

October

Newsletter

girl scouts 
of montana
and wyoming



► GSLSP: Sinks Canyon State Park



► GSLSP: Pictograph Cave State Park



► GSLSP: Bear River State Park



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



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



<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





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Girl Scout

Product Program

Fall Product Program Begins

Get EXCITED as your Troop participates in the Fall Product Program! “Embrace possibility” as your girls reach and exceed goals. Check out details below on how to get started and how to earn your Personalized Patch!

Getting Started

Set up your M2OS Site, it's so easy! Easy as 1, 2, 3!

1. Sign the Troop Permission Sheet, as requested
2. Get Fall paperwork from your Troop, including the Paper Order Card
3. Visit <https://gsnutsandmags.com/gsmw> with your Girl Scout to:
 - Create your Me2 avatar
 - Set up your online site
 - Send 18+ emails to customers
 - "Share my Site" through M2OS

Exciting Program Promotions

We have some exciting promotions during the Fall Product Program from now until November 13!

1. **Embrace the Outdoors:** Troops that sell \$1500+ in Fall Sales will be entered to win a FREE 2-day/1-night GSMW Property Rental OR a \$150 Program Credit. Every additional \$300 sold will get the troop another entry to win.
2. **Early Cookie Booth sign-ups:** Troops that have at least 80% of their registered girls participate in the 2024 Fall Program with at least 1 sale, will gain early access to Cookie Booth Selections. Troops will be able to select up to two premium and four non-premium booths on February 7, the Friday before the normal booth sign-ups begin.
3. **Win Ellie the Asian Elephant Giant Plush:** Girls who sell 7+ Care to Share items during the Fall Program will receive an entry to win Ellie! For every two additional Care to Share items sold, girls will receive another entry to win.



4. **Personalized Patches:** Girls and Leaders have the opportunity to earn these patches!

Fall Personalized Patch

Girls:

- Create a Me2 avatar and send 18+ emails
- Use the “Share My Site” function in M2OS to ask friends and family for support
- Sell 3+ Mags and More items and 50+ nuts/candy products

Leaders:

- Create a Me2 avatar
- Send Parent/Adult Email Campaign (PAEC)
- Have \$2,000+ total Troop sales

Cookie Crossover Patch

Girls:

- During the Fall, create a Me2 avatar
- Send 18+ emails
- Use the “Share My Site” function in M2OS
- During the 2025 Cookie Program, sell 375+ packages of cookies

Leaders:

- In the Fall, create a Me2 avatar and have \$375+ total Troop sales
- During the 2025 Cookie Program, have a 375+ Troop Per Girl Average (PGA)

Important Dates

- **September 27** – Online and Paper Order Card sales begin!
To get started, follow the instructions on the Caregiver Guide.
- **October 20 at 11:59 PM** – Paper Order Card totals entered in M2OS.
Provide picture or a copy of the Paper Order Card to the Troop Product Manager.
- **October 24 at 11:59 PM** – Online Girl-Delivery order option ends.
- **November 13 at 11:59 PM** – Online Sales End.
- **November 14 at 11:59 PM** – Girl Reward selections due in M2OS.
- **November 30** – All deliveries to customers should be completed and payments collected.
- **December 2** – Turn money into the Troop Product Manager.



Caramel Chocolate Chip Cookie

Pre-Order Due October 20th!

Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming will again offer a gluten free Girl Scout Cookie during the upcoming 2025 Cookie Program. Troops must pre-order their supply of Gluten Free Caramel Chocolate Chip cookies in advance of our normal ordering and selling period. This pre-order is required by ABC Bakers due to the special requirements of gluten free products. If your troop would like to order Gluten Free Caramel Chocolate Chip cookies to sell during the 2025 Cookie Season, [please visit this form](#) to read ALL the details and submit your order by October 20, 2024. Email customercare@gsmw.org with any questions.

New GSMW Rewards Card

The new GSMW Rewards Card will be rolling out with the Fall 2024 Program. This is a great way to receive funds to pay for GSMW Camps and Council-Sponsored Programs, Girl Scout Memberships, Girl Scout Destinations and International Travel, and Council- Approved Troop Trips. **If you have existing GS Cards or G.I.R.L. Cards**, please fill out [this request form](#) by November 30, 2024 to move the funds from these cards into reserve for your use later. We will transition to the new cards fully and will deactivate old card numbers by March 1, 2025. **Submit your request to secure your funds today.** Any deactivated cards without a request for reservation will be forfeited. If you have questions, please email customercare@gsmw.org or call 406-252-0488.

Your Year of Wonder
Be a Girl Scout

Council Updates

Special 57th National Council Session

On October 19th, the National Council will hold a special session to discuss and vote on a proposal from the National Board of Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) to increase membership dues.

The recommendation is to set annual dues for girls at \$85 and adults at \$45, with a three-year phase-in approach. Additionally, financial assistance would be available to support councils and ensure all members can participate.

This proposed increase comes as GSUSA works to address rising operational costs and a need to ensure Girl Scouts remains accessible and relevant to today's youth.

Research shows that many girls face challenges with confidence, self-esteem, and life skills, and Girl Scouts is committed to offering the support and programming they need to thrive.

Without a dues increase, GSUSA would be forced to reduce the Girl Scout experience for many of our members and volunteers by either scaling back or eliminating services.

We want to hear from you!

Your feedback will help guide our council's delegates as they prepare to vote at the National Council Session.

Please take a few moments to share your thoughts through [this short survey](#) by October 8th. It should take no more than 10 minutes to complete, and your input will directly impact how we represent our council in this important decision. For more information, please visit our [website](#).

New and Improved GSMW Website Navigation

New Volunteer Section

Check out the GSMW Website to see the New Volunteers section which has a simplified layout and information for new volunteers who are just getting started. This is also a great place for any newer volunteers to view resources.

Cookies+ Section

New! From the main website navigation, you can click on Cookies+ and view Fall and Cookie Product Program Information. Check out all the great product resources today!

New Girl Scout

Curriculum

New Volunteer Toolkit Content

The Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) is designed to support troop leaders in planning and delivering program content to Girl Scouts through troop meetings. The VTK is also available for service unit volunteers as well as Juliettes/individually registered Girl Scouts.

The VTK helps to consolidate resources into one digital tool to save time and assist with planning the Girl Scout year, meeting agendas, and troop management. The VTK now includes all current National Program Portfolio content for all program levels, Daisy through Ambassador.

This includes programs such as Resilient. Ready. Strong.; My Promise, My Faith; and Girl Scouts Love State Parks. Visit the VTK at: [MYgs](#)

Updated Badge Line: First Aid

Updated in collaboration with the American Red Cross to reflect current best practices in first aid, all levels of the First Aid Badge have been updated.

This modernized badge line has been updated with relevant topics while retaining the essentials, such as how to get help, provide basic first aid, and respond during emergencies.

New badges, badge requirements and volunteer guides can be purchased through www.girlscoutshop.com.

Additional Updated/New Resources




- [Badge and Award Explorer](#)
- [Program Charts by Grade Level](#)
- [Brownie Year 2](#) and [Cadette Year 1](#) Troop Year Plans



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!

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			
Meeting in a Minute Box of Your Choice for 6 girls	✓	✓	
\$20 GSMW Store Credit		✓	✓
*Meeting in a Minute Box of Your Choice for 12 girls			✓
*Prize Entry			✓

**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



Meeting in a Minute

We're thrilled to introduce our Cadette-only Meeting in a Minute Box! This all-inclusive activity box is specifically designed for your Cadette Troop, making it easier than ever to plan your next meeting. Each box takes the guesswork out of preparation, allowing you to spend less time planning and more time mentoring your girls.

Programming Robots

Your Cadettes will gain a thorough understanding of robots, physics, and programming while earning their Programming Robots Badge!

This Meeting in a Minute Box covers three engaging meetings, where they'll create a pressure sensor, learn the basics of circuits, and build their very own fan-powered car.

With step-by-step instructions and all necessary materials included, this box makes it easy to inspire creativity and hands-on learning in a fun and interactive way! Get ready for an exciting journey into the world of robotics!

Orders can be placed [here](#) with kits being shipped in November in the order they were received.

Please note that activity sets are only available in sets of 6 or 12 and no alternative box sizes are available. Shipping is included in the cost.

*The only supplies you'll need to provide include paper and pencils/crayons/markers.

PRE-ORDER NOW

Outdoor Journey in a Day Program

The annual Journey in a Day program is coming up in November! This year, GSMW welcomes all Daisy, Brownie, and Junior Girl Scouts to our exciting programs where Girl Scouts will work toward their Outdoor Journey badges!

During the program, girls will explore nature through hands-on activities, from learning essential camping skills to identifying Leave-No-Trace principles.

They'll work together on fun projects like creating outdoor art and mini first aid kits while learning essentials of outdoor first aid. By the end of the program, girls will earn their badges and gain a deeper appreciation for the great outdoors!

Check out www.gsmw.org/events for the Outdoor Journey in a Day closest to you!



Daisy, Brownie, and Junior Survey



To start the 2024-2025 program year, GSMW invites our Daisy, Brownie, and Junior Girl Scouts to complete a survey to gauge Girl Scouts' interest in a variety of program topics.

Girl Scouts, tell us what programs you want! Parents, please help your young Girl Scouts respond to [this important program survey](#). October is your last chance to fill-out the survey for the 2025 membership year!

[Take the Survey Here](#)



Become a Trailblazer Troop

Trailblazer Troops

The Girl Scout Trailblazer Program is designed for Girl Scouts grades 6 through 12 who are looking for an opportunity to engage deeply in a variety of outdoor activities. Trailblazers develop skills in diverse hiking styles, camping, orienteering methods, outdoor preparedness, and high-adventure activities. There are no prerequisites for creating your Trailblazer troop other than an interest and willingness to complete the requirements of the pin within the first year of being part of the program.

Find more information about the Trailblazer Troop program by looking at [GSUSA's Trailblazer Troop 21st Century Guidelines](#), and for a simplified version of these guidelines see the [Trailblazer Troop Guidelines GSMW Summary](#).

If you are a troop leader or volunteer with a troop interested in becoming a "Trailblazer Troop" now or in the future, please complete the [online interest form](#), and GSMW will contact to help you navigate the process and requirements of the Trailblazer Troop program

Mental Health Awareness

October is Mental Health Awareness month. Did you know that nearly **70% of girls ages five through 13** are experiencing loneliness?

Girl Scouts has wonderful **mental wellness resources** for leaders and girls alike. Please check out gsLearn to view the Mental Health course for leaders.

If you are interested in having Youth Mental Health First Aid training in your local area, please submit requests through the **Training Request Form**.



International Day of the Girl

Every year on October 11, the global community comes together to celebrate International Day of the Girl.



It's the day when you can recognize the power of girls everywhere—and highlight, discuss, and take action to advance the rights of, and opportunities for, girls across the globe. Every girl has the power to realize her potential. But it's important to amplify girls' voices and advocate for their inclusion in changemaking spaces. By supporting and investing in girls, you can make the world a better place.

Celebrate International Day of the Girl to not only to support a platform where girls can speak out, but also to share girls' achievements, triumphs, and contributions as we build towards a brighter and more equitable future for girls everywhere.

Discover lots of fun & engaging activities to recognize the potential of every girl by downloading the **activity guide here!**

Troop Trip Reminders

Did you know that Girl Scouts' insurance considers hayrides a **High Risk Activity**? Before you plan your troop's hayride:

- Read about our safety guidelines starting on **page 91 of Safety Activity Checkpoints**.
- Contact the hayride provider and share the **Safety Activity Checkpoints**.
- Request a Certificate of Liability Insurance.
- Once you have verified, they are a trusted activity provider, submit an **online Troop Trip Request form** no later than two weeks before your hayride.

As the new season of Girl Scouting starts, this is also a good time to review our **Troop Trip web page**. The page includes information to help you and your troop plan domestic and international trips. Don't forget:

- Any troop activity or field trip outside of the regular troop meeting is considered a troop trip.
- Before your troop takes a trip or submits a **Troop Trip & High Risk Activity Request form**, a troop volunteer must complete our online gsLearn Troop Travel Training.
- Troop volunteers must complete the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Course in gsLearn.
- See **My Account Tip Sheet: gsLearn** for more information and help navigating gsLearn.

Travel Progression Updates

Did you know that Daisy Girl Scouts who take field trips with their troop are more likely to stay in Girl Scouts? Field trips are just the beginning of travel and through progression, girls build skills to become lifelong travelers and global citizens.

Field Trip – Day Trip – Overnight – Short Trip – Extended Trip – International Trip – Individual Travel

We encourage all troops to participate in travel on some level. Even if your troop of Cadettes has minimal travel experience, they can still prepare for an international trip by the time they are a Senior or an Ambassador. When moving up to the next step, consider each Girl Scout's independence, ability to work well in groups, flexibility, and experience with cultures other than their own.

Regardless of a girl's age, they should start their travel progression similarly and take all the steps in between to become prepared for extended and international travel

View the newest version of the **Travel Progression Chart** for more details.

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

Peaks and Pines: Thank You!



A big thank you to those who supported and attended our premier fundraiser Peaks and Pines: A Women's Weekend for a Cause! Because of you, girls in our community will have access to meaningful outdoor opportunities and develop valuable skills. We can't wait to see you next year!