

Cadette Troop 60511

Parent Handbook

2010 - 2011

Troop 60511

Girl Scouts of the California Central Coast

Service Unit: Mi Casa

Troop Meeting Days: Fourth Sunday of each Month (respectively)

Mrs. Wood's House - Unless otherwise noted on Calendar

See Contact Sheet for Address

Time: 3:00 - 5:00 PM

Vests, Totes & \$5 Dues Required

Troop Alternative/Outdoor Activities: Third Sunday of each Month (respectively)

Time & Location TBD

Subject to Change - check the website regularly

Comfortable Clothing & Closed Toe Shoes

NO totes, vests, lanyards, folders or dues necessary

Welcome to Girl Scouts!

The Mission:

The mission or purpose of Girl Scouting is to inspire girls with the highest ideals of character, conduct, patriotism, and service that they may become happy and resourceful citizens.

The Girl Scout Promise:

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

The Girl Scout Law:

I will do my best to be:
Honest and fair,
Friendly and helpful,
Considerate and caring,
Courageous and strong, and
Responsible for what I say and do,
and to:
Respect myself and others,
Respect authority,
Use resources wisely,
Make the world a better place, and
Be a sister to every Girl Scout.

“The Girl Scout Movement shall be open to all girls and adults who accept the Girl Scout Promise and Law”

-- The Constitution of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.

About Girl Scouts...

About Girl Scouting:

Girl Scouting was founded in the United States in 1912 by Juliette Gordon Low. There are four program goals that, as we move through the different Girl Scout Levels, we will strive to achieve:

- 1) Girls will develop to their full potential.
- 2) Girls will relate to others with increasing understanding, skill and respect.
- 3) Girls will develop a meaningful set of values to guide their actions and to provide the foundation for sound decision making.
- 4) Girls will contribute to the improvement of society through the use of their abilities and leadership skills, working in cooperation with others.

How does my daughter fit into the world of Girl Scouting?

- **WAGGGS**

All Girl Scouts are part of a worldwide movement that has members in more than 100 nations, all belonging to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).

- **GSUSA**

Girl Scouts USA is the National organization.

- **Council**

Within GSUSA, we are represented by our local Girl Scout Council, Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast. All members of the troop are members of GSCCC, which oversees 780 troops.

- **Service Unit**

Within the Mi Casa Council, there are many geographical divisions called Service Units that serve several troops.

We belong to the Mi Casa Service Unit which serves up to 50 troops.

- **Troop**

That's us!

Our Leaders, Parents & Scouts...

Currently our troop has one registered Leader/Advisor: Kathy Wood as well as two Assistant Advisors: Nora Washburn & Bernadette Masinsin.

As advisors, we have volunteered for this position because it is rewarding and gives us a chance to spend time with our daughters and yours! We attend on-going Leader /Advisor meetings, trainings, and activities so that we can stay "in tune" with the mission of Girl Scouting. We look at Girl Scouting as a positive, long-term experience for all the girls in our troop and plan to stay with the troop until they graduate from high school. If you ever have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Leaders/Advisors responsibility to the troop:

- To attend all required trainings & continue Girl Scout education.
- To attend meetings & outings and be prepared for them.
- To fulfill obligation of paperwork and troop funds.
- To respect each and every Girl Scout.
- To respect the parents of every Girl Scout.
- To be a role model for every Girl Scout.
- To listen to others and show respect for what they are saying.
- To provide a well-rounded Girl Scout program.
- To maintain Safety-Wise ratios.

Parent Participation in Troop Committee

Our troop cannot run with one person doing all of the jobs. In order for our troop to run smoothly and not wear out your Leaders/Advisors physically or emotionally, we need your help. This year we are asking all parents to register with Girl Scouts to ensure no meeting or event is cancelled.

Please consider the following committee positions for our troop:
(to be filled in August - at our First Parent Meeting)

Outdoor/Camping Leader MUST HAVE CPR & OUTDOORS SKILLS TRAINING.

Field Trip Coordinator MUST HAVE CPR & TROOP TRAVELER TRAINING.

Nut Sales Chair MUST BE REGISTERED

Nut Sales Co-Chair MUST BE REGISTERED

Alternative Fund Raising Coordinator

Special Events Coordinator

Cookie Sales Chair

Cookie Sales Co-Chair

Song Leader

Troop Photographer

Parents' responsibility to the troop...

- To make every effort to be punctual to meetings and outings.
- To help your daughter fulfill troop responsibilities
(dues, permission slips, notebooks, uniforms, etc.)
- To be supportive of your daughter in her Girl Scout endeavors
(help them to complete missed activities).
- If your daughter will not be at a meeting, please notify us ahead of time
(except in case of illness)
- Please check for any important news or permission slips that may need to be signed after every meeting.
- To assist the troop and the troop leaders/advisors during meetings or activities on a rotating or as-needed basis.
- To consider being a member of the Troop Committee.
- Attending all ceremonies/events held during the year that your Girl Scout is a part of.
- Volunteer to help out at some meetings and drive on field trips.
- Aiding your Girl Scout in the Nut and Cookie Sales and turning in money promptly.
- Contact us in advance if you are unable to help out as scheduled and letting us know who you've found to replace you.

Girl Scout's responsibility to the troop...

- To attend meetings and outings.
- Be on time & prepared for each meeting or activity.
- To fulfill obligations of dues, uniforms, and know that permission slips are signed by a parent and returned promptly.
- To complete any missed activities.
- To pass along important information to parents and Leaders/Advisors.
- To treat each member of the troop as a sister.
- To respect sister Girl Scouts.
- To respect Troop Leaders/Advisors, Activity Directors and Troop Parents.
- To participate in the meetings.
- To conduct themselves in a safe manner.
- To listen to others in the troop and show respect for what each girl is saying.

Basic Troop Rules & Meeting Info

- Dues for troop activities are set at \$5/meeting, to be paid regularly at the beginning of each meeting. (Dues go towards supplies, activities and troop pins/IPP/patches).
- "Folders" (supplied) are required for each meeting for troop communication.
- Girls must receive the permission of the Advisors before leaving the meeting room and must always be accompanied by another girl or advisor (Buddy System).
- Permission slips must be filled out for each event and returned by the due date.
- Girls are expected to help clean up before troop dismissal. A Girl Scout always leaves a place cleaner than she found it.
- Girls must be picked up promptly at dismissal time.

Siblings:

Our troop meetings and activities are designed specifically for our group of girls. A sibling or "tag-along" in Girl Scout slang, may not be dropped off with your daughter at meetings or attend scouting events.

Parent Socialization:

If you choose to stay and visit with other parents, please note that your conversation can be distracting. That is why we suggest you meet away from the group or consider a walk to get a refreshment.

Meeting & Alternative/Outdoor Activities Scheduled Times:

We will be meeting on the fourth Sunday of each month (unless otherwise noted on the website calendar) from 3:00-5:00pm at Advisor Mrs. Wood's house in Camarillo.

In addition to our meetings, we are slated to meet the third Sunday of each month for alternative/outdoor activities. Information will be provided about each specific event on the troop calendar and/or in handouts at the meetings.

Parent Communication:

We will do our best to keep the girls and their parents up-to-date!

• Calendars:

A calendar is updated and posted on our troop website: www.gstroop511.com

• Paperwork:

Each girl will place any information in her Girl Scout folder.

If you have something to return or send in, such as a permission slip or note, please place it in your daughter's "Cadette" folder.

• Website & Email:

We have a troop website: www.gstroop511.com

It will include information about upcoming events, calendar, forms and such.

Please save it as a favorite and refer to it at least twice a month.

To save trees & time - email will be our most used form of communication...please check and respond to e-mails regularly and quickly if RSVPs are requested.

• Phone Calls:

If families do not respond via email or there is an urgent matter or deadline - we will place phone calls to families. Please keep in mind it is not done for every meeting.

The Girl Scout Uniform and Handbooks

Although girls enjoy and take pride in wearing their uniforms, uniforms are not required in Girl Scouting. Advisors will purchase and provide necessary pins and earned IPP's/badges for each girl. This year we encourage you to purchase an Extra Large Cadette Vest for your daughter -- this will be the last vest you purchase and will last through Ambassadors/Twelfth Grade.

There is an official uniform for each level of Girl Scouting. Today, a girl can be considered "in uniform" by wearing an official Girl Scout T-Shirt or Membership Pin & World Trefoil Pin - placed on the Insignia Tab. Formal uniforms are not necessary for everyday meetings, but are recommended for ceremonies, public events, and service. Wearing the uniform is a great way to keep Girl Scouting visible to the community. The Insignia Tab with the Membership Pin and World Trefoil Pin, which are provided by the troop, may be worn on regular clothing for Girl Scout activities.

The Girl Scout Program includes many resources and books. Uniforms and books are available at the Girl Scout Shop on-line at: <http://goshop.girlscouts.org/gsusaonline/>. Girl Scout uniforms can also be purchased at the Sport Chalet in Oxnard.

PLEASE, do not purchase Patches or Badges yourselves. For our troop, they will ALWAYS be purchased by the Advisors. This insures that each girl meets the same requirements for earning the same badges and patches.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE:

No girl is ever denied Girl Scouting because of financial need. For information about financial assistance for membership dues, handbooks, or troop dues, please contact the Girl Scout Council:

Toll-Free Telephone : 1.800.822.2427
Local: 805.880.4217

You may also mail your confidential request to:

Financial Assistance Application
c/o Girl Scouts Council Headquarters
801 S. Victoria Ave, Suite 202
Ventura, CA 93003

Troop Funding

The money you pay for your Girl Scout registration (\$12) covers administrative costs, accident insurance and helps fund our Council. Registration money does NOT go to our troop.

Dues:

Our current dues are \$5.00 per meeting. This money goes directly to your daughters and pays for IPP's/badges, pins, and patches. Dues are tracked by the girls at each meeting. Please keep in mind that we purchase supplies assuming the entire troop will be in attendance. If your daughter misses a meeting, the expense for running the troop does not change. Please be sure to "make-up" dues for missed meetings. We have a monthly dues requirement to teach responsibility. **Please allow your child to bring her dues and do not write a check for the whole year.** Perhaps you can assign her the task at home to "earn" her dues.

Product Sales:

Our troop will be participating in product sales twice per year. Nut sales in the fall and Cookie Sales in the late winter, early spring. Our troop earns a portion of the proceeds from each product sold.

You are not required to participate in these fund-raising events.

But, if your child wants to participate in a troop-sponsored event from product sales, you will be issued a bill to cover the cost of event participation otherwise covered by troop funds.

As a group, our troop decides what to do with the money we earn. Sometimes we will take a field trip or big event. Other troops save it over several years for a big trips (example: Catalina Scout Camp, Sea World Sleepover or Savannah, Georgia, Juliette's Low's birthplace). Any money earned through sales belongs to the troop as a whole - not each girl. It is all for one and one for all!

Uniforms

Contrary to popular belief, uniforms are not required. However, they are encouraged because they provide a sense of belonging, unity and pride. If your daughter is invited to participate in an official Girl Scout ceremony, a uniform will be required.

The official Cadette uniform consists of tan/khaki bottoms, white polo and tan/khaki older girl vest. You will be required to wear the official uniform in any/all ceremonies we participate in. Families will be responsible for purchasing the vest, the troop will provide the proper insignia.

We have also provided each troop member/scout with a Troop T-shirt to be worn to our casual athletic or outdoor activities. The calendar will include specific dress requirement for specific activities, please check the calendar regularly.

Most girls have also purchased a Troop Jacket - to be worn on cooler activities and overnights. This is a wonderful place to display your participation patches.

Insignia:

We use troop funds to purchase recognitions for your daughter (insignia, patches, pins, badges, etc...) Insignia will ALWAYS be purchased by the Advisors. This insures that each girl meets the same requirements for earning the same badges and patches.

Patches / Badges

Remember, these items will be purchased by the troop Advisors - not the parents.

Girl Scout IPP's/badges, patches, awards, and other insignia that are earned for the accomplishment of skill-building activities or any set requirements should be presented, worn, or displayed only after Girl Scouts have completed the requirements outlined in the appropriate program materials.

As Cadettes, there are many recognitions that can be earned and awarded. They are: Bridge to Cadettes, Brownie Wings, Religious & Other Award Pins, Apprentice Trainer's Pin, Career Exploration Pin, Cadette Leadership Pin, Community Service Bar, Counselor-in-Training Award, Program Aide Award and Pins, Journey Awards for Cadettes, Leader-in-Training Award and Pin, Safety Award for Cadettes, and Silver Award.

IPP's/Badges:

Each IPP/badge signifies specific achievements in Cadette Girl Scouting. Wear the first badge on the right side of the vest, just above the bottom edge. Place additional badges in horizontal rows, keeping the rows on the right and left balanced. If you run out of room, put badges on the back of the vest or sash in rows starting at the top.

There are over 88 IPPs/badges, each representing a different area of interest. There are also 22 Studio 2B or Focus Awards/Pins to earn; as well as a handful of other interest patches and council awards to earn.

Each girl needs to complete 6 specific requirements including 1 service project in order to earn each IPP/badge. Any Scout can earn any IPP/badge on her own if she records her progress in her troop notebook and has a parent or supervisor signature -- each IPP/badge will need to be recorded by the leader. Each meeting we will try to start/complete at least 1 IPP - Most IPPs/badges may take several meetings to earn, so attendance is important.



Patches:

These participation patches vary widely in size, shape and appearance. They are special patches awarded for participation in a specific Girl Scout activity or event. They can go on the back of the vest or troop jacket - but never on the front of the vest.

Placement of Patches / Badges

Placement of insignia and recognitions is very important!

Below is a reference, but please see the Girl Scout

[website: http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gc_central/insignia/where_to_place/cadettes/](http://www.girlscouts.org/program/gc_central/insignia/where_to_place/cadettes/)

for exact placement or ask an advisor for help.