

girl scouts
carolinas peaks
to piedmont

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Parade Toolkit

There are a few decisions to make to participate in a parade and make it beneficial to the troop, council and community.

Ask the girls if they want to be in the parade.

- Keep it girl-led and allow girls the freedom of choice with decorations and attire.

In which parade would they like to participate?

- Christmas
- Fourth of July
- Memorial Day
- Veterans Day
- Homecoming
- Other local celebrations

Who is in charge?

- If you need help identifying who is in charge, reach out to your service unit team.
- Arts Council
- Chamber of Commerce
- Town Council

What are their rules?

- Review parade guidelines with girls, troop leadership team and troop parent volunteers.
- Can you walk?
- Can you ride?
- Can you throw out candy?
- Can you hand out Girl Scout promotional items?

How do you promote Girl Scouts and your troop?

- Banners
- Contact your service unit to see what resources you can borrow
- Uniforms or Girl Scout cookie costumes
- Contact the council to see if vintage uniforms or Girl Scout cookie costumes are available to check out
- SWAPS or other items to give away
- Your troop or service unit can sponsor giveaways or hand-outs
- Let others know they can join Girl Scouts by going to www.BeAGirlScout.org. Check with GSCP2P's marketing department for seasonal year templates.
- If you have openings in your troop, consider passing out an invite to an upcoming event or troop open house.

Share your Girl Scout Parade activities at <https://girlscoutsp2p.wufoo.com/forms/m1lv9ord0iz8cho/> for a chance to be featured on GSCP2P's social pages!



What are the safety rules?

- Please review *Safety Activity Checkpoints* found at bit.ly/3DJKUHS.

Are your girls ready to participate in a parade?

- Review the parade route to determine if your girls can walk the entire distance or not.
- Arrange for appropriate girl to adult supervision ratio per *Safety Activity Checkpoints*.
- Keeping their grade-level abilities in mind, encourage girls to take proactive leadership roles in organizing details of the parade such as costumes or decorations.

You can ask your Engagement Manager for helpful ideas.

BEFORE:

- ☐ Review *Safety Activity Checkpoints* for both riding on floats and walking in parades.
- ☐ Review parade guidelines with girls, Troop Leadership Team and troop volunteers.
- ☐ Be sure to submit parade registration on-time.
- ☐ Make your float or decoration plans with the girls and not for the girls.
- ☐ Practice carrying banners, flags or signs.
- ☐ Hold a parade safety talk with all participants and create a “Lost Person”.

PARADE CHECKLIST:

- ☐ Girl Scout uniform or themed costumes
 - Neat and tidy – Put on your very best!
 - Comfortable shoes
- ☐ Banner, flags or signs identifying troop or service unit
- ☐ First Aid Kit and Written Emergency Plan
- ☐ Parent Permission Forms

Putting Our Best Foot Forward

- Be prepared
- No cell phones (photos only)
- Always alert and attentive
- Smile
- Have fun
- Remind the girls during the parade that they are sharing how much fun Girl Scouts is with their community.
- Share photos and videos with us - we love to see girls in action!

American Flag Etiquette

- The American flag, when carried in a procession with other flags, should either be on the marching right or, if with other flags, in front of the center of the line.
- The flag should never be allowed to touch anything beneath it or be carried horizontally and always be aloft and free.
- Flag bearers should wear white gloves and a red sash.

Individual Troops

- It is best to coordinate with others in your service unit or area for one parade entry together.

Service Units

- Coordinate troop entries into one service unit entry.
- Share any resources like banners, flags and signs with troops in your service unit.