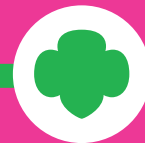


September Monthly Newsletter





Girl Scout Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

The Girl Scout Program

Grounded in the Girl Scout Promise and Law, Girl Scouting is an experiential, cooperative education program that promotes girls' personal growth and leadership development. Partnering with caring adults, girls design fun and challenging activities that empower them and raise their voices within a local, national, and global sisterhood.

Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:

to serve God and my country,
to help people at all times,
and to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be

honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,

and to

respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

September

Monthly Newsletter

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Contact Us!

Phone: 406-252-0488

Email: customer care@gsmw.org

Mail: 2303 Grand Ave | Billings, MT 59102



[facebook.com/GSMWcouncil](https://www.facebook.com/GSMWcouncil)



[@girlscoutsmtwy](https://www.instagram.com/girlscoutsmtwy)



[@GSMWcouncil](https://twitter.com/GSMWcouncil)



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/gsmw>

Facebook Groups

[GSMW - Billings, HDQ](#)

[GSMW - Northeastern Wyoming](#)

[GSMW - Eastcentral Wyoming](#)

[GSMW - Southeast Wyoming](#)

[GSMW - Southwest Wyoming](#)

[GSMW - Southcentral Wyoming](#)

[GSMW - Southwest Montana](#)

[GSMW - Northcentral Montana](#)

[GSMW - Southcentral Montana](#)

[GSMW - Northwest Montana](#)

[GSMW - Central Montana](#)

[GSMW - Eastern Montana](#)



On-Time Renewal & Grow Your Troop



On-Time Renewal

Fun with friends, new adventures, and making a difference. This year especially, she is ready to get going again and Girl Scouts is ready for her.

Continuing her journey with Girl Scouts will allow her to build her leadership skills, learn how to impact her community, and take the next step toward changing the world.

We can't wait to launch another great year, renew by September 30th to receive the exclusive 2024 renewal patch!

Grow Your Troop or Build Another

Between now and October 15, 2023, take the Girl Scout Grow Your Troop or Build Another **PLEDGE** to recruit a minimum of two or more girls to your troop or recruit two new volunteers to start their own troop by December 31, 2023.

- 1** If you grow your troop by recruiting two new girls OR two volunteers to start a new troop before December 31, 2023 the troop will receive TWO Girl Scout outdoor blankets.
- 2** If you recruit at least two or more girls to your troop or volunteers to start a new troop, your entire troop (including leaders), will receive a fun Proud Girl Scout pin.
- 3** In order to participate and qualify for ANY rewards for your troop, you **MUST** take the "PLEDGE" before October 15th. If you don't end up with *growth of two girls/volunteers, there is no penalty.
- 4** However, in order to claim any rewards, you must officially register your PLEDGE.

*Troop growth does not apply to girl troop to troop transfers.



Don't Miss Out!

Are you ready to grow your troop or help build another by December 31?

TAKE THE PLEDGE



Volunteer Training Survey

We want some feedback from you! Please [click on this link](#) and let us know your thoughts about NEW GSMW Volunteer Trainings and future Volunteer Retreats. We are excited to help you feel supported as you work with the girls in your Troop.

Fall Product Program: Troops

Troops, you do not want to miss participating in the Fall Program! Not only is it a great way to get some start-up funds for the year, but just by sending the **Parent/Adult Campaign Email** and have **at least \$1 in sales**, your troop will be entered to win your choice of the following:

- GSMW Sweatshirts for your Troop with custom names on the back
- A customized program for your Troop
- \$100 in Troop Funds!



Fall Product Program: Paperwork

Can you believe it?! Fall Packets for the 2023 program are headed your way! Get ready to help your girls as they “Own Your Magic!” An email was sent to volunteers receiving the Fall Paperwork as a heads up. It should be arriving over the next couple of weeks in a purple poly bag mailer. If there is an issue with receiving paperwork, or if you need additional paperwork, please email customer care@gsmw.org to request additional paperwork.

Fall Product Program: Training

Speaking of Fall...We have a new training format for the 2023 Fall Program. Complete your Fall Program training through gsLearn with 15 minutes of fun, short videos with some knowledge checks and then attend a Fall Kickoff. Please click on the appropriate link below to sign up for the Fall Kickoff. Don't miss attending this training to get the latest and greatest details... and maybe even win a fun giveaway!

- [Service Units: September 7th at 7 PM](#)
- [Juliettes: September 11th at 7 PM](#)
- [Troops: September 12th or 14th at 7 PM](#)

OWN YOUR magic



Fall Product Program: Introducing...OPAL

You voted and it's official. Opal is the name of our giant ocelot plush friend! Want a chance to win Opal? Participate in the 2023 Fall Program and for every \$50 a girl sells; she will receive an entry to win Opal! Two lucky girls, one in Montana and one in Wyoming, will win! Good luck and we hope you have a MAGICAL Fall Program!



Soar Into '24 With All New Badges!

Mental Health Wellness

Life brings up all sorts of emotions, but being a Girl Scout means tapping into a welcoming community of people who uplift and guide you every step of the way. Girl Scouts Mental Wellness Program teaches girls how to care for their emotions as they come up and encourages them to become their most resilient self with activities made to help them get through anything.



Maker Badges

Girl Scouts love finding new ways to explore their creative side, and with 9 NEW Maker badges, the opportunities are endless! Inspired by the popular Artist and Craft badges, the Maker line incorporates Girl Scouts' traditional favorite crafting and art skills—such as drawing, pottery, and painting—while adding opportunities for artistic exploration and expression in additional mediums.



Animal Badges

Girl Scouts further immerse themselves in the world of animals when they embark on these badge adventures! Animal-based programming enriches girls' lives by fostering a sense of connection, empathy, and environmental consciousness. It also provides them with valuable skills and experiences that can shape their personal growth, academic pursuits, and future careers.



World Thinking Day

Join your fellow Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from over 150 countries around the world to celebrate World Thinking Day! The best part is, you don't need to wait until February to get started. Start learning about World Thinking Day and embracing perspectives outside your own! Think about this year's focus of "Our World, Our Thriving Future: The Environment and Global Poverty" and explore how these issues are even more challenging for girls and women in your communities and around the world. Think about the issues that contribute to the problems and about the little things you can do to make a big difference!



Daisy

Brownie

Junior

Cadette

Senior

Ambassador

www.girlscouts.org/newactivities

Learn More About New Badges



Be Prepared for '24 with Troop Leader Resources

For Girls: "No Prob-Llama" Conflict Management Guide

Conflicts and disagreements are part of life, but if handled constructively, they show girls that they can overcome their differences, exercise diplomacy, and improve their communication and relationships. [These guides](#), offered at each grade level, help Girl Scouts practice being respectful and kind, make thoughtful decisions, and relate to one another.

Want to earn the fun patch? We will send you the [No Drama Llama GSMW patch](#) for each girl and adult that participated in the activities, signed the No Bullies Pledge, and shared photo(s) of your troop completing "No Prob-Llama" activities upon submitting your [Troop Entry](#).

If you need additional support related to bullying and conflict in your troop, please contact your Membership Experience Manager or reach out to customer care@gsmw.org.



No Drama Llama Patch

Now Only
30 Minutes!

For Adults: Troop Leader & Volunteer Orientation

Our updated Troop Leadership & Volunteer Orientation is now available in gsLearn and **required** for all troop leadership including Troop Administrators, Girl Program Mentors, Bank Signers, Product Managers and anyone that works directly with girls.

[This training](#) should take no more than 30 minutes and covers Troop Management & Safety, Navigating the GSMW Website, GSMW Store Orders, and Troop Finances. Check out www.gsmw.org/training for all participation options.



Volunteers: Conflict Management Roadmap

GSMW has a new tool for volunteers to navigate adult conflict-- the Volunteer Relations Conflict Management Roadmap. This resource will give you tools to navigate conflict with caregivers, other volunteers and even in your own personal life! [Check it out in gsLearn and download the document for your use](#). Keep your eyes peeled for an upcoming volunteer training about this valuable tool.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children and adolescents ages 12-18.

This class will include two hours of pre-work that you will do online in preparation and then you will join us for two days of Youth Mental Health First Aid Training virtually. At the end of this class, you will be a certified Youth Mental Health First Aider.

[Sign up today](#) for our training November 2nd from 5:00PM – 8:00PM and November 4th from 11:00AM - 3:00PM. There are 30 spots available. It is \$30 a person. Don't delay...get registered today!

Find all training opportunities at www.gsmw.org/training



Troop Shop Coupon

Receive a \$50 Troop Shop Coupon by having two of your currently registered and background checked leaders complete [Troop Leadership & Volunteer Orientation](#) by 11/15/23.

Terms and Conditions apply: must be used on adult or girl uniform pieces, insignia, badges, or GSUSA publications. Cannot be used for shipping costs. Purchases can only be made in-person, with an email, or over the phone to the GSMW store. This coupon must be used in one purchase. Expires on January 5th, 2024. Questions? Call 406.252.0488

\$50
VALUE

Highest Awards & Investing in Every Girl's Potential



New Silver Award Resources

Earning the Silver Award is an incredible achievement. We're here to support you by making the process as simple as possible. The requirements have not changed, but new resources and guides to be launched 10/1 will support you every step of the way. Stay tuned to our October newsletter for more details.

Highest Awards Deadline Reminder

The deadline to submit your Highest Award Final Report and Time Log is approaching. Please use the guide below for your age level deadline requirements. Please visit our [website](#) for the applicable paperwork or email customercare@gsmw.org.

- Bronze Award - September 30th for Girl Scouts who have completed 5th grade and started 6th grade
- Silver Award – September 30th for Girl Scouts who have completed 8th grade and started 9th grade
- Gold Award – September 30th for Girl Scouts who have completed 12th grade

Invest in Every Girl's Potential; Support Our Fall Financial Aid Campaign

Your contribution of \$25 or more towards this campaign goes beyond dollars and cents; it's a ticket to transformation by providing financial assistance for a future Girl Scout. Financial assistance isn't just about covering costs – it's about granting opportunities that spark confidence and leadership.

With your support:

- You ensure safety at every turn with liability coverage.
- You cultivate belonging and pride through uniform essentials.
- You create unforgettable memories with council-sponsored events.
- You expand their horizons through travel and summer camp experiences.

We understand life's unpredictability. Families facing financial hardship, unexpected medical bills, or other unforeseen challenges can also find solace in your support. Your contribution is a true life-changer and directly benefits girls in our Montana and Wyoming communities.

Help us reach our goal of raising \$10,000 by September 30th so we can support 400 girls this fall! Discover more about how you can help in our [video](#) or [donate now!](#)



[Click Here to Watch the Video!](#)

Badge in a Box

Fall Series BADGE in a BOX



October – November – December

October

In October girls will learn about using technology safely and earn their Cybersecurity Basics badge.

November

November will feature one of the new badges, Digital Leadership, which teaches girls digital literacy and wellness.

December

For December will teach girls about creating algorithms and women in STEM by earning their Coding Basics badge.

Badge in a Box Seasonal Subscription

Get back into the new membership year by engaging with one of our Girl Scout pillars—STEM! Step away from the Virtual Schedule and earn badges on your own time.

What you need to know: Just \$25/Month!

- We will begin receiving orders from September 1st – September 15th for boxes to be received in October, November, and December.
- We will be processing and packaging boxes for October in September and each month from there forward.
- Order link [here!](#)

What your girl can expect:

- To learn about technology and how to use it safely while creating change and having fun!
- The fall series will engage your girl in Online Safety, Digital Literacy, Content Creation, and more– all on their own schedule! adventure outside the box.

Order Your Badge in a Box [Here](#) by September 20th!

Please note that if we do not hit our minimum of 50 boxes sold, full refunds will be provided. So tell your friends to join the fun!

My Girl Scout Kit

Back for the New Troop Season?
Your Girl Scout Kit is 5 Easy Steps Away.

1

Choose 1-
Official Apparel



2

Choose 1-
Program



3

Add This-
Accessories



4

And This-
Uniform (Optional)



5

Free Bag
With Purchase
\$60 minimum
while supplies last



My Girl Scout Kit bags are great for new and bridging Girl Scouts! Select items from select insignia, uniform items, badge requirements, books, and more. Purchase \$60 or more and receive a FREE cute and convenient nylon drawstring bag in light blue or purple. Place orders by contacting us at shop@gsmw.org or online by clicking your Girl Scout level below!

Daisy

Brownie

Junior

Cadette

Senior

Ambassador

Closed for Inventory

9/13 - 9/14 & 9/21 - 9/22

Annual Council Shop Inventory

Each council shop will be closed for two days in September for our Annual inventory. The Billings shop will be closed 9/13 through 9/14 and the Great Falls shop will be closed 9/21 through 9/22. During this time customers can still place orders online at

www.girlscoutshop.com

Destinations and Travel

All New Destination Hosted by GSMW!

GSMW, in partnership with [American Forests](#) and the [Elliot Wildlife Values Project](#), is proud to announce our first-ever council sponsored Destination: [Adventure & Forestry in the Wild West!](#)

On the trip, participants will head into the Wild West over the course of eight days. Along the way, we will enjoy horseback riding, hiking, a rodeo, whitewater rafting, and more! The trip occurs July 27th through August 3rd, and our travels will take us from Red Lodge Montana, through Yellowstone Park, and on to Cody Wyoming.

This destination is open to all Girl Scouts entering high school grades in the fall of 2024. Find more information and application instructions [HERE](#).



Girl Scout Destinations Travel Opportunities



Girl Scout Destinations are the ultimate adventure for individual Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts. Push past your comfort zone by applying for a trip on your own, and make friends from all over the country as you travel with new Girl Scout friends. There's a unique, life-changing experience for everyone. Find your ultimate Destination on [GSUSA's Destination web page](#). Apply before Thanksgiving to get the early-bird advantage so you can plan your money earning for trips in 2024 and 2025. Trips accept applications until full.

Fall Hayrides and Troop Trip Reminders

Autumn has everyone thinking about traditional pumpkin patch visits and coinciding hayrides. Did you know that Girl Scouts' insurance considers hayrides a [High Risk Activity](#)? Review the safety guidelines starting on [page 93 of Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) for guidance on hayrides and more.

Any troop activity outside of the regular troop meeting is considered a troop trip. Before your troop takes a troop trip, a troop volunteer must complete our online gsLearn Troop Travel Training. Before you submit a [Troop Trip & High Risk Activity Request form](#), please login to gsLearn and complete the training. The training will help you and your troop prepare, plan, and implement safe and memorable troop trips and high risk activity experiences. Do you have questions about how to access gsLearn? Check out the [My Account Tip Sheet: gsLearn](#) for more information.

Council-Wide Program

October Council-Wide & Virtual Life Skills Programs

Kick off the new school year with programming to prepare you for whatever life throws your way! GSMW has partnered with community members and organizations to offer a myriad of life skills events, once again, this October. Regionally, you can find programs about cooking, Martial Arts, and mental well-being, to name just a few. Check out www.gsmw.org/events for a life skills partner program near you.

If your Girl Scout wants to enjoy a virtual life skills program with GSMW and her sister Girl Scouts from across Montana and Wyoming, check-out our two virtual events: Moving & Grooving! One of our favorite Out School teachers will host a short virtual program where girls will dance, do yoga, and share their musical tastes while earning a fun patch. [Daisies & Brownies will enjoy the groovy experience on October 16th](#). And [Juniors can get their groove-on on October 26th](#). Click the hyperlinks for more information and to register.



Glacier Park Service Adventure: Citizen Science Success

This August, 10 Girl Scouts from across our council enjoyed days filled with adventure, scenery, and service to Glacier National Park through the camp program, Glacier Service Adventure.

In Glacier, Girl Scouts surveyed Huckleberry bushes using a [citizen-science app, Survey123](#). Scientists will use our Girl Scouts' data to analyze huckleberry growth and decline in certain areas of The Park. The data is important in understanding so many things including the effects of climate change and the impact on grizzly bear migration patterns.

Then, our service group provided nearly eight full hours of service by collecting data for the [Dragonfly Mercury Project](#). The data collected will go to a lab where scientists will study the amount of mercury in the dragonfly larvae the girls collected. This information will help scientists understand where mercury levels are dangerous.

For more information on the project, check out the [DMP website here](#).