



girlscouts
of montana
and wyoming



Monthly Newsletter

May, 2026





Contact Us

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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 Volunteer Recognitions

Thank You, Volunteers!

Each year, GSMW formally recognizes adult members whose accomplishments have made a meaningful impact. Volunteer Award recipients are nominated by Girl Scout caregivers and fellow volunteers in acknowledgment of their outstanding service.

Outstanding Volunteer

Lisa Vance	Billings
Beth O'Neil	Billings
Sarah Burger	Casper
Alaina Stedillie	Casper
Carter Quin	Casper
Jesse Apland	Casper
Kristi Kountz	Casper
Noel Konkler	Casper
Rachel Bergman	Casper
Rae Appel	Casper
Tonya Marshall	Casper
Elizabeth (Lisa) Erickson	Casper
Nicole Kennedy	Casper
Jody Corner	Havre
Anna Gasner	Missoula
Nicole Davidson	Sidney

Volunteer of Excellence

Mikayla Broughton	Belgrade
Christiana Weiss	Belgrade
Amanda Mills	Belgrade
Chelsea Schulz	Belgrade
Katie Eder	Belgrade
Christy Aitchison	Belgrade
Sara Croghan	Belgrade
Amanda Flohr	Belgrade
Jennifer DeGiovanni	Belgrade
Marilyn Ridder	Belgrade
Karrie Herron	Belgrade
Carly Bruntmyer	Casper
Grace Collister	Casper
Heather Brawley	Casper
Stephanie DePalmer	Casper
Harlee Quin	Casper
Kathy Fleming	Casper
Rachel Meats	Casper
Taylor Jesse	Casper
Jacie Schumacher	Cheyenne
Sarah Ogle	Cheyenne
Sara Wilson	Great Falls
Annette Hocker	Great Falls
Cassandra Jochim	Helena
Karissa Hoffman	Billings

Appreciation Pin

Rosy Hunt	Casper
Heather Sampson	Cheyenne
Elizabeth Washington	Cheyenne
Vanessa Dendinger	Cheyenne
Rose Juhl	Cheyenne
Juli Monahan	Cheyenne
Jennifer Rutledge	Great Falls

Honor Pin

Ashley Brown	Billings
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Presidents Award

Belgrade Service Unit

Amanda Flohr
Christiana Weiss
Gail Miller
Jennifer Thomson
Marilyn Ridder
Sara Croghan

[Learn More](#)



Highest Award

Ceremony

Registration Now Open

The Helena Service Unit together with GSMW will be hosting a Highest Awards Ceremony on Thursday, June 11th at 4 pm in Helena, MT. A Highest Awards ceremony is a prestigious event honoring recipients of the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Join us in celebrating Girl Scouts who made a commitment to improving their communities with take action projects that created lasting, sustainable change.

Award Paperwork Deadline

The deadline to submit Bronze, Silver and Gold Award paperwork to attend is Friday, May 29th. If your Girl Scout or group would like to attend, please [RSVP by Friday June 5th](#).

Want to Earn an Award?

You've got what it takes to make a lasting impact—Get started by earning a highest award in Girl Scouting You're ready to make the world a better place. Show everyone how you'll do it by earning the Girl Scout Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards.

Each award will challenge you and helps you take action in a big way. [Learn all about Highest Awards](#), read some of our Councils amazing Gold Award stories, and more!



2026 Product Program

Accepting Payments at Cookie Booths

That's a Wrap! Congratulations on being Brave. Fierce. FUN! during the 2026 Cookie Program. Thank you for helping your girls have lots of fun and creating plans for your troop proceeds. We had 167 camp credit earners and 1,850 Membership Earners for 2026. A BIG Congratulations to all our Girl Scouts!

Digital Cookie and Smart Cookie Access

Make sure you get into Smart Cookies and Digital Cookie before May 31st to gather any reports, customer lists, or order information you may need. Customer lists are a great resource for your Fall sales, plus they can be exported easily and imported in the Fall for maximum opportunities.

Council loses access to both programs on May 31st and will not be able to recover any data for you after this date.

Charm Bracelets

Does your troop have girls who've earned a cookie charm and need the perfect bracelet to show it off? [Order Charm Bracelets](#) for the girls in your troop and let their achievements shine! Order by May 10th to have bracelets shipped with your Final Rewards — only \$5 each!

Gift of Caring Donation Requests

Donation requests were due by April 30th, and you will be notified by May 10th regarding cupboard pickups. We will do our best to provide cookies from your local cupboard, but that largely depends on availability. If you do not want to distribute

donations - not a problem! We will make sure they are donated on your behalf.

Cookie Rewards Update

You can expect your rewards in mid-May. Your Service Unit Product Manager will reach out to you when they are all sorted and ready to be picked up.

A few important things to note:

- Your Initial Order Ferret Blankets and Shoulder Pets will arrive with final rewards.
- To view girl distribution for Early and Main rewards, please run the Recognition Order Summary by Girl report.
- Any damages or shortages for rewards need to be submitted within 2 weeks of delivery. Email customercare@gsmw.org with what needs to be replaced.



Top Entrepreneurs and Challenge winners announced May 29th!

Head over to the [GSMW Facebook Page](#) as we reveal our Cookie Program top entrepreneurs, challenge winners, and our Fall Product Program mascot! You won't want to miss it, be sure to HOP on and join the fun!

Cookie Program Automatic Clearing House (ACH) Sweep

The final ACH sweep is on May 12th.

If your troop has a balance, troop leaders will receive an email from Accounting on Thursday, May 7th.

If your Troop still has a caregiver that has not paid for product, or if the Troop cannot pay the balance due, you **MUST** submit an Outstanding Balance Form and the corresponding receipts to council by Monday, May 4, 2026.

If your troop has already paid the full balance with the first ACH sweep, you cannot submit a Caregiver Outstanding Balance Form.





2026 Summer Camp

It's Almost Registration Time!

Last chance for Early Bird pricing. Save \$25 on camp registration through May 5! Registration will remain open after May 5, but the discount won't. Summer camp is filling fast, so don't miss your chance to give your camper an unforgettable experience she'll be talking about for years to come

Join us for our non-traditional summer camp experience. The options highlighted on the next page allow campers to experience all the fun of a typical summer camp in less time with Long Weekend and Go Camp—offering the chance to bring along a trusted adult.

We know there are many reasons campers may not be able to attend a full week and we wanted to encourage you to check out some of our exciting alternatives. Questions? Please reach out to us at customercare@gsmw.org or 406-252-0488.



Read the Camp Guide
Online Here!

Learn More

Camp Theme Highlights



Short Weeks, 2-12 Grade

Busy summer? Not sure about being away from home for 5 days? Join us at any of our camp locations to experience the fun of a full week wrapped up in a 3-day adventure!

Camp Castle Rock (June 21-24)

Gives campers the chance to become detectives during Mystery Mission and outdoor specialists during Outwit, Outlast, Outdoors.

Timbercrest Camp (July 19-22)

Allows campers to investigate a mystery during Mystery Mission, learn survival skills during Outwit, Outlast, Outdoors, and express their inner artist during Masterpiece Makers.

Camp Sacajawea (July 30-August 2)

Has a camp for everyone. A future artist can join the Masterpiece Makers, an outdoor enthusiast can explore during Outwit, Outlast, Outdoors, and a camper looking for relaxation can embrace their inner granny during Granny Getaway.



Long Weekend | Grades K-8

Timbercrest (July 23-26) | Castle Rock (June 25-28)

Not ready to go camp alone but want more time with us? Join us for a dynamic four-day camp with your caregiver or troop leader! Kids will have action-packed fun while adults engage in enriching Girl Scout training, including a session on CPR and First Aid. Adults and kids will meet up for meals and all camp activities for extra shared fun! Join us for skill building, adventure, and summer camp experiences galore!



GO Camp K-8 & Adults

Timbercrest (July 10-12) | Sacajawea (August 7-9)

Not sure if summer camp is for you? Come experience a weekend worth of camp fun with a trusted caregiver. Busy summer? You can still fit some summer camp fun in for a weekend! Come with your favorite female adult for two fun-filled nights at Girl Scout Camp! Broaden your horizons with fun crafts, awesome adventures, and a weekend filled with memories to last a lifetime.



Camp Information

For detailed information about our camps, program offerings, accommodations, and more, please visit our website at www.gsmw.org/camp.

Camp Merchandise Pre-Orders

Pre-order camp merch and have it delivered to your camper at check-in. PLUS, receive a FREE Girl Scout Camp Tote with all pre-order purchases of \$40 or more! Be sure to [place your orders](#) by May 31, 2026.



NEW! CPR & First Aid Training

GSMW is excited to now offer CPR & First Aid training! It is recommended that at least one adult attending troop activities is certified in CPR & First Aid. If your troop plans a field trip, overnight campout, or any activity outside of your regular meeting location, at least one attending adult must be CPR & First Aid certified. This training ensures that an adult is prepared to respond quickly and appropriately in the event of an emergency.

Complete the form below to indicate your interest in receiving CPR & First Aid training.

[Interest Form](#)





Add to Your Volunteer Toolbox

Request Trainings

GSMW offers a variety of trainings to help volunteers build skills, ensure safety, and create positive, supportive experiences for girls.

Whether you're planning outdoor trips, supporting youth mental health, or getting certified in CPR & First Aid, these opportunities will help you lead with confidence. Explore the options below and let us know which trainings you're interested in!

Outdoor Training

If your troop wants to go hiking, have an outdoor cookout, or go on an overnight trip, one participating adult volunteer must complete GSMW's Outdoor Trainings. The first

step in the training is available through gsLearn. The second part of the training is an in-person Outdoor Cookout Training. This training must be renewed every 3 years.

Youth Mental Health First Aid

Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) teaches you how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children and adolescents ages 12-18. To earn your certification, you will need to complete approximately two hours of pre-work and then join us for an in-person session. This training must be renewed every 3 years.

CPR & First Aid

GSMW can now offer CPR & First Aid training. It is recommended that at least one adult who is attending troop activities is certified in CPR & First Aid. This training ensures that a trained adult is prepared to respond quickly and appropriately in the event of an emergency. To earn your certification, you will need to complete approximately four hours of pre-work and then join us for an in-person session. This training must be renewed every 2 years.

Request Form

Complete [this form](#) to indicate that you are interested in receiving any of the training options listed above.

[Request Training](#)



Meeting in a Minute

Meeting in a Minute

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

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!

Habitat Helpers

Daisy, Brownie, and Juniors will gain an understanding of animal habitats, welfare, and responsibility while earning their animal observer, pet, or animal habitats badge!

Please Note: Beginning May 1st, the price of our Meeting in a Minute kits will increase by \$5. As shipping costs rise, this update helps us continue the reliable delivery of high-quality, ready-to-use programs. We're committed to keeping troop meetings accessible, affordable, and most importantly - fun, and this change will help us keep that promise. Thank you for your understanding and continued support!

[Learn More](#)

Animal Awareness and Support Patch

The Animal Awareness and Support Patch Program invites Girl Scouts from Daisies through Ambassadors to explore animal behavior, responsible care, and the financial realities that impact local shelters and rescues. By examining how these pieces connect, girls gain a well-rounded understanding of animal welfare. Click [here](#) to learn how to earn your Animal Awareness and Support Patch!

[Earn Your Patch](#)

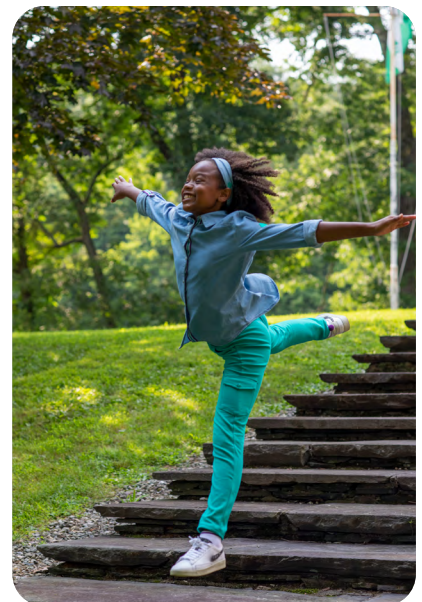


Your New Outdoor Adventure Toolkit

Our new outdoor resources are bursting with fun, engaging activities that help girls build real outdoor skills while exploring the world around them.

Start with having one troop volunteer complete the Outdoor Training sequence in gsLearn. Then, visit [gsmw's Outdoor Resources page](#), and you will have everything you need to plan an adventure that fits your group. Explore the newest tools, including [a full activity book](#) for girls, a helpful [activity planning guide](#) for adults, and the [Outdoor Basics Skills Guide](#) to build confidence from the very start.

These resources are more than just activities. They help girls grow braver, stronger, and more curious every time they step outside. The outdoors is waiting. Let's explore!



ANDERSON HALL

JUNE 2007

JOURNALISM BUILDING



Alumna Spotlight: Marly Graham

What is your favorite Girl Scout memory?

My favorite Girl Scout memory has to be attending camp at Camp Sacajawea in Casper, Wyoming, during the Aces of Archery camp in August of 2021 right before my junior year in high school. I went to camp previously for leadership training, but this was my first time really participating in an activity-based camp. I was very hesitant at first, I am not a huge fan of overnight camps, but it turned out to be the best camp that I ever went to. The camp really sparked my interest in archery, prompting me to join 4-H archery for the rest of my high school career. Now, I compete at indoor and 3D tournaments all over Montana and Wyoming with my recurve bow. I also started

the University of Montana Shooting Sports Club, featuring archery, speed steel, air gun, and shotgun disciplines. My goal is to make shooting sports, including archery, more inclusive to college students, allowing them to feel that spark that I felt during the Girl Scout camp.

What is your favorite Girl Scout achievement?

My favorite Girl Scout achievement was my Gold Award, like many others. In Sheridan, Wyoming, community members are encouraged to come out and place American flags on the Veteran's graves for Memorial Day. For as long as I have known, my Girl Scout troops have participated in

this event, but I have always noticed several flaws in the system that I really wanted to help iron out. I worked with the American Legion, among others, to create a procedure for the flag placement event. I had everything planned out from the stake placement to maps of the cemetery to group assignments in each section. I also placed thousands of small stickers on every one of the veteran's graves in the cemetery, so it is easier to find them on the day of the event. It was months of work after school to get that done, bringing in other groups to help me. In the end, I received a lot of compliments on my new system and talked about how to implement it even after I left the project.

[Read Marly's Story](#)

Troop Finances: Annual Report

May marks the final month of the reporting year for your troop's bank account, so it's time to start gathering your receipts and bank statements.

Financial reports are due by June 30, 2026. Submitting them on time ensures we can process everything smoothly and send out certificates without delay.

All tutorials and helpful information can be found using the button below to guide you through the process. If you need additional assistance or have any questions, please give us a call at 406-252-0488 or email customercare@gsmw.org.

[Learn More](#)



Billings Alumna Event

Lifetime members and Girl Scout alumna are invited to join us for an open house in Billings on June 2 from 4:00–6:30 p.m. Come reconnect with fellow alumna, meet new friends, and celebrate the Girl Scout experience—past, present, and future. Guests can expect networking and connection with local Girl Scout friends, storytelling and memories from the trail, s'mores and songs, and more!

Drop by anytime and bring your favorite Girl Scout story (or just come ready to listen) at the Billings Scout House, located at 2235 Grand Avenue, Billings, MT 59102.

To RSVP

- Complete the [online RSVP form](#)
- Email alum@gsmw.org
- Call Briana at 406-252-0488



GSMW Loyalty Punch Card

The GSMW Billings shop has moved to an electronic punch card system. You'll still earn one punch for every \$10 spent, and after 20 punches (\$200) you'll earn \$10 off. Punches will be tracked under your name in our Point-of-Sale system for purchases made in person or by phone/email.

If you still have a paper punch card, please use it by September 30, 2026.



Heat Press Services from GSMW

The Billings retail shop now offers heat press services! Just in time for bridging season.

For \$8, we will iron on your uniform essentials, including council ID, flag patch, troop numbers, and troop crest. Have a stack of badges or patches lying around? We'll iron on each additional badge or fun patch for \$1/ea.

Do you have questions or are you interested in this service? Email shop@gsmw.org for more information!





Make Your Troop a Trailblazer Troop

Ready for Adventure?

As your troop prepares for your spring and summer outdoor adventures, consider talking to your Girl Scouts about becoming a Trailblazer Troop!

What is a Trailblazer Troop?

The Girl Scout Trailblazer Program is designed for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors who are ready to dive deeper into the outdoors, building skills in hiking, camping, orienteering, outdoor preparedness, and even high adventure experiences. Younger troops can start planning now!

What are the Requirements?

There are no prerequisites, just curiosity, enthusiasm, and a willingness to complete the pin requirements within the first year. Even better, your troop can start today, earning both the Trailblazer Pin and official Trailblazer Troop status along the way!

How Does it Work?

This program runs just like a traditional troop, but with an exciting outdoor focus woven into everything you already do, including badges, product programs, and even Highest Awards. No special training is required for leaders, making it easy to jump in and start exploring.

How Do I Get Started?

Ready to take the next step? Find the [drop-down tab here](#). Check out the [Trailblazer Troop guidelines](#) for more details, and [complete the interest form](#) to connect with your council for support. Adventure is calling, will your troop answer?

[Learn More](#)

[Guidelines](#)

[Interest Form](#)



Council Crew

Megan

As the Member Experience Manager for Southwest Montana, Megan provides support to volunteers and girls. From connecting Troop Leaders with resources, to sending out communications, among other responsibilities, she helps ensure that our Girl Scouts can have the best experience possible! In addition to volunteer support, Megan connects Girl Scouts with their troops and hosts programming in her region. Megan loves working with kids and is



thankful to support girls on their Girl Scout journey. She also loves working alongside an amazing and talented group of like-minded people. Megan received her Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science and minors in Sustainability, GIS, and economics from the University of Denver. In her free time, Megan loves playing outside and staying active. She loves to travel and is from the Halloween Capital of the world!