



Pathways: Exploration

A Cadette GSGATL Experience

Start Today!
Request the Patch!



Hey Girl Scouts!

What is Pathways: Exploration?

The Pathways Program was an initiative launched during the 2023-2024 membership year at Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta for our Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors. It is an umbrella term for the programs and events that are part of the Older Girl experience, so **every** GSGATL middle and high school Girl Scout is already on their journey in Pathways. Pathways: Exploration is unique to our 6th-8th grade Girl Scouts and allows them to explore their interests as they grow and mature into high school Girl Scouts.

But what is it - exactly? And why does it matter?

We recognize that each Girl Scout is on their own unique journey, with their own goals.

Maybe your goal is to have as much fun and participate in as many unique experiences as possible. Perhaps, you desire to learn more about possible career paths or hobbies that interest you. Maybe you are most interested in making a difference in your local community or on a global platform?

No matter your specific goal or dream in Girl Scouting, there is a Pathway to *explore* to help focus your journey and be intentional.

How does it work?

Pathways: Exploration is organized into five subject areas or tracks: Build Your World (STEM), Cultivate Your Village (Mentorship), Define Your Why (Communication OR Reflections on Your Girl Scout Experience), Find Your Place (Workforce Development), and Realize Your Impact (Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Accessibility). Each track features nine (9) signature events and multiple badges that count towards completing that Pathway. For each track completed, you submit a form via the QR code above to receive its corresponding patch.

Girl Scouts are encouraged to participate in a wide array of programming throughout our membership year (Oct. 1 to Sept. 30), and you need only complete any combination of at least six (6) key programs or badges within your chosen track(s). You can record what you've completed on your Pathways Passport.

Pathways: Exploration is meant to be a fun and engaging structure for navigating your Older Girl experience. But since it is still new, you may have additional questions. Turn this sheet over for more info or email gsprogram@gsgatl.org for assistance.

Pathways: Exploration FAQs:

Girl Scouts are encouraged to participate in the wide variety of programming that our council offers to supplement their troop or Juliette (individual) activities throughout the year. After completing or attending at least six (6) of the nine (9) predesignated programs for any one track, they can submit their Pathways Passport for a piece of the Pathways Fun Patch!

• How can I sign up for Pathways: Exploration?

Pathways: Exploration does not have an official sign-up process! Pathways: Exploration is open to any Cadette who wants to participate in this program structure. Girl Scouts simply need to collect their Pathways Program anchor, download one or more of the passports, then begin their journey!

• How do I get a Pathways Passport - then the patch - once I've filled my Passport?

Pathways Passports are available for download on the GSGATL website under the Activities Tab: 6-8 Program Page. Each passport is available for download individually. The Pathways patch is a six-piece modular patch. Girl Scouts request the anchor patch and each rocker representing their chosen track via the QR code on the front of this sheet.

• How can I get a stamp on my passport?

The Pathways Passport is completed on a Girl Scout honor basis. If you complete the badge work on your passport or an activity without a GSGATL staff representative, feel free to stamp it or cross it off on your own. At some of our key events such as Girl Scout Con, STEM Expo, Cookie University, Gold Award Inspire Showcase, and more, you can present your passport at check in, and a staff member will stamp or sticker your passport to mark your attendance! This process is still being developed, so don't fret if you've been to an event and haven't gotten a stamp yet.

• Does Pathways: Exploration help with my Silver Award?

Participating in Pathways: Exploration can certainly help you in your journey to earn your Silver Award! Currently, Pathways encourages Girl Scouts to complete badge work in alignment with the path they're currently pursuing. Some council-sponsored leadership programs on the passport have High Awards elements that count towards required hours! As we continue to grow Pathways: Exploration, hopefully we'll be able to add some additional opportunities on the passports.

• What makes Pathways: Exploration different from regular GS programming?

Pathways: Exploration provides more structure and intentionality behind the programs our council can provide to Cadettes, especially in preparing them for high school Girl Scout leadership experiences. Girl Scouts are encouraged to take one program year at a time and explore an entire Pathway, or they can peruse multiple programmatic opportunities and create their own Girl Scout year! This, in turn, provides both girl choice and agency as Girl Scouts become more responsible for their experience as well as transparency from our council about what we offer each program year. The experiences laid out on the passports include a combination of camp programs, council structured programs, corporate and program partner experiences, as well as badge work to create a unique and holistic Girl Scout journey year after year.

• Do I have to complete one path at a time?

No, you do not! At Girl Scouts, we believe in girl choice. This means that in addition to the specifically collected sets of program opportunities, our 6th-8th grade Girl Scouts are encouraged to pursue the opportunities that most interest them.

• Are there any opportunities for middle school Girl Scouts outside of Pathways: Exploration?

Yes. Girl Scouts are always encouraged to explore Girl Scouting and their passions wholeheartedly! We believe in "girl led" and "girl choice." Pathways: Exploration is merely an opportunity for Cadette Girl Scouts to find consistency in their program as they grow through Girl Scouting. Girl Scouts are not required to download passports or participate in the Pathways: Exploration structure.