

Monthly Newsletter

September, 2026



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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!](#)



Start Your Troop Year Off Strong!

Troop Code of Conduct: Get Everyone on the Same Page!

Before the excitement of the Fall Product Program kicks into high gear, take a few minutes to set your troop up for a smooth, fun-filled year! Head over to the Volunteer Relations Conflict Management Roadmap Resource in gsLearn (accessed through myGS) and flip to pages 18 and 19. You'll find sample Code of Conduct agreements for both girls and caregivers.

Gather your troop, talk through expectations together, and agree as a team on what makes your troop awesome all year long. It's a simple step that makes a huge difference in keeping everyone happy, engaged, and excited to be there. Download it, print it, and make it your own. Your future self will thank you!

Troop Health History Cards: Better Safe Than Sorry!

Safety first, always! Troop Health History Cards are must-have for every troop, keeping important health information on hand for each girl in case of emergencies, allergies, or anything your troop needs to know to keep everyone happy and healthy on meeting days, field trips, and camping adventures.

Good news – getting these is easy!

1. [Download](#) them straight from our website, or
2. Give us a call! GSMW is happy to mail hard copies right to your door.

Either way, get these filled out early so you're prepared for whatever the year brings!

Caregiver Meetings: Build Your Troop Village!

They say it takes a village and your troop's caregivers are ready to be part of yours! We highly recommend hosting a caregiver meeting at the start of your troop year to set expectations, share your vision, and get everyone excited for what's ahead.

This is also the perfect time to distribute (and collect!) [Caregiver Involvement Forms](#). These handy forms help you discover all the ways your caregivers are willing and able to pitch in. Whether that's driving to events, helping with cookie booths, leading a craft, or being your emergency snack hero.

The more hands on deck, the lighter the load for you and the more magical the year for your girls!





Investiture & Rededication Ceremonies

Make it Official (and Magical!)

Grab your sashes and vests, Girl Scouts. It's time for one of the most heartwarming traditions of the year! Whether you're welcoming brand-new members into the sisterhood or celebrating returning girls ready to recommit, Investiture and Rededication Ceremonies are where the magic begins.

What's the Big Deal?

Investiture is the special ceremony where new members officially become Girl Scouts – it's their official “welcome to the club” moment! Rededication is for returning Girl Scouts to reaffirm their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law for the new year. Together, these ceremonies mark the official start of the year and create a memory girls will carry with them for years to come. It's more than a meeting – it's a milestone.



Make it Memorable!

You don't need a huge production to make this moment special – just a little creativity goes a long way! Here are some fun ideas to make your ceremony shine:

- **Friendship Circle:** Gather in a circle, cross arms, hold hands, and give a friendship squeeze as you recite the Promise together.
- **Promise Scrolls:** Girls sign a “promise scroll” as a keepsake, marking the moment they officially became (or recommitted to being) a Girl Scout.
- **Pinning Ceremony:** Caregivers or troop leaders pin the Girl Scout membership pin onto each girl – a sweet, symbolic touch that makes it feel official.
- **Candlelight or Flashlight Ceremony:** Dim the lights and pass a candle (or glow stick or our littlest Daisies!) around the circle as each girl shares what being a Girl Scout means to her.
- **Sing It Out:** End with a favorite Girl Scout song for a joyful finish!



Shop the Moment!

Want to make the ceremony extra special? Our GSMW Retail Shop has everything you need to mark the occasion in style! Stop by (or shop online) for:

- Membership Pins
- Uniforms & Insignia
- Investiture and Rededication patches
- My Girl Scout Memory Books
- And more!

Nothing makes a Girl Scout feel more official than stepping into her ceremony freshly uniformed and ready to shine! When you purchase a Girl Scout Tunic or Vest plus insignia (insignia includes a Council ID set, Flag Patch, and Troop Numerals), you'll receive a FREE "My Girl Scout Kit" Bag – a \$15 value! This vibrant color-block in pastel bag is lightweight, durable, and perfect for them to tuck away their new pin, patches, and Promise scroll as she carries her Girl Scout memories forward. Supplies are limited, so gear up before ceremony day!

It's the perfect way to add a little sparkle to a big milestone – and support your Council shop while you're at it!





Product Program

Mark Your Calendars

The Fall Product Program runs from October 2nd to November 18th.

What is the Fall Product Program

It's so much more than a sale! The Fall Product Program helps Girl Scouts master the 5 entrepreneurial skills: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics - all while earning funds for their troop!

It's a friends and family sale where girls can share emails and their shop-site links with the people who love and support them, as well as sell door to door, just in time for the holidays, with delicious snacks and treats, and other items. You can visit www.gsmw.org/fallforall for more information.

Paperwork is on the Way

Watch your mailbox! If you do not receive your paperwork by September 15th, or have any questions, please email customercare@gsmw.org.

Need extra copies? Submit a [Product Program Paperwork Request](#). Please wait until September 10th to submit any entries.

Getting Prepared

Whether you're a troop leader, service unit volunteer, caregiver, or Juliette, our training will give you everything you need for a fun, successful season.

Service Units

Thursday September 10th, 6 PM:

For the volunteers that will be receiving product from distributors for troops.

Service Units	September 10th	6:00 PM
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Juliettes

For Juliette Girl Scouts and their caregivers.

Juliettes	September 15th	6:00 PM
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Troops

Troop Training is for troop volunteers that will be facilitating and assisting with the Fall Product Program at the troop level.

Troops	September 15th	7:30 PM
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Caregivers

Intended for all caregivers that will be assisting their Girl Scouts on their Fall Product Journey.

Caregivers	September 22nd	6:00 PM
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Say Hello to Kaya

It's official! Our giant plush kangaroo friend has been named Kaya! Want a chance to win this adorable stuffed mascot? The top selling Girl Scout at each Girl Scout level – meaning Daisy, Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior and Ambassador - will be entered into a drawing to win Kaya at the end of the program!

Two New Treats are Joining The Girl Scout Cookie Lineup!

One cookie for you,
one for your furry bestie!

Available online only!



Gluten Free Order is DUE by October 19



Gluten Free Order is DUE by October 19, 2026, it's almost time to start talking about cookies! But right now, we are just getting our Gluten Free Order out of the way, then you can relax until January. Order your [Gluten Free Caramel Chocolate Chip Cookies](#) no later than October 19th to ensure you receive Gluten Free Cookies.

If you can't remember what you ordered last year, check out the 2026 Cookie Sales document for guidance.

NOTICE: This will be the ONLY order opportunity for in-hand sales and booth Gluten Free Cookies. If you can't remember what you ordered last year, check out the [2026 Cookie Sales document](#) for guidance.

Highest Awards Deadline: Sept. 30th

The deadline to submit your Highest Awards Final Report is approaching. Please reference the dates below for the age level deadline requirements. Visit our website or email customercare@gsmw.org for [applicable paperwork](#).

- ▶ **Bronze Award** – September 30 for Girl Scouts starting 6th grade this fall.
- ▶ **Silver Award** – September 30 for Girl Scouts starting 9th grade this fall.
- ▶ **Silver Award of the Year** – September 30, please visit the [Silver Award page](#) for information on how to be considered for this recognition.
- ▶ **Gold Award** – September 30 for Girl Scouts who have completed 12th grade.

Earning a Highest Award is an incredible achievement, and we are here to support you. For more information on how to earn a Highest Award, visit our [website](#) or email customercare@gsmw.org.

[Learn More Here](#)



Big Changes—2027 Summer Camp

Mark Your Calendar!

Camp registration is moving to January for the 2027 camp season.

Why is Registration Moving?

Beginning in 2027, camp registration will move to January instead of April. Earlier registration gives families more time to plan for adding Girl Scout camp to their summer plans, brings us in line with registration periods other camp and youth organizations follow, and also adds more time for families who select a payment plan as a payment method. More time = lower payments across several months instead of just two or three months.

What is the New Timeline?

January 6th at 9:00 AM
Priority Camp Registration
(New Fall Product Program Reward)

January 13th at 9:00 AM
Camp Registration for Everyone

When will the 2027 Camp Guide be Available?

You can expect to see the 2027 Camp Guide on our website sometime late Fall 2026. All Girl Scouts will still receive a copy in the mail before camp registration begins in January.

Where can I Learn More?

Find out more on our website:

www.gsmw.org/camp





Girl Scout Destinations

Calling All CSA Girl Scouts

Attention Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors! Are you ready to break out of your routine and do something truly legendary? The new Girl Scout year is here, and it is time to dream bigger, push past your comfort zone, and claim your spot on a Girl Scout Destination!

What is a Destination?

Girl Scout Destinations are the ultimate travel experiences for individual girls. You will pack your bags, travel on your own, and meet up with a crew of incredible new Girl Scout friends from every corner of the country. Whether you want to scuba dive in tropical reefs, learn wildlife photography in the wilderness, or explore historic cities abroad, there is a unique, life-changing journey waiting just for you.

Claim Your Spot Now!

Apply before Thanksgiving 2026 to grab the ultimate early-bird advantage for spectacular trips departing in 2027 and 2028.

Spots are strictly limited and fill up fast, so start planning your cookie goals and money-earning projects right now to completely fund your dream expedition. Find the adventure of your lifetime. Search now.

How Do I Find the Destination That's Right For Me?

Head over to [GSUSA's Destinations Webpage](#) to filter trips by your favorite activities, discover mind-blowing locations, and start your application.

It's Time to Renew

Don't Miss the Deadline

The new Girl Scout year is here, and you know what that means – it's time to renew your membership and keep the fun, friendship, and adventure going strong! Mark your calendars, set a reminder, tie a string around your finger – however you do it, just make sure you renew by September 30th.

Why Renew On Time?

Renewing on time isn't just about checking a box – it's your ticket to making sure you (and your Girl Scout!) don't miss a single beat of the amazing year ahead:

- Stay in the loop for troop meetings, events, and unforgettable adventures
- Keep your product program eligibility rolling right along
- Continue earning badges, awards, and unlocking new opportunities
- Maintain your Girl Scout accident insurance coverage
- Stay connected to your troop, service unit, and the whole Girl Scout sisterhood

Renewing on time keeps things running smoothly for everyone – your troop leaders, your Service Unit, and our whole GSMW community – so we can all focus on the fun stuff instead of paperwork chasing! And volunteers, don't forget: your volunteer role doesn't automatically roll over with your membership renewal!

Be sure to log into your myGS account and select the role(s) you'd like to continue in for the year – whether that is Troop Administrator, Girl Program Mentor, Friend/Family Helper, or Product! It's a quick extra step that makes sure you stay exactly where you want to be in the Girl Scout action!

How to Renew

[Renewing is quick and easy!](#) Just log into your myGS account and follow the prompts to renew for the upcoming membership year. It only takes a few minutes!

Troop leaders – help us get the word out! Remind your Girl Scout families early and often, because a friendly nudge (or two, or three!) goes a long way in helping everyone cross the finish line before the deadline.

The Bottom Line

September 30th will be here before you know it – don't let your Girl Scout membership lapse! Renew today, stay connected, and keep the Girl Scout spirit alive and thriving all year long.



End of Year Report Deadline Past Due

Account Closures

Final Reminder. End of Year Financial Reports were due June 30th.

If you have not turned in your report yet, your troop or service unit bank account is at risk of closure.

Please contact Council immediately at customercare@gsmw.org for help completing your report so your account does not close.

New Leader in the House? Let's Talk Troop Bank Signers!

Big changes in your troop's leadership this year? Congrats on the fresh energy – but before you dive into troop proceeds, camp fees, and troop supplies, let's make sure your troop's bank account is ready to roll with the new crew!

Here's the scoop: whenever there's a leadership shake-up, your troop bank signers may need an update too. It's quick, it's easy, and it keeps everyone's bank

account in ship-shape.

Here's how it works:

1. Give us a shout! Have your troop leader notify GSMW's Accounting Department about the leadership change.
2. Fill out the form! Submit a [Request Form](#) so we can get things rolling.
3. We'll handle the rest! GSMW will issue a shiny new bank letter with your updated signers, so your troop can keep those finances flowing smoothly.

That's it – three simple steps to keep your troop money matters in tip-top shape!

Questions?

Our Accounting Department is just a message away and happy to help make this transition as smooth as a perfectly baked Thin Mint.

Here's to new leaders, new adventures, and a fabulous new troop year!

Meeting in a Minute: Automotive Design

This all-new Meeting in a Minute for Daisy, Brownie, and Junior Girl Scouts is designed for Girl Scouts to earn their Automotive Design Badge. This box 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.

Order Your Box



International Day of the Girl

Take Action and Celebrate the Power of Girls Everywhere!

On October 11, GSMW joins GSUSA and people around the world in celebrating International Day of the Girl. It's the day 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. When we support her dreams and give her a seat at the table, we build stronger communities and a brighter future. [GSUSA offers free resources](#), including an activity guide and a special patch, for troops and families to help girls explore, take action, and celebrate their power.





Girl Scout Shop

Shop, Save, and Ship for Free!

From September 21-25, spend \$50 or more at the Billings shop and receive FREE* shipping on your order. Stock up on Girl Scout gear, gifts, and essentials while this limited time offer lasts! This offer is NOT available online. Call or email Carol at 406-252-0488 or shop@gsmw.org to place your order! *Some exclusions apply. Please contact Carol for more details.

Paper Punch Cards

Don't forget to use up your paper punch cards by September 30! This spring, our GSMW shop transitioned to an electronic points system. For every \$10 spent in our Billings location, you will earn one point and at 20 points, you'll receive \$10 off your next purchase. This replaces our paper punch cards. If you have any full paper punch cards, be sure to use yours by September 30. Call or email Carol at 406-252-0488 or shop@gsmw.org today to place an order. Note: Online purchases don't qualify.

Shop Inventory – Store Closure

The GSMW shop will be closed for their annual inventory count September 16-17, so please plan your orders accordingly. You may also place your order online at www.girlscoutshop.com.



October: Life Skills Month

October is officially Life Skills Month across our council, and we are celebrating by offering a variety of dynamic programs to help girls grow strong, confident, and independent! GSMW will host fantastic sessions focused on essential life skills like self-defense, outdoor safety, and healthy movement.

Take a peek at our program calendar to see if there is an adventure popping up near you this fall with the button below.

[View Events Near You](#)



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!](#)





Council Crew

Bridget has worked for GSMW for 11 years and currently serves as Member Support Manager. In her role she helps independently registered Girl Scouts, also known as Juliettes, and their mentors make the most of everything Girl Scouts has to offer. She also guides girls and volunteers through the process of earning Girl Scouts' Highest Awards, helping them navigate each step toward these meaningful achievements.

Bridget brings firsthand experience to her role. Before joining the staff, she served as both a troop leader and Juliette mentor

for her two daughters. She values the opportunity to draw on those experiences every day and to work alongside some of the most amazing people she has ever met.

Outside of work, Bridget is happiest outdoors, whether she is relaxing on the patio with her husband, hiking, or gardening. When the weather keeps her inside, she enjoys crocheting. She also practices Taekwondo and has earned the rank of second-degree black belt.

