January

girl scouts of montana and wyoming

Newsletter





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



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GSMW - Billings, HDQ GSMW - Northeastern Wyoming GSMW - Eastcentral Wyoming GSMW - Southeast Wyoming GSMW - Southwest Wyoming GSMW - Southcentral Wyoming GSMW - Southcentral Wyoming GSMW - Northcentral Montana GSMW - Northcentral Montana GSMW - Northwest Montana GSMW - Central Montana GSMW - Central Montana





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The deadline has been extended to January 31, 2025!

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2025 Girl Scout Cookie Merch



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.



Girl Scout

Cookie Program

It's Cookie Time!

It's that time of the year and we can't wait to Embrace Possibility during this Cookie Program! Review the dates to the right and mark your calendars—if you haven't already, be sure to RSVP for our upcoming

Troop Training	Date/Time
New Troop Webinar	January 7th at 7:00 PM
Cookie Conferences	<u>January 14th - 18th</u>
Cookie Technology Demo	January 28th at 7:00 PM

Cookie Conferences: RSVP to reserve exclusive SWAG! **Cookie Technology Demo:** Mark your calendars. Registration link coming soon.

Caregiver Training	Date/Time	
Caregiver Training	January 29th at 6:30 PM	
Juliette Training	Date/Time	
Juliette Mentor Training	January 9th at 6:00 PM	

Juliette Mentors: Please read through your mailed packet before this meeting.

Cookie Conferences: Free Swag

RSVP for a 2025 Cookie Conference by January 8th to receive a FREE Cookie Clipboard! To claim your special cookie swag, make sure you RSVP and attend the event. Don't miss this opportunity to gain valuable insights, including an all-new, optimized training on Digital Cookie and Smart Cookies. This year, everything you need is packed into one comprehensive training session!

Cookie Program Dates

January 14	Volunteer Access to Smart Cookies
January 21	Girl Edits in Smart Cookies Due
January 27	Volunteer Access to Digital Cookie
January 28	Cookie Technology Webinar
January 29	Caregiver Cookie Training
January 31	Cookie Program Begins
February 7	Fall Product Early Cookie Booth Signups
February 10	Booth Signups Begin (at 5 PM)
February 16	Pre-Orders End. Paper Order Card Totals Due to Troop from Caregivers
February 17	Additional Order Taking Begins
February 18	Troop Initial Orders and Rewards Due in Smart Cookies (by 11:59 PM)
March 11-19	Cookie Pickups from the Service Unit
Mar 21-Apr 13	Cookie Booths
April 13	Cookie Program Ends
April 16	Troop Final Rewards Due in Smart Cookies (by 11:59 PM)

New Cookie Program Resoures Page Here!

Girl Scout Fall

Product Program

Top Overall Entrepreneurs			
First	Emma O.	Troop 3074	\$3,513.00
Second	Abigail R.	Troop 1628	\$3,145.00
Third	Abigail G.	Troop 1042	\$2,797.95

Top Entrepreneurs by Grade Level			
Daisy	Athena H. Troop 3356		
Brownie	Emma O	Troop 3074	
Junior	Abigail R.	Troop 1628	
Cadette	Abigail G.	Troop 1042	
Senior	Jordana B.	Troop 1643	
Ambassador	Aubrey M.	Troop 2281	
Top Juliette	Siera J.	Juliette	

Top Entrepreneurs by Region			
Eastern Montana	Aubrey M.	Troop 2281	
Headquarters	Eris R	Troop 2046	
Southcentral Montata	Brianna K	Troop 2565	
Central Montana	Kiera S.	Troop 3185	
Southwest Montana	Alexandria T.	Juliette	
Northwest Montana	Athena H.	Troop 3356	
Northcentral Montana	Emma O.	Troop 3074	
Northeast Wyoming	Jordana B.	Troop 1643	
Southcentral Wyoming	Sadie J.	Juliette	
Southwest Wyoming	Scarlet C.	Troop 1062	
East Central Wyoming	Abigail G.	Troop 1042	
Southeast Wyoming	Abigail R.	Troop 1628	

Тор Тгоор	Troop 2432 Harlowton, MT \$13,088.94
Ellie the Elephant	Matilda F. Troop 1808
Embrace the Outdoors	Troop 2170 Billings, MT
Cookie Booth Earners	59 Troops Qualified!

Fall Product Rewards

Rewards arrived to Service Units right around Christmas.

If you haven't already, you should be hearing from your Service Unit soon about when and how to pick up rewards for your Girl Scouts. Questions? Email customercare@gsmw.org.

Top Entrepreneurs

Congratulations to all our Girl Scouts and Troops who learned to Embrace Possibility and reached some incredible goals. Check out all the Top Entrepreneurs in our 2024 Fall Top Entrepreneur Video!





Volunteer Recognitions Submit by January 31, 2025

What Are Volunteer Recognitions?

Our volunteers are amazing, and we love celebrating everything you do! Volunteer Recognitions is way for caregivers and fellow volunteers to show their appreciation for that special someone who goes above and beyond.

What Do I Need to Consider?

Caregivers, do you think your daughter's Troop leader is the best? Nominate them for the <u>Outstanding Volunteer Award</u>.

Troop Volunteers, is there that special someone who goes above and beyond for your troop? 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 <u>Volunteer of Excellence</u>.

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

Learn More

Find out more about Volunteer Recognitions, the nomination and endorsement requirements with the <u>Adult Award Criteria</u> or reach out to your Member Experience Manager. <u>Nominations</u> are open and the deadline to submit is January 31, 2025.

Award Critera

Nominate a Volunteer

Past Awardees



Scholarship Opportunities Submit by April 15, 2025

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 <u>College Scholarship page</u> on the website!

Upcoming opportunities include:

- 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 Salzmann 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.

Money Earning Activity 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. <u>You</u> <u>can find a copy of the Money Earning</u> <u>Guidelines here</u>.

If you have any questions, please email customercare@gsmw.org.

Girl Scout Travel Opportunities

GSMW's <u>Adventure & Forestry</u> <u>Destination</u>, part of GSUSA's Destinations program, offers an incredible opportunity for GSMW Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors. This trip unites girls nationwide to explore the Greater Yellowstone Ecosystem's adventures and outdoor education—and it's open to our Girl Scouts, too!

To learn more about our council hosted Destination, occurring June 20-27, 2025, <u>check out our Destination page</u>). If you're interested in traveling further from home, be sure to explore all the opportunities on <u>GSUSA's Destinations</u> <u>page.</u> Applications are accepted until each trip is full.

In addition, GSMW offers two generous travel scholarship opportunities to our Destinations travelers.

Email customercare@gsmw.org to request more information about Destination specific travel scholarships.

World Thinking Day 2025

Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from over 150 countries around the world will celebrate World Thinking Day on February 22nd, 2025. Today, you and your troop can start learning about World Thinking Day and embracing perspectives outside your own! This year, you can explore the topic: Our Story: Reflecting the symbolism and values of our Movement. Through the World Thinking Day experience, Girl Scouts build confidence in their abilities to make the world a better place.

Check-out <u>GSUSA's World Thinking Day web page</u> where you will find links to downloadable World Thinking Day activity packets for younger and older Girl Scouts. On the same web page, you can find a link to purchase this year's World Thinking Day patch.

Youth Mental Health First Aid



Don't miss getting signed up for Youth Mental Health First Aid training on <u>Saturday, February 22nd</u> to be held in Billings from 10 AM – 2 PM. Lunch will be provided. We will have a 2nd session virtually on Wednesday, February 26th from 5-8 PM. Attendees must attend both sessions to receive their Youth Mental Health First Aid Certificate. Register today to secure your spot. Through a generous grant from Shifting Gears, we are able to offer this training free to ALL Volunteers!



See you at the 2026 Girl Scout Convention!

Washington, DC July 20–25, 2026



2026 National Convention

Join 10,000+ Girl Scouts at the 2026 Girl Scout Convention in Washington, DC, as we celebrate the spirit, individuality, and selfconfidence that make Girl Scouts shine. The six-day gathering will take place at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. The convention kicks-off with the 58th National Council Session (NCS) from July 20–22, where delegates gather to vote on and discuss issues important to our Movement.

After NCS, from July 23–25, thousands more Girl Scouts will stream into town for a multi-day event featuring interactive workshops, inspiring speakers, and once-in-a-lifetime adventures that spark forever friendships.

GSUSA recommends only Juniors and older Girl Scout Troops attend the convention. Younger Girl Scouts may attend with their caregivers. GSMW would like to support your troop's plans to travel to the National Convention. To help us support your travels, please fill-out GSMW's 2026 Girl Scout National Convention Travel Interest Form. GSMW will send respondents updates, resources, and invitations to pre-travel meet-ups.

GSUSA is responsible for the convention programming and registration. GSUSA will continue to release more updates and information, so be sure to regularly visit GSUSA's convention web page. And fill-out GSUSA's form for national-level convention updates.

GSMW will open National Delegate applications in February 2025 which entails those selected will be required to attend delegate education and represent GSMW at the 2026 National Council Session.

Applications will be in the February 2025 newsletter and posted to www.gsmw.org



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.

Find the Winter Outdoor challenge on our website.



Design Reveal: Juliette Gordon Low Takes Her Place on the Quarter

Get ready to celebrate because <u>history is in the making</u>! Our very own trailblazer, Juliette Gordon Low, is about to make her mark on American currency. Today, the United States Mint unveiled designs for the final five quarters in its American Women Quarters[™] Program, including one honoring Juliette Gordon Low. This special edition quarter will be available in 2025.



Atta Girl for Adding Girls

Girl Scouts is about making new friends and keeping the old! Each time you add a new Girl Scout to your troop, you create new friendships and provide girls with the opportunity to try new things, dream up new adventures and have FUN! Introducing new friends to Girl Scouts allows existing members to flex their leadership skills and build confidence. Everyone wins—Atta girl!

Deadline has been extended to January 31, 2025!

Between now and **December 31st**, add a first time troop girl and collect great rewards! Keep track of girls added to your troop to self-report during January with rewards delivered mid-February.

Reward	+2 First-Time Troop Girls	+3 First-Time Troop Girls	+4 First-Time Troop Girls
Atta Girl Patch for girls and required leaders	\checkmark	\checkmark	\checkmark
Meeting in a Minute Box of Your Choice for 6 girls	\checkmark	\checkmark	
\$20 GSMW Store Credit		\checkmark	\checkmark
*Meeting in a Minute Box of Your Choice for 12 girls			\checkmark
*Prize Entry			\checkmark

*Troops will receive one prize entry after adding four first time Troop Girls. Troops will receive an extra prize entry for each additional first time Troop Girl that they add.

Meeting in a Minute Details

Meeting in a Minute takes the guesswork out of preparing for your next troop meeting, so you can spend less time planning and more time mentoring your girls! Each box contains all the primary supplies you need to host a successful troop meeting:

- Creative, fun, and age-appropriate activities
- Detailed instructions
- Activity supplies
- Snacks

*Only one meeting in a minute per troop. At the +2 and +3 level, troops get one box for 6 girls. At the +4 and +5 level troops get one box for 12 girls.

Each prize entry is eligible to win one of the following:

\$50 GSMW Store Credit

Party in a Box w/Pizza

STEM Van Experience for Your Troop