Summer Fun (Narrative)

Summer is a great time to pack up and go on a trip with your Girl Scouts. It may be to a park, go swimming, an amusement park, or zoo. It may be within walking distance or a day (or longer) trip in a car. It could include a local day camp or resident camp at Camp Little Cloud.

Let look at the reasons many Girl Scout troops take a break from Girl Scouting during the summer:

• Meeting space may not be available during school vacations.

• Vacation, camp and other activities make it difficult for all girls to meet regularly.

• Troop leaders often use the summer months to rest, recharge and take training.

But, there are even more reasons why Girl Scouting during the summer makes sense:

 • With school out, parents at work and friends away, girls are eager for activities.

 • Girl Scout activities during the summer keep girls excited about returning in the fall.

 • Summer opportunities may allow girls to explore new areas of interest.

• Without conflicts with school, girls can spend more time on Girl Scout activities.

 • Summer weather makes it easier to do some activities.

• Summer is a good time to introduce a friend (girl or an adult) to Girl Scouting.

• Vacations or camp may include activities that can count toward recognitions.

• Girls who were registered during the school year are registered through the summer.

Some things to remember:

* Support girl participation by sharing this information with girls and parents.

• Provide guidance on integrating summer activities with the Girl Scout program.

• Consider troop activities during the summer, but recognize that some girls may not be able to participate.

 Don’t make summer participation a condition for fall registration.

 • Be open to “bring a friend” activities that can introduce new girls to Girl Scouting.

• Many summer patches are available at the shop. So whatever activity you do, check to see if there is a patch

 to go along with it!

***Ask everyone*** *what plans they may have for the summer (if any) and let them know about any activities your Service Unit might have planned.*

The handout for this month’s has some suggestions on how to turn Petals and badges into fun activities to do over the summer. Check them out! And of course, many of the journey activities can be done outside as well!

**Last thing: Where ever you go, be sure to send us your pictures and tell us about your trip at** Travel@GirlScoutsToday.org

Summer Fun (Handout)

**Summer Badge Fun**

Summer is the ideal time for Daisy, Brownies and Juniors to get outside and earn some badges. Older girls can come up with their own ideas for things to do. It may be with helping the younger girls. Here are some suggestions -

**Daisy Petals:**

**Lupe Petal**: Activity three is all about playing games. There are lots of games girls can play outside like Red Light, Green Light or duck, Duck, Goose

**Sunny Petal**: go on a field trip to the local firehouse to learn about preventing fires or food pantry and learn what hunger in your area

**Mari Petal**: Take a trip to a local ice cream shop. When you are done, make sure everyone cleans up after themselves and pick up any trash around the area.

**Gloria’s Story**: When going on an expedition with your Daisy troop, have the girls write thank you notes to the drivers or to anyone who helped them that day.

**Gerri Petal**: Visit your Mayor’s office or Police station to see how they are run. Who are the people in charge and what do they do.

**Clover Petal**: Visit a local garden or farmer’s market. Ask how they use resources wisely to grow plants, and what they do when they have too many to eat or sell.

**Rosie Petal**: Go on a walk outdoors, enjoy the fresh air and clean up along the way.

**Vi Petal**: Get together with older Girl Scouts and learn something new.

**Brownie Badges to Explore Outdoors**

[**Fair Play**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#fair-play): Brownies can learn rules of an outdoors game, like hide-and-seek; play a tag-team game; and plan a field day where they put fair play skills into action.
[**Bugs**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#bugs): Girls can head outdoors to see bugs in action: find an ant trail, a beetle chewing on a leaf, or a roly-poly (sow bug) on a porch; and take a bug field trip to a farm where they raise bees or a botanical garden with a bug collection.
[**First Aid**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#brownie-first-aid): Brownies can take a hike and talk to a camp director about avoiding and treating bug bites, bee stings, sunburn, and poison oak or ivy rash.
[**Senses**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#senses): Girls can hold a scavenger hunt in their neighborhood or park, and go outside to listen for sounds, like birds chirping, dogs barking, car engines, and more.
[**Hiker**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#hiker): Every trail leads to a new adventure for Brownies! To earn this badge, they decide where to go, try out a new hiking skill, pick the right gear, pack a snack, and go!
[**Letterboxer**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#letterboxer): Girls can practice solving letterbox clues with directions outdoors like “go past the tree” or “cross the stream.

[**Making Games**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#making-games): Brownies can plan for an outdoors scavenger hunt; change the rules on an outdoors game, like hopscotch; and invent a whole new sport on a field!

**Junior Badges for Outside Fun**

[**Drawing**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#drawing): Juniors can learn about colors and shading by going outside to draw trees. “We think of trees of green, but every shade of green is represented in these largest members of the plant kingdom,” from the Girl Scout Handbook, 1940.
[**Practice with Purpose**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#practice-with-purpose): Girls can head outside to increase their strength and endurance by running or swimming; and take to the field to run track or do soccer drills.
[**Flowers**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#flowers): Girls can be botanists and head outdoors on a flower hunt with notebooks and magnifying glasses; smell and sketch flowers; plant a seed or bulb; and talk to a flower expert at a garden center.
[**Digital Photographer**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#digital-photographer): Juniors can have fun shooting outdoors: portrait, landscape, pet, and sports photos; and create a panoramic outdoors photo to capture a wide view.
[**Staying Fit**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#staying-fit): Girls can get moving with outdoors activities three times a week; play games outside; make an outdoors spot a stress-free zone, such as under the shade of a tree; and get their families outdoors for fitness.
[**Gardener**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#gardener): Girls can visit an outdoors garden; explore plants in their local climate and soil; experiment with soil, water, and sunlight; and plant an outdoors garden.
[**Camper**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#camper): Girls can go to an outdoors store to plan camp packing; learn how to use maps, build a campfire, tie knots; cook a meal outdoors; and find out how to clean up a campsite and leave no trace.
[**Geocacher**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#geocacher): Juniors become part global explorers and part detectives as they head outdoors to learn to use a GPS, go on a photo hunt, and track down a cache that is on a hike.
[**Animal Habitats**](http://forgirls.girlscouts.org/home/badgeexplorer/#animal-habitats): Girls can head outside to a park, forest, beach, or desert to observe animals and how they protect their homes; visit a zoo or animal sanctuary; and create or clean up a backyard habitat.