various classifications for swimmers are clearly defined by ropes, buoys, or booms in natural bodies of water and by markings and ropes in a pool.
Sle	eeping Facilities (other than tents)
	There is cross ventilation.
	What is the building occupancy? What is it for night use?
	Thirty inches between beds or mattresses.
	Two or more exits and a direct means for emergency exit to the outdoors from all sleeping floors.
	Guardrails for the top bed on all bunk beds.
	Automatic fire detection and alarm systems (required).
	eeping Facilities rtable tents or platform tents)
	Protection from the elements (required).
	Enough sleeping space for each person to lay flat on the floor and use a sleeping bag.
	Protection from insects.
	Safe distance from a flame source.
	Not pitched in a natural hazard area, such as a dry river bed or a rock fall area.
	Not pitched adjacent to the sanitary facilities.

Presenters for Events and Camporees

Step 1

Create a list of potential presenters for the workshops or activities planned. A presenter can be a parent, a Girl Scout volunteer, who you already know or one of our Specialty Volunteers, a specialist (amateur or professional), even one of your friends!

Step 2

Contact presenters by telephone or individual email to find out if they are interested and available. At this time, you might want to ask about costs or fees. Get all their contact information: mailing address, telephone, email, etc., and the best way to reach them.

Be clear about what you need and take the time to be sure that the presenter will be a good match for those needs. Emphasize, that in Girl Scouting, we prefer that the girls have an active and cooperative experience and that girls are allowed to express themselves individually (not "cookie-cutter" projects that need to look perfect when completed!).

The committee should be prepared to reimburse the presenter for his/her mileage to and from the event; costs of materials and/or fee. Presenters may provide all their own supplies/materials and charge you a fee for their services, or they may volunteer their time and ask to be reimbursed for supplies/materials. Get an estimate before the event and give them a maximum budget not to be exceeded.

Step 3

Once you find out that the person is interested and available, mail a Presenters Agreement form. Be sure to fill out the return date and who to return it to. You should also fill out as much of the presenters contact information as you can.

Step 4

When the signed agreement has been returned, send a confirmation packet to the presenter. The packet should contain:

- Cover letter (see sample)
- Copy of signed agreement
- Tips for Presenters (see sample)
- Reimbursement form (if applicable)
- Schedule of the day
- Directions to location



Sample Letter

[Date] Jane Doe Kind Company 21 Their St Lovelyville, ME 04000

Dear Jane,

Thank you for agreeing to serve [name of your Service Unit] as a workshop presenter for [name of Camporee or event] on [date of Camporee or Event] at [location].

WORKSHOP:
LOCATION ON SITE:
SESSION TIME(S):
MAXIMUM CAPACITY:
Please plan to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to the start of your workshop to check in and

set up. Save all of your receipts if you would like to be reimbursed for supplies. We have set a budget not to exceed_____.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [name of person] at [phone# and/or email address].

Thank you for sharing your time, energy, and enthusiasm with our Girl Scouts. I am sure your participation will help make this event meaningful and successful.

Sincerely,

Tips for Presenters

- 1. Plan ahead.
- 2. Please arrive on time which means at least 30 minutes before your session.
- 3. Be prepared with any handouts, supplies, or equipment you may need for each person. Save your receipts. Handouts might include:
 - Directions
 - Equipment needed
 - Age or ability required
 - Time needed
 - Where in the community participants will find supplies after the workshop
- 4. Start and end time.
- 5. Plan age-appropriate activities. Plan for more than the designated time allotted.
- 6. Introduce yourself: who you are, where you're from, etc.
- 7. Speak clearly, slowly, and loud enough for everyone to hear.
- 8. If you use visuals, print large enough so people can see clearly or pass the object around the room for all to see.
- 9. If you are describing a process, make sure everyone understands and completes step 1 before moving on to step 2, etc.
- 10. Plan for group participation; make activities interactive and hands-on.
- 11. Relax and have fun!



Event Evaluation



Name of Event:	
What did you like about this event? Please tell us about at least one thing.	
What would make this event even better?	
What events would you like to go to next year?	
Event Evaluation	girl scouts of maine
Event Evaluation Name of Event:	
Name of Event:	

Service Unit Event Survey



What three events is your troop interested in attending next year?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

What time of year works best for your troop?

What event are you especially interested in working on?

Service Unit Event Survey



What three events is your troop interested in attending next year?

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

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Notes