## **VOLUNTEER TOOLKIT USER GUIDE FOR TROOP LEADERS**

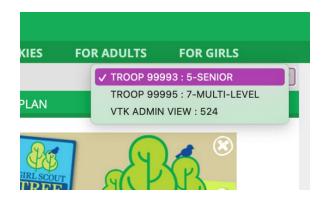
The Volunteer Toolkit is your official source for delivering easy, fun troop meetings year-round! With this step-by-step guide, you can start your troop year strong and spend more time adventuring with your Girl Scouts!

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## WHO HAS VTK ACCESS

**NOTE:** If you have multiple troops, you'll have a Volunteer Toolkit account for each—all under one login! Look for the gray drop-down box in the upperleft corner of your screen to navigate between accounts.



#### TROOP LEADERS

Active volunteers registered for the current Girl Scout membership year in a troop leadership role. There should be at least two volunteers with access to the same troop account in the Volunteer Toolkit.

#### TROOP TREASURERS

Active volunteers registered for the current Girl Scout membership year in a troop treasurer role. This role may only edit and submit the finance report found on the Finances tab. All other tabs will be read-only.

### CAREGIVERS OF GIRL SCOUTS IN A TROOP

Each primary caregiver has access to view their troop's Volunteer Toolkit account. They have read-only permission for the meeting schedule and agendas, plus additional resources. (Caregiver accounts can only be accessed if the troop leader has set up a year plan.)

#### CAREGIVERS OF INDIVIDUALLY REGISTERED GIRLS

Each primary caregiver of a currently registered Girl Scout who is not part of a troop will get troop-leaderlike access with their Girl Scout(s). Access is granted through the council based on confirmation of individually registered status.

## WHERE TO FIND THE VOLUNTEER TOOLKIT



The Volunteer Toolkit can be used from any computer, tablet, or smartphone with internet access. For best results, use a Toolkit-friendly browser, such as Chrome or Firefox, with a cleared cache, and visit <a href="mailto:gshnj.org">gshnj.org</a>.

In the upper-right corner of your screen, click the arrow & bracket icon to login to myGS using the credentials provided when you registered. Once logged in, from the My Account page, select "Volunteer Toolkit" from the left menu.

## **BASIC NAVIGATION**

The Volunteer Toolkit is divided into tabs that each have unique tools to help you plan your troop year and manage each meeting with ease. If you're on a computer, you'll see the green tabs across the top of your browser window. Mobile users will see a gray drop-down menu at the top with tabs beneath.





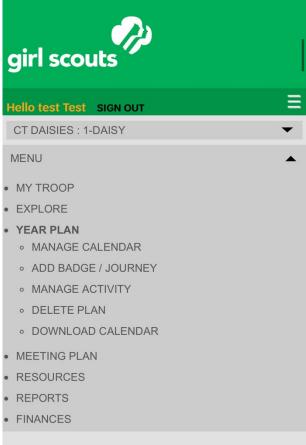


You'll notice three icons on almost every page of the Volunteer Toolkit:

**Print** allows you to print a copy of your current screen.

**Download** allows you to download calendar appointments (from the Year Plan tab), pages, and resources.

Seek additional **help** by clicking the green question mark icon or by clicking "Take a Guided Tour."

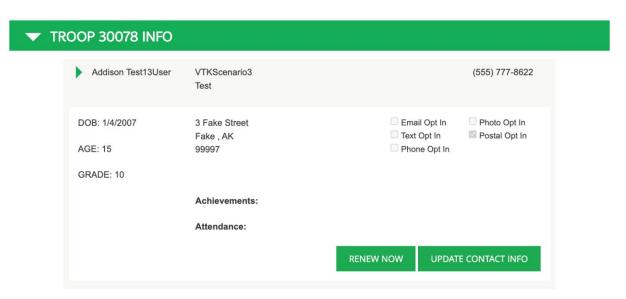


# **BASIC NAVIGATION (Continued)**

## **My Troop**

Here you will find a complete troop member roster along with family contact information and achievements. Click the green arrow next to each name to expand and see additional information, including a snapshot of achievements and attendance.

From this tab, you can also email caregivers, download, and print a roster with troop member achievement and attendance information, renew memberships, and customize the page with a troop photo.



**Caregiver users and individually registered girl users** will only see their own Girl Scout's information along with a dashboard of their achievements.



## **Explore**

You'll find exciting options for your troop under the Explore tab, including prebuilt tracks based on your troop's Girl Scout program level. You can also browse individual badges and meeting types to build a plan from scratch. Once you've made a choice, your year plan will be automatically populated. Selecting a year plan is required before other features become available, but you can come back to the Explore tab anytime to add more along the way.

From this tab, you can also preview prebuilt tracks of badge and Journey activities, preview individual badge or award requirements, and download or print an overview of each preselected track so you can easily review options with your Girl Scouts at your first meeting!

**Caregiver users and troop treasurers** will not see the Explore tab.

**Individually registered girl users** will have full access to this tab, similar to a troop leader.

#### Year Plan

From this tab, you can schedule meetings, add or swap out badges or awards, and fine-tune your Girl Scout year. For a walk-through of all the tools at your fingertips, click "Take a Guided Tour" on the Year Plan tab. If you ever want to start all over, use the Delete button to remove all meetings, attendance, and achievements. \*

From this tab, you can also set meeting dates and locations, add more custom and council activities, preview requirements, and view previous years and important milestones from your local area.

**Caregiver users and troop treasurers** will see a read-only version of the year plan their troop leader has built in the Volunteer Toolkit.

\*IMPORTANT: Deleting your Year Plan means it cannot be undone or recovered.

### **Meeting Plan**

Here you'll find the tools to make each badge, award, meeting, and activity a success. We've provided meeting prep information, materials lists, and even suggested scripts for many activities.

From this tab, you can also quickly print meeting resources, customize meeting plans, email families, track attendance, and check off completed badges and awards.

**Caregiver users and troop treasurers** will see a read-only version of the meeting plan their troop leader has added to their year.

**Individually registered girl users** will have full access to this tab, like a troop leader.

#### Resources

Under this tab, you'll find answers to your pressing questions—like where to put pins or badges on a uniform, which special awards your Girl Scouts can earn, or how to lead well-loved Girl Scout traditions—along with national and local resources by topic.

From this tab, you can also gain access to the Girl Scout shop from each program level, download reference documents for all the awards a Girl Scout can earn, and explore tips for troop leaders and other roles. All user types can see this tab and interact with it in the same way.

#### **Finances**

From this tab, you can easily share your troop's year-end finance report and other necessary information to wrap up the troop year. You can also add receipts or other attachments to your form and send them directly to your council. You'll be sent a confirmation email with a copy of the report as well.

**Caregiver users** will see a read-only version of the report once it is submitted.

**Troop treasurers** will be able to edit and submit this tab for their troop.

**Individually registered girl users** will not see this tab.

### FIRST-YEAR TROOP LEADER EXPERIENCE

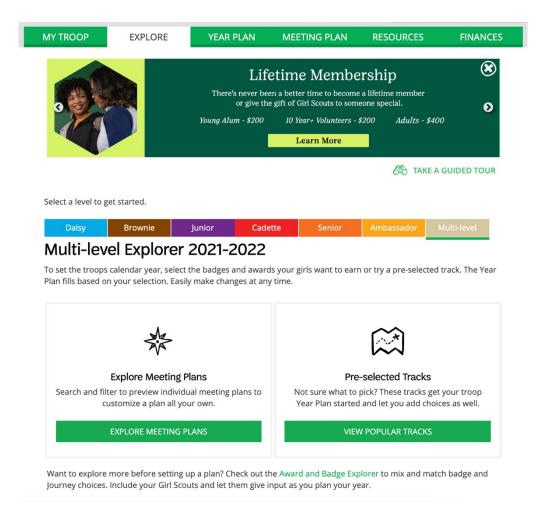
New leaders: need help getting started? We've got you. The First-Year Troop Experience supports new leaders with additional guidance to get you acquainted with the Volunteer Toolkit. After logging in and navigating into the Volunteer Toolkit, you'll be prompted to answer the question, "Is this your first year as a Girl Scout troop leader?" If you answer "yes," you will follow a guided path with recommended steps to simplify your onboarding process.

If you're not a first-year Girl Scout troop leader but would like to see the guided path, click "Take a Guided Tour" on any of the Volunteer Toolkit tabs to see the same guidance that a new leader would.

## SET UP YOUR YEAR PLAN

The first time you log into the Volunteer Toolkit, you'll be taken to the Explore tab. From here, you can visit the My Troop, Resources, or Finances tabs, but to activate the Year Plan and Meeting Plan tabs you need to first make a selection under the Explore tab.

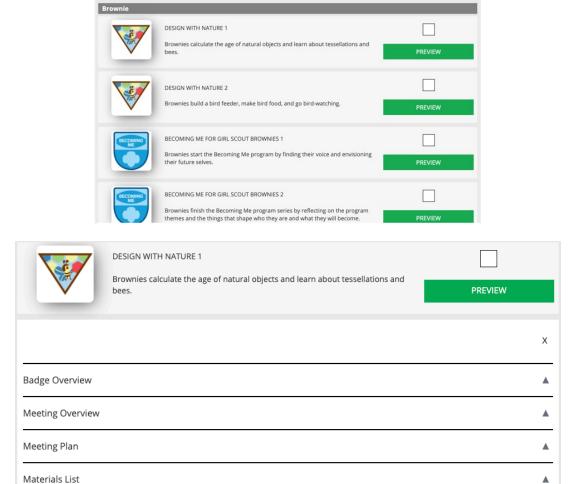
If you aren't seeing the correct grade level for your troop, please contact Member Support at <a href="mailto:info@gshnj.org">info@gshnj.org</a>.



Before setting up your year plan, you can also check out the Award and Badge Explorer from the bottom of the tab to mix and match potential award options in a PDF, and to share or make decisions with your troop members. Once they've decided, you can always come back to build out the schedule for those badges and awards.

### **Explore Meeting Plans**

Build a year plan that's completely customized to your troop's interests! You can mix and match meeting plans that work toward the badges, Journeys, and activities that excite your Girl Scouts. You can also search through all badges and Journeys, regardless of your troop's program level. Use the available filters, or search for specific meetings and simply select the ones you'd like to use in your year plan. Each year you can use the "New for [Insert Year]" filter to find all the new programming released in the Summer. Once you're finished, click "Add to Year Plan" at the bottom to move forward in the system.



### **Preselected Tracks**

Meeting Planner

2 Select an activity

Arrival and Opening Ceremony

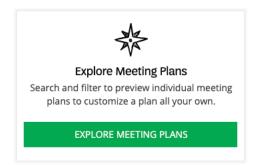
Not sure which badges and awards are right for your troop? You can also choose from a preset collection of meetings with the preselected tracks option instead. Click "View Popular Tracks" to preview each combination of awards and download them, if needed. Once you've decided, click "Select Track," and your year plan will be created. You'll automatically be taken to the Year Plan tab. You can bundle Preselected Tracks too by returning to the Explore tab and adding another one to your plan.

00:15

00:20

## Junior Explorer 2021-2022

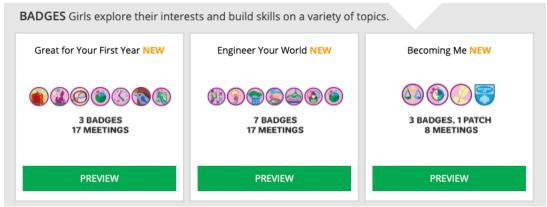
To set the troops calendar year, select the badges and awards your girls want to earn or try a pre-selected track. The Year Plan fills based on your selection. Easily make changes at any time.





#### Pre-selected Tracks

Not sure what to pick? These tracks get your troop Year Plan started and let you add choices as well.

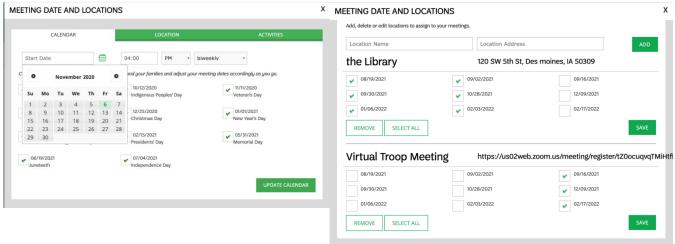


Preselected Tracks 1

You can come back to the Explore tab throughout the year to add more meetings, or even combine pre-selected tracks without resetting your whole plan! The delete button has been moved to the year plan, and you have even more access to Explore and build a plan as unique as your Troop!

## SET UP YOUR CALENDAR

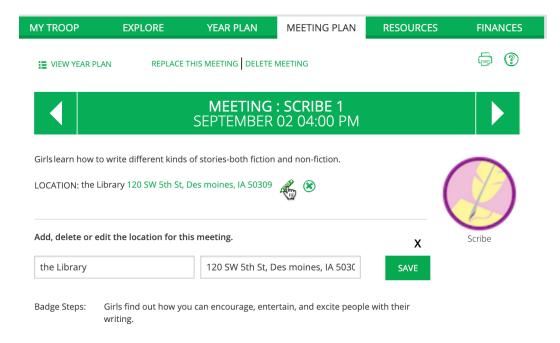
You're almost ready to unlock everything the Volunteer Toolkit has to offer—your last step is setting up calendar dates for your meetings. Once you're on the Year Plan tab, click "Manage Calendar," select a start date for your meeting cadence to begin, and choose the frequency of your meetings and a general start time. Dates and times can be changed meeting by meeting after this step; simply select any combination to get started.



#### Location

Location 1

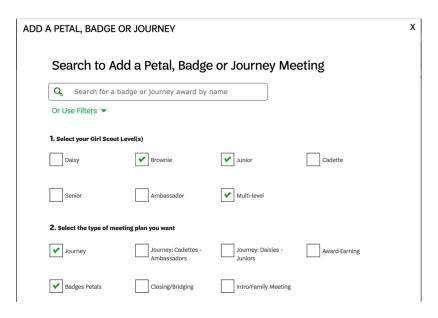
Now that your dates are set, you can add a physical address or virtual meeting link to each. If you're meeting in different locations or a combination of in-person and virtual meetings, add each address or link, then connect them to the appropriate meeting(s) using the checkboxes. Click "Save" and the system will update your meetings automatically. You can change the location for a meeting in multiple ways—by clicking on a date in your year plan, changing a date quickly, or selecting "See More Calendar Options," and also on the Meeting Plan tab.



## ADDING MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES

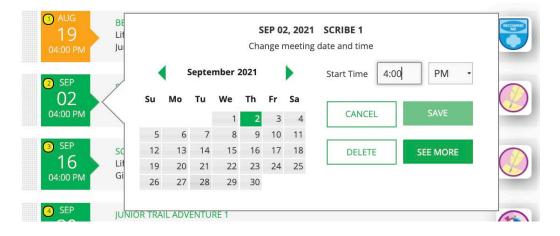
## Add or Change Meetings to Your Year Plan

Girl Scouts are ready for whatever comes their way—and that includes changes in meetings or their year plan. Start by using the green "Add Badge/Journey" link at the top of the year plan or the "Search to Add Meetings" link at the bottom of the year plan. Use the search feature or filters to sort through available meeting types and choose which ones to add to your year plan. Meeting titles with numbers at the end are part of a series, and you'll want to add all of these to meet the requirements for the award. Meetings already in your plan will be clearly marked. Once you've made your selections, click "Add to Year Plan."



## **Edit Meeting Dates and Times**

Click the calendar date to the left of each meeting date to change the date or time of that specific meeting. You can also choose to cancel one or more meetings, or to combine meetings. To combine meetings, select the two meetings you'd like to combine, then select the new date on which you would like that meeting to occur. After you've made changes, click "Save" and your year plan will be updated. If you go back to "Manage Calendar," you'll see a green gear icon to the right of each meeting date. This takes you back to the original view of the Meeting Date and Location widget, where you can reset the entire cadence of your meetings, if needed.

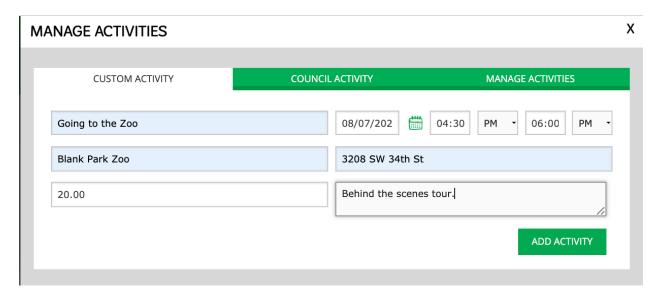


### **Adding Other Types of Activities**

Meetings and badges are only part of a go-getting Girl Scout's troop year! You can add things like field trips, service projects, or cookie booth sales to your year plan as well. The Volunteer Toolkit connects to our council website and gsEvents so you can browse and add local council events, too. Any activity you add will appear in blue and show up chronologically. At the top of the year plan, click "Add Activity."

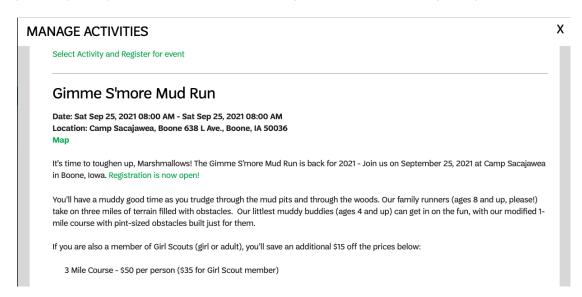
## **Custom Activity**

Add your activity name, date, time, location, and details to your year plan. Remember: caregivers will see this information too, so be sure that event details are clear, and any special instructions are included here.



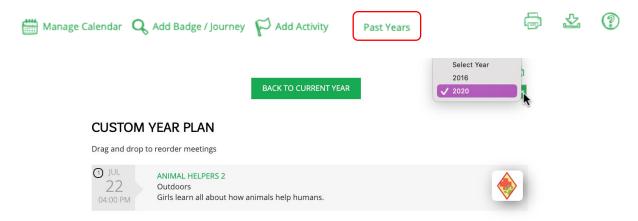
## **Council Activity**

Search or filter through council events and add them to your year plan. This feature does not register you or your group for the event; it only adds the event to your year plan.



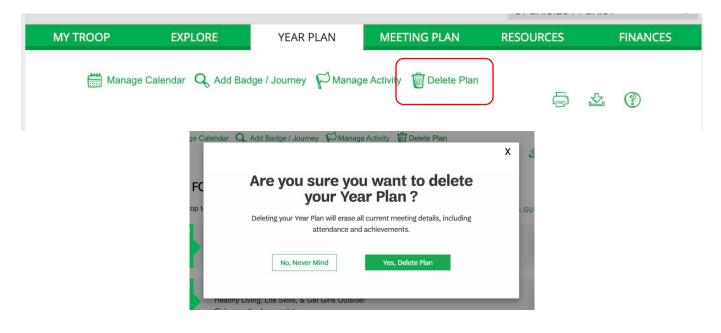
## **VIEW PAST YEAR PLANS**

Each summer, the Volunteer Toolkit resets and archives your year plan. At that point, you'll no longer be able to make changes to any of your meetings. However, you'll still be able to view the plan through the green "Past Years" link at the top of your Year Plan tab. Note that achievement and attendance records do not archive; **please download a copy of this information** for your records. Caregivers can also download a copy of their own Girl Scout's achievements from the My Troop tab.



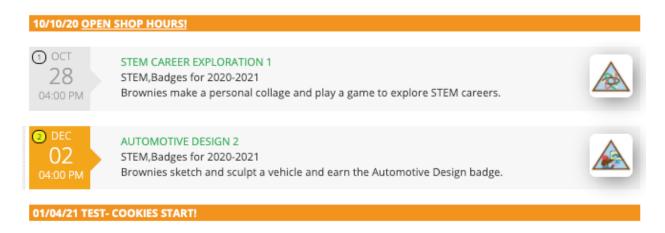
### DELETING THE YEAR PLAN

If you ever need to wipe the slate clean and start fresh, you can use the Delete button at the top of the year plan to do just that! Be careful though, deleting your plan will remove all meetings including the attendance and achievements you've tracked on them. It cannot be undone and is not recoverable, so use it carefully!



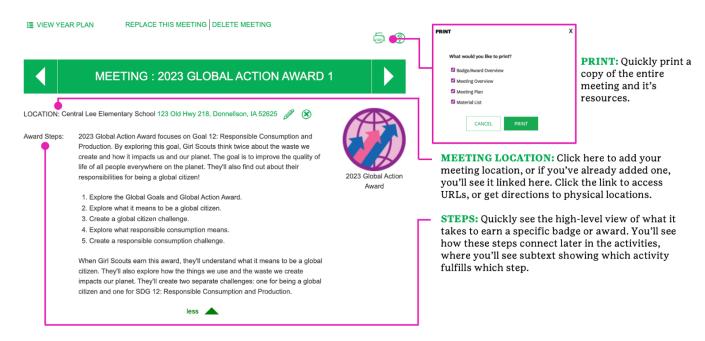
## **MILESTONES**

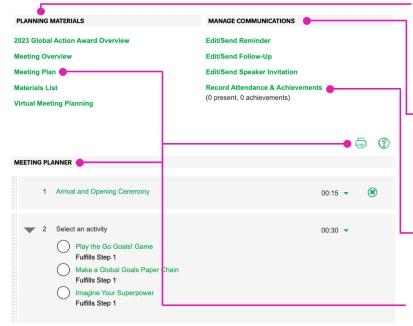
You might see orange bars across your Year Plan tab in chronological order with your other meetings and activities. These are important dates, events, or updates your local Girl Scout staff want you to know about. These may also include links to additional information that relates to the date and title of the milestone.

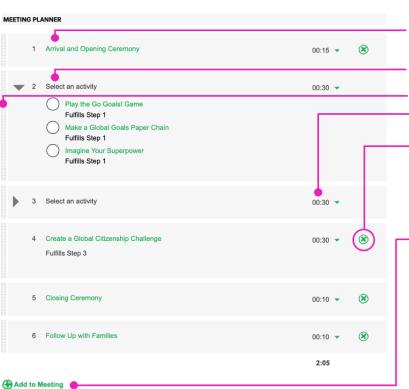


### TOOLS FOR PLANNING YOUR MEETING

The Meeting Plan tab has a robust collection of tools and information to help you plan an engaging meeting every time. If at any time you want to replace or delete a meeting, just use the appropriate links at the top of the meeting plan.







PLANNING MATERIALS: A combination of overview and step-by-step resources show you from start to finish what your girls will learn while earning this badge or award (Overview), details specific to planning this meeting. (Meeting Overview), what you'll do and say (Meeting Plan), the meeting aids plus the materials you'll need (Material List) and virtual meeting resources. (Virtual Meeting Planning)

MANAGE COMMUNICATIONS: Send templated emails to caregivers to remind them of meetings and keep them up to date on what's happening. Use the Speaker Invitation to bring guests to your meeting and prepare them ahead of time with relevant information for the badge or award you're working on. You can attach meeting aids or other documents from your council website at the bottom of the email before sending.

ATTENDANCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS: Here you can use the checkboxes to mark who attended each meeting and if they earned a badge or award. You can see the full list of what each girl earned on the My Troop tab, with the option to download the report.

**MEETING PLAN/NER:** Here you'll find instructions and details for reach activity, material lists, estimated time to complete, and recommended sequencing. Download or print the entire plan with just one click of the printer icon.

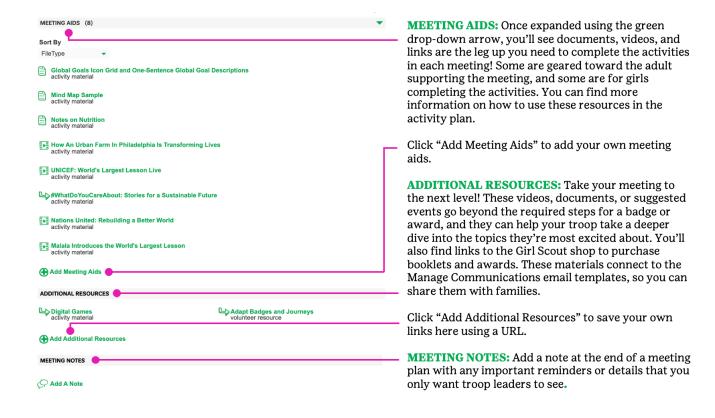
**MEETING PLANNER (Cont.):** Find opening and closing activities to round out a meeting, along with activity choices for each step. There are a lot of ways to customize your meeting planner.

Drag and drop activities to reorder.

Use the drop-down on an activity to change the amount of time allotted for that activity. Delete an activity by clicking the "X" to the right of the activity.

 Heads up: if you accidently delete a required activity for earning an award, you won't be able to add that activity back without first deleting the meeting.

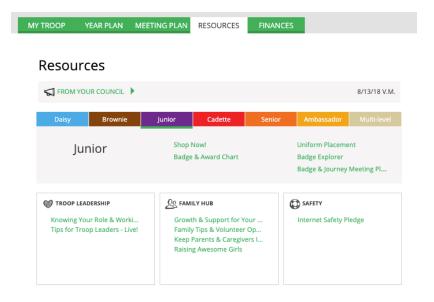
Click "Add to Meeting" to add your own activities.



## **RESOURCES**

Under this tab, you'll find answers to your pressing Girl Scout questions—like where to put pins or badges on a uniform, which special awards Girl Scouts can earn, or how to lead well-loved Girl Scout traditions—along with national and local resources by topic.

From this tab you can also gain access to the Girl Scout Shop from each program level, download reference documents for all the awards a Girl Scout can earn, and explore tips for troop leaders and other roles. All user types can see this tab and interact with it in the same way.



## Submitting Your Troop's Annual Finance Report on the VTK

As the troop leader, you have full access to the Finances Tab so you (or your troop treasurer) can easily submit your troop's annual troop finance report and other necessary information to wrap up the troop year. Girl Scouts Heart of New Jersey will publish the annual troop finance report each spring.

## What is the Troop Finance Report?

The Troop Finance Report provides a snapshot of your troop's finances.

## Why is the Troop Finance Report important?

Submitting your annual Troop Finance Report:

- Helps us maintain proper records of funds for audit purposes;
- Protects the interest of the troop and you, as volunteers;
- And provides helpful information to new volunteers assuming leadership of an existing group.

**When is it due?** Submit your Troop Finance Report on the Volunteer Toolkit Finances Tab no later than July 31<sup>st</sup> each year.

## How do we submit our Troop Finance Report?

- Organize your finances using the <u>Troop Finance</u> Worksheet.
- 2. Next, input the information from your worksheet into the Volunteer Toolkit Finances Tab, making sure to attach the troop's latest bank statement.
- 3. Click "Send to Council" and you're done!

You'll be sent a confirmation email with a copy of the report as well. Once you or your troop leader has submitted the annual finance report, all caregivers in your troop can see your troop's financial summary.

Questions about submitting your troop's annual finance report? Reach out to info@gshnj.org.

