girl scouts of montana and wyoming

Monthly Newsletter

November, 2026

Contact Us

Phone: 406-252-0488
Email: customercare@gsmw.org
Mail: 2303 Grand Ave | Bilings, MT 59102

Stay Connected

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

@GSMWcouncil

@girlscoutsmtwy

@girlscoutsmtwy













Table of Contents

4) Because of You

5) Girl Scouts Give Thanks

6-7) Winter Meeting Ideas

8-9) Your Troop + New Friends

10) Grow Your Troop

11) Cookie Queens Watch Party

11) Destinations

12) A Season of Giving

13) Why We Lead

14-15) Holiday Gifting

16-17) Product Program

18) Council Crew

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!



Because of You

Because of You

As the season turns toward Thanksgiving, we're taking a moment to say what we don't say nearly enough: **thank you.**

To our volunteers: You give your evenings, weekends, and more patience than anyone should be expected to have; all so girls have a place to belong. You are the heart of Girl Scouts, and every campfire song, badge ceremony, and "I did it!" moment exists because of you.

To our families: Thank you for trusting us with your girls, for driving to meetings, for selling cookies and nuts, and for cheering from the sidelines. Your support turns a good experience into a great one.

To our girls: You inspire us every single day. Whether you led a service project, tried something that scared you, or simply showed up with a big smile, you are proof that girls can change the world. We are so proud of you.

Gratitude has a way of growing when we share it. So, this season, let's turn our thanks into action.

Try this at your next meeting or at home: Go around the circle and have each girl finish the sentence, "I'm grateful for ____ because of ____." Then ask: *How can we share a little bit of that gratitude with someone else?*

That question is where your next adventure begins.



Girl Scouts Give Thanks

The holidays are the perfect time for Girl Scouts to live the Girl Scout Law: to make the world a better place and be a sister to every Girl Scout. Here are some service projects troops can tackle this season, with ideas for every age level and time commitment.

Quick and Easy (one meeting or less):

→ Cards of Kindness: Make holiday cards for veterans, seniors in care facilities, or first responders. Local organizations are often happy to deliver them.

→ Thank-You Notes: Write notes to teachers, bus drivers, school staff, or your local fire and police departments.

→ Kindness Rocks: Paint encouraging messages on rocks and leave them around your community for others to find.

Collection drives (a few weeks):

→ Food Drive: Partner with a local food pantry. Troops can decorate collection boxes and set goals to challenge their community!

→ Toy or Book Drive: Gather new toys and books for hospitals, shelters, or family service organizations.

→ Pet Supply Drive: Collect blankets, food, and toys for a local animal shelter.

Hands-on projects (a bigger commitment):

→ Care packages: Assemble holiday care packages for deployed service members, seniors, or families in need.

→ Meal Assistance: Help prepare or serve holiday meals with a local community organization.

→ Community Clean-Up: Tidy up a local park or green space before winter sets in.

Remember: Before starting any drive or project, reach out to your recipient organization to ask what they truly need. The most helpful gifts are the ones people are actually asking for.

Share your story! We'd love to see your troop in action: Send photos and a short note



Cozy, Creative, and Ready to Go: Winter

Winter Troop Meetings

As we skate into winter, our evenings can be busy, and troop meeting attendance can be unpredictable. These low-prep ideas keep your meetings joyful, meaningful, and stress-free. Many pair perfectly with you Meeting in a Minute box!

Make & Give

- Handmade Gift Workshop: Girls create simple gifts for family, such as ornaments, bath salts, or decorated mugs. Keep supplies simple and budget-friendly.
- Ornament Exchange: Each girl makes one ornament to swap and everyone goes home with a keepsake from a friend.
- Wrapping Station: Practice gift wrapping with creative, eco-friendly materials like fabric, newspaper, or paper bags.

Celebrate Together

- Cookie Decorating Party: A classic for a reason. Bonus: Have girls decorate extras to share with a service organization.
- Holiday Traditions Around the World: Learn about how other cultures celebrate winter holidays. Have girls research and share a tradition, a song, or a snack. This is a great chance to respect and celebrate the many ways families celebrate (or don't celebrate) this time of year.
- Pajama & Hot Cocoa Meeting: Cozy up, watch a movie, and sip cocoa while girls work on a quiet craft or journal their goals for the new year.

A note for leaders: Keep your meeting inclusive and flexible. Not every family celebrates the same holidays, so framing activities around winter, gratitude, and giving can make everyone feel welcome.

Meeting Ideas

Reflect & Plan

- Year in Review: Create a troop scrapbook page or “highlight reel” of this year’s favorite moments, then vote on what to do in the new year.
- Goal-Setting Vision Boards: Girl cut out images and words to represent what they want to try, learn, or achieve in the coming year.
- Camp Dreaming: Pull out the new camp guide (arriving in December!) and let girls flag the sessions they’re most excited about. A perfect way to get registration conversations started before January.



Serve & Share

- Service Station Rotation: Set up stations for card-making, collecting items, and assembling care packages, so girls can contribute in different ways in one meeting.



Your Troop + New Friends = Something

Grow Your Troop

Last month, we kicked off our Grow Your Troop campaign, and the response has been brilliant! Now we're sharing ideas, tools, and a little inspiration to help your troop add new girls and earn some sparkly rewards along the way.

Every girl deserves a place to shine, and your troop might be exactly where she belongs. All it takes is an invitation.



How to Invite New Girls: 9 Ideas to Get Started

You don't need a big marketing plan. Most families join because someone asked them. Here are easy ways to spread the word.

Start with people you know

- Bring-a-Friend Meeting: Invite each girl to bring a friend to a meeting. Plan something fun and low-pressure, like a craft, a game, or hands-on activity, so guests see what Girl Scouts is all about.
- Siblings and Cousin Invites: Younger siblings, cousins, and neighbors are often the easiest to bring in, ask current families who might be interested.
- Classmates and Teammates: Girls can invite friends from school, sports, dance, or church using one of the printable invitation templates here.

Show what your troop is up to

- Share your Troop's Story: Post photos from service projects, camping trips, or badge ceremonies on your troop's social media or share them with families to pass along. (Remember to follow photo



Brilliant

and social media guidelines and only share photos with family permission.)

- Host an Open House or Taste of Girl Scouts Event: Invite families to a short, fun event where girls can try an activity, and parents can ask questions.
- Show Up in the Community: Set up a table at a school event, library program, farmer's market, local festival, or holiday parade! Bring an invitation to hand out or a sign-up sheet.

Spread the word

- Flyers and Bulletin Boards: Post invitations at libraries, community centers, coffee shops, schools, and places of worship (with permission, of course).
- Ask your Local Network: Share with parent groups, neighborhood pages, or school newsletters. Many schools will share community opportunities with families.
- Cookie and Fall Product Customers: Folks who've supported your troop's sales may know girls who'd love to join! Add a "Want to join us?" note to your thank you messages.



Need Help?

Not sure where to start? We're here for you! Reach out to your Member Experience Manager for help with ideas, finding families, or getting new girls registered. Let's make this the year your troop truly sparkles!

Grow Your Troop

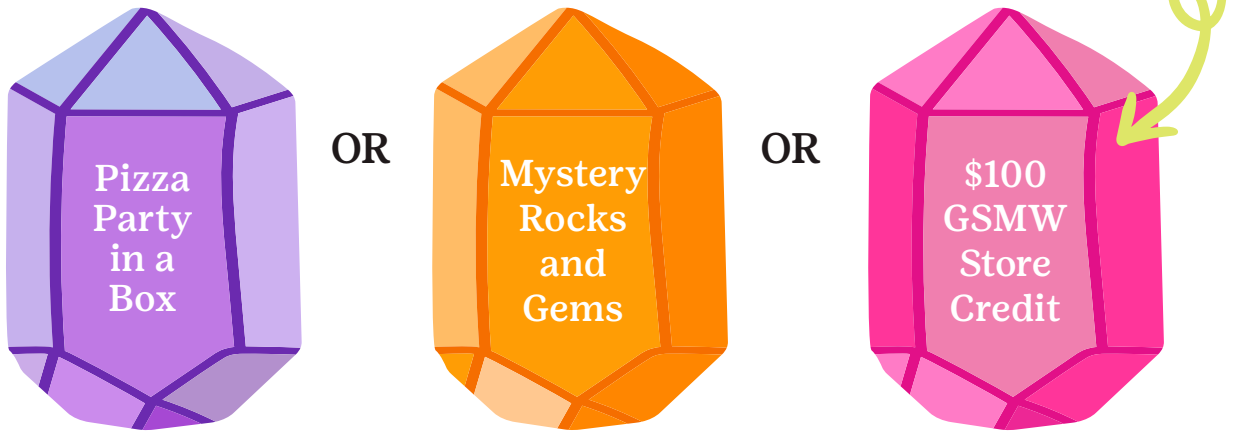
Watch the Rewards Sparkle

Add girls new to Girl Scouts to your troop and unlock crystal-themed rewards, store credit, and a shot at an amazing Grand Prize!

From Back-to-Troop season through December 31st, every girl your troop recruits brings you closer to sparkling rewards! Invite girls who are new to Girl Scouts to join your troop, keep track of your growing crew, and self-report your new members in January. Rewards ship out in February - so start growing today!

Your Troop Reward	+2 Girls	+3 Girls	+4 Girls
Grow Your Troop Patch for Girls and Required Leaders	✓	✓	✓
Sparkle and Grow Crystal Kit for 6 Girls	✓	✓	
$20 GSMW Store Credit		✓	✓
Sparkle and Grow Crystal Kit for 12 Girls			✓
Grand Prize Entry *Additional entry for every new troop girl after +4*			✓

Each grand prize entry qualifies you for a chance to WIN



Troop Movie Night: Cookie Queens!

Grab your popcorn! Watch Cookie Queens, a fun, award-winning documentary following four Girl Scouts through the ups and downs of Cookie Season. Watch with your family or troop. Register with GSMW, and we'll email you a bonus discussion guide and Cookie Queens STEM activities!

Viewing links are $10 per family or troop.
Watch anytime December 1–30.
Register by November 23!

Details and Registration



Destinations Early Application Deadline



Explore Destinations

Ready to take your Girl Scout experience to a new locale? Girl Scout Destinations offer Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors the chance to explore new places, try new things, and make memories that last a lifetime!

Applications are now open for 2027 and select 2028 trips. Apply by November 15th for early decision consideration, especially if you have your heart set on a particular adventure.

GSUSA will accept applications on a first come, first served basis for trips with available spaces. Check the GSUSA Destinations website for current openings and start planning your next big adventure.

A Season of Giving, A Summer of Discovery

Summer camp memories begin with generosity today! As November ushers in the giving season, we invite our council community to support the adventures, friendships, and discoveries waiting for girls next summer. A gift of $10 can cover a camp T-shirt and patch for one girl, while other contributions help provide craft supplies, campfire s'mores, and essential counselor training. Looking for a meaningful New Year's resolution? Make a monthly donation to support camp all year long – even a small amount each month adds up. Whether you give once or make giving a monthly tradition, you'll help bring next summer's camp experiences to life.

Larn More and Give



Stay Connected: Sign Up for Text Updates

Haven't signed up yet? Our text messaging service makes it easier than ever to stay in the loop with everything happening across Girl Scouts! By opting in, you'll get timely updates and important opportunities sent straight to your phone — from travel and camp openings to events and other council activities — so you never miss out on what matters most to your Girl Scout journey.

Sign up today to stay informed, take advantage of opportunities, and get the most out of your membership!



Why We Lead

Tolly P. and Vicki H.

Why do we continue to lead Girl Scouts, years after our own daughters have graduated? Let's be real: as volunteers, we aren't just taking older Girl Scouts on summer trips—we are offering them an education they will absolutely never get sitting at a school desk. In our camps, the wilderness becomes the ultimate, tech-free classroom where lessons are lived.

Whether we're canoeing the Upper Missouri River, crushing miles on our bikes, or trekking through Yellowstone, these girls aren't studying leadership from a screen—they are running the show. The wild demands that they figure things out on the fly.

As mentors, we get front-row seats to watch them read river currents, troubleshoot gear, learn wind directions, and make decisions when the weather flips the script. Girl Scouts learn the true meaning of accountability when dinner depends on their teamwork, and they find a whole new level of grit when they're tired but still laughing through the rain and mud.

This isn't material you memorize; it's raw, real-world confidence. Watching a teenager transform from a quiet passenger into an explorer is the absolute best part of this job. We're giving them a masterclass in resilience, a massive dose of self-reliance, and memories that will stick with them long after the hiking boots and oars are retired.

It is an honor and a privilege to mentor these young women!

-Tolly P. and Vicki H.





Holiday Gifting

Give the Gift of Camp This Holiday Season

Some gifts get played with for a week. Others get remembered for a lifetime. This holiday season, give the girl in your life the gift of camp: new friends, big adventures, and the kind of confidence that comes from trying something for the first time.

And this year, there's an extra reason to give early. Camp registration is moving to January, three months sooner than before, so families can lock in their girl's spot before the most popular sessions fill up.

Choose Your Gift:

- **Camp Registration:** Cover a camper's session, gifts starting at $150.
- **Camp Credits:** Want to contribute but don't know how much? Camp Credits let families chip in together and apply a set amount toward the total cost of camp. Purchases can be made near or far, and credits can be applied to the final camp balance.
- **Happy Camper Kit (Preorder):** Help make sure your camper is all set when she arrives at camp with a Happy Camper Kit! Filled with fun items to enhance your girl's camp experience
- **Sponsor a Camper:** Tis the season of giving, why not send a girl to camp who might not otherwise have the chance? Every gift helps make camp possible for a girl who is ready for adventure. Check out our sponsorship opportunities on page 12!

Give the Gift of Camp

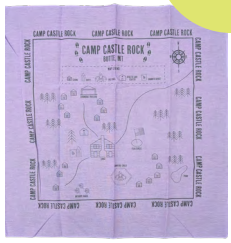
Don't forget Camp Guides are headed to mailboxes this December, so families will have time before the holidays to explore all the fun options.

Camp Location Bandanas

$6









$8

Girl Scout Song Book: *Includes Recipes, Camping Tips, and More!*

$10-15

Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming Tee



$10 | Add Customization for an Additional $5

Customization options include: Troop Number, Name, Troop Leader, Co-Leader, Volunteer, Troop Parent, and Girl Program Level (Daisy, Brownie, Junior, etc.)

$34



Kids Wearable Blanket

Camp Location Tees

$25



Tie-Dye Kit

$12



$25



40oz GSMW Water Bottle

Perfect Gift Pairings from the Shop



$22

25oz GSMW Water Bottle

Sizes and quantities are limited.
Email shop@gsmw.org or call 406-252-0488 to place an order.



Product Program

It's not too late to get started!

1. Review the Fall Product Program paperwork.
2. Watch our training videos to go over the program details.
3. Visit www.gsnutsandmags.com/gsmw to set up your Girl Scout's online site.

Product is on the Way

The Fall Product Program order has been submitted to our vendor Ashdon Farms, and the product will arrive to Service Units starting November 16th. Keep an eye out for communication from your Service Unit Product Manager for more information about product pickup.

Customer Order Inquiries

If you or your customers have questions or concerns about orders, please reach out to the M2 Customer Care Team at support.gsnutsandmags.com or by phone at (800) 372-8520. You can also reach out to GSMW with the order number, issue, customer address and phone number and we can do our best to assist in contacting M2 Customer Care should you need help.

Don't Forget Signed Receipts

Girl receipts are to be retained by the Troop for one year and are only submitted to Council in the event of an Outstanding Balance Form submission.

Please be sure to print two copies of any product receipts to have one copy for each party. **Both copies must be signed.** If you don't have a printer, no problem! Email customercare@gsmw.org with your SU/ Troop number and where to send the receipts no later than November 1st.

Service Unit Reminder:

No later than December 9th, Service Units must submit the troop pickup receipts to Council by emailing customercare@gsmw.org and attaching receipt pictures or mailing them to the Billings Office, attn: Accounting at 2303 Grand Ave, Billings, MT 59102.
Learn how to print off receipts from M2OS.





Product Challenges

Take advantage of the last 2 weeks of sales! Have your Girl Scouts get creative sharing their links by creating videos or sound bites to get any last sales.

Troop Challenges:

If your troop has 80% girl participation in Fall Program AND a $400 PGA (Per Girl Average) during the Fall Product Program, your troop can earn:

- Early Cookie Booth Signups
- GSMW Raincoats for Required Troop Leaders
- A Custom Troop Banner

Girl Scout Challenges:

- Reach 100 points on the Fall Challenge Checklist, they will earn an exclusive Fall Challenge patch.
- Be the top seller at your Girl Scout level (Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador) and you will get entered into a drawing to win Kaya, the XL kangaroo plush.
- Top Entrepreneurs from the Fall Program will be announced in a special video January 9th with a visit from our 2027 Cookie Mascot.



GSMW Text Communications

Opt into our texting service here for Council updates not only for Product Program, but all Council programs and updates. With the Cookie Program just around the corner, we don't want anyone to miss out on important information!



Council Crew

Debbie Grill has been with GSMW's for 3.5 years and works hard as the Product Program Manager. As the facilitator of GSMW's Fall and Cookie Product Programs and a former Gold Award recipient, she knows firsthand the impact Girl Scouts can have on a girl's life. She loves helping girls build confidence, create lifelong memories, and experience the same opportunities that made a difference in her own journey.

A lifelong learner, she strives to learn something new every day. Outside of work, she enjoys relaxing on the couch and spending time with her favorite little people, Magnolia, 6, and Thomas, 4. Debbie became Magnolia's troop leader last year and is currently leading 17 Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts. A few fun facts: she's visited all 50 states, her favorite color is yellow, and she absolutely LOVES working for Girl Scouts!





