

August 2025 Council Updates

girl scouts
of greater chicago
and northwest
indiana

Join us on August 16... ...and receive your council goals and the SUM Meeting Schedule for MY26

Girl Scout Kick Off Events (see slide 5)

Saturday, August 16 from 11:00am-2:00pm Burbank, Greene Wood, Joliet, Schererville, and Vernon Hills Gathering Places

This event is a kick-off celebration for Girl Scouts, volunteers, and families! Learn more or register at girlscout.info/GSKickOff25-26

LEAP (see slide 6)

September 26-28

LEAP (Leader Enrichment Activity Program)
Camp Butternut Springs

Come for the weekend – or just for the day on Saturday

Learn more and register at girlscout.info/LEAP25

Please join us for these great events!

ACTION ITEMS



- Annual Finance Reports were due July 30.
 Please make sure these get submitted for your SU. (see slide 8)
- Join us and invite your SU to join for:
 - 8/16 Girl Scout Kick Off Events (see slide 5)
 - 8/20 or 8/21 SU Fall Product Manager Training (see slide 9)
 - **9/27 LEAP** (see slide 6)

Announcements



Join us in Burbank, Greene Wood, Joliet, Schererville, or Vernon Hills for a fun and informative start to your Girl Scout year

There will be activities for Girl Scouts and Volunteers...and ice cream for everyone!
Families are welcome to attend.

SUMs will receive their
SU goals, the 2025-26
SUM meeting
calendar, a brand-new
SU Experience Box for
use at your September
SU meeting...and
more!



RSVP at girlscout.info/GSKickOff25-26





(Leader Enrichment Activity Program)

September 26 - 28

Camp Butternut Springs in Valparaiso, IN

You can attend all weekend or just make it a day trip on Saturday!

Register today to get the lowest pricing girl scouts of greater chicago and northwest indiana

What is LEAP?

LEAP is a camp-style program for Girl Scout volunteers.

LEAP is an opportunity for volunteers to make friends and reconnect with friends from the past.

LEAP is a fun way to learn new skills and have your own Girl Scout camp adventure.

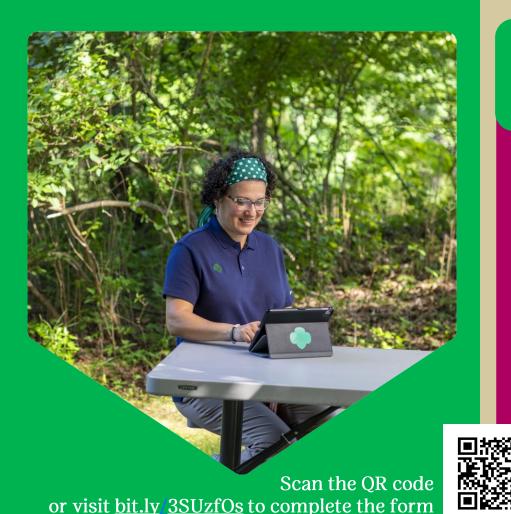
And most importantly...

LEAP is a chance to have FUN

in a camp setting!



Scan the QR code for more information or visit girlscout.info/LEAP25



SUBMIT YOUR SERVICE UNIT FALL PRODUCT DELIVERY FORM TODAY!

Delivery Dates

October 30 thru November 2
Form Deadline: September 30th (don't wait!)

Stay tuned! Council will keep you posted on the final schedule as delivery week approaches.

Questions? Contact Sheri Lambert (slambert@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

Annual Finance Reports (AFR) were due July 30.

- Troops can submit AFRs via the *Volunteer Toolkit.
- Service Units can submit AFRs via this form: https://fs24.formsite.com/gsgcnwi2/g3hvwntoc1/index



*Please disregard the published deadline in the Volunteer Toolkit. It is incorrect – however, we cannot update the page without losing all data that has been submitted for the year.

We apologize for any confusion this typo may have caused. Please plan to submit your troop AFR as soon as possible, as they are now overdue.

Service Unit Fall Product Manager Training

Virtual trainings are being held on **Wednesday, August 20 at 6:30 pm** or **Thursday, August 21 at 9:30am**

Join us as we explore the theme "Brave. Fierce. FUN!"

Discover the latest updates for our fall product program.

Learn about our adorable new mascot and gather fresh ideas to make the fall product season the best yet for your service unit!



Scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/4dlHwnP to register

Membership



Don't Miss Out!

NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 31:

Service Units that renew their girls by the October 31 deadline, will receive \$1 per renewed girl!



Invite a Friend to Join the Fun!

Did you know that **you can get fun patch** when you invite a friend to join Girl Scouts?

All new Girl Scouts in grades K-12 who refer a friend to join Girl Scouts are eligible to receive:

A Lily pad friend patch...and
One baby frog patch for every friend you bring!

Learn more here



Whether it's encouraging troops in your service unit to make sure all their spots are filled, or creating new troops in your communities, there is always room for more girls to become Girl Scouts.

Now when new girls or troop leaders register, they can receive some amazing perks! Share the links below with anyone who you know is interested in joining Girl Scouts!

To learn more about the areas of opportunity in your community, contact your Community Specialist or email us at customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org



Troop Perks

Girl Perks

Product Program

SERVICE UNIT DREAM TEAM

Every successful service unit has the right people in the right roles.



Your dream team isn't just TWO amazing volunteers (Fall Product Manager and Cookie Manager), it's a whole CREW of cookie-loving, fall-fantastic helpers!

Why build this AMAZING team?

Because passionate volunteers (like YOU!) who LOVE their role, makes everything easier AND more fun!

No burnout – and LOTS of excitement.

The magic happens when:

- A Everyone focuses on their passion
- Tasks feel fun, not overwhelming
- Your service unit becomes THE place volunteers want to be
 - Girls see adults having FUN while supporting their goals

Questions about building your team?

Please reach out to the Product Program Team at productprogram@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Our Troop Incentive is BACK!

Troops that
achieve 80% membership renewal* by September 15, 2025
AND sell over \$1,000 in the 2025 Fall Product program
will earn an additional 5 cents for each package
sold during our 2026 cookie program.

New troops can also qualify for the extra 5 cents by selling over \$1,000 in Fall Product. *Note: New troops are defined as those that started after November 1, 2024.*

Last year, during the fall product FY 25, our council distributed an additional \$53,816.45 to troops that exceeded \$1,000 in fall product sales and met their 80% renewal goal!



2025 Fall Product Program



Important Dates

Order Taking Period	September 19 thru October 16, 2025
Last day for parents to enter nut/candy order card sales into the M2 online system.	October 14, 2025
Troop leader deadline for entering in-person orders (paper card orders).	October 15, 2025
Last day for customers to place orders online for both girl-delivered and direct ship.	October 16, 2025
Service Unit Fall Product Manager deadline for entering in-person orders (paper card orders).	October 16, 2025
Council ACH Sweep - 100% of the amount due to council.	October 24, 2025
Product delivery of in-person nut/candy items to service units.	October 30 - November 2, 2025
Reward delivery to service units	December 2025

Girl Experience: Programs

September 13: Craft It, Engineer It

- Schererville
- Whitney Young Library Chicago
- Greene Wood

\$25 per Girl Scout

Daisies

Brownies

Juniors





Click here to register



Click here to register for Schererville First Aid badge workshops

Sept. 26 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Vernon Hills GP | Brownies & Juniors

Click here to register for Vernon Hills First Aid badge workshops

In my Junior Era: Girl Scout Kick off Party



Are you in your Junior Era?

Join us at the Joliet Gathering Place for the Best Day of singing, dancing, service, and creation to kick of your Junior Girl Scout Era. This event is open to all Girl Scout Juniors. (Grades 4-5) Fun patch, snacks, and activities are included!

Saturday, September 13 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Joliet Gathering Place, 1551 Spencer Rd, Joliet Cost: \$25*



Level: Juniors (Grades 4-5) *Financial assistance is available





Scan the QR code or <u>click</u> here to register





Custom Programs are back!

Let us bring the programming to you.
Choose from 1 of 4 engaging activities:
Spa Science, Food Science, Craft It Engineer It,
or Colorful Science

Custom programs are \$20 per person and last two hours each. The cost includes all supplies, staff facilitation, and a patch!

Scan the QR code or visit https://girlscout.info/CustomPrograms for more details or to start scheduling your custom program:



Questions? Contact programs@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Fund Development Programs

Try the TRI!

Join Team GCNWI at the 2025 Chicago Triathlon Saturday, August 23rd

Registration by age level:

- Ages 7-10 Kids Jr.
- Ages 11-14 Kids Sr.
- Ages 15+ Super Sprint

Click here to learn more or to join Team GCNWI today













Click here to donate



Give the gift of Girl Scouts with a donation to Family Partnership Annual Giving Campaign.

Family Partnership donations support our financial assistance program which provides opportunities for girls to have a full Girl Scout experience.

Gifts of \$10 or more will receive our Family Partnership patch.

Girl Experience: Community Service Opportunities

Community Service Corner

Join our virtual info sessions to learn more about upcoming Community Service Opportunities held every 2nd Tuesday

Daisy, Brownie, Junior Leaders 5:00 pm-5:45 pm How can your troop lend a hand? Searching for ideas? Join us to discuss

Cadette, Senior, Ambassador Girl Scouts and Leaders 6:00 pm-6:45 pm Looking to earn your Service Bars? Join us to learn more



Feed My Starving Children Event

Saturday, November 8

555 Exchange Court Aurora, IL

\$12 (includes \$10 donation to FMSC & a patch)

Available shifts: 9am-10:45am or 2pm-3:45pm

Interested in Participating? Please complete interest form: girlscout.info/FMSCinterest

Girl Scouts Pitch In For the Parks (Park Clean up)

Sunday, September 14 | 12:00 pm-2:00 pm | 4 park locations in Chicago **FREE to participate**

or purchase an optional service kit for \$30: *includes T-shirt, snack, & patch* Sign up for park clean and order the service kit at girlscout.info/PitchInFortheParks

Questions? Contact jhickman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Girl Experience: Trip & Travel Opportunities

TRIP & TRAVEL WORKSHOPS

Ready, Set, Travel

Adult Virtual Workshop

Dreaming of taking your Girl Scout or troop on an unforgettable adventure? Whether you're planning a local day trip or a big outof-town journey, this informative virtual workshop is for you!

FREE for Volunteers

Wednesday, August 27 Tuesday, September 23 All sessions start at 6:00 pm

Scan QR code or register for these workshops at bit.ly/4dpMuzW



Kalahari Resort Family Getaway



August 22 - 24

Meet us for a fun-filled Girl Scout
getaway at Kalahari Resort in
Wisconsin Dells!

Enjoy a weekend of adventure, bonding,
and splashes at one of America's largest
indoor waterparks.

This is an overnight trip with the option to
stay for one or two nights, and

This is an overnight trip with the option to stay for one or two nights, and includes Kalahari waterpark passes, admission to Timbavati Wildlife Park and the Tommy Bartlett Exploratory, an interactive science center.

Scan QR code or register at bit.ly/4jgfCLr



The Chicago Big Bus Tour and Scavenger Hunt



Climb aboard this double-decker bus and take a one-of-a-kind adventure and see Chicago's must-see sights. Then set your own pace on a fun and interactive scavenger hunt.

> Saturday, September 9 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm Cost \$45



Scan the QR code or register at <u>bit.ly/432lH9w</u>

YOU & ME IN INDY!



Get ready for an unforgettable day of discovery, creativity, and connection as you and your Girl Scout embark on a fun-filled adventure at the Indianapolis Zoo!

Saturday, September 13
\$125.00 per child
\$150.00 per adult
Cost includes: Round-trip coach bus
to the zoo, entry into the zoo, zoo
tour & a boxed lunch

Scan QR code or register at https://bit.ly/4kjsm4W



Savannah, GA Takeover



Ready for a Girl Scout Adventure to Savannah, Georgia?

Are you a troop leader or parent interested in exploring the birthplace of Girl Scouts?

We're planning an unforgettable trip to Savannah, GA—where history, sisterhood, and adventure come together!

Please complete this interest form: fs24.formsite.com/gsgcnwi2/savannah/index

It's the first step toward making this dream trip a reality!

Girl Experience: Outdoor Program

CAMP CEO
September 19-21
Camp Butternut
Springs,
Valparaiso, IN



Camp CEO is dedicated to creating a safe space for Girl Scouts to network and interact with women from a variety of industries and backgrounds who believe in girls and all that they can accomplish.

Click here to learn more or to apply to attend as a Girl Scout or as a mentor

Pleasant Lake Beach Party

September 6 at Camp Juniper Knoll

Spend the day having fun in the sun at Pleasant Lake. Enjoy activities like swimming, boating, sandcastle building, beach games, and more!

Sign-up HERE!



Explore everything camp has to offer!

Outdoor Expo Extravaganzas



Don't miss this chance to experience the outdoors with Girl Scouts. Whether you're a troop looking for your next adventure or a family seeking a screen free getaway, the Outdoor Expo Extravaganza promises fun, discovery, and lasting memories at our beautiful camps—all for FREE!

This program is designed for families, troops, or individuals with an adult chaperone.

Learn more and register by location:

- Butternut Springs, <u>September 14</u>
 - Greene Wood, <u>September 14</u>
 - Juniper Knoll, <u>September 28</u>
 - Palos, <u>September 28</u>

Get Outdoors Challenge: Fall

September 20, 2025 at Camp Greene Wood

Join us at camp for an exciting Fall Outdoor Challenge designed specifically for your Girl Scout and family! Earn the fall segment of this four-segment patch program by completing exciting challenges that embrace the spirit of fall.

Register by clicking <u>here</u>





Girl Scouts Love State Parks September 13, 2025

Take the day to hike, explore, create, and learn with your fellow Girl Scout friends, family, or troop at a local state park. Plus, learn about the Girl Scout Tree Promise. An initiative to plant, protect, and honor 5 million trees by 2026. Meet at the parking lot to start the day. A facilitator will be there to welcome you with a patch, craft, snack, and activity packet for an on your own adventure.

Stay tuned for location & registration information!

Campfire and Songs

September 20 at Camp Greene Wood

Join us for a fun evening of singing your favorite Girl Scout songs making and s'mores around the campfire!

Register by clicking here



Highest Awards: Bronze, Silver, and Gold

Got a vision for a better world?

Join us for our **Highest Award** workshops to learn everything you need to know to be ready to get started on your **Silver or Gold Award.**





All workshops run from 6:00pm-7:00pm (Link provided after registration)

Cost: \$8

Scan the QR code or register at bit.ly/highestawardstraining



Volunteers:

Are you interested in helping girls achieve the highest award in Girl Scouting?

Our Gold Award Committee is growing! We are looking for new panelists and coaches.

The panel meets once a month to review final reports, and coaches support the girls throughout their project with monthly check ins.

If you are would like to know more, reach out to Sam Lehman at goldaward@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Governance



Washington, DC July 20-25, 2026 Save the Date for the 2026 National Council Session and Girl Scout Convention



Want the receive the latest news about the convention, including information on when registration opens?

<u>Sign up for the GSUSA Convention Insider email list here.</u>



Learn more at the GSUSA Convention Page.

General questions about the convention experience? Email Alaina Greene at agreene@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Volunteer Experience

Registration now open!



2024-2025 Recognition Ceremony

Celebrating adult volunteers, service units, community partners and Ambassador Girl Scouts.

Sunday, September 21, 2025 Society of the Danube Swabians Des Plaines, Illinois Sunday, October 19, 2025 Center for Visual & Performing Arts Munster, Indiana

Adult Members in a milestone year for the 2024-2025 membership year (5 years, 10 years, 15 years, etc.) are invited to attend to receive their Years of Service pin!

Learn more and register at <u>girlscoutsgcnwi.org/recognition</u>
Early Bird Tickets available through August 31, 2025



Starting this fall, all registered Girl Scout adults will be required to complete our Volunteer Basics Training.

This learning path includes five courses:

- Delivering Inclusive Program
- Mental Wellness 101
- New Leader
 Onboarding: Troop
 Safety
- Troop Safety Update
- Girl Scouts Child
 Abuse and Neglect

 Prevention



Why was this new learning path created?

This new training is an opportunity for all adults who register with us to learn about the Girl Scout mission, culture, and how we keep Girl Scouts safe.

Having this new training in place for everyone also minimizes the amount of training volunteers will need to take for other roles as they grow with the organization.

All five courses (combined) will take about 2 hours to complete. They do not need to be completed all at once.

Learn more about our adult training at

https://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/en/members/for-volunteers/volunteer-resources/volunteer-training.html



Girl Scout Shop

Design your own custom apparel.

Mix and match designs on t-shirts, crewneck sweatshrts and a baseball t-shirt!



NOW OPEN!

Build-A-Bear Workshop at our Schererville Shop!





GRAND OPENING: AUGUST 23!

shop.girlscoutsgcnwi.org





Mark your Calendars!

Burbank, Greene Wood, Joliet, Schererville & Vernon Hills

August 16
September 13 & 27
October 11 & 25
November 15
December 13

Shops open 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Schererville open 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Troop Treats and Shopping Sprees!

Themed activities, discounts, spin the prize wheel, and more...

September 9 October 7 November 18 December 9

Burbank, Chicago, Greene Wood, Joliet, Schererville & Vernon Hills

Shops open 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Troop and Volunteer Resources

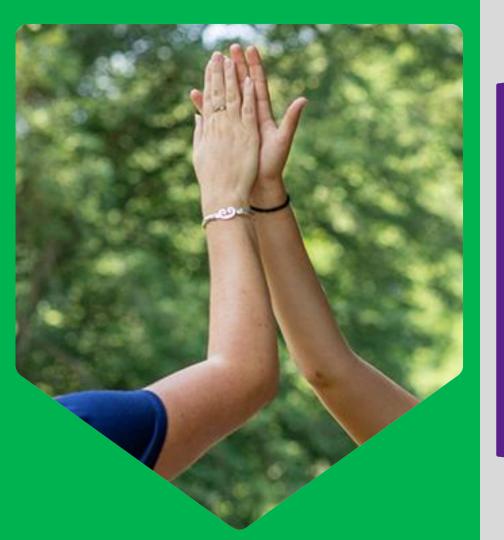
Are you looking for a no-cost meeting space for your Service Unit or troop?

Look no further. You can reserve space at one of our Gathering Places.





Scan the QR code or <u>click here to book meeting space</u> <u>fs24.formsite.com/gsgcnwi2/jgrefeuz7u/index</u>



Need Help?!

Whether you need help with a parent meeting or recruiting to fill your troop, we are here to help.

Contact Girl Scouts by phone or email to get connected to someone who can assist you!

Phone: 855-456-8347

Email: CustomerCare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org