

# February 2026 Council Updates

girlscouts  
of greater chicago  
and northwest  
indiana



# March SU Teams Event

Invite your  
service unit  
team to  
celebrate Girl  
Scout Birthday!



**Let's Celebrate Girl Scout Birthday—Together!**

**Service Unit Team Celebrations  
Thursday, March 5, 2026 7:00—9:00pm  
Greene Wood, Joliet, & Vernon Hills Gathering Places**

RSVP by February 25 by  
scanning the QR code or visiting  
[tinyurl.com/SUGSBday26](https://tinyurl.com/SUGSBday26)



See your email  
(dated 1/16)  
for more details  
about our  
**Spring Experience  
Packages**



## **Spring Experience Packages**



Your Spring Service Unit Experience Package is a Volunteer Appreciation Package, hand-delivered and facilitated by council staff.

We can sprinkle your existing (April or May) meeting with a little fun—or we can takeover and fill your whole meeting time.

**It's completely up to you!**

To secure your Spring Experience Package, complete this form for your service unit by Wednesday, February 18:  
**[forms.office.com/r/RmmPJGDFUX](https://forms.office.com/r/RmmPJGDFUX)**

# Service Unit Team

## Meeting Schedule for MY26

February "Voluntine's Day"  
SU Team Meetings will be  
held from 6:30-8:00 p.m.

(plus a social from 8:00-9:00p.m.) on:

- February 10:  
Columbus Park Refectory,  
5701 W Jackson, Chicago
- February 11: Virtual (*no social*)
- February 12: Greene Wood

[Click here to RSVP for  
the February meeting](#)

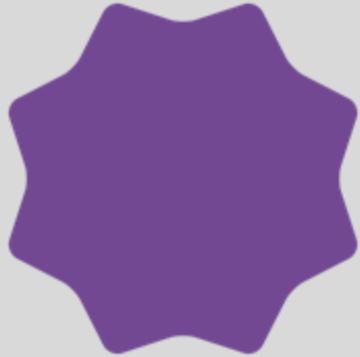
March 5th SU Team Girl Scout Birthday  
Gatherings from 7:00-9:00 p.m.

[Click here to RSVP for a March event!](#)

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

- May 14: Schererville
- May 18: Virtual (*no social*)
- May 19: Joliet

# ACTION ITEMS



- **Complete your Service Unit Membership Request** (see slide 7) – by February 15
- **RSVP for:**
  - The February SU Team Meetings (see slide 4)
  - The March 5 SU Team Gathering (see slide 2)
  - Your Spring Experience Package (see slide 3)
- **See the Cookie Program Updates** (slides 13-18)
- **Volunteer Recognitions** are now open for nominations (see slides 26-28) as well as the **Pinnacle Award** (see slide 9)
- There is so much going on at our **retail shops** (see slides 31-36)

# Announcements



## Time to Claim Your Service Unit Funds!

### 2026 Service Unit Membership Incentive Check

Congratulations!  
Your Service Unit has earned  
**\$1 for every Renewed girl by  
October 31, 2025**

**\$1 for every NEW girl registered by  
December 31, 2025.**



Don't miss out—collect your funds and  
put them to great use supporting your  
troop and activities!

To request your funds, please complete  
[this form](#) by February 15, 2026.

You will receive a check mailed to the  
address you specify in the form.

To be eligible to receive your check, Service  
Units need to have a dedicated SU bank  
account and current 24-25 SU Annual  
Financial Report on file.

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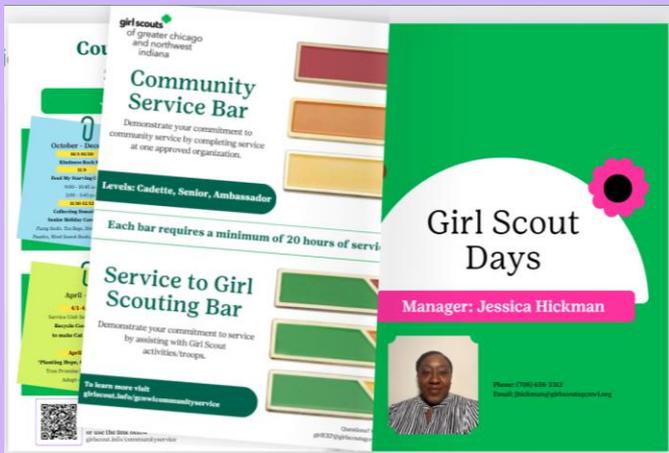
*Checks will be processed electronically and  
deposited directly into the SU bank account.*

Questions to  
[customer care@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:customer care@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)  
with the subject line: Membership Incentive



# Check out the Girl Experience Guide!

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



To view the Girl Experience Guide, scan the QR code or visit

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



## For Ambassador Girl Scouts

The Pinnacle Award honors Ambassador Girl Scouts (grades 11-12) who have demonstrated outstanding leadership through their Girl Scout experience.



To qualify for this GCNWI award, Girl Scout Ambassadors must document their experiences by earning at least seven leadership points, which can be achieved through a combination of Girl Scout and other extracurricular experiences.

**Applications for the 2025 Pinnacle Award  
are open  
January 1 – May 31, 2026**

For a full list of ways to earn leadership points and to apply visit: [bit.ly/PinnacleGCNWI](https://bit.ly/PinnacleGCNWI)

Questions? Email Alaina at [agreene@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:agreene@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

# Older Girl Listening Sessions

*Girl Scouts in grades 8-12 are invited to our Older Girl listening sessions!*

These sessions will give participants space to have an open conversation about what they want to see from council. During the conversation, we'll have pizza and patches to personalize a tote bag or an item of your choice!

Beverly Branch Public Library  
1962 W 95th St, Chicago, IL 60643  
Sunday, February 8  
Time: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.  
[girlscout.info/OlderGirlListeningBeverly](https://girlscout.info/OlderGirlListeningBeverly)



Camp Greene Wood Gathering Place  
3155 71st St, Naperville, IL 60540  
Sunday, February 1  
Time: 4:00 - 6:00 p.m.  
[girlscout.info/OlderGirlListeningGW](https://girlscout.info/OlderGirlListeningGW)

Vernon Hills Gathering Place  
650 N Lakeview Pkwy Vernon Hills, IL  
Sunday March 1  
Time: 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
[girlscout.info/OlderGirlListeningVH](https://girlscout.info/OlderGirlListeningVH)





## 🏆 Badge Boost of the Month

Every month, **Badge Boost** highlights a training to help you grow as a leader and make troop life easier. It's your chance to pick up timely tips, discover new ideas, and build confidence in the skills that matter most right now.

This month's Boost is all about **managing troop finances**—just in time for cookie season. From budgeting basics to smart money management tips, this training will help you feel prepared to handle troop funds with confidence while keeping the focus on fun for your Girl Scouts.

## This Month's Badge Boost is Here



**Funding the Fun: Managing Girl Scout Troop Finances**

In this course, you will learn the basics of managing your troop's funds. We will highlight how troops fund meetings and activities. We will also review how troops manage and report their finances to their councils.

[Start Course](#)

On slides without audio, click this button to hear the text read.

Head to the [gsLearn](#) library and search

### GSUSA New Leader Onboarding: Funding the Fun – Managing Girl Scout Troop Finances

Explore this month's Badge Boost in [gsLearn](#) to make troop finances a piece of cake (or maybe a cookie)!

# Product Program

# COOKIE PROGRAM PHASE TWO

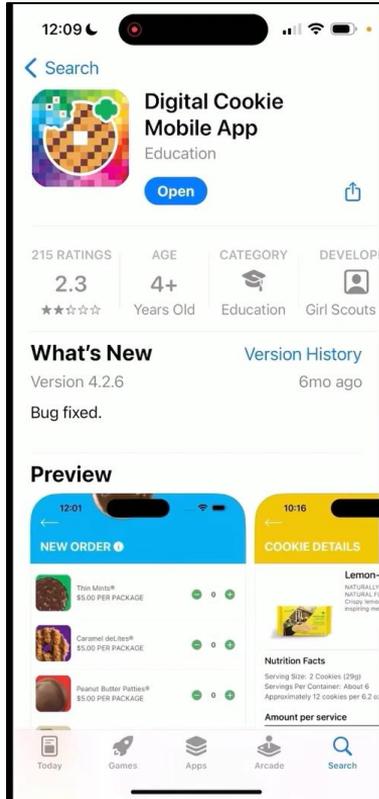
**BRAVE, FIERCE & FUN—LET'S KEEP GOING!**



**BRAVE.**  
**FIERCE. FUN!**

- **Digital Cookie:** Keep those online orders rolling in!
- **Cookie Cupboards:** Stocked and ready for you
- **Goal Getter Program:** Reach for those rewards
- **Booth Sites:** Your chance to connect with the community

# Digital Cookie Mobile App



## IOS App Store



## Google Play Store



- Download a new version of the mobile app each year.
- Mobile app found in App Store or Google Play store.



# 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

- Order 300+ cases (any variety) → We deliver to your door!
- Full payment due ACH Sweep (March 13<sup>th</sup>).

### 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)

# Digital Cookie Orders

*(after the Initial Order period)*



## Getting Cookies to Your Digital Cookie Customers— We've Got You Covered!

Your girls made the sale—now let's get those cookies delivered! Here are **four easy ways** to fulfill Digital Cookie Girl Delivered orders:

1. **Use your extras** – Use any remaining inventory from your Troop Initial Order
2. **Team up with sister Girl Scout troops** – Exchange cookies with another troop in your service unit
3. **Make it official in eBudde** – Place order for additional cookie inventory on the Transaction tab in eBudde
4. **Visit a Cookie Cupboard** – Stop by any Gathering Place location for quick pickup

**Need help?** The Product Program Team is here to support you and our Girl Scouts in getting the inventory needed.

**Remember:** The customers have already paid—our Girl Scouts just need the cookies to complete the delivery and earn credit for their hard work!



## ACH Sweep

ACH Sweep One – **February 13**  
(50% of initial order)

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ACH Sweep Two – **March 13**  
(Balance Due + Includes  
Booth/Cupboard Cookies & Extras)

**Troop Leaders:** Check your  
eBudde Sales Report for up-to-  
date balance information.

# Booth Sites: Ready, Set, Booth!



- ❑ **New booth opportunities added weekly**—more chances to sell!
- ❑ **Sign up for booth slots early (and often)** to secure the best locations and times
- ❑ **Use the Troop Virtual Booth Link** to reach customers who can't stop by
- ❑ **Digital Cookie App** makes credit card processing quick and easy
- ❑ **Track your booth sales** in real-time through eBudde

**Booths build confidence—girls discover their brave while selling together.**

**Booths account for 40-60% of total cookie sales, directly funding troop activities and council programs**

# Outdoor Experience Highlights



## Outdoor Program Upcoming Events



Looking for an exciting, outdoor adventure? From learning new outdoor skills or simply roasting a s'more, Girl Scouts GCNWI has got you covered!



**Pudgie Pi(e) Day**  
March 13, 2026

Camp Batternut  
Springs, Vernon Hills  
and Joliet Gathering  
Places

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

**Girl Scouts  
Stick Together**  
March 28, 2026

Camp Batternut  
Springs and Camp Palos

Join us in celebrating "Something on a Stick Day" by making a stick craft and then enjoying a yummy campfire hotdog, fruit kebab, and s'more!



**Scan the QR code or click [HERE](#) to register for a variety of year-round programs!**

Search for programs by using the filters to find activities and events. You can also search for programs by filtering by location, time, age, grade level, and/or activity type!





# More Outdoor Program



**Work Weekend**  
April 10-12, 2026

Camp Butternut Springs  
and Camp Juniper Knoll

Spend time outdoors while helping to improve and restore areas all around camp. Make a positive difference at camp by working alongside your Girl Scout community!

## Daisy Outdoor Extravaganza

Sessions available April - August 2026



Come explore camp during an afternoon designed just for you! Play games, make crafts, and go on a scavenger hunt. Roast a s'more and sing songs around the campfire with some new friends.

**Grilled Cheese Day** – April 12, 2026



Camp Butternut Springs,  
Camp Greene Wood,  
and Camp Palos

Make your very own pie iron grilled cheese and try a savory s'more. End the day by making a grilled cheese craft!

Scan the QR code or click [HERE](#) to register for a variety of year-round programs!



[Click HERE](#) to check out the [Girl Experience Guide](#) for more outdoor programs and opportunities to explore nature



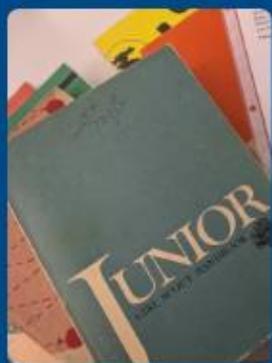
## NOW HIRING: Summer Camp Staff

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](#)

# Volunteer Experience



## Our council Historians have an overflowing archive. Purchase a piece of Girl Scout history!

*All funds received from the sale will support the continued work of the council Historians.*



### Vernon Hills Gathering Place

650 Lakeview Parkway  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061

Thursday, March 5, 2026  
4:00 – 7:00 p.m.

Friday, March 6, 2026  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 7, 2026  
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Items available to include:

- Handbooks and guides
- Badges and patches
- Uniform pieces
- Memorabilia
- ...and much more

**Cash or check only**

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

# Our Council Historians offer a variety of kits for troops to borrow, including:

- Vintage Uniform Bins
- Vintage Girl Scout Handbook Bin
- Activity Kits:
  - Tea Party Kit\*
  - Kim's Game
  - WAGGGS Flag Activity Kit

Reserve a kit today by contacting [customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

\*Not currently available at the Chicago GP



## Learn about our Girl Scout History

Now available is our new History Passport Patch Program!

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

# Do you know an amazing Volunteer?

Consider nominating them for  
a formal award!

**Board Approved Recognition Awards**  
will be open January – April 30, 2026

**Service Unit Approved Award**  
deadlines are set by the Service Unit  
and are typically in the Spring.

Learn more and nominate someone  
today by visiting  
[www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/recognition](http://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/recognition)





Who do I contact with questions?  
Email Alaina at  
[adultrecognition@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:adultrecognition@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

## Recognition FAQs

**Are there only volunteer awards?**

No, we also have awards for Community Partners, Staff and Service Units. A full description of all awards is available in our guide.

**Who can submit a nomination?**

For most awards, anyone can submit a nomination (except for family of the nominee)!

**How do I learn more?**

Visit [www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/recognition](http://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/recognition) for more info, including to find a copy of the new Volunteer Appreciation Guide.





## Girl Scout Enthusiast

Don P.  
Ridge Elementary  
Plainfield, 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)



## 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)

# Customer Care and Retail



# March - May

Burbank, Greene Wood, Joliet,  
Schererville & Vernon Hills

March 21 & 28

April 18

April 25 - Joliet Only

May 16

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

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

**BUY NOW. SAVE LATER.**

Spend \$50\* in February!

**SHOP NOW**

Earn  
**20% off**  
to use in-store  
in April!\*



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

**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



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



**BRAND NEW!**

Council-own Certified Cookie Seller Sweatshirt.  
ORDER TODAY!

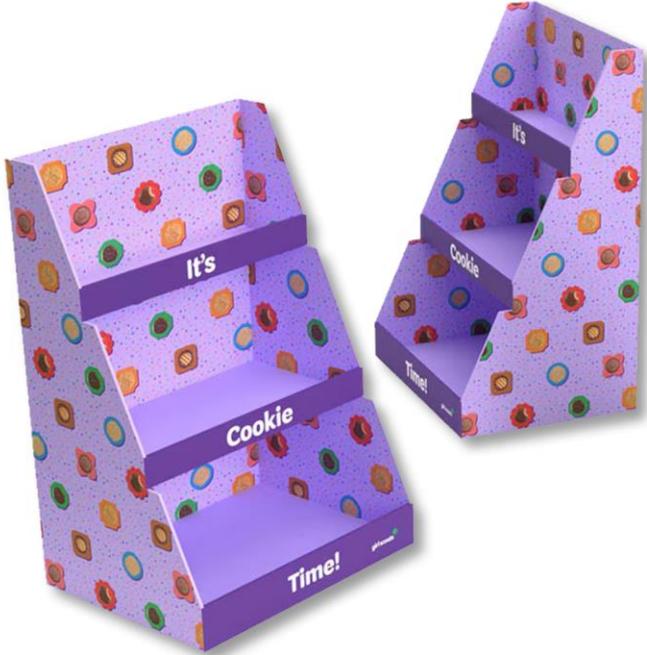
Troop 76072

1234567890

1234567890

1234567890

# Booth Essentials



<https://girlscout.info/cookieseason>

# Belonging and Culture

# Coming Soon: Social Inclusion Experiences 2026



**Social Inclusion Experiences are coming in March, April, and May**

Experiences will include:

- Exploring Culture through Food
- Arts, Music, & Expression
- Local Cultural & Historical Museum Tours

**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 compete 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



## Start Planning Your Troops Renewal!

Renew your membership for another amazing year of Girl Scouts and keep planting the seeds that help your girls and your community flourish.

*Renew 80% of your troop between April 1 and May 31, 2026, to receive an amazing give-a-way!*

**More Details Coming Soon!**

## Annual Financial Report (AFR)

- Now is a great time to start preparing for **AFRs, which are due by July 30.**
- You can find training in **gsLearn** under the **430: Managing Troop Finances** course.
- **Pro tip:** Update your Detailed Report **monthly** to stay on top of your finances and avoid the summer rush!
- The **Detailed Report** is located under the **Additional References** tab.



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

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

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

## What is our girl membership goal status?

**As of January 16, 2026**

**New Girls = 6,665** *-4.7% to last year*  
*Council ranks #2 nationally*

**Renewed Girls = 21,652** *-3.8% to last year*  
*Council ranks #3 nationally*

**Total Girls = 28,317** *-4% to last year*  
*Council ranks #4 nationally*

## How are we doing with our adult membership?

As of January 16, 2026

New Adults = 2,702 *-2.7% to last year*  
*Council ranks #3 nationally*

Renewed Adults = 12,690 *-0.0% to last year*  
*Council ranks #5 nationally*

Total Adults = 15,392 *-0.5% to last year*  
*Council ranks #5 nationally*

**2025-26**

**Membership  
Adult Goals**

**New 5,184**

**Renew 11,816**

**Total 17,000**

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# 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@girlscoutsgenwi.org](mailto:democraticprocess@girlscoutsgenwi.org)

# Become a District Delegate!



Upcoming Delegate Meetings  
March 10  
March 31  
April 18

# Troop and Volunteer Resources

## 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.





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)