

# 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 CollegeLab—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 once they've met one or more of the following requirements:

- **Received approval of their Gold Award Proposal**
- **Earned the Girl Scout Gold Award**
- **Earned or working on the Girl Scout College Knowledge badge**

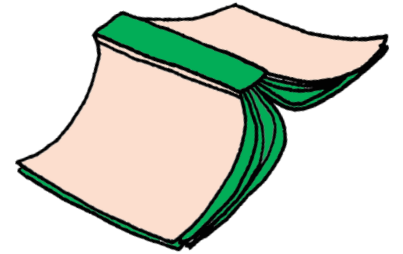
## Important Tips

- Although officially an Ambassador badge, we encourage Girl Scouts to begin work on their College Knowledge badge as Girl Scout Seniors
- To help girls begin this badge work, a College Knowledge Badge Packet is included. Follow these steps to begin your badge work and become eligible for free access to CollegeLab

**To create your FREE Girl Scout account with CollegeLab, please use this link: <https://girlscouts.collegelab.org>**

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!

# College Knowledge



## STEPS

- 1. Explore your options**
- 2. Start the admissions process**
- 3. Make a financial plan**
- 4. Get set for success**
- 5. Build healthy habits**



**When you've earned this badge, you'll understand the steps in the college admission process and be prepared to attend the school of your choice!**

The years after high school are an exciting time—you're going out into the world and figuring out what your adult life is going to look like. Some people will go to college right after high school, and some will take different paths. If you've decided that college is the best choice for you and your family, you may be feeling both excited and overwhelmed. Simplify the college preparation process by tackling it step by step, and you'll be ready to start your next chapter in no time!

Choose one option in each step to complete your badge!

## STEP 1: EXPLORE YOUR OPTIONS

*The first step in applying to college is figuring out where you might like to go. If you have a school—or group of schools—that you're interested in, you're already on your way. If not, that's just fine! You can start by looking online at [www.bigfuture.org](http://www.bigfuture.org), where you can search for schools all over the country, find detailed information about each one, and build lists to help you compare schools. Choose at least three schools that interest you and meet your family's needs, then compare them by researching more about the following:*

**Find your place.** Look into the places that are home to your chosen schools and compare them. Think about the cost of living, entertainment options, and access to public transportation.

**Investigate your interests.** Research the activities and groups offered by your chosen schools and compare them.

**Compare your program.** Research your potential focus of study at your chosen schools, and compare the options. Is the school known for having a solid program in your field? What kinds of classes are offered? Are there student clubs or groups (Computer Science Club, Pre-Law Society)?

## STEP 2: START THE ADMISSIONS PROCESS

*Get prepared for the college admission process.*

**Apply yourself.** Look at the application for one of the schools you're interested in, and practice filling it out. Have a guidance counselor, teacher, or another adult review your practice application and give you suggestions for improvement before you fill out the final draft.

**Do your best on the test.** Practice taking the ACT or SAT online and keep working at it until you see improvement in your results.

**Share your story.** Sharpen your storytelling skills by taking part in a mock interview with a friend or family member—you can find sample questions online—or writing a first draft of an application essay. Share what makes you stand out from the crowd, why you'd be a good fit for a particular school, and how your personal experiences have made you who you are today.

## STEP 3: MAKE A FINANCIAL PLAN

*Look into the cost of higher education and find out how you might receive financial assistance.*

**Research in-state and out-of-state tuition costs.** Choose one state school in the state where you are a resident, and one state school in a different state. Compare the base tuition costs of each, and think about how you might be able to save money while attending both out-of-state and in-state schools.

**Find out about scholarships.** There are many websites where you can search for different types of scholarships. Once you've researched your options, apply for at least one scholarship. Have a family member, teacher, or guidance counselor look over your application before you submit it.

**Compare the costs of public, private, and junior college.** Choose the subject or career path you're most interested in and compare the cost of pursuing it at a public institution, private institution, and a junior college.

## STEP 4: GET SET FOR SUCCESS

***Maybe you're an honor student who always prioritizes studying over fun, or maybe you have some room for growth in the study habits department. Either way, you'll be starting with a fresh academic slate on your first day of college, and the changes in your environment can challenge you in unexpected ways.***

**Study, buddy.** Make a plan for when, where, and how you will study at college. Start by looking at potential study locations at one of the schools you're interested in, keeping in mind how you like to study. Talk to your family members, teachers, or guidance counselor about their tips for studying in college, and share your thoughts with them.

**Plan for academic integrity.** Choose one of the schools you're interested in and review their Academic Integrity Code (some schools may use a slightly different name, such as Academic Honor Code).

**Prevent procrastination.** Research techniques for fighting procrastination, either online or in books you can take out from the library. Try a few different techniques until you find what works best for you. Talk about your findings with a family member, teacher, or guidance counselor, and get their input. How do they address procrastination in their own lives?

## STEP 5: BUILD HEALTHY HABITS

***When you start college, you'll take your first step into an independent adult life. You'll be juggling classes, homework, friends, family, finances, and extracurricular activities. It can be challenging to balance it all and still find time to breathe— but you've got this!***

**Be a self-starter.** Some students can struggle to stay motivated. Plan to succeed by creating a practice calendar. Look at a traditional freshman student course load at one of the colleges or universities you're interested in. Then create a mock calendar for yourself. Schedule in study time, meals, rest, and personal things that are important to you (like exercise, phone calls home, or that one TV show you can't miss). If you'll have a job on top of classes, be sure to include it, too. Then go over your calendar with your family, a teacher, or your guidance counselor to see what they think.

**Balance school and socializing.** Talk to a current college student and ask how she balances her social life with schoolwork, then come up with your own plan. Discuss your plan with your closest friends, and see if they have other suggestions—remember, you'll want to carve out time for old friends, too!

**Manage stress.** Try at least three different healthy ways to prevent stress before you feel it, or push back against it when you do. Compare your ideas and results with your friends and talk about what worked best. Then talk about times when you think you may feel stressed or anxious at college—maybe finals, writing papers, meeting your new roommate for the first time—and how you will manage it in a healthy way.