# Senior & Ambassador Girl Scouts!



**Thinking about college?** Now you can benefit from artificial intelligence and expert insight to ace the process and boost your chances of landing your dream schools.

## We are excited to announce that our **CollegeLab** partnership has officially launched!

#### CollegeLab Provides Girl Scouts with Free College Admission Support

As we navigate this time of uncertainty and rapid change, Girl Scouts remains focused on equipping girls with tools that set them up for success, including from home. Through our partnership with <code>CollegeLab</code>—a mobile-friendly online platform that helps students manage the college admission process and improve their chances of acceptance—registered Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors are eligible for free access to the platform. Normally this service costs \$99 annually, but now through our special partnership with CollegeLab, Girl Scouts can take advantage of it at no cost after meeting one of the following requirements:

- Earned (or currently earning) the Girl Scout Ambassador College Knowledge badge (learn how via <u>Girl Scouts at Home</u>, <u>Badge Explorer</u> and the Volunteer Toolkit)
- Secured approval of their Gold Award proposal with their council
- Earned the Girl Scout Gold Award

From the comfort and safety of their own homes, girls can research over 2,000 colleges and universities, get personalized acceptance predictions at the top 500 colleges, create a balanced college list to share with family and school counselors, and organize and collect their notes.

Together, we can make sure girls are one step closer to get accepted into the colleges of their dreams!





#### **Frequently Asked Questions**

#### Why is CollegeLab partnering with Girl Scouts?

We know the college application process is complex. Girl Scouts wants to ensure that Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors have the best tools at their disposal to make the process of selecting college options more manageable. We've teamed up with CollegeLab to grant qualifying Girl Scouts free access to CollegeLab's services.

You must be a currently registered Senior and Ambassador Girl Scout who has met one of the following requirements:

- Earned (or currently earning) the Girl Scout Ambassador College Knowledge badge
- Secured approval of their Gold Award proposal with their council
- Earned the Girl Scout Gold Award

CollegeLab is an artificially intelligent college admissions tool that helps families and counselors better navigate and manage the college admissions process. Built using machine learning methods and the expertise of a former Ivy League Dean of Admissions, CollegeLab utilizes millions of student applications with outcomes to predict your chance of admission at over 500 colleges and universities, comparing 12 data points and identifying areas that you can focus on to improve your chances.

#### How do I qualify for free access?

You must be a currently registered Senior and Ambassador Girl Scout who has met one of the following requirements:

- Earned (or currently earning) the Girl Scout Ambassador College Knowledge badge
- Secured approval of their Gold Award proposal with their council
- Earned the Girl Scout Gold Award

#### How do I take advantage of the free access available to Girl Scouts?

Access Girl Scouts CollegeLab signup page. You'll be prompted to confirm you're a current Girl Scout member and confirm eligibility for free access by selecting a qualifying Girl Scout requirement. For additional questions, email <a href="mailto:goldaward@girlscouts.org">goldaward@girlscouts.org</a>

#### What if I have completed more than one qualifying Girl Scout requirements?

Great! It's very possible you've completed more than one—if you're a Gold Award Girl Scout, you are a previous candidate; or you have earned (or are earning) the College Knowledge badge and are currently working on your Gold Award–simply select the option that best describes you today.

#### How long is free access available to qualifying Girl Scouts?

Free access to all of CollegeLab online services will be available until at least June 1, 2022 at which point the collaboration will be revisited.

#### Who do I call if I am experiencing technical difficulties or for questions?

Please <u>contact CollegeLab</u> and we will connect you with the next available customer service representative.

#### How do I earn my College Knowledge Badge?

Registered Ambassador Girl Scouts earn the College Knowledge Badge by 1) exploring their options, 2) starting the admissions process, 3) making a financial plan, 4) getting set up for success and 5) building healthy habits. Purchase the <u>Badge Requirements</u> or access them for free via the <u>Volunteer Toolkit</u>.

#### How do I start my Girl Scout Gold Award?

The <u>Gold Award</u> is the most highly regarded award in the world for girls. It's the mark of the truly remarkable—proof that not only can you make a difference, but that you already *have*. It's a distinction that can open your world up to scholarships, preferred admission tracks for college, and amazing career opportunities.

To earn the Gold Award, Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors tackle issues dear to them and drive lasting change in their communities and beyond. Ready to be a Gold Award Girl Scout? Great—your council needs to be the first to know. Contact your local council to help you get started!

#### How do I become a Girl Scout?

<u>Join Girl Scouts today!</u> After registering, <u>contact your council</u> for info on how you can complete your College Knowledge badge or begin the Gold Award process.

### What do I do if I am already paying for CollegeLab but meet the Girl Scout qualifications for a free account?

Please head on over to <u>Contact Us</u> and we will transfer your account over to a free account. If you are a paying user, we will cancel your subscription as well.

#### How do I reset my password?

After you've signed in, click your name in the upper right-hand corner and select "Account" from the dropdown menu. In the "Personal" tab of your account page, you'll need to enter your current password into the "Current Password" field and your desired password into the "New Password" field and click "Save Profile".



### Financial Aid 101

"Financial aid" is a blanket term used to describe money that can help pay for college. It includes money that comes from the government and other organizations in the form of grants, scholarships, loans, or workstudy programs.

- Grants do not have to be paid back. This money comes from the state or federal government or the college itself. The amount is usually need-based, meaning it is awarded based on a student's financial circumstances.
- Scholarships are awarded by governments, colleges, or private organizations. Like grants, they do not have to be paid back. They may be given to students who excel in academic or athletics or are part of a particular organization or demographic. Scholarships may be a one-time gift, or ongoing throughout your education.
- **Loans** are borrowed money. When you take out loans, they must eventually be paid back—with interest. (That means you end up paying back more than you borrowed.) Students with financial need may be awarded low-interest loans from the federal government.
- **Work-study programs** are paid part-time jobs (typically on campus) provided to students based on financial need. These funds are usually shared directly with the student as a paycheck.

Regardless of your family's financial circumstances, you'll want to start the financial aid process by filling out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at <a href="www.fafsa.ed.gov">www.fafsa.ed.gov</a>. You can submit it starting October 1 of the year before you'll be attending college. This application covers state and federal grants, work study, and loans. Individual colleges and universities may have their own forms that you'll need to submit, too.