Best Troop Year Ever Incentive

During the 2019-2020 membership year, we want EVERY troop in Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas to have the BEST Troop Year EVER! AND we want your troop to earn a free patch along the way.

Here’s how it works: Beginning this fall, our Volunteer Engagement team will be reaching out to check in on your troop this year – via phone calls, emails, and text message. Reach back out to them, share what’s going on with your troop, and connect. We’ll keep track of your troop’s progress and once you reach **20 points**, we’ll drop FREE patches in the mail for the girls and volunteers in your troop.

Bonus: On March 31, 2020, any troops* who have earned **30 points** will be entered into a drawing to receive $100 for your troop – just in time for Early Bird renewal. *Your troop bank account must be registered and verified with GSNETX to be eligible for this drawing.

1. **Go on an Adventure (2 points)** Hike! Camp! Zip-Line! Kayak! Get your troop outside to experience the thrills of nature. We are updating our Safety Activity Checkpoints- guidelines for keeping your troop safe- and are working on a simplified Activity Approval process to get your troop going on their next great adventure.

2. **Attend a GSNETX Signature Event (2 points)**
   These grand events engage, excite, and empower Girl Scouts. Keep an eye out for events marked with the “signature” icon (ibrated) in the Events and Activities Guides, and plan to attend at least one as a troop this year. Check out all upcoming GSNETX events at gsnetx.org/events.

3. **Fund Your Fun & Use Resources Wisely (up to 6 points / 2 points - bank account registered, 2 points - fall product participation, 2 points - cookie program participation)**
   Fall product sales and the Girl Scout Cookie Program not only help your girls learn business skills, but also help cover the cost of the Girl Scout year. Make sure your troop members have permission slips completed and be on the lookout for information on training. We have tons of financial resources and information for troops at gsnetx.org/troopfinance.

4. **Timeless Traditions (2 points)**
   Participate in the traditional elements of Girl Scouting. This could be wearing encouraging your troop members to wear their uniforms, reciting the Promise and Law at the start of each meeting, singing songs or ending each meeting with a friendship circle.

5. **Earn Badges and Journeys (up to 6 points / 1 per Badge, 3 per Journey)**
   Badges & Journeys are the best way to explore new topics and learn new skills! Try earning at least four Badges or one Journey this year. The Volunteer Toolkit can help you and your girls plan your year from start to finish. Resources for the Volunteer Toolkit are at gsnetx.org/vtk.
6. **Give Back (2 points)**  
   Be sure to reinforce Girl Scout values of being friendly, helpful, and making the world a better place by engaging in at least one community service or Take Action project this year. *Submit the inspiring story about your troop’s latest adventure for a chance to be featured throughout the year on gsnetx.org, our blog, Facebook and Instagram pages, and more at [https://secure.gsnetx.org/shareastory/](https://secure.gsnetx.org/shareastory/).*

7. **Engage in all 4 Pillars of our Program: (up to 8 points/2 points per pillar)**  
   Be well-rounded by engaging in at least one activity from each of the 4 Girl Scout Program Pillars.
   - **STEM:** Visit our STEM Center of Excellence! Weekend workshops for individuals, troops, or families are available. Need help delivering STEM badges in your troop meetings? *Look for more information soon about Jumpstart, GSNETX’s very own digital STEM badge workshop assistant, at [gsnetx.org/jumpstart](https://gsnetx.org/jumpstart).*
   - **Entrepreneurship:** GSNETX troops will have the opportunity to participate in our first-ever fall product program. Prepare your troop for cookie season by attending one of our “5 Skills in Action” workshops! *All the info you need to know for a successful cookie season is at [gsnetx.org/cookies](https://gsnetx.org/cookies).*
   - **Outdoor Leadership:** Explore our beautiful camp properties for the weekend or the day. With a variety of sleeping accommodations, activities, and programs—there is something for everyone! *Find more info at [gsnetx.org/camp](https://gsnetx.org/camp).*
   - **Life Skills:** Our hashtag free patch series encourages you to learn more about yourself and your community. *This year’s free patch line up can be found at [gsnetx.org/patches](https://gsnetx.org/patches).*

8. **Consistency is Key (2 points)**  
   Make sure you are having regularly scheduled troop meetings—whatever that means for you! Be sure your girls have a consistent schedule and know when their next meeting will be. We recommend 2-3 activities or troop meetings per month for Daisy, Brownie, and Junior troops and that older girl troops work with their girls’ schedule to see what works for them.

9. **Grow Your Troop (2 points)**  
   The most successful troops have between 10-12 girl members, though some troops with additional volunteer leadership are able to have even more. Earn these points by having at least 10 girls in your troop or being listed as Active in our online troop opportunity catalog to take more girls. *Opt in to the catalog by filling out the Troop Information Update form at [gsnetx.org/troopupdate](https://gsnetx.org/troopupdate).*

10. **Include Your Girl Scout Fam (2 points)**  
    Don’t forget to include your girls’ support networks in your troop activities—their parents! Host an annual parent meeting, set up regular means of communication (via Facebook group, group text, etc.), and ask them to do specific volunteer activities for the troop.