

## Social Media Guidelines for Girl Scouts River Valleys

When it comes to using social media or any form of online communication, Girl Scouts River Valleys believes the Girl Scout Law serves as an excellent guide for girls, volunteers, members, parents, alumna, and staff.

**Honest and fair:** Be honest about your role within Girl Scouts River Valleys when communicating about Girl Scout related issues online. If you want to express an opinion about something related to Girl Scouts, it is best to clarify that the opinions you are expressing are your own and not necessarily the opinion of Girl Scouts of the USA or Girl Scouts River Valleys.

**Friendly and helpful:** If you see an opportunity to help a sister Girl Scout, please do! We love when parents, volunteers, or other members connect online, share resources with one another, or help answer questions.

**Considerate and caring:** Unfortunately, we have all witnessed social media or email being used as a way to attack, criticize, bad mouth, or belittle others. At Girl Scouts River Valleys, we want to see members and girls building each other up and supporting one another. Conflict happens – even in Girl Scouts – but when addressing these conflicts or sensitive issues with someone, it's usually best to take the conversation offline and talk face-to-face.

**Courageous and strong:** In the words of Girl Scout founder, Juliette Gordon Low: "Right is right, even if no one else is doing it." If you see questionable content or behavior online related to Girl Scouts River Valleys, don't be afraid to speak up, ask questions, or contact the River Valleys Communications Team via social media, email, or phone.

**Responsible for what I say and do:** A wise person once said, "Think twice before you say something. Think three times before you post it on social media." Use discretion and ask questions if you are unsure about whether or not to post something.

**Respect myself and others:** People vary in what they are comfortable posting online and who they are comfortable sharing that with. Use your own discretion when determining who to connect with on social media and respect that others will use theirs.

**Respect authority:** Girl Scouts River Valleys is responsible for monitoring its online presence and ensuring that it is a positive and supportive environment. While we welcome interaction, discussion, commentary, questions, and even criticism, we ask visitors to our sites to keep their comments and posts relevant and respectful. Girl Scouts River Valleys may remove any post or ban anyone who makes personal attacks, uses inappropriate language, spams or excessively posts, or states something that is inaccurate or otherwise objectionable.

**Use resources wisely:** Social media and email are great resources for Girl Scout members! If you see content you think is exciting or interesting, we encourage you to share it with your networks. We hope you take advantage of these great tools to connect with others who share a common interest in Girl Scouts!

**Make the world a better place:** Just like at the campsite, we hope you leave our online community a little prettier than how you found it. We love seeing people share positive comments, pictures, and posts: keep spreading the joy!

**Be a sister to every Girl Scout:** Ultimately, we want to make sure that everyone in the Girl Scout community feels valued, supported, and respected – both online and offline.

If you have questions about these guidelines or would like more clarification, the River Valleys Communications Team would be happy to assist you. You can reach them by messaging any of the social media sites Girl Scouts River Valleys operates, by email at girlscouts@girlscoutsrv.org, or by phone at 800-845-0787.