



**Handbooks, Badge Books, and Awards
Fall 2010
Answers to Frequently Asked Questions**

Q. Are Girl Scout Try-Its, Junior badges, and Interest Projects being eliminated?

- A. No! Badges are here to stay! GSUSA is currently at work to produce new badges for Brownies through Ambassadors. Daisies will continue to earn the Promise Center and Petals. New badges will be released in the forthcoming *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* which will include badge offerings, handbook sections covering traditions and history, an awards log, and much more! *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* will be available for girls in each grade level in September 2011.

Among the badge offerings will be seven "Legacy badges" — for Brownies through Ambassadors — based on traditions and activities that have been in existence since Girl Scouts' beginning: Artist, Athlete, Citizen, Cook, First Aid, Naturalist, and Girl Scout Way. Badge activities will be progressive, so girls can build on skills they've learned at each level. For instance, when they earn the Cook Badge as Brownies, they'll add to their experience when they earn the Cook Badge as Juniors all the way up to Ambassador.

Q. What does the 2010-2011 Program Rollout cover?

- A. Between now and September 2011, GSUSA will be launching a new journey series and *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*. The third journey series, *It's Your Story —Tell It!* will launch December 2010. *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* will be on sale in the fall.

Q: How many new badges will be offered at each level?

- A. The exact number of badges has not been finalized but the intention is to offer girls a variety of topics that cover contemporary interests as well as legacy badges that have historically been appealing to girls and volunteers.

Q: How will there be enough for girls to do if the numbers of badges are reduced?

- A. A: Girls will have many awards to earn. In addition to the new badges, girls will be able to earn awards for completing any of the three journeys, as well as earning the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards. Other awards, such as Counselor in Training, are also being developed.

Q. Will Daisies earn badges?

- A. Girl Scout Daisies will continue to earn the Promise Center and Learning Petals. The activities for earning petals will be revised for the release of *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*. Daisies will earn "leaves" when they complete activities tied to cookie sales and financial literacy.

Q. How do journeys and badges differ? Will girls have a choice of doing one or the other?

- A. Journeys and badges are designed to be complementary, not to compete. Journeys are the core Girl Scout curriculum. They have been developed to help all Girl Scouts develop the three keys to leadership: Discover, Connect and Take Action. Badges complement the journeys by helping girls build skills on specific topics.

To get a picture of how journeys and other Girl Scout activities work together to make one consistent Girl Scout experience, visit the Girl Scout Web site, <http://www.girlscouts.org/program/journeys/maps>, to view the “journey maps.” These maps provide an overview of the total Girl Scout experience for girls at every level. As you mouse over the map, you will see pop-ups that give further information about how to tie traditional Girl Scout activities (such as camping, field trips, and cookie sales) into the journeys.

Q. What is the timeline for transitioning from existing handbooks and badge books to journeys and *The Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting*?

- A. *The Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting* will be on sale in September 2011. There will be a one-year period (June 2011 to June 2012) to transition away from existing handbooks and badge books to *The Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting*. As of now, council shops are retiring, on an incremental schedule, existing resources and merchandise items to make room for new materials.

Q. Will girls still earn Cookie badges?

- A. Yes. There will be two sets of skill-building badges related to the Girl Scout Cookie Program. A girl will still be able to earn the Girl Scout Cookie Activity pin when she participates in the Cookie program.

Q. Why is GSUSA retiring existing resources? Why not keep them all?

- A. The current state of Girl Scout materials includes a wide variety of product lines. Research has shown that girls, parents, and volunteers have been confused about what constitutes national program materials. Therefore, to provide a nationally consistent experience for every girl, GSUSA will offer each girl two national program resources by September 2011: The journey of her choice and *The Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting*.

Q. Will girls still earn other awards such as Cadette Program Aide, LIT, and CIT?

- A. These awards are currently being assessed. Councils will be notified once a determination has been made. Descriptions of these and other awards will be included in *The Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting*. In the meantime, girls can continue to enjoy journeys, current badge activities, and existing awards.

Q. Will adult guides to *The Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting* be produced?

- A. Volunteers will apply what they’ve learned from their journey adult guides to the activities in the *Girl’s Guide*. Adult guides will not be necessary.

Q. Will Braille or audio versions of the *Girl's Guide* be made available?

- A. Once *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* is released in September 2011, arrangements will be made to have Braille and audio versions (a PDF to be read by computer) produced by the Library of Congress. An announcement will be shared with all Girl Scout councils when the information is available. GSUSA is currently partnering with the Library of Congress to create Braille versions of the journey books and can presently provide audio versions of the journey books on request. If interested, please email journeys@girlscouts.org with the title(s) of the journey book and an audio version will be provided. The audio books are in the form of PDFs that require use of text-to-speech reader software, available on most computers.

Q. What is the status of STUDIO 2B?

- A. STUDIO 2B materials will only be available until council supplies last. Today, journeys are the choice for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors as the Girl Scout Leadership Experience offers a consistent national outcomes-based program with the most current information. Material from the STUDIO 2B focus books is being incorporated, when appropriate, into *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* at the levels of Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors.

Q. Where can I find new guidelines for earning the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards?

- A. Please visit the GSUSA Web site, http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/insignia/highest_awards/index.html, for current guidelines. To get updated information as well as access applications, forms, and guides, visit Pearl and type Gold Award into Search.

Q. Where can I find new guidelines for bridging awards?

- A. Please visit the GSUSA Web site at http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_central/insignia/bridging_awards/ for current guidelines.