

Transition to the Next Grade Level

It can seem like a big task to transition with the troop to a new grade level. This resource will provide some great tips to help make this transition smooth for you, your co-leaders and for your troop.

What Stays the Same

- Program resources such as the Journeys, Skill Building Badges and Legacy Badges
- Resources in the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting
- Fun and Success
- Relationships that may last a lifetime

There will be growing relationships...and the pride that comes from knowing that your gift of time and talent helps build girls of courage confidence and character who make the work a better place. You may wonder if you'll know what you should be doing - yes, you'll know because Girls Scouts of the Sierra Nevada's resources and troop support team will help all along the way.

The term Bridging is, in the simplest explanation, advancing from one level of Girl Scouting to the next. It can seem like a puzzling transition. It doesn't need to be. Find the steps to earn the Bridge award in the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. Earning the Bridge award can be as simple or as involved as your troop wants to make it. While it is strongly recommended that your troop earn the Bridging award for their level, it is not mandatory and every girl "bridges" whether the award is earned or not.

Next Steps

- From the troop funds, buy the next level's Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting and a Journey book set.
- Read the short but information packed self-study resource *Troop Government* and *Letting Girls Lead* for the appropriate age levels.
- Plan Your Year using the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK). These pre-made meeting plans will be a great head start as your troop explores new adventures at its new grade level. Most of the preparation is already done!

Network and ask questions! No question is too silly! Attend a service unit meeting and ask leaders of troops at the next grade level your questions. Troop leaders love to share their success stories and generally love to help out. Check out Sierra Nevada's website and don't forget that you might find a social media group or other online social networks to ask your questions.

As Girls Grow in Their Aspirations, Adults Grow in Delegation and Resourcing

Don't forget to delegate among troop volunteers or even better yet, to the girls if it's age appropriate. As the girls advance from grade level to grade level their aspirations may become more elaborate. This is great! In the younger grade levels, the girls' goals may have been easier to manage with a smaller amount of delegation and assistance. As the girls advance in grade levels, our roles as troop leaders will be to get comfortable and embrace delegation...grow your friends and family network and engage everyone in helping. Look to community members as resources.

Questions

Contact us at girlscouts@gssn.org or 775-322-0642.