

## HISTORY

It was on March 12, 1912 that Juliette Gordon Low called a friend and said “I’ve got something for the girls of Savannah, and all America, and all the world, and we are going to start it tonight”

Known as Daisy to her family and friends, Juliette wanted to bring girls out from their limited home environments and learn new skills and be able to use them in their local community. In 1913, only a year after the first meeting, the first handbook was called **How Girls Can Help Their Country**. Originally a password was needed to entering a Girl Scout meeting, it was BE PREPARED said backwards. A secret handshake was also learned, that we still use today. Shake with your left hand while the right hand is holding up the middle 3 fingers.

The organization had over 70,000 members 8 years after that first meeting, in 1920. The organization flourished until the Great Depression hit. The members used the skills they had been learning for years to help with collecting clothes, food as well as toys. Girl Scout uniforms were often seen in local hospitals. In 1936 the first Girl Scout cookie was sold.

War did not slow down Girl Scouts as they increased their service projects to collecting scrap metal, growing Victory Gardens and selling defense bonds. A new membership campaign called for “a million more by '44” and that goal was not only met, it was exceeded.

The next decade brought a new motto, Be Prepared.

The 60's may have seemed a time when young people were rebelling against authority, but Girl Scouting continued to thrive. Demand for a program for younger girls led to the creation of 4 levels. Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes and Seniors.