

Opportunity Catalog FAQ

What is the Opportunity Catalog?

The Opportunity Catalog is an online listing of all troops in GSGLA. It provides the opportunity to grow your troop and engage parent volunteers in key roles in the troop. While all troops are listed in the catalog, only troops with open spaces will display *publicly* in the catalog.

How does the Opportunity Catalog work?

The Opportunity Catalog helps us ensure that every girl who wants to be a Girl Scout has the opportunity to be one. Plus, troop volunteers will be able to sign up for specific roles faster and easier.

- Troops with any open spaces will be displayed in the Opportunity Catalog for girls to join. Recommended sizes are 12 girls for Daisy–Junior troops, and 10 girls for Cadette–Ambassador troops. However, your troop can be larger—the sky’s the limit!
- If you have more spaces for girls available than the recommended troop size, let us know and we will add these spaces in the Opportunity Catalog so girls and potential volunteers can check out what’s available near them.
- When a new girl or volunteer joins your troop, as the leader you’ll get an email notification so you can reach out to them to welcome them to your troop and provide meeting details.
- Volunteers will still go through the same background screening process, but with this easier and faster sign-up, you’ll also get the help you need faster!
- Your service unit team will provide any support you need as you welcome new girls and volunteers into your troop.

What information will my listing in the opportunity catalog include?

Since girls and volunteers will be looking for opportunities in their areas, it will list when and roughly where your troop meets, as well as your troop number and troop level. If you meet at a person’s house or other private location, you may choose to identify a nearby intersection or landmark. You can also share a specific focus your troop may have, such as camp or community service, so that girls can join a troop with common interests.

What if I don’t know the new girl who joins our troop? What about new volunteers?

When a new member joins your troop, take it as an opportunity for everyone to decide if it will be a good fit. Please explain any requirements you may have—for example, all parents must take a volunteer role. If you have concerns that your troop will not be the right fit for any reason, please contact your support specialist.

Since the system is location-based, we expect that most parents will enroll their daughter in the area or school that she attends. Because parents will select troops whose meeting dates and times fit their schedules, our hope is that more parents will also choose to volunteer. This has been the trend at other councils who use Opportunity Catalog. New volunteers who are not parents will have already gone through the background screening process. We also encourage you to reach out to the new volunteer to



discuss his or her new role before the first meeting. Please let your support specialist know if you have specific concerns.

Our troop has certain requirements. What if the new girl can't meet them?

When a new member joins your troop, take it as an opportunity for everyone to decide if it will be a good fit. Please explain any requirements you may have—for example, all parents must take a volunteer role. If you have concerns that your troop will not be the right fit for any reason, please contact your support specialist.

What if the new girl doesn't attend meetings, or her parent never responds to my welcome email?

Please contact your support specialist, so we can connect with the member. There may have been a miscommunication. Or, we may find another troop for the girl so that we can open up that spot in your troop for another girl.

If I don't have the recommended number of girl members, can we still be a troop?

Yes, as long as the minimum number of 5 girls is met. The Opportunity Catalog will make it easier to add new girls to your troop.

Why is a larger troop size a better experience for the girls and the leader?

- Enhances the ability to run the Girl Scout program as it was intended using the three processes: girl-led, learning by doing, and collaborative learning
- More girls enriches the Girl Scout sisterhood experience and upholds our more than 100-year value of inclusivity
- Enables more girls to enjoy all the amazing opportunities in Girl Scouting
- More girls equals more ideas and greater capacity to accomplish troop goals
- Teaches girls adaptability and helps troops achieve the desired outcomes designed into the Girl Scout Leadership Experience—sense of self, positive values, challenge-seeking, healthy relationships, and community problem-solving
- Troop governance works better
- More parent helpers

How do I open up my troop to more girls?

Opening your troop to new members is a great way to embody the Girl Scout spirit by helping more girls enjoy the Girl Scout experience. If you would like to increase your troop size, please update the Desired Total Number of Girls field by clicking on the [View/Edit Troop Information](#) link on the Troops tab of your MyGS Member Profile or contact Customer Care at 213 213-0123.



How can a girl join my troop?

Make sure that you update your troop information in MyGS and that your desired number of girls is **greater** than the number of active girls on your troop roster. Once your troop is posted in the catalog, her parent can go to the online Opportunity Catalog to add her to your troop. Once your troop is full, your troop will no longer appear in the catalog. You can also add a girl or adult through the Add a Member link at the bottom of the Troops tab in your MyGS Member Profile.

What if I have enough girls in my troop but I need more volunteers?

Your troop can be open in the volunteer Opportunity Catalog without being listed in the girl catalog. You can request the type and number of volunteer positions in MyGS. Once the volunteer position is filled, it will no longer appear in the catalog. Call your support specialist if you have any questions.

How long does it take for my troop information to be updated in the catalog?

Meeting Day, Meeting Frequency, and Start Time are updated as soon as you hit save. The remainder of the troop information is sent to council staff for review. We manually update these fields within one week. We have standards for Meeting Location Name so that we have consistency across all troops. Please note: The exact address information is never displayed to the public, but we still need it to help place girls.

How does Early Renewal affect the Opportunity Catalog on Aug. 1 regarding spaces in my troop?

If all of your girls have renewed by July 15, but your troop's current size is less than 12 girls (Daisy – Juniors) or 10 spaces (Cadettes-Ambassadors), spaces will become available on Aug. 1 for girls to join up to the recommended troop size. If your troop is the recommended size or larger and all your girls renew, then your troop will not display in the Opportunity Catalog.

If some of your girls have not renewed before Oct. 1, their spaces become available on Oct. 1.

Can my troop opt out of the Opportunity Catalog?

While every troop is included in the Opportunity Catalog, only troops with open spaces are displayed to the public. Troops who request to have less than the recommended troop size based on special circumstances may submit an Opt Out e-form: <https://www.gsglavolunteerapps.org/oppcatalogoptout/>. All submissions will be reviewed by a support manager and leaders will be notified of the decision.