



# December 2025 Council Updates

girlscouts   
of greater chicago  
and northwest  
indiana

# Service Unit Team Meeting Schedule for MY26

Join us for our Service Unit Team  
Holiday Party on Sunday, December 7  
at Salerno's in Hodgkins.

[RSVP for the Holiday Party  
by clicking here](#)

A virtual SUM Meeting will be held January  
13 from 7:00-8:00 p.m.

[Click here to join the meeting.](#)  
(An email will also be sent about a week  
before the meeting.)

February & May SUM Meetings  
from 6:30-8:00 p.m. (plus a  
social from 8:00-9:00 p.m.)

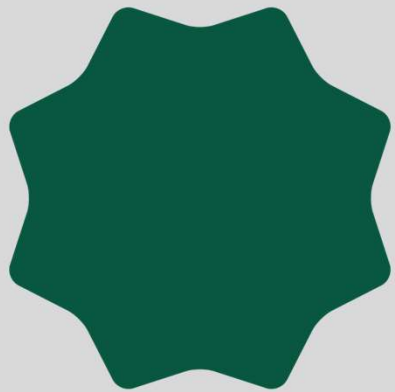
February meetings will take place:

- February 10 – Chicago location TBD
- February 11 – virtual
- February 12 – Greene Wood

May meetings will take place:

- May 14 – Schererville
- May 18 – virtual
- May 19 - Joliet

# ACTION ITEMS



- We hope you and a member of your SU Team will join us for our SU Teams Holiday Party on December 7 – see slide 2 to RSVP
- See our progress toward our 2025-26 Membership on slides 5 & 6
- Check out our new Girl Experience Guide – see slide 15 for more info
- Find amazing gifts for the Girl Scouts in your life – our Holiday Gift Guide is on slide 54

# Announcements





# Holiday Hours

## **Tuesday, Dec. 23**

All gathering places and retail stores are open.

## **Wednesday, Dec. 24 - Friday, Jan 2**

Council operations, gathering places, and retail stores are closed.

During this time, Customer Care will be monitoring emails and phone messages. Cookie related inquiries will be addressed.

## **Saturday, Jan. 3**

**Girl Scout Cookie Rally at Allstate Arena**

[Click here to learn more and to register.](#)

## **Monday, Jan. 5 and Tuesday, Jan. 6**

Council operations are open for business remotely.  
All gathering places and retail stores are closed.

## **Wednesday, Jan. 7**

Council operations, gathering places, and retail stores are closed for a staff retreat and will reopen on Thursday, January 8.

**2025-26**  
**Membership**  
**Girl Goals**

**New 10,701**  
**Renew 22,799**  
**Total 33,500**

What is our girl membership goal status?

As of November 17, 2025

New Girls = 5,784 *-3.5% to last year*  
Council ranks #1 nationally

Renewed Girls = 20,882 *-3.4% to last year*  
Council ranks #3 nationally

Total girls = 26,666 *-3.4% to last year*  
Council ranks #3 nationally

How is are we doing with our  
adult membership?

As of November 17, 2025

New Adults = 2,265 *-1.0% to last year*  
Council ranks #3 nationally

Renewed Girls = 12,479 *0.5% to last year*  
Council ranks #5 nationally

Total adults = 14,744 *0.3% to last year*  
Council ranks #5 nationally

**2025-26**  
**Membership**  
**Adult Goals**

**New 5,184**  
**Renew 11,816**  
**Total 17,000**



## Badge Boost of the Month

Looking for fresh ideas or a quick confidence boost?

Every month, Badge Boost brings volunteers a new training in gsLearn focused on helping you grow your skills, spark new ideas, and feel even more confident leading your troop.

This month's Boost is packed with great ideas for celebrating World Thinking Day- don't miss it!

## This Month's Badge Boost is Here



### Sparkling Girl Scouts' Interest in STEM

In this course, you will explore how to support Girl Scouts of all ages to engage in STEM. You will learn what STEM is and how it is a tool to make a difference. You also will learn about exciting program opportunities, resources, stories and ideas to help you amplify what Girl Scouts do.

[Start Course](#)

Head to the gsLearn library and search

*GSUSA Sparking Girl Scout  
Interest in STEM*

Check out this month's Boost to see what you can unlock!

# Product Program



*Little Brownie*  
BAKERS®

## GCNWI Cookie Program runs December 12 thru March 9

- ✓ December 6 – Watch your email for an invite to set up your Digital Cookie Site
- ✓ December 6 – Watch your email for an invite to access eBudde\*  
*\* Service Unit Cookie Managers/  
Troop Leaders/ Troop Cookie  
Managers*
- ✓ December 12 – First Day of  
Cookie Order Taking!







Scan QR or  
visit [bit.ly/46pCML4](https://bit.ly/46pCML4)  
to register today!



PRESENTED BY:  
**girl scouts**  
of greater chicago  
and northwest  
indiana



FEATURING:



ORDERS OF 30+ TICKETS (ON ONE ORDER) WILL RECEIVE  
A CHICAGO WOLVES HAT FOR EVERYONE IN THE GROUP IF  
TICKETS ARE PURCHASED TOGETHER BY DEC. 1.

JOIN US FOR A DAY OF FUN FAMILY ACTIVITIES  
AT ALLSTATE ARENA. OPEN TO ALL GIRL SCOUTS,  
TROOPS, FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.



## Schedule of Events

**1:30-4:30 p.m.**

Be Brave! Fierce! Fun!

- Games and activities for all ages!
- Skill builders for Girl Scouts
- Are you ready to groove and move? Learn some dance moves and then join in the fun at the concert!
- Exchange SWAPS and make Friendship Bracelets
- Skating on the Ice will be available from 2-4 p.m. You must bring your own skates to go on the ice.

**4:45-5:45 p.m.**

Cookie rally inside the arena featuring  
Red Revolution - The Taylor Swift Experience

**6 p.m.**

Doors open to the public.

**7 p.m.**

Chicago Wolves game with puck drop and color guard presentation by the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana. Earn the chance to drop the puck! The lucky winner will be chosen from ticket purchases made through Dec. 7.

## Ticket Purchasing Information

\$23 per person by Dec. 7, 2025. \$25 per person starting Dec. 8, 2025.

Your ticket includes:

Entrance to Cookie Rally • Commemorative T-shirt • Chicago Wolves game ticket • Rally patch for Girl Scouts

In addition, you may purchase a hot dog and soda voucher for \$7.

See details on how to register on the back.

# Cookie Program Training Schedule

All Sessions are Virtual

**Troop Cookie Manager  
Training**  
November 20 ✿ 6:30 p.m.



<https://bit.ly/47H6rRL>

**Cookie 101**  
*For NEW troop cookie  
managers*  
December 1 ✿ 7:00 p.m.



<https://bit.ly/4nSkQiJ>

**Digital Cookie Training**  
*For parents and leaders*  
December 8 ✿ 6:30 p.m.



<https://bit.ly/4oglS8F>

**eBudde Training**  
January 6 ✿ 6:00 p.m.



<https://bit.ly/47Z6fvY>

**eBudde Training**  
*For NEW troop cookie  
managers*  
January 8 ✿ 6:00 p.m.



<https://bit.ly/4i1yQFt>

**Open Mic Nights**  
January 13-14 ✿ 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.



<https://bit.ly/3XhqY9D>

*Cookie Bites and Cookie Chats: Explore cookie program topics and  
get your questions answered; Registration opens soon!*

**Questions? Contact [productprogram@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:productprogram@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)**



# 2026 Cookie Program

Brave.  
Fierce.  
Fun!



## Important Dates

December 12

**First Day of  
Cookie Order  
Taking**

January 3

**Cookie Rally**

January 14

**Last Day  
Troop Initial  
Order**

January 22 thru  
February 1

**Service Unit  
Delivery**

January 26

**Cookie  
Cupboards  
Open**

January 26

**Goal Getter  
Program  
Begins**

January 30 thru  
March 8

**Cookie Booth  
Period**

February 13 and  
March 13

**ACH Sweep**

March 9

**\*\*Last Day of  
the Cookie  
Program**

*\*Key dates shown*

*\*\* There are more opportunities like Loop Site, or we can work with you to extend the time if your Girl Scouts want to continue.*

# Level Up Your Cookie Game!

*Bulk Delivery  
unlocks after the  
Initial Order Period*



## Big Cookie Goals? We Deliver!

*Skip endless cookie cupboard trips with bulk delivery!*

### Why Choose Bulk Delivery?

- **Save Time** - One delivery vs. multiple pickups
- **Focus on Sales** - Less logistics, more selling
- **Scale Up** - Perfect for high-volume troops

### How It Works (Starting February 2)

- Order 300+ cases (any variety) → We deliver to your door!
- Full payment due ACH Sweep (March 13)

### Ready to Qualify?

- ✓ **Secure storage available** (garage, basement, indoor space)
- ✓ **Easy truck access** for delivery day
- ✓ **300+ cases minimum** per location
- ✓ **Full troop leadership buy-in** required

### Final Details

- **All orders/sales are final** - plan your quantities carefully
- Maximize your cookie season potential!

Questions? Email [productprogram@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:productprogram@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

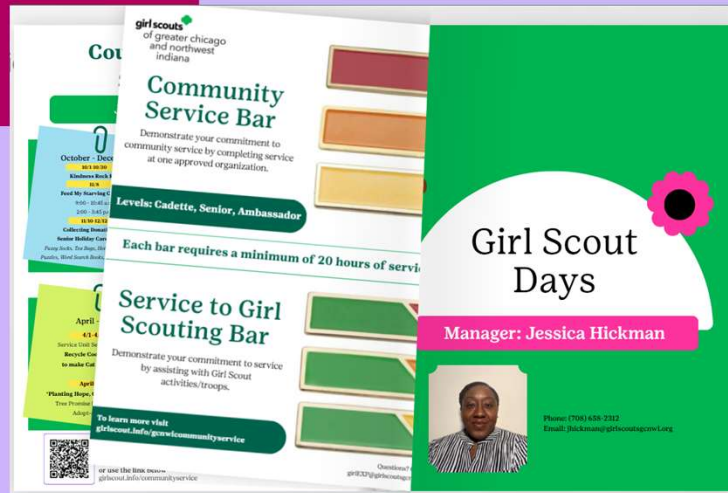
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# Girl Experience: Program & Highest Awards

# Introducing the Girl Experience Guide!

Find all program fliers, all in one place! Flip through the Girl Experience Guide to discover exciting, hands-on experiences. The guide will be updated regularly, bookmark the link for easy access.

To view it, scan the QR code or visit:  
[girlscout.info/GirlExperienceGuide](https://girlscout.info/GirlExperienceGuide)





## You and Me: Wreath Making Workshop



December 13  
from 10:00 - 12:00 p.m.  
at the Schererville or Vernon  
Hills Gathering Places

Cost: \$25

Girl Scouts and their adults are invited to  
join us for winter crafting fun!  
Create a wreath together and work on  
paintings while enjoying snacks.

Scan the QR code or visit  
[girlscout.info/STEAM](https://girlscout.info/STEAM)



# Discover Coding with Black Girls Code



For Brownies, Juniors, and Cadettes  
(2nd-8th grade)

**Saturday December 13**

**10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Kennedy King College in Chicago**

Cost: \$5

Learn coding while creating  
interactive holiday cards!

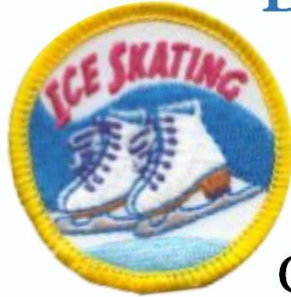
Beginner and intermediate level  
coders welcome.

Scan the QR code or visit  
[girlscout.info/STEAM](https://girlscout.info/STEAM)





# Girl Scout Days



## Bulldog Ice Skating Family Event Crown Point, Indiana

Sunday, December 21, 2025  
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Cost \$7 per person (includes patch for Girl Scouts)

[girlscout.info/bulldogiceskating](https://girlscout.info/bulldogiceskating)



## 4 Seasons Horse Stable Crown Point, Indiana

Saturday, March 7, 2026  
3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

Cost \$30 (includes patch for Girl Scouts)



[girlscout.info/4seasonshorstable](https://girlscout.info/4seasonshorstable)

# 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 - 5:45 p.m.

**Join us to discuss**

**Cadette, Senior, Ambassador**  
**Girl Scouts and Leaders** 6:00 - 6:45 p.m.

**Join us to learn more**

**Winter Service Project 11/17-12/19**



Collecting donations at all Gathering  
Places (except Chicago) for senior  
holiday care packages, including:  
*fuzzy socks, puzzles, word searches,  
tea, hot chocolate (packets), and  
handwritten cards*

Donate 3 items to receive a patch

Questions? Contact  
[jhickman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:jhickman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

Join your sister Girl Scouts and  
Girl Guides from more than  
150 countries around the world to  
celebrate 100 years of  
**World Thinking Day!**

The 2026 activity guides are now  
available.



Visit <http://bit.ly/4niMOVl> to learn more

# Calling All Readers!

## Register for our Winter Reading Challenge

Cost: \$7 (Includes reading list, reading tracker, reflection log, and fun patch!)



Winter:  
December 1, 2025 – February 1, 2026  
[girlscout.info/WinterReadingChallenge](https://girlscout.info/WinterReadingChallenge)



To register, scan the QR code or visit the URL

*Full patch set available  
to earn for the 2025-  
2026 year!*



## Join the Junior or Cadette Book Clubs

We meet virtually once a month!  
*This is a FREE program.*

Sign up here:

Junior October Book Club:  
[girlscout.info/JRNovBookClub](https://girlscout.info/JRNovBookClub)

Cadette October Book Club:  
[girlscout.info/CDNovBookClub](https://girlscout.info/CDNovBookClub)

## Program Aide and VIT (Volunteer in Training) Leadership Training

This training prepares young leaders at our Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador age levels to get involved and inspire younger troops through effective activity facilitation and event planning, fostering leadership skills and a passion for community service.

**February 21, 2026**  
**9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
Joliet Gathering Place  
1551 Spencer Road, Joliet, IL  
60433

**May 2, 2026**  
**9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**  
Vernon Hills Gathering Place  
650 Lakeview Pkwy, Vernon  
Hills, IL 60061

Scan the QR code or visit  
[girlscout.info/awards](https://girlscout.info/awards)  
to register





# Project Law Track

If you enjoy tackling challenges and standing up for what you believe in, using your voice, or if you're simply curious about the life of a lawyer, then Project Law is for you!

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**Project Law Track Chicago: February 28, 2026**

**Cost: \$35, Time: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.**

**Apply today at: [girlscout.info/PLTinfo](https://girlscout.info/PLTinfo)**

Registration link will be provided after a short interview

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**Project Law Track DuPage: March 14, 2026**

**Cost: \$30, Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**

**Register at [girlscout.info/ProjectLawDupage](https://girlscout.info/ProjectLawDupage)**





# STEM Fest

April 25, 2026

10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Joliet Gathering Place

Cost: \$30

Scan the QR code or visit  
[girlscout.info/STEAM](https://girlscout.info/STEAM)



## True North Leadership to Awards (Grades 4-12)



Scan the QR code or visit  
<https://girlscout.info/awards>

The True North award is about discovering what matters to you and staying true to yourself.

Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors can earn most of the True North Award, followed by highest awards training, at a local Gathering Place:

Greene Wood Gathering Place  
January 10, 2026  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Vernon Hills Gathering Place  
February 7, 2026  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.  
Cost: \$25



# Bronze Award Leader Training

Join us for a training for troop leaders, to help you confidently guide Girl Scouts through their FIRST Highest Award.

We'll go over each step, project inspiration, and new prerequisites.

Participants will be mailed their guidelines, plus other helpful resources for you and your Girl Scouts!

**Dates:** January 20

**Time:** 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

**Location:** Virtual - meeting link will be emailed to participants.

**Cost:** \$8



January Registration Link:  
[girlscout.info/JanBronzeTraining](https://girlscout.info/JanBronzeTraining)

## 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**.



**Upcoming Silver Award Workshops:**  
December 11, February 19



**Upcoming Gold Award Workshop:**  
January 15

All workshops run from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.  
*(Link provided after registration)*

Cost: \$8

Scan the QR code or register at  
[girlscout.info/awards](https://girlscout.info/awards)



Supporting volunteers, check out the new training in gsLearn:  
"GSUSA How to Support a Gold Award Girl Scout"

## 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](mailto:goldaward@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)





# 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](mailto:programs@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)



# Girl Experience Trip & Travel



## Ready, Set, Travel! Volunteer Travel Training



Designed to help you plan and lead safe, memorable trips, this training is your first step toward exciting Girl Scout travel opportunities.

Before planning any travel, complete  
**430 Ready, Set, Travel**  
training in the gsLearn system.

Log into gsLearn through your MyGS  
account, then scan the QR code or  
click the link below:



[bit.ly/3UXYdNL](https://bit.ly/3UXYdNL)

*Questions?* [gstravel@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:gstravel@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

# GIRL SCOUT DAY

DuSable Black History Museum  
740 E 56th Place, Chicago, IL  
Sunday, February 22, 2026  
10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.



Open to troops, families, and friends  
Scan QR code or visit [girlscout.info/travel](https://girlscout.info/travel)



Discover the stories, achievements, and rich cultural heritage of African Americans through hands-on exhibits and interactive experiences designed to inspire curiosity and courage.

**Cost: Free museum admission!**

Optional \$15.00 includes an exclusive, custom T-shirt & matching Black History patch



Questions? [GSTravel☆ GirlScoutsgcnwi.org](https://GSTravel.GirlScoutsgcnwi.org)



# 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, May 2, 2026**

**11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.**

**Cost \$45 Per Person**

Payment plan available

**Includes private, guided tour,  
travel swag, and patch**

Scan QR code or visit [girlscout.info/travel](https://girlscout.info/travel)



## TRIP & TRAVEL



Questions? [GSTravel](https://GSTravel.GirlScoutsgcnwi.org) ☆ [GirlScoutsgcnwi.org](https://GirlScoutsgcnwi.org)



**Troop & Family Getaway**  
**KALAHARI RESORTS**

**June 5 - 7, 2026**  
**Wisconsin Dells, WI**

One and Two Night Options Available  
Flexible Payment Plan Available

Scan here for more  
information!



Questions? Contact  
GSTravel@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Scan the QR code or visit  
[girlscout.info/travel](https://girlscout.info/travel)

## ROAD TRIP!

Meet us at Kalahari Resort  
(Wisconsin Dells)  
for an unforgettable family and  
troop adventure with Girl Scouts.





GIRL SCOUT TRAVEL

# Savannah, Georgia Takeover!

## August 3–August 7, 2026



- Round-trip private charter bus (Chicago ⇄ Savannah)
- Four-night hotel stay + daily breakfast
- Local transportation in Savannah
- Tours of Juliette Gordon Low's birthplace and first Girl Scout HQ
- Tybee Island visit + dolphin cruise
- Open to troops, individually registered members, leaders, and families

**Secure your spot today!**  
**Deposit of \$200 due by**  
**December 15, 2025.**

*Payment plans available*



[girlscout.info/SavannahTakeover26](https://girlscout.info/SavannahTakeover26)



# Girl Experience: Outdoor Program



# Camp Lights

December 5, 6, 12, and 13  
at Camp Palos

Camp is getting a festive glow-up during our annual Camp Lights event—an evening filled with twinkling lights, winter-themed fun, and magical memories waiting to be made.

Wander through camp and choose your own adventure with a variety of glowing, wintery, hands-on activity stations!

Register by clicking [HERE](#)  
or by scanning the QR code:



# Summer Camp Kickoff | January 31, 2026

## Help us celebrate the launch of Summer Camp 2026!

Join us for our Summer Camp Kickoff and enjoy a delicious s'more, talk to the camp staff, and ask any questions you have about the upcoming summer camp options.

**Summer Camp registrations go live on February 2, 2026 at 6:00 a.m.**

**Register by clicking a location below:**

[Camp Butternut Springs](#)

for information about Camp Butternut Springs

[Vernon Hills Gathering Place](#)

for information about Camp Juniper Knoll

[Camp Greene Wood](#)

for information about Camp Greene Wood



Camp  
Butternut  
Springs



Camp Juniper Knoll/  
Vernon Hills  
Gathering Place



Camp  
Greene  
Wood





## Astronomy Club

Learn something new at Astronomy Club -  
where stargazers embark on a thrilling journey  
through the universe!

### **January 10, 2026: Challenger Learning Center**

Visit the Challenger Learning Center in Northwest  
Indiana to experience an educational program in  
their planetarium followed by a unique laser show!

Sign-Up [HERE](#)

January

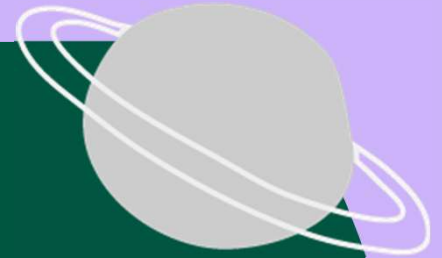
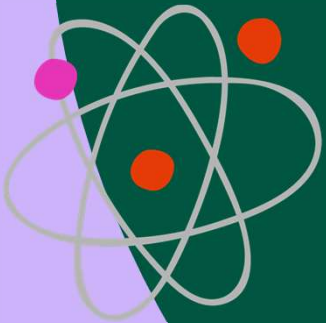


### **February 28, 2026: Space Travel**

This month, blast off into the exciting world of  
space travel and rockets! Learn how rockets work,  
what it takes to launch into space, and build your  
own spacecraft.

Sign-Up [HERE](#)

February



## Astronomy Club

Learn something new at Astronomy Club - where stargazers embark on a thrilling journey through the universe!

### **March 28, 2026: Earth Hour Appreciation**

Discover how light pollution affects our view of the night sky and explore ways to reduce light pollution. Then head home to observe Earth Hour, a global event where people across the globe turn off their lights for one hour!

Sign-Up [HERE](#)

March

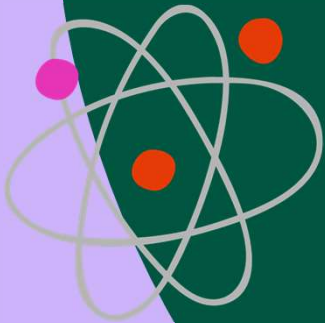
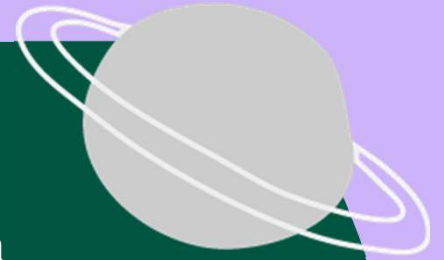


### **April 11, 2026: Planets of Our Solar System**

Get ready for an out-of-this-world adventure as we journey through the planets of our solar system! Get a taste of how big our solar system really is and even imagine what life might be like on another planet.

Sign-Up [HERE](#)

April





## Outdoor Leadership Club

Are you passionate about the outdoors and looking to take your leadership skills to the next level? Join us to develop the natural outdoor leader in you through outdoor skills workshops.

### January 15, 2026: Knot-tying and Lashing

Practice your knot-tying skills and learn the art of lashing. We'll work on different lashing techniques and build a variety of useful structures. Learn how to teach others to tie essential camping knots to prepare for any outdoor adventure. Sign-Up [HERE](#)

### February 22, 2026: STEAM Education

Dive into how to lead fun, hands-on STEAM activities for younger Girl Scouts! We'll explore ways to incorporate STEAM into outdoor activities and education.

Sign-Up [HERE](#)



January



February





## Outdoor Leadership Club

Are you passionate about the outdoors and looking to take your leadership skills to the next level? Join us to develop the natural outdoor leader in you through outdoor skills workshops.

### March 5, 2026: Geocaching

Explore the exciting world of geocaching and learn how to lead Girl Scouts on fun outdoor adventures! Discover navigating using a GPS unit and learn how to plan a geocaching experience for younger scouts. By the end of the meeting, you'll be ready to venture out to find the geocaches hidden at camp! Sign-Up [HERE](#)

### April 2, 2026: Camp Juniper Knoll Work

**Weekend** Spend time outdoors and enjoying Juniper Knoll while helping to improve and restore areas all around camp! Sign-Up [HERE](#)



March



April



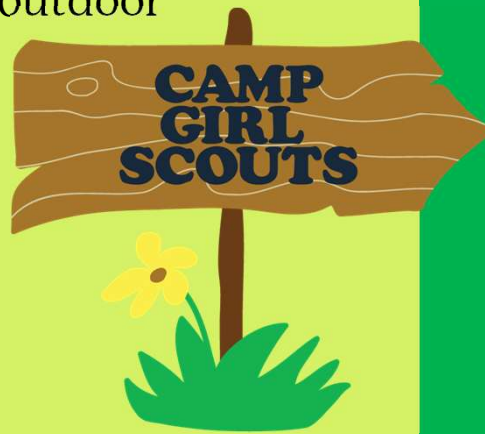


# Girl Scout Hikes

Looking for your next Girl Scout adventure?

Through hands-on learning opportunities and hikes at local nature preserves, you'll learn everything from navigation to backcountry trip planning.

These hikes are the perfect place to make new friends, develop outdoor skills, and create Girl Scout memories that will last a lifetime!



**January 11, 2026**

## **Frozen Waterfalls Hike:**

Put your navigation skills to the test as you get ready to experience the icy magic of Starved Rock State Park's frozen waterfalls and majestic canyons on this unforgettable winter trek.

**Sign-Up [HERE](#)**





# Get Outdoors Challenge – Winter

## February 7, 2026 at Camp Palos



**Join us for an exciting Winter Outdoor Challenge designed specifically for Girl Scouts and families!**

Explore camp during winter. Make your very own snow ice cream to enjoy with some warm hot cocoa. Join in the fun and play some winter-themed games. Get crafty with some winter art and even make your own snow.

**Let's celebrate the season and embark on this winter adventure together!**

**Sign-Up:**

[Morning](#)



[Afternoon](#)





## Valentine Hike at Camp Palos February 14, 2026

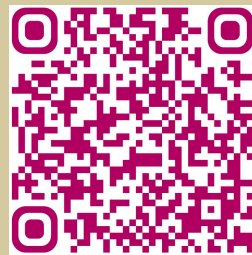
Embrace the great outdoors and  
enjoy the benefits of hiking with  
your Girl Scout friends.

Celebrate friendship and fresh air  
with a heartwarming hike through  
the winter woods—perfect for  
sharing the love of nature!

Sign-Up [HERE](#)



Sign-Up:



# Pudgie Pi(e) Day | March 13, 2026

Camp Butternut Springs,  
Vernon Hills Gathering Place,  
and Joliet Gathering Place

Celebrate Pi Day camp style!  
Learn to cook with a pie iron, make a  
pie-themed craft, and complete other  
fun pi(e) activities.

**Sign-up by clicking a link below:**

[Camp  
Butternut  
Springs](#)



[Vernon Hills  
Gathering  
Place](#)



[Joliet  
Gathering  
Place](#)





## Camp Butternut Springs and Camp Palos

A Girl Scout can never go wrong with the perfect stick, especially in the outdoors! Join us in celebrating "something on a stick day" by making a stick craft then enjoying a yummy campfire hotdog, fruit kebob, and s'more!

Camp  
Butternut Springs



Camp  
Palos



## Girl Scouts Stick Together March 28, 2026





# Girl Scout Hikes

Looking for your next Girl Scout adventure?

These hikes are the perfect place to make new friends, develop outdoor skills, and create Girl Scout memories that will last a lifetime!



**March 29, 2026 Spring Hike:** This month we will be hiking at the Sand Ridge Nature Center. Welcome spring by exploring trails through wetlands and prairies, with hands-on nature exhibits and the chance to spot early blooms and wildlife.

**Sign-Up [HERE](#) for the March hike:**



**April 26, 2026 Urban Adventure Hike:** Venture out to the Blackwell Forest Preserve to explore the winter landscape by snowshoe and search for evidence of the glaciers that shaped our local ecosystem!

**Sign-Up [HERE](#) for the April hike:**





## NOW HIRING: Summer Camp Staff

Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago & Northwest Indiana is hiring for summer camp staff at Camp Butternut Springs (Valparaiso, Indiana), Camp Greene Wood (Woodridge, Illinois), and Camp Juniper Knoll (East Troy, Wisconsin). A variety of jobs and internships are available at each camp. For more information and job applications, check out the link below!



[Scan QR code or click here to visit our Summer Camp Employment page](#)

# Customer Care and Retail



# *Design your own custom apparel.*

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



[shop.girlscoutsgcnwi.org](https://shop.girlscoutsgcnwi.org)





**BRAND NEW!**

Council-own Certified Cookie Seller Sweatshirt.  
**PRE-ORDER TODAY!**



[shop.girlscoutsgcnwi.org](http://shop.girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

*December 13*

Burbank, Greene Wood, Joliet,  
Schererville & Vernon Hills

**Holiday  
Treats  
Gift Wrapping  
Station**

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

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





[shop.girlscoutsgcnwi.org](http://shop.girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

***Troop Treats and  
Shopping Sprees!***

**December 9**

**Last  
Super Troop Tuesday  
of the year!**

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

**Shops stay open till 6 p.m.**



# 2026 Holiday Gift Guide



[girlscout.info/2026holidaygiftguide](https://girlscout.info/2026holidaygiftguide)

[girlscout.info/gcnwigirlsexperiences](https://girlscout.info/gcnwigirlsexperiences)



**NOW  
OPEN!**  
Build-A-Bear  
Workshop  
at our  
Schererville  
Shop!



[shop.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/contact-us/](http://shop.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/contact-us/)





# 2026 Booth in a Bag!

\$35



[www.girlscout.info/cookieseason](http://www.girlscout.info/cookieseason)

# Belonging and Culture

# Save the Date: Social Inclusion Week 2026

## THE LONG TABLE



ROOM FOR EVERY VOICE

Social Inclusion Week will  
kick-off in February 2026.

Experiences will include:

- Community Service
- Food & Culinary Experience
- Arts, Music, & Expression

Questions?

Contact: Veronica Aguiñaga, Director of Belonging and Culture  
[vaguinaga@Girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:vaguinaga@Girlscoutsgcnwi.org)



# We're for EVERY Girl Scout!

Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana welcomes the participation of all youth and adults.

Our council strives to ensure that our activities are accessible to everyone, regardless of ability.

Looking for accessible supports?

[Click this link to complete the request form](#)

## ALL ABILITIES Patch Program

Completing this patch program will strengthen the following skills:



- Recognizing the abilities of others
- Embracing one another and appreciating our individual talents
- Embodying the fundamental human right to belong

Click here or visit  
[bit.ly/AllAbilitiesPatchProgramRequest](https://bit.ly/AllAbilitiesPatchProgramRequest)  
to request a copy of the All Abilities Patch Program

Questions? Email: [everygirl☆ girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:everygirl@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)



Membership

## 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](#)



## There is always room for MORE Girl Scouts!

- Encourage troops to make sure all their spots are filled
- Creating new troops in your communities

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

If you're a returning volunteer recruiting girls in your community, visit [GirlScoutsGCNWI.org/recruitment](http://GirlScoutsGCNWI.org/recruitment) to access flyers and other recruitment materials.





A large purple rounded rectangle with a thin grey border, centered on a white background. The text "Girl Scout Democratic Process" is written in white serif font inside the rectangle.

# Girl Scout Democratic Process

Registration  
Now Open!



# GIRL SCOUTS UNITE

July 23–25, 2026 | Washington, DC



Once every three years, Girl Scouts from across the movement gather for the Girl Scout convention and you can join them!

Want to learn more?

Visit the [GSUSA Convention Page](#). Tickets and hotel room blocks are now available.

General questions about the convention experience?  
Email Alaina Greene at [agreene@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:agreene@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

## Why are District Delegates important?

District Delegates – along with our National Delegates and our Board of Directors – make up the voting body for our council. In other words, District Delegates have a direct impact on decision making for our council!

Learn more by visiting our [Democratic Process page](#)

### Here are the details:

- Each Service Unit is allowed to select 2 District Delegates
- Delegates may be Adult Members or Girl Scouts who are at least 14 years of age at the time of selection
- Delegates typically attend 5-9 virtual meetings a year and our Annual Meeting (which typically happens in April)

Interested? Contact your Service Unit Manager to see if your Service Unit is looking for a District Delegate.

SUMs may use the email below to inform us of any selections.

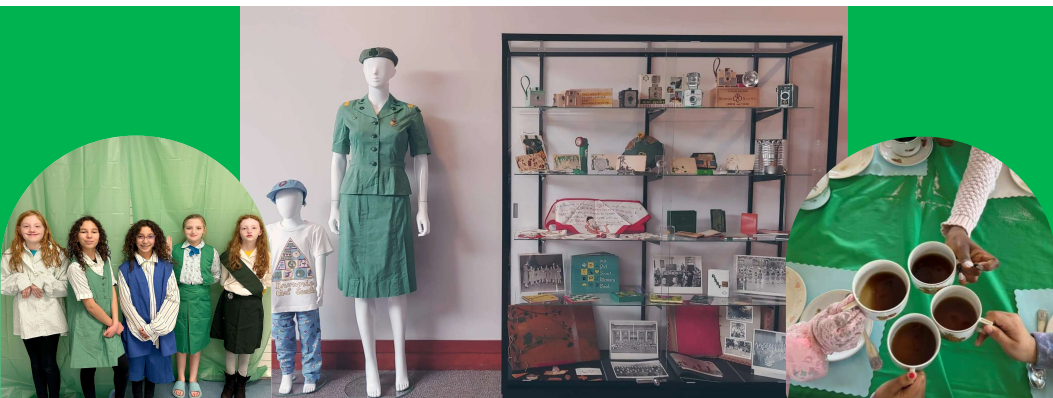
Questions? Email [democraticprocess@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:democraticprocess@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

## Become a District Delegate!



# Volunteer Experience



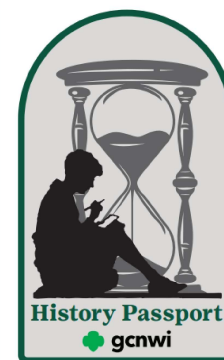


The GCNWI Council Historians invite you to explore Girl Scout history!

To earn this fun patch, Girl Scouts must collect 10 points which can be earned through a variety of activities that explore Girl Scout history. This can be done at the Girl Scout History Center in Vernon Hills or at a location of your choice.

Girl Scouts can also utilize the Historian Activity Kits available to borrow at all Gathering Places to help complete the activities!

Learn about our Girl Scout History with our new patch program!



Find the full patch program details on our websites [Patch Program Page](#).

Patches now available!



## Girl Scout Enthusiast

José M.

Park Supervisor at Sauganash Park  
Chicago, IL



Do you know an amazing Community Partner who supports Girl Scouting?

Did you know we have two awards to recognize these amazing supporters?

### The Girl Scout Enthusiast Award

honors community partners at the local (troop or service unit) level.

### The Girl Scout Hero Award

honors community partners at the council or movement level.

Nominations are accepted year-round.

Learn more and nominate someone today by visiting

[www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/recognition](http://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/recognition)

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>



# Troop and Volunteer Resources





Use the **Troop Year Planner**  
to plan an amazing Girl Scout year!

Visit [bit.ly/TroopYearPlan](https://bit.ly/TroopYearPlan) to learn more





Council programs, camp, outdoor programs, and leadership training:

<https://girlscout.info/gcnwiregistration>

### How to use your Cookie Dough voucher:

Use this link <https://girlscout.info/useCDandNB> to request that Cookie Dough be applied to your account on our registration site. Follow the instructions on the form and we will apply the requested amount towards your registration.

**If you have any questions, contact**  
[customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

**Using Cookie Dough, Nutty Bucks, or a Gift Card  
for council programs, camp, outdoor programs, and leadership training,  
on our registration site.**



**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  
[click here to book meeting space](https://fs24.formsite.com/gsgcnwi2/jgrefeuz7u/index)  
[fs24.formsite.com/gsgcnwi2/jgrefeuz7u/index](https://fs24.formsite.com/gsgcnwi2/jgrefeuz7u/index)



## 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](mailto:CustomerCare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)