

# LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

Powered by the Girl Scouts of Greater New York



Cohort 2025





## What is the Leadership Institute?

The Leadership Institute is Girl Scouts of Greater New York's capstone leadership program, which provides a unique and essential opportunity for NYC-based youth in grades 6-12 to build their confidence as leaders and shape their views about their own potential.

The program is designed to foster a generation of Girl Scouts who take action and drive systemic change in their communities and the world. Participants will gain opportunities to power up their leadership skills and connect with successful women role models, attend subject-specific workshops and academic transition events, work on peer committees, attend and moderate panels, have opportunities to earn project scholarships, and more!

The Leadership Institute is a fully funded Girl Scouts of Greater New York signature program, provided at a small cost to accepted applicants.



## Who can apply?

The Leadership Institute is open to 6th- 12th grade students who reside in the five boroughs of New York.

Upon acceptance, all Leadership Institute participants must purchase an active Girl Scout membership for \$25 if they do not already have one. Financial aid is available

Girl Scouts can participate in the program each year until they graduate High School.



## Goals of the Leadership Institute

Through this program, participants will:

- Develop leadership skills like public speaking, conflict resolution, negotiation, and problem solving.
- Learn to navigate transition as they prepare to enter high school, college, and the workforce.
- Gain interest, exposure, and practice in exciting professions.
- Meet leaders in their fields of interest.
- Feel encouraged to deepen their knowledge in the subject areas of Business & Entrepreneurship, STEM, and the Environment.
- Put their skills to use planning and implementing a capstone project designed to make the world a better place.
- Get inspired to become powerful agents of change, well equipped to act in the real world.
- Build knowledge and confidence as leaders who actively drive systemic change.



## History

Launched in 2013, the Leadership Institute supports Girl Scouts in building the skills, knowledge, and confidence they need to become leaders. Participants learn to shape their views on leadership and their own potential to become powerful agents of change.

The Leadership Institute took on a new look to meet the wants and needs of NYC's Girl Scouts in 2018-19. Between 2018-2024, over 700 Girl Scouts participated in an intensive, year-long experience focused on 21st-century leadership skills. In 2024, Changemakers Girl Scouts spent a full week at Camp Kaufmann, where they attended track-specific workshops, developed their Capstone projects, and participated in camp-related activities.





Find and develop your leadership pathway

Cohort 2025

## Program Highlights

The Leadership Institute is constantly adapting to meet the needs of this generation's Girl Scouts in NYC.

For Cohort 2025, the Leadership Institute will offer **virtual** and **in-person** events with **two participation pathways**. Hybrid programing will be available so participants can enjoy a **flexible schedule** while continuing to get the program benefits most suitable for their needs.

## Participation Pathway

### Leadership Institute: Exploration Path

Are you an inspiring community leader ready to explore new opportunities and build your skills? The Exploration Path offers Girl Scouts a unique opportunity to boost their leadership expertise and gain valuable insights into college and career paths.

The Exploration Path allows you to choose the events that best fit your interests. Start developing your leadership potential now—whether you attend one event or all, you'll be taking steps toward discovering new opportunities and refining your skills.

*Enjoy the freedom to attend any number of events, with no set requirements or commitment fees. Each event is priced starting at \$5+*

### Leadership Institute: Changemakers Path

Are you ready to make a difference and take action? Whether you're interested in Business, STEM, or Environmental Advocacy, the Changemakers Path is perfect for Girl Scouts committed to long-term leadership and community growth. This path includes the opportunity to develop your skills through a team capstone project and offers eligibility for scholarships. This is your opportunity to develop your leadership skills and make a meaningful impact in your community!

*To join, simply pay a \$50 commitment fee, with all event costs covered.*

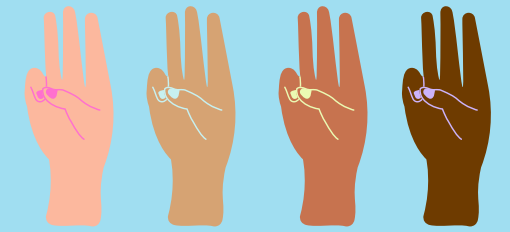
#### Requirements:

- Changemaker weekend (Spring 2025)
- Kickoff Day at Camp Kaufmann (October 26th)
- Winter and Spring cohort circle (in-person)
- Choose at least 2 different Exploration events (in-person and/or virtual)
- \$50 commitment fee\* and cookie sale participation\*\*. All other costs are included thanks to our generous funders!

\* Financial Aid is available. Email [leadershipinstitute@girlscoutsnyc.org](mailto:leadershipinstitute@girlscoutsnyc.org) to learn more about it.

\*\*Cookie sale participation is required by selling with your troop or as a Juliette in traditional or digital sales.

## Program Components



### Changemakers' Workshop Weekend

**Dates:** Spring 2025

**Location:** NYC

Girl Scouts joining the Changemakers Path will have a Leadership Intensive weekend dedicated to track specific workshops and the development of their Capstone projects in NYC.

Girl Scouts will participate in workshops on a focus area of their choosing, also known as their **track**, to deepen their knowledge of subject-specific topics through project-based learning. These workshops are led by expert program partners and trained facilitators. Girl Scouts will work in small groups to develop a **capstone project & presentation**.



## Choose Your Track!

Participants will be grouped with their fellow Girl Scouts from Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador levels. Tracks will be selected later this fall. There are three tracks available for Girl Scouts to choose from:

- Business & Entrepreneurship
- STEM for Social Good
- Environmental Advocacy



## Academic Exploration

What does a college campus or dorm look like? What is FAFSA and student aid? Have all your burning questions about college answered at an Academic Exploration Event! Girl Scouts will have the opportunity to visit colleges and attend college-related topics workshops. Available for Exploration Path participants at a fee, and free of charge for Changemakers Path participants.

Girl Scouts will also have the opportunity to attend grade-specific academic transition workshops focused on middle school success, transitioning to high school, or transitioning to college. Topics may include socio-emotional learning and academic preparedness.

## Leadership Exploration

**Leadership Exploration workshops** are a recent addition of the Leadership Institute, designed to provide Girl Scouts with an exciting opportunity to learn about leadership in action and grow their skills. Girl Scouts will participate in virtual or in-person workshops on a variety of topics, such as: conflict resolution, policy and legislative advocacy, or resume building. These workshops will be a tool that helps Girl Scouts get inspired to learn more about their own leadership voice and make the changes they want to see in their communities

## Career Exploration

Through the Leadership Institute, Girl Scouts will have access to **mentoring opportunities and workplace visits** to help expose them to workplace operations as they learn about the personal journeys and professional experiences of women and gender-diverse leaders in the workplace.

“My experience working in a team has been good. The team I’m in allowed me to make new friends and meet new people. The highlights of working in a group are splitting up the work, and getting things done faster. Also getting feedback and constructive criticism.”

—COHORT 2024 PARTICIPANT

## Peer-Led Committees

Changemakers Girl Scouts will have the chance to sharpen their leadership and communication skills by joining a **Peer-led Committee**.

Each committee will take the lead on brainstorming, designing, and facilitating events and activities that will benefit their fellow Girl Scouts.

Participants must apply to be accepted onto a Peer-led Committee and be part of the Changemakers Path.

Committees include:

- **Friendship Committee (For Grades 6-12)**

By being part of the Friendship Committee, you will ensure everyone has a friendly face to talk with or sit next to at an in-person or virtual event.

Collaborate with GSGNY staff to create a visual workshop and social events for all program participants throughout the year.

- **Academic Transition Committee (For Grades 9-12)**

Design an event to help your peers prepare for their next phase of life. For example, you may host a panel discussion to answer questions like, what is high school like? Or how do I prepare for college?

The event will provide engaging and fun opportunities to learn from experienced Girl Scouts.



*Please note that availability may be limited for specific workshops and events. All efforts will be made to schedule them during the NYC DOE School breaks and evenings/Saturdays.*



## Program Benefits

### Highest Awards Support

The Leadership Institute provides extra support for Girl Scouts working towards their Silver or Gold Awards!

Silver and Gold Awards give Girl Scouts the chance to make a difference in their communities by addressing issues they care about.

A special **Highest Awards workshop** will be held for Leadership Institute participants. Girl Scouts can learn about the requirements and steps to complete their Highest Awards.



### Gold Award

You can become a Gold Award Girl Scout if you:

- Are in 9<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Are a registered Girl Scout Senior or Ambassador
- Have earned the Silver Award and completed one Senior/Ambassador Journey OR completed at least two Senior/Ambassador Journeys

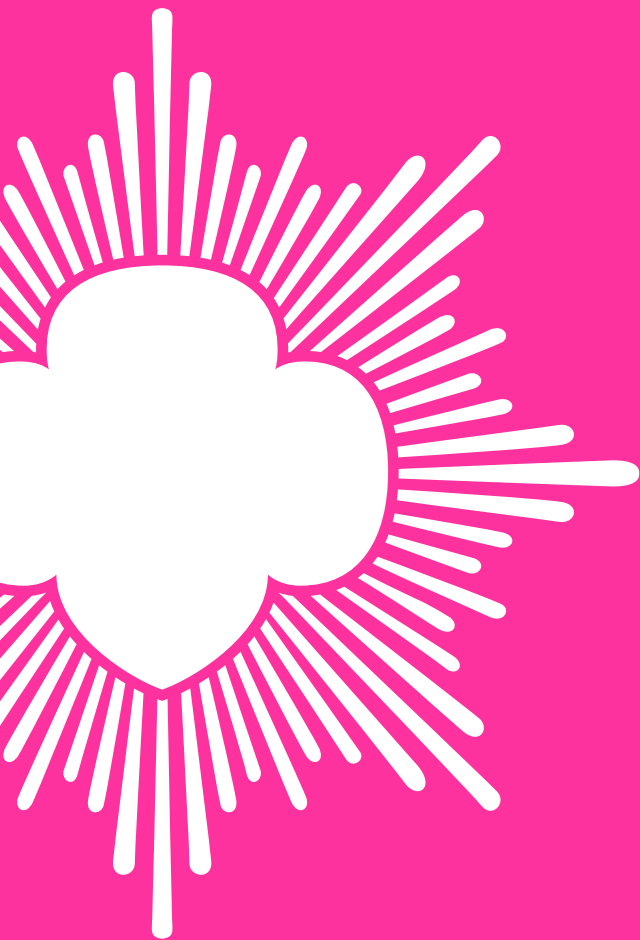
How to earn the Girl Scout Gold Award:

- Check out our Gold Award [website](#).
- Attending a Highest Awards workshop.
- Find an issue in your community or the world that you care about.
- Learn everything you can about that issue through research and trusted sources.
- Form a team by identifying experts and people in your community who can help you.
- Think about the root cause of your issue.
- Make a plan for how you will tackle it.
- Let your council know you want to earn the award by submitting your proposal.
- Lead your team and carry out your plan.
- Reflect on the change you've created in your community and the world, share your story, and inspire others to make a difference, too.

### Other Incentives

The Leadership Institute provides participating Girl Scouts with opportunities to:

- Earn Girl Scout badges
- Practice public speaking skills
- Participate in special events
- Apply for Capstone Project Academic Scholarships



### Silver Award

You can become a Silver Award Girl Scout if you:

- Are in 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> grade
- Are a registered Girl Scout Cadette
- Have completed a Cadette Journey

How to Earn the Girl Scout Silver Award:

- Check out our Silver Award [website](#).
- Attending a Highest Awards workshop.
- Find an issue you care about.
- Build your Girl Scout Silver Award team or decide to go solo.
- Explore your community and think about how your chosen issue affects your community.
- Design a Silver Award project that can lead to lasting change.
- Make a plan and put it into motion.
- Reflect, share your story, and celebrate.



## Application & Selection Process

### This program is for you if you:

- Are currently enrolled in 6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade
- Are a current or future Girl Scout
- Have a deep and genuine interest in becoming a better leader, equipped to make lasting change in your community
- Live in one of the 5 boroughs of NYC
- Can commit your time to the Exploration or Changemakers Path requirements
- Are looking for a new leadership challenge
- Are interested in collaborating with your peers
- Are ready to actively participate in events, workshops, and other opportunities

**DEADLINE:**  
**Sunday,**  
**October 6<sup>th</sup>,**  
**2024**

### How to Apply

Cohort 2025 will be accepting 100+ Changemakers and 150+ in the Exploration Path!

**Exploration Path:** An interest form is required to receive our list of events and event registration links.

**Changemakers Path:** Acceptance into the Leadership Institute is based on an online digital application that includes a short essay. (written or video) and \$50 commitment fee.

### Things to know:

- Think about which path works best for you before you apply — you can only choose 1.
- Changemakers path: You don't need to select a track when you apply—you will select later this fall.
- The application must be completed in ONE SITTING. The online application form does not save information.
- Double and triple check your responses for spelling.
- A photo will need to be submitted with your application.

If you need accommodations or support with your application, please email [leadershipinstitute@girlscoutsnyc.org](mailto:leadershipinstitute@girlscoutsnyc.org)



**APPLY HERE FOR  
EXPLORATION PATH**



**APPLY HERE FOR  
CHANGEMAKERS PATH**



## Selection Process

Changemakers applicants will receive a confirmation email that the submission has been received. If you do not receive a confirmation email, your submission may not have gone through. Please contact [leadershipinstitute@girlscoutsnyc.org](mailto:leadershipinstitute@girlscoutsnyc.org) if you have any questions.

Accepted applicants will be notified by email if they have been invited to join the Leadership Institute by **Tuesday, October 15, 2024.**

If you are new to Girl Scouts or you do not have an up-to-date membership, you will have to pay a \$25 Girl Scout Membership Fee for the 2024-25 Girl Scouting year upon acceptance into the program

*Financial aid is available.*



## Save the Dates!

**Thursday, October 17**  
**6pm to 7pm**

Virtual Orientation for accepted applicants, Caregivers, and Troop Leaders. Girl Scout attendance is mandatory.

**Saturday, October 26**  
**9am to 5pm**

In-person Program Kick-off at Camp Kaufmann. Attendance is required—contact us if you have a conflict.

**Mandatory for  
Changemakers Path  
participants only**



### Questions?

Contact [leadershipinstitute@girlscoutsnyc.org](mailto:leadershipinstitute@girlscoutsnyc.org)



# Leadership Institute Calendar of Events\*

## September

**9/6:** Applications Open  
**9/12:** Virtual Info night

## October

**10/6:** Application deadline  
**10/17:** Virtual Orientation  
**10/26:** Kick-Off



## November

Academic Exploration event  
Career Exploration event  
Committee recruitment and track selection  
Highest Award Workshop

## December

Academic Exploration event  
Committee meetings



## January

Academic Exploration event  
Leadership Exploration- Leadership Institute Alumni event



## February

Leadership Exploration event  
Career Exploration event

## March

Committee event  
Career Exploration event  
Academic Exploration event

## April

Leadership Exploration event  
Career Exploration event



## May

Changemaker's weekend  
Committee event  
Leadership Exploration event



## June

Committee event  
Early Summer cohort event  
Leadership of Career Exploration event



## July

Leadership or Career Exploration event

## August

College Exploration event  
Mid-summer cohort event





“I see myself pursuing STEM specifically biological sciences. I also see myself pursuing leadership positions throughout my career and engaging in extracurricular activities. I would like to attend a prestigious STEM program.”

—COHORT 2024 PARTICIPANT



“This is my first year in LI and I’m going to miss it so much. It’s been so rewarding, and I’ve grown so much. I’m so thankful to be a part of it.”

—COHORT 2024 PARTICIPANT



Check out Cohort 2024’s Capstone Projects:





Thank you to our generous program funders!

**BANK OF AMERICA** 

**The  
Beatrice Renfield  
Foundation**



**Sy Syms Foundation**



**girlscoutsnyc.org**

Girl Scouts of Greater New York  
40 Wall Street, Suite 708, New York, NY 10005  
212.645.4000



@girlscoutsnyc