



# Want to learn more about the history of GA?

GA began in 1913 as Girls' Auxiliary. In 1970, the organization's name was changed to Girls in Action. GA has a rich legacy. Thousands upon thousands of young girls have been a part of GA since it began approximately 100 years ago. Throughout this century, generations of young girls and their leaders have participated in GA and have learned how to help others in Jesus' name. Countless lives have been changed as girls and their leaders have prayed for, given to, and participated in missions education and hands-on missions involvement.

**The GA watchword** "Arise, shine, for thy light is come" (Isaiah 60:1) was designated in 1924.

**The first GA hymn** was "We've a Story to Tell."

**The GA Star Ideals** were:

- Abiding in Him through prayer,
- Advancing in wisdom by Bible study,
- Acknowledging my stewardship,
- Adorning myself with good works, and
- Accepting the challenge of the Great Commission.

The following allegiance statement was recited in their meetings where girls studied denominational programs and SBC leaders, memorized Scripture passages, and participated in service projects.

## **GA Allegiance**

Knowing that countless people grope in darkness and giving attention to his commands, I assert my allegiance to Jesus Christ, to his church and its activities, attempting with God's help to abide in him through prayer, to advance in wisdom by Bible study, to acknowledge my stewardship of time, money, and personality, to adorn myself with good works, and to accept the challenge of the Great Commission.

**GA Colors:** Green, white, and gold

## **GA Emblem**

The emblem was a white star bearing the gold GA monogram and enclosed by a green octagon edged with gold. The star represented the Star Ideals. The colors of the GA emblem were meaningful — the green was for growth; the white for purity; and the gold for sincerity.





## Characteristics of a Missional Lifestyle

Girls in Action learn to become disciples of Jesus Christ who live on mission in a variety of ways. Here are the four missional characteristics that lead to a missional lifestyle:

- **Learn about Missions**—Girls hear the stories of missionaries living near and far and find out the many ways these people share the love of Christ with the people around them. This exposes GAs to the redemptive gospel of Jesus Christ and couples that with a concern for the people of the world. Believing in Jesus goes hand in hand with sharing Him with others.
- **Pray for Missions**—As Girls in Action learn about missions and people engaging in mission action all over the world, they are encouraged to be a part of this effort through prayer. Voicing prayers of supplication for missionaries gets GAs outside of themselves and opens up new doors of the missional lifestyle.
- **Support Missions**—Girls have the opportunity to support missions in a variety of ways. Supporting missions in this way creates a feeling of ownership within the hearts of girls. The missions efforts they learn about and pray for are now directly impacted by the faithful giving of GAs.
- **Do Missions and Tell about Jesus**—As each characteristic builds upon the other, girls are challenged more and more to take mission action into their own hands. GAs who have already made a profession of faith in Christ can engage in witnessing and sharing their testimony. But GAs who have yet to become Christians can also find ways to be involved. Sometimes it's as simple as saying, "God loves me, and He loves you too!"



# How to Set Up Your GA Group

Girls in Action helps elementary-age girls grow in their spiritual development as they learn the biblical basis of missions and discover their part in God's plan.

## GA® groups can be structured in a variety of ways:

- all elementary-aged girls in the same group
- lower elementary (grades 1–3) and upper elementary (grades 4–6) form two separate groups
- each grade level has its own GA group

Each church may determine the optimal number of girls in each group, but should provide at least two leaders per group. More may be needed depending on the number of girls expected.

## Setting Up a Meeting Space for Your GA Group

Keep these things in mind as you prepare your meeting space:

1. **Curriculum**—Where will you store your *GA Leader* poster kit, *GA World* magazines, and *GA Leader* magazine?
2. **Displays**—Is there a place to display the GA Pledge, Motto, Scripture Verses, and Flag? Where can you place a world map or a globe?
3. **Craft supplies**—How and where can you store basic supplies in your meeting space?
4. **Children**—Where will children be during each part of your meeting?
5. **Child safety policies**—What are your church's policies concerning child safety? How will you support and abide by these policies?



# Girls in Action Leader Responsibilities

GA® leaders are responsible for planning, carrying out, and evaluating missions discipleship for girls. Each group needs at least two adults per classroom for safety and security reasons. Additional leaders are advised when a specific situation would benefit from a smaller leader/girl ratio. A church may have safety/security guidelines with a lower ratio of child per adult, and should follow those guidelines.

Leaders are specifically responsible for:

- setting goals and making overall plans for the year
- planning the sessions in GA
- leading missions learning experiences in sessions
- reflecting on the experiences of the group and adjusting as needed
- following the church's safety/security practices for receiving girls at the beginning of sessions and releasing girls at the close of sessions; suggesting additional safety/security practices if none exist or are laid-back
- communicating with parents or caregivers about their girls' missions learning experiences and making suggestions of activities to reinforce missions discipleship in the home
- maintaining contact with parents or caregivers of participants, prospects, and absentees
- providing resources and gathering supplies for sessions
- working within the church budget designated for children's missions discipleship
- maintaining records (such as attendance) and reporting accomplishments
- involving members in preparing for and carrying out missions experiences as appropriate to their levels of development
- incorporating the plan of salvation into learning experiences as appropriate

Leaders for each Girls in Action missions group determine how they will share leadership responsibilities. A church may have an experienced leader who serves as the lead teacher while another leader assists. In other churches, the leaders may divide responsibilities for planning and leading activities.

A church with more than one Girls in Action group may select a coordinator. This leader has the responsibility to:

- bring leaders together for coordinated planning
- coordinate activities or events for groups to do together, such as enlistment events
- coordinate training efforts for leaders, such as attendance at a state WMU training event
- enlist leaders
- order resources and supplies or report needs to the person who orders for the church
- maintain records and report accomplishments to the church
- promote children's missions discipleship within the church
- evaluate missions discipleship for children