



Understanding Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania's Troop Catalog

What is the troop catalog? The Troop Catalog is a search tool to help girls access and participate in Girl Scouts. Girls and parents can search by specific troop numbers or a zip code to find troops with open spaces. Specific troop numbers can also be used to find the troop they are familiar with. It also allows adults to easily view volunteer opportunities in their area and sign up to help.

Which troops are displayed in the Troop Catalog? To ensure that every girl has a path to join us, we include troops who have room for more girls in our Troop Catalog. Families can select the troop that's best for them, based on the troop's location, meeting times, and activities. Listing active troops that can serve more girls is part of our ongoing effort to foster inclusivity and diversity in our Girl Scout community. For the last two years, new troops have been listed in the Participation Catalog once they reached the required number of volunteers.

Why is it important that my troop is displayed in the Troop Catalog? By welcoming girls from other neighborhoods and schools, girls make their world bigger as they get to know people whose life experiences might be different from their own. While meeting new friends is a foundational part of Girl Scouting, we understand extra support can be helpful when it comes to including girls you don't know in your troop. GSWPA is here to help you make the transition easier for Girl Scouts, volunteers, and families. Contact the team at customercare@gswpa.org or 800-248-3355.

How do I update my troop details to ensure the Troop Catalog is displaying correct information to prospective members? To update your troop details and welcome new girls or volunteers into your troop, please complete the online [Troop Catalog Update form](#), so that we can update your troop's information and display it correctly in the Troop Catalog.

How are we making sure that spots for current members are not taken? Girls who are registered for the current membership year will have their spot held in their troop until they renew or until October 1, the first day of the new membership year. After October 1, unclaimed spots will be available to all prospective members. If you know a girl is not returning, please mark her as *Not Returning/End Participation* in myGS or update the available number of spots in your troop when completing the [Troop Catalog Update form](#).

Why is the troop minimum set to 12 Girl Scouts? This troop size is the "sweet spot"—large enough to provide an interactive and cooperative learning environment and small enough to encourage individual development. Ideal troop size is 12 girls or more following the approved adult-to-girl ratio chart.

Are there exceptions to all troops being displayed in the Troop Catalog? A troop leader can apply to opt out of the Troop Catalog in limited circumstances in which a troop has an extreme hardship that would be exacerbated by the addition of more girls. To learn more, please contact Customer Care at customercare@gswpa.org or 800-248-3355.