

# Monthly Newsletter

*October, 2026*



## Contact Us

**Phone:** 406-252-0488

**Email:** [customercare@gsmw.org](mailto: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) Celebrating Founder's Day
- 5) International Day of the Girl
- 6-7) Product Program
- 8) Grow Your Troop
- 9) Fall Troop Tips
- 10) GSUSA Volunteer Webinar
- 11) Turn Your Passion into a Career
- 12) Safety & Troop Travel
- 13) Destinations & Trailblazers
- 14-15) Meeting in a Minute Boxes
- 16) Girl Scout Programming
- 17) Staying Connected
- 18) Girl Scout Shop
- 19) Gold Award Spotlight
- 20) Peaks and Pines Recap



**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!](#)



# Celebrating Founder's Day: October 31

## Celebrating Founder's Day

Every year on October 31, we celebrate Founder's Day, honoring the birthday of Juliette Gordon Low, the visionary who started it all. In 1912, Juliette gathered 18 girls in Savannah, Georgia, for the very first Girl Scout meeting – believing that girls of all backgrounds deserved a chance to build confidence, character, and courage through hands-on experiences and community. That small gathering has since grown into a movement of millions of girls and volunteers across the country and around the world.

This Founder's Day, take a moment with your troop to reflect on Juliette's legacy of curiosity, resilience, and leadership. Whether it's sharing a fun fact about her life, singing "Happy Birthday," or simply talking about what it means to be a trailblazer, it's the perfect opportunity to connect your Girl Scouts to the roots of this incredible organization.

# International Day of the Girl: October 11

Every October 11, we celebrate International Day of the Girl, a day dedicated to recognizing the power, potential, and voices of girls everywhere. It's a time to spotlight the changemakers in our own troops and communities, while also advocating for girls' inclusion in spaces where big decisions are made. When we invest in girls today, we're building a stronger, more equitable tomorrow for everyone.

This year, celebrate by shining a light on the achievements of the girls in your troop — big or small! Share a shoutout at your next meeting, post a highlight in your troop band, or simply take a moment to tell a girl how her voice and ideas make a difference. Looking for more ways to celebrate? Check out our [downloadable activity guide](#) for fun, meaningful ways to mark the day with your troop.



## Gluten Free Order is DUE: October 19



Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming will again offer the gluten-free Caramel Chocolate Chip Girl Scout Cookie for in person and booth sales during the upcoming 2027 Cookie Program. Because of special requirements for gluten free products, ABC Bakers requires troops to pre-order their supply of Caramel Chocolate Chip cookies before our normal selling period. If your troop would like to order Gluten Free Caramel Chocolate Chip cookies to sell during the 2027 Cookie Season:

- [Acces the Order Form](#)
- Read ALL the details before ordering
- Submit your order by **October 19, 2026**

Not sure what you ordered last year? Check out our [2026 Cookies Ordered document](#) to plan your order.

**Important:** If you do not place a pre-order, this variety will only be available to your troop through direct ship.



# Product Program

## The Fall Product Program is Here! Are You Ready to Explore?

The Fall Product Program is from October 2 to November 18. Get excited for your Girl Scouts to expand their entrepreneurial skills and reach their goals!

## Ready to Get Started?

It's as easy as 1-2-3! On October 2nd:

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

## What is the Fall Product Program?

Fall Product is a friends and family sale, where Girl Scouts learn, practice and perfect the 5 financial literacy skills:

1. Goal Setting
2. Decision Making
3. Money Management
4. People Skills
5. Business Ethics

The best part? It's a great way to kick off your Girl Scout year and set your troop up for success. Girl Scouts and troops can participate through in person sales or online sales or BOTH! You can choose the best way to participate for your family.

## Troop Proceeds

Troops earn 15% of all sales in proceeds! PLUS, as an extra bonus, 6th grade and older Girl Scout troops can choose to opt out of rewards and receive an additional 2% in proceeds.

## Challenges and Rewards

Girl Scouts can take on extra challenges throughout the program and earn exclusive prizes! These challenges are in addition to the rewards listed on the paper order card, giving girls even more ways to earn.

Use the [Fall Challenge Checklist](#) to track your progress and earn an exclusive patch. By utilizing this checklist, Girl Scouts will push themselves to work harder and reach their goals by getting creative and finding new exciting ways to market their sale.



## Troop Challenge

From October 2 to November 18, troops can earn access to early cookie booth signups in the Cookie Program AND their choice of either an exclusive GSMW Raincoat for each of their required leaders OR a custom troop banner, featuring their troop number!

To earn these items, a troop must:

- Reach a \$400 PGA (Per Girl Average)
- Achieve 80% troop participation in the Fall Program
- Send the PAEC (Parent Adult Email Campaign) through M2OS

## Win Kaya the Kangaroo Plush

One Top Seller from each Girl Scout level —Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior, or Ambassador—will be entered to win the giant plush Kaya the Kangaroo, so set your goals and get out there!

## Helpful Resources

We have created a collection of resources and helpful guides at [www.gsmw.org/fallforall](http://www.gsmw.org/fallforall) to help you successfully assist your Girl Scouts.



# 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<br><i>Additional entry for every new troop girl after +4</i> |                                                                                     |                                                                                       |  |

Each grand prize entry qualifies you for a chance to WIN



OR



OR





## Fall Troop Tips

### Make the Most of the Season Outdoors

Before the weather turns too cold, take advantage of crisp autumn afternoons by getting your troop outside! All levels can work toward the Trail Adventure badge with a fall hike, while Daisies might enjoy Animal Observer and Brownies can pair a nature walk with the Pets badge. Juniors can dig into Animal Habitats, and older girls can take it a step further — Cadettes working on Animal Helpers and Seniors on A Voice for Animals might enjoy a trip to a local animal shelter to see these badge skills in action.

Looking to bring the outdoors into community-building? Daisies can practice being kind neighbors with Good Neighbor, while Brownies can explore Celebrating Community or head further into the woods with Outdoor Adventurer. For a hands-on

harvest connection, Juniors can whip up something simple with Simple Meals, and Seniors can dive into the Locavore badge with a fall visit to a local farmers market—a perfect way to talk about seasonal eating, supporting local growers, and where food comes from. Girls who love numbers might also enjoy spotting patterns outside with Math in Nature, counting petals, leaves, or tree rings along the way.

### Host a Caregiver Meeting

Fall is also a great time to bring caregivers together! A quick meeting or coffee chat helps set expectations for the year, share upcoming badge and event plans, and recruit help for outings, carpools, or troop supplies. It's also a wonderful chance to build community among the adults supporting your troop — many hands make for a smoother, more connected Girl Scouting year for everyone.

# Join GSUSA for Volunteer Webinars

GSUSA is hosting a webinar just for volunteers to learn more about the future of the Girl Scout program experience and ask questions.

## You'll get to:

- Learn the "why" behind the work being done to shape the future of the Girl Scout experience.
- Hear how feedback from Girl Scouts, families, and volunteers is helping guide these efforts.
- Explore what you can expect in the years ahead.
- See a brief demo of the new Girl Scout Program Library, designed to make it easier to discover badges, awards, patches, and activities for Girl Scouts of all ages.

**Pick and register for the session that works best for you:**

[Tuesday, October 27, 2026 | 6:00 to 7:00 PM MT](#)

[Saturday, November 7, 2026 | 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM MT](#)



## November: Badge-in-a-Day (DBJ)

The excitement keeps rolling right into November with our highly anticipated Badge-in-a-Day: Craft, Tinker & Lead events! Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors will take over the maker space to dive into awesome, hands-on creative projects and tackle an open-ended Maker Challenge where rules don't exist and wild imaginations rule the day.

Juniors will kick things off early with an exclusive leadership workshop, transforming into ultimate Maker Mentors to guide, inspire, and cheer on the younger Girl Scouts.

**Dates/Times Coming Soon!**





# Turn Your Passion into a Career

## Join Our Council Staff

Did you know that many of our council staff members started out right where you are now — as Girl Scouts and Girl Scout volunteers? In fact, they make up the majority of our long-term employees! Their passion for the mission didn't end with a badge or a leadership role in a troop — it turned into a career dedicated to building the next generation of confident, courageous girls.

We're currently hiring Member Experience Managers in Northwest Montana (Kalispell), North Central Montana (Great Falls), and East Central Wyoming (Casper). This full-time role is perfect for someone who wants to serve the girls and families in their community, support volunteers as they build leadership skills, and stay connected to the mission that shaped so many of us. It's a chance to build lasting relationships, work directly with girls exploring the world around them, and help our movement continue to grow.

## Member Experience Manager

Kalispell, MT | Great Falls, MT | Casper, WY

### Benefits include:

- Medical, Dental & Vision Insurance
- Group Life and AD&D
- Medical FLEX Spending Account
- Paid Holidays & Paid Time Off
- 403(b) Retirement Savings Plan with Employer Match

If you've ever felt the spark of what Girl Scouts can do for a girl — and want to help create that spark for others — we'd love for you to consider joining our team.





# New Safety Activity Checkpoints & Updated Troop Travel Training

## Safety Activity Checkpoints

GSUSA has released updated [Safety Activity Checkpoints \(SACs\)](#) with simplified safety standards and guidelines for troop field trips and high-risk activities. The new SACs are designed to be easier to read and use, whether you're an experienced trip leader or planning your first troop adventure.

## Troop Travel Training

To support these changes, GSMW has also updated our gsLearn Troop Travel Training. At least one traveling volunteer must complete the Troop Travel Training before leading Girl Scouts on a troop field trip or high-risk activity. Volunteers who completed the training in the past are encouraged to revisit it to learn about the updated, simplified standards. Remember, Troop Travel Training must be renewed every three years.

The new SACs have also simplified the council approval process. For many low-risk trips, volunteers can now submit the new [Troop Trip Notification Form](#) instead of the standard [Troop Trip Request Form](#).

Before planning your next trip, review the new [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) and complete the updated Troop Travel Training so you know which requirements apply and which form to submit. For more information and a plethora of helpful links, visit GSMW's [Troop Trips & Field Trips web page](#).

# Girl Scout Destinations

Is your older Girl Scout ready for a travel adventure beyond her troop? Girl Scout Destinations bring Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors together with Girl Scouts from across the country for incredible travel experiences in the U.S. and around the world. Trips focus on careers, culture, leadership, and international travel experiences, with 2027 trips to places such as Japan, Costa Rica, Maui, and the South Pacific, plus a few new 2028 trip announcements.

Girls apply individually for the Destinations that interest them. Each trip has its own age or grade requirements, deadlines, and selection process, so start exploring early. Some 2027 Destinations are already full!

GSMW Girl Scouts have a long history of big adventures through Destinations, traveling to Space Academy in Alabama, Costa Rica, Germany, Patagonia, Namibia, Mount Fuji, London, California, Oregon, Australia, and Ireland. Where will your Girl Scout go next? Explore current [Destinations and start dreaming!](#)

# Girl Scouts Trailblazer Troops

Want to make the outdoors a bigger part of your Girl Scout year? Becoming a Trailblazer Troop is easy! Your troop simply commits to the idea and completes one outdoor activity to get started. Complete the requirements, earn the Trailblazer Troop pin, and keep exploring at your own pace. Hike, camp, explore nature, or try something new together. The possibilities are wide open!

Ready to get started? Learn more and take the first step toward your troop's next adventure. Find more information in [GSUSA's Trailblazer Troop 21st Century Guidelines](#). For a simpler overview, check out the [Trailblazer Troop Guidelines GSMW Summary](#). Interested in becoming a Trailblazer Troop now or in the future? Complete the [Trailblazer Troop Interest Form](#), and GSMW will reach out to help you understand the requirements and get started.





# Meeting in a Minute

## Meeting in a Minute Boxes

Order your next Meeting in a Minute here:

[Order Your Box](#)

### Automotive Design

Girl Scouts will earn their Automotive Design Badge. This Meeting in a Minute contains all the materials needed for your Girl Scouts to learn about vehicles from around the world and how vehicles have changed throughout time. They will also conduct market research to design their own vehicle, creating their own model to finish the badge.

### Body Appreciation

Earn your Body Appreciation badges, all designed to empower girls to define beauty on their own terms, practice wellness habits, and express confidence through self-awareness, style, and self-care.

### Art & Design

Earning the Girl Scout Art and Design badge will teach girls how to find inspiration in daily life, learn different ways to create their artistic masterpieces, and encourage them to share their work with others.

## Habitat Helpers

Kitties and puppies and bunnies—oh my! This box includes all the materials girls need to explore animal care, habitats, and responsibility through hands-on activities and creative projects. Upon completion, girls will have earned their animal observer, pet, or animal habitats badge.

## Robot Design

With this box, girls will earn their Robots 1: Designing Robots badge. Girls will first identify a problem within their community that they wish to solve. They will then design a robot that can solve this problem and create a prototype. By earning this badge, girls will know how to plan, build, and share feedback like an engineer that helps other people or animals.



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

Celebrate the magic of exploration with Build It, Glow It, Throw It!, a Girl Scout box designed for creativity, exploration, and outdoor fun. This hands-on experience brings together crafting, simple engineering, and playful activities that girls can enjoy in the sunshine.

Get ready to soak up the sun and explore the magic of solar-powered fun! The Funshine Sunshine Box is packed with bright and crafty adventures perfect for curious minds and creative hands. Let's shine smart and have fun in the sun!

Dive into the incredible journey of sea turtles and discover how they navigate the ocean using magnetism! This all-in-one kit includes everything your troop needs to create a turtle navigation game, craft sea turtle magnets, and make magnetic slime. Get ready for a hands-on adventure that's turtle-y awesome! No snacks will be provided in this kit.

This nature themed box taps into your girl's creativity and sense of adventure. Delivering a hands-on experience for them and a hands-off experience for you. With this box, girls get to design and make pet rocks, use nature as their inspiration to craft flowers and nature looms, and create clay impressions to make a necklace.





# Girl Scout Programming

## Fall is Here!

Fall is packed with opportunities for Girl Scouts to learn new skills, earn awards, get creative, and have fun together. Here's what's coming up October through December.

## October

There's still time to register for select October Life Skills programs! Girl Scouts can build practical skills they can use at home, at school, and in everyday life. Visit [gsmw.org/events](https://gsmw.org/events) to find a Life Skills program near you and see what's still available.

## November

November is all about earning badges and building leadership skills. Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors can take part in a Badge-in-a-Day: Craft, Tinker & Lead program. Daisies and Brownies will earn their Craft & Tinker badges, while Juniors will earn the Craft & Tinker badge and Junior Aide award. Watch [www.gsmw.org/events](https://www.gsmw.org/events) for a Badge-in-a-Day program near you.

## December

This December, gather your troop or family for a virtual viewing of Cookie Queens, a new documentary that follows four Girl Scouts as they set goals, navigate the challenges of Cookie season, and strive to become top sellers. Registration will open next month. Viewing links are limited to the first 100 households or troops, so watch for the registration announcement and be ready to reserve your spot.



# Daisy, Brownie, Junior Program Survey

At GSMW, we want every Girl Scout to have opportunities to explore, create, build confidence, and try something new. That's why we want to hear directly from our Girl Scouts about what they'd love to do this year.

We're inviting Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors to complete a short survey and tell us which programs and activities they are most excited about. From crafty art programs to fun with animals and nature, our girls' ideas will help shape the Girl Scout experience across council.

Parents and caregivers: Please help your Girl Scout access and [complete the survey](#) and let her choose the answers. Have your Girl Scout complete the survey and share what programs she would most like to experience this year. The survey is short and should only take a few minutes.

## 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!





# Girl Scout Shop

## My Girl Scout Kit

Make sure your Girl Scout is ready for Back to Troop by getting her uniform! When you purchase your Girl Scout's uniform, either a Girl Scout Tunic, Vest, or Sash, you'll receive a FREE My Girl Scout Kit Bag (\$15 value!). Supplies are limited, so act fast!

## Heat Press Services

Fall is busy enough without having to worry about ironing all those uniform patches. Let us check this off your to-do list!

For just \$8, we'll heat press the following uniform insignia for you:

- Council ID Set
- American Flag Patch
- Troop Numerals
- Troop Crest

Already have badges sitting at home waiting to be attached? Bring those in, too! We can heat press individual badges for just **\$1 each**.

## Free Journey Awards

Journey awards and summit pins have now retired, but GSMW has extra on hand! They are now free to anyone who requests them and pays the shipping costs (based on their most recent retail price).

| Order Amount | Shipping Cost |
|--------------|---------------|
| \$0-\$15     | \$5.95        |
| \$15.01-\$25 | \$6.95        |
| \$25.01-\$50 | \$8.95        |
| \$50.01-\$75 | \$10.95       |
| \$75.01-\$98 | \$12.95       |
| \$99+        | \$13.95       |

## Ready to Order?

Please visit our office Monday-Friday from 8:30AM-5:00PM, email [shop@gsmw.org](mailto:shop@gsmw.org), or call 406-252-0488.

# Preparing for In-Kind Donations

## What are in-kind donations?

In-kind donations are goods or services donated to a Girl Scout troop or Service Unit rather than money. Examples may include donated supplies, materials, equipment, food, meeting space, printing, or other goods and services that support Girl Scout activities.

## What do I need to do?

Please begin keeping track of any in-kind donations that are given to your troop/SU. You will need to provide documentation of these in-kind donations, just like any monetary donations, on your annual Financial Report. Check back on the Troop Banking page of our website after early November to review updated instructions for the 2027 Annual Financial Report.



# Gold Award Spotlight

Chloe C. of Havre, MT focused on mental health and suicide awareness particularly among youth, with an emphasis on promoting the 988 Suicide and Crisis help line. Chloe designed and created mental health themed bookmarks featuring 988 information; the bookmarks were distributed through school and public libraries, a medical center, VA clinic, a high school, and a university. Chloe developed a presentation about 988 and suicide awareness for youth and community groups where she gathered feedback to assess what participants learned.





# Peaks and Pines Recap

## Thank You!

We're thrilled to share that our 3rd annual Peaks and Pines event was a wonderful success, raising \$20,000 to support girls!

Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, donors, attendees, volunteers, and dedicated staff, we came together to celebrate the spirit of Girl Scouting and the incredible impact it has on girls across Montana and Wyoming. Your support helps ensure that every girl, no matter where she lives, has access to life-changing opportunities in leadership, the outdoors, STEM, and community service. From inspiring stories to shared laughter and connection, Peaks and Pines was a reminder of what we can achieve together. Thank you for helping us empower the next generation of girls to lead with courage, confidence, and character.

