

Belonging is a near-universal desire for individuals to feel genuinely welcome to participate, secure in their place within a group, and connected to their peers. At Girl Scouts, girls learn to think critically, solve problems together, and balance independence with community support. The program encourages teamwork, collaboration, and self-discovery. Remember, Girl Scouts is not just about badges and cookies; it's about building lifelong connections and a sense of belonging.

**Research shows there are 5 basic principles of belonging: feeling welcomed, known, included, supported, and connected.**



## Welcomed:

Being welcomed means girls should feel warmly received and seamlessly added into the troop.



## Known:

Knowing who you are and your traits will help you feel like you belong. Then, you will be able to help others understand who they are and how they belong.



## Included:

Being included is when girls feel a sense of mattering, purpose, and a pull to be their true authentic selves.



## Supported:

To make girls feel supported it's important to give them a sense of empowerment, mentorship, and emotional aid tied to Girl Scouts and everyday life.



## Connected:

Being connected offers you the opportunity to expand your circle and be part of something bigger than yourself.

If you want to learn more about belonging in your troop or service unit, be on the lookout for a new gsLearn course coming in Fall 2024 called: *Being a Sister to Every Girl Scout: Promoting Belonging*.

