



girlscouts
of montana
and wyoming



Monthly Newsletter

January, 2026





Contact Us

Phone: 406-252-0488

Email: customercare@gsmw.org

Mail: 2303 Grand Ave | Billings, MT 59102

Stay Connected

Sign up for text reminders/updates
and follow us on social media!



@GSMWcouncil



@girlscoutsmtwy



@girlscoutsmtwy

Hey there, it's Girl Scouts!

Opt-in to receive text updates
that matter most to you.

Click here to get started!





Table of Contents

- 4-5) 2026 Product Program
- 6) Cookie Merchandise
- 7) Volunteer Recognitions
- 8) Meeting in a Minute
- 9) ZooMontana Virtual Adventure
- 10) Summer Camp Hiring
- 11) Explore the World With Girl Scouts
- 12) Youth Mental Health First Aid
- 13) World Thinking Day & NASCAR
- 14) Big Sky Documentary Film Festival
- 15) Alumna Spotlight
- 16) Money Earning Guidelines
- 17) Scholarship Opportunities



Do you want the chance to be featured in the next edition of the Membership Newsletter?
 Tell us about your unforgettable adventures, inspiring acts of volunteerism, conquered challenges and more [here!](#)



2026 Product Program

It's Cookie Time!

It's that time of the year and we can't wait to be Brave.Fierce.FUN! Review the dates listed here and mark your calendars.

Cookie Kickoffs

[RSVP here for a 2025 Cookie Conference Kickoff by January 9th to receive a FREE personal rechargeable hand warmer!](#) To claim your special cookie swag, make sure you RSVP and attend the event. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights and learn what's new.

Cookie Time!

Cookie paperwork has been shipped to your Service Unit Product Manager. They will reach out to you about distributing paperwork for your troop. You will likely receive your packet at your Service Unit Meeting or Cookie Rally. If you do not receive paperwork by January 23rd or would like more items, please fill out the [Product Program Paperwork Request Form](#).

Meet the Exploremores!

We have a new cookie this year, the Exploremore. This rocky road inspired chocolate sandwich cookie with a chocolate, marshmallow, and almond flavored crème. How will you "explore more" this year while you are being Brave.Fierce.FUN!?

Rewards Highlights

We are excited to announce that girls will earn a 2026 - 2027 membership through the Cookie Program at 75+ packages!

Please [watch this video](#) for more information about this exciting new reward.

Fall Product Program Wrap-up

Congratulations to all our Girl Scouts and Troops who learned to be Brave.Fierce.FUN! and reached some incredible goals. Check out all the Top Entrepreneurs and Challenge winners in our [2025 Fall Top Entrepreneur Video on January 9th here!](#)

Fall Product Program Rewards Arrival

Rewards are on the way to Service Units. you should be hearing from your Service Unit volunteer soon about when and how to pick up rewards for your Girl Scouts. Questions? Email customercare@gsmw.org.





Training Schedule

Learn more about the trainings you need to attend and RSVP by selecting the links attached to the date/time below.

| Service Unit Training | Date/Time |
|--|---------------------------------------|
| Service Unit Training | January 7 at 6:30 PM |
| Troop Training | Date/Time |
| New Troop Cookie Training | January 8 at 7:30 PM |
| Cookie Kickoffs | January 13 - 17 |
| Cookie Technology Webinar | January 27 at 7:00 PM |
| Cookie Kickoffs: RSVP by 1/9/26 to reserve exclusive SWAG! | |
| Juliette Training | Date/Time |
| Juliette Cookie Training | January 8 at 6:00 PM |
| Juliette Mentors: Please read through your mailed packet before this meeting. | |
| Caregiver Training | Date/Time |
| Caregiver Cookie Training | January 28 at 6:30 PM |

2026 Cookie Program Dates

January 20

Volunteer Access to Smart Cookies and Digital Cookie

January 29

Girl [Edits in Smart Cookies](#) Due

January 30

Cookie Program Begins

February 6

Fall Product Early Cookie Booth Signups

February 9

Booth Signups Begin (at 5 PM)

February 15

Pre-Orders End.

Paper Order Card Totals Due to Troop from Caregivers

February 16

Additional Order Taking Begins

February 17

Troop Initial Orders and Rewards Due in Smart Cookies (by 11:59 PM)

March 10-18

Cookie Pickups from the Service Unit

March 20-Apr 13

Cookie Booths

April 12

Cookie Program Ends

April 15

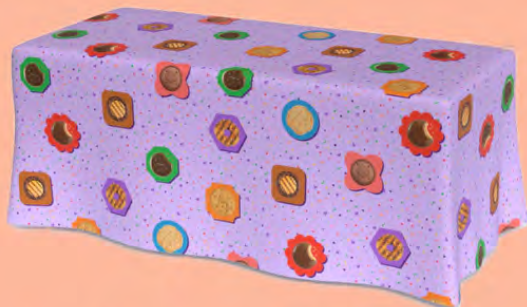
Troop Final Rewards Due in Smart Cookies (by 11:59 PM)



2026 Cookie Merchandise

girlscouts
of montana
and wyoming

Fun cookie-themed gear will be available throughout the Cookie Season!
Contact the GSMW shop at 406-252-0488 or shop@gsmw.org to place an order.



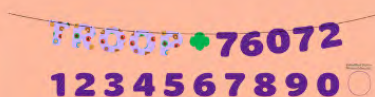
Full Color Tablecloth
\$35 | 72" x 108"



Cookie Time Table Runner
\$15 | Tablecloth sold separately



Yard Sign
\$15 | Extra shipping rates apply



Troop Table Banner
\$8 | Decorate your booth!



Cookie Riser
\$35 | Display multiple cookie boxes



Cookie Belt Bag
\$15 | Adjustable Belt Bag



Cookie Beanie
\$18 | Stay warm this cookie season



Cookie Tote Bag
\$5 | Laminated reusable bag



Volunteer Recognitions

What are Volunteer Recognitions?

Our volunteers are amazing, and we love celebrating everything you do! Volunteer Recognitions is a wonderful opportunity for caregivers, girls and fellow volunteers to show their appreciation to those outstanding individuals who go above and beyond.

What Do I Need to Consider?

Caregivers and girls can recognize their awesome troop leaders and nominate them for the Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Troop Volunteers, have someone who consistently goes the extra mile? Maybe it's the person who makes the Cookie Program go smoothly or brings awesome activities to the troop meeting. You can nominate them for the Volunteer of Excellence.

Don't forget your Service Unit Managers, Product Managers and Day Camp Directors; they can be nominated for the Appreciation Pin.

Learn More

Find out more about Volunteer Recognitions, the nomination and endorsement requirements with the Adult Award Criteria or reach out to your Member Experience Manager. Nominations are open and the deadline to submit is January 30, 2026.

[Award Criteria](#)

[Nominate a Volunteer](#)

[Learn More](#)





What is

Meeting

in a Minute?

Take the guesswork out of preparing for your next troop meeting. There are always new and exciting themes, so you can spend less time planning and more time mentoring your girls!



NEW! Body Appreciation

Empower girls of all ages to define beauty on their own terms, practice wellness habits, and express confidence through self-awareness, style, and self-care. Boost confidence, develop healthy habits, and celebrate our unique bodies



Cadette Robotics

Cadettes will gain an understanding of robots, physics, and programming while earning their Programming Robots Badge



Robot Design

Daisy, Brownie, and Juniors will gain an understanding of problem solving like an engineer while earning their Robots 1: Designing Robots badge.



Art and Design

Daisy, Brownie, and Juniors will discover their artistic talent while earning their Art and Design badge.



Summer Fun

Unleash your Girl Scouts' creativity with this nature-themed box, where they'll craft stunning art using treasures they discover outdoors!



Turtle-y Awesome

Daisy, Brownie, and Juniors will dive into the incredible journey of sea turtles and discover how they navigate the ocean using magnetism.



Funshine Sunshine

This box is designed for all ages! Get ready to soak up the sun and explore the magic of solar-powered fun!



**Discover all of the
Meeting in a Minute
Boxes and Order Here!**



Winter Outdoor Challenge

The GSMW Winter Outdoor Challenge is back again! Girls, families, or troops can complete these activities with a goal of reaching 100 points. You can submit the finished sheet online and earn a free fun patch from GSMW. Download our activity sheet with fun activities to see what's possible right outside your own front door!

Take the Challenge



ZooMontana Virtual Adventure



Step into the magic of the animal kingdom during Animal Encounters with ZooMontana Virtual Adventure on January 22, 2026. Girl Scouts in grades K-8 will meet amazing animal ambassadors and learn how each creature survives and thrives in the wild. ZooMontana's friendly educators will share fascinating stories, answer questions, and offer a peek into what it is like to work with animals every day. This special program is open exclusively to Girl Scouts from Montana and Wyoming and includes a fun patch for every participant. **The cost is \$8 per girl, and registration closes January 11, so be sure to sign up soon!**

Register by January 11th



Interested in Working at Summer Camp?

Looking for a summer job that's fun, adventurous, and meaningful? We're hiring summer camp staff at Girl Scouts of Montana & Wyoming!

Why work with us?

- Gain leadership and professional skills
- Build lifelong friendships
- Room, board, and scenic camp life included
- Explore amazing locations like Camp Castle Rock, Timbercrest, and Camp Sacajawea
- Experience for resumes and future careers



Apply now and be part of something incredible

Girl Scout Week Box Coming Soon!

Let's get ready to celebrate Girl Scout week! This all new Meeting in a Minute box contains all the materials needed to make watercolor bookmarks, a beaded windchime, a Girl Scout Law SWAPS, a Girl Scout Journal, and you'll get to create your very own DIY patch!

The activities in this box will earn you the Girl Scout Week Fun Patch! Stay tuned-in to our next Monthly Newsletter for more details and an order link.





Explore the World with Girl Scouts

Girl Scout Travel

When it comes to planning a Girl Scout trip, the world is your oyster.

While troops can always plan their own adventures, travel companies like WorldStrides/Explorica, EF Tours for Girl Scouts, and ACIS offer all-inclusive experiences that take care of flights, hotels, and guided activities so you can focus on the fun.

Each company has its own style, pricing, and perks which makes it a great chance for Girl Scouts to research, compare options, and choose the trip that fits their goals, interests, and budget.

WorldStrides/Explorica

Troops can choose WorldStrides for upgraded meals or Explorica for budget friendly travel without sacrificing quality. Key perks include:

- Free spots and travel rewards for early planners
- Included tipping so travelers do not need cash on tour
- Flexible departure options for travelers from different cities
- Contact Chinwendu at [617-684-8808](tel:617-684-8808) to learn more.

EF Tours for Girl Scouts

EF Tours offers girl-centered educational trips with a focus on leadership, cultural immersion, and confidence building. Key perks include:

- Trips to Europe, Latin America, and WAGGGS

World Centres

- Fundraising support and scholarships to make trips accessible
- Personalized planning help for troop leaders
- Visit eftours.com/girlscouts for details.

ACIS Educational Tours

ACIS provides guided tours with expert local guides and well-balanced itineraries. Key perks include:

- Hands-on support for troop leaders
- Flexible group sizes and customizable itineraries
- Focus on smooth, enriching experiences for all travelers
- Call 1-800-888-ACIS or email info@acis.com for trip information.



Youth Mental Health

First Aid Manual

Thank You Shifting Gears—Get Yourself a FREE Manual!

Thanks to a generous grant by Shifting Gears on Brain Health, we have Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) manuals available for FREE!

The YMHFA manual is a resource for the public to provide initial help to someone developing a mental health problem or experiencing a crisis, teaching them the ALGEE Action Plan: Approach, Listen nonjudgmentally, Give reassurance and information, Encourage professional help, and Encourage self-help and other support strategies. The manual covers various mental health issues like depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders, as well as crisis situations such as panic attacks, trauma reactions, psychosis, and suicidal thoughts. The goal is to provide practical skills to assist someone until professional help can be received.

If you are interested in receiving your free YMHFA manual, please [complete the interest form here](#). We'll mail it to you for free!

Celebrate 100 Years of World Thinking Day

Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world will gather on February 22, 2026 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of World Thinking Day. This global tradition began in 1926 as a day for WAGGGS members to think of each other, honor international friendship, and reflect on the values of our shared Movement. This year's theme is Our Friendship, a chance for us to explore the connections that unite us across cultures, generations, and communities. Visit [GSUSA's World Thinking Day web page](#) to download activity packets for younger and older Girl Scouts and find a link to purchase the 2026 World Thinking Day badge.



Let's Celebrate

Race Into Engineering with NASCAR

Bring engineering to life with a custom virtual badge program from the NASCAR Hall of Fame. Programs are available for Automotive Engineering badges for Daisies through Ambassadors and Mechanical Engineering badges for Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors. Workshops are level specific, led by a live facilitator, and most include hands-on activity kits mailed to participants. Scouts receive a digital certificate after completing the program. Troops can book their own private session or work with their service unit to host a larger event.

To get started, visit the [NASCAR Hall of Fame Girl Scout page](#) or contact Paula Kelly at Paula.kelly@NASCARHall.com



Learn More



Save the Date for Big Sky Documentary Film Festival!

Schoolhouse Docs returns in late February 2026. Join GSMW and the Big Sky Documentary Film Festival for a fun and family friendly virtual viewing program featuring short, inspiring documentaries selected especially for school age audiences and rated by educators. Girl Scouts can view the films online from home or a troop meeting location. The program introduces Brownies and older Girl Scouts to real world stories about nature, creativity, and brave individuals from around the globe, while offering an engaging learning experience for the whole family.

Save the date for late February 2026. Your membership staff will email registration information, and we will include the registration and fun patch purchase link in next month's newsletter.



Girl Scout

Almuna Spotlight

Rylie Luhring

What is your favorite memory?

I have so many since I was in Girl Scouts for 12 years, but a few stick out. First, we did a lot of cooking badges since we loved food and started doing cooking challenges to jazz up the badges. Second, my memories at Girl Scout camp and singing camp songs around the fire, as well as making up some crazy skits in our days. But ultimately, my favorite of these probably must be our 12-day trip to Edinburgh, Cardiff, and London. On that trip, there was one moment when we were in an old, abandoned castle and we did an opening and closing [ceremony] at the top one of the towers. Then we found an empty room with good acoustics and sang Rattlin' Bog.

What is your favorite achievement?

Probably getting my Gold Award. I created a 3-week Civic Education workshop and in the middle of the pandemic had to shift to a virtual program. There were a lot of learning curves, but I am so glad I was able to finish it.



[Read Rylie's Full Story](#)



Money Earning

Guidelines

Helping girls earn and manage money is an integral part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. When girls participate in money earning activities, they learn important skills such as goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics.

The Girl Scout Fall Product and Cookie Programs are the two best opportunities for girls to earn troop funds. However, we realize that troops/ groups may need to participate in additional money-earning activities.

GSMW has established Money Earning Guidelines for all troops, groups, service units, and Juliettes. It's important that everyone follows these guidelines so that we can maintain compliance with IRS standards. [You can find a copy of the Money Earning Guidelines here.](#) If you have any questions, please email customer care@gsmw.org.



Scholarship Opportunities

GSMW Scholarships

GSMW offers college scholarships that Girl Scouts can apply for. We provide links to other scholarship resources, so be sure to check out our [College Scholarship page](#) on the website!

- **Herb Waltermire, Cascade County \$2,500**
This scholarship is available to Girl Scouts who reside in Cascade County and who are working on (or received) their Gold Award. Must demonstrate strong community service, leadership, and have a 2.75 GPA or higher.
- **Suzanne Salzmänn. Teton County \$1,250**
This scholarship is available to Girl Scouts who reside in Teton County. Preference is given to girls who are working on or have received a Girl Scout Gold Award. Must demonstrate strong community service, leadership, and have a 2.75 GPA or higher. Renewable for up to four years.
- **University of Wyoming, up to \$1,000**
This scholarship is available to Girl Scouts who are enrolled at the University of Wyoming (high school seniors or college students may apply). Applicant must submit three letters of reference (one from an adult active in Girl Scouts), have demonstrated leadership and community service, and have a 2.75 GPA or higher.
- **Nancy Fifer, \$300**
High school senior Girl Scouts whose field of study is of a financial interest (Banking, Business Administration with emphasis on finance, etc.) are encouraged to apply. Three letters of reference are required, one of which must be from someone in the banking/finance industry.