



# May 2026 Council Updates

girlscouts   
of greater chicago  
and northwest  
indiana

# Announcements



**GROWING TOGETHER**  
**A Volunteer Event**

Saturday, September 26, 2026

Tinley Park Convention Center, 18451 Convention Center Dr, Tinley Park, IL 60477

Click here to learn more, to view the event resource guide, and to register!

**Apply  
now!**

## **Apply for the Philip J. Becker Eco-Advocacy Award!**

This award provides funding for Girl Scouts in grades 4-12 completing a project focused on the environment and/or sustainability. View application for complete details.

Learn More:

**[girlscout.info/BeckerAward2026](https://girlscout.info/BeckerAward2026)**

*Applications due May 31, 2026.*





## Badge Boost of the Month

Shine bright like your girls' futures!



This month's Boost is all about the **Silver and Gold Awards**—the highest honors a Girl Scout can earn. These trainings will help you support girls as they dream big, take action, and make a lasting impact in their communities.

## This Month's Badge Boost is Here



How to Support a Gold Award Girl Scout

This course provides the information and tools you'll need to guide, support, and inspire the Girl Scout in your life interested in earning the Gold Award.

BEGIN



Silver Award Overview Course

Interested in learning about the highest award a Girl Scout can earn? Want to bring your passions to the community and make a difference?

In this course you will learn all about the Silver Award and the resources available to help you achieve it!

Need Inspiration? Check out these real Silver Award projects!

Silver Award Overview 0 Start Course

Head to the gsLearn library and search

**GSUSA How to Support a Gold Award Girl Scout**  
or  
**GSUSA Silver Award Overview**

to see how you can guide girls toward their shining success



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.**

# Prepping for Spring: Early Renewal & AFRs

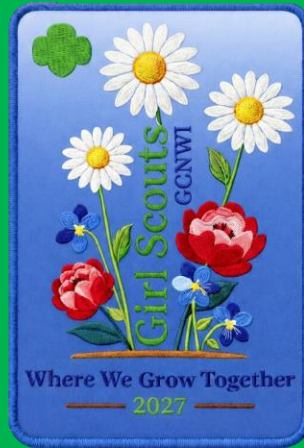
## This Years Giveaways:



Commemorative Bucket hat



2027 Renewal Patch



## Start Planning Your Troop Renewal!

Get ready for another unforgettable year of Girl Scouts! Renew your troop's membership and continue nurturing the confidence, leadership, and friendships that help your girls—and your community—thrive.

Renew **80% of your troop between April 1 and May 31, 2026**, and your troop will earn an exciting giveaway as a reward for your commitment. Let's keep the momentum growing!

*\*Bucket hat comes in all white – above is an example of how your troop can decorate their hats.*

# Growing Together is all about YOU

We want to see you there!

Get an additional \$10 discount when you complete your Early Renewal (by June 30)



Saturday, September 26, 2026  
9:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m.

Tinley Park Convention Center

18451 Convention Center Dr, Tinley Park, IL 60477

[Click here to learn more, to view the event resource guide, and to register!](#)



Our adult members are the center of this event, so, we are customizing the patches to reflect YOU.

Everyone who registers by September 13, 2026, will receive an event patch with their name.

Get ready to celebrate who we are and all that we can achieve when we work together!

## 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)



Hey troop leaders!  
Troop Annual  
Finance Reports  
are due by  
July 30!

Wednesday, May 6, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, May 12, 12:00 p.m.  
Saturday, May 16, 10:00 a.m.  
Monday, May 18, 10:00 a.m.  
Thursday, May 28, 7:00 p.m.  
Tuesday, June 2, 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday, June 10, 12:00 p.m.  
Saturday, June 13, 10:00 a.m.  
Monday, June 15, 10:00 a.m.  
Thursday, June 25, 7:00 p.m.  
Monday, July 27, 7:00 p.m.

Unsure how to submit your report? Need some tips and tricks?  
Join us at an Annual Finance Report Office Hour.

Sign up for one of these office hours  
at [bit.ly/AFROfficeHours2026](https://bit.ly/AFROfficeHours2026)

## DON'T FORGET!

- ✓ Download your Digital Cookie Reports — Deadline: May 28
- ✓ Also remind parents to save their contact list now!

*It'll be a lifesaver when fall product and the cookie season roll back around.*

After May 28, Digital Cookie closes and there will be no access to this info — not even for Product Staff.

Save it now, thank yourself later! 🧡



# Product Program



SAVE THE DATE!



# Girl Scout Cookie Rally IS BACK!

NEW DATE

**December 12**

★ A new month, sweet way to kick off the Girl Scout cookie season— we'll see you there! ★



# Girl Experience Highlights

# Explore more with the Girl Experience Guide!

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



Flip through the  
Girl Experience  
Guide to explore  
engaging, hands-  
on experiences for  
Girl Scouts!



Life Skills



Community Service



Financial Literacy



Highest Awards



S.T.E.M.



Trip and Travel

What will she  
discover?

You're  
Invited

# S'mores on the Beach & Bridging Celebration

Sunday, June 28  
2:00 - 6:00 p.m.

Marquette Park Beach Pavilion  
1 N Grand Blvd, Gary, IN

To learn more, scan the QR code or visit  
[bit.ly/SmoresBeach2026](https://bit.ly/SmoresBeach2026)



Bring your family, friends, and neighbors for an afternoon of music,  
dancing and delicious food.

Everyone is welcome to come together, connect, celebrate.



## Highest Awards Picnic

Join us for an afternoon of fun in celebration of any Girl Scout who earned the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award!

Where: Joliet Gathering Place

When: Sunday, July 12  
3:00 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.

Cost: \$30 for highest award recipients,  
\$10 for any additional guests

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

## The Camp CEO 2026 Application is Open!

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 they can accomplish.

Where: Camp Butternut Springs

When: September 18-20, 2026

Who: High School Girl Scouts

Cost: \$100 (includes food, activities, and lodging for the weekend)

Apply here:

<https://fs24.formsite.com/gsgcnwi2/kbrqg14o5e/index>



## Kalahari Resorts Troop and Family Getaway

June 5 – 7

(One or two night options available)



## Girl Scout Family Day Holiday World & Splashin' Safari

Saturday, August 29

(roundtrip transportation provided)

<https://girlscout.info/travel>

Questions? Contact [GSTravel@GirlScoutsGCNWI.org](mailto:GSTravel@GirlScoutsGCNWI.org)



## 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)

# 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!

Get Outdoors Challenge  
June 27, 2026 at the Joliet Gathering Place



Complete seasonal challenges to earn the Outdoor Challenge Patch.  
Make lasting memories this season!

**You and Me: Mother's Day**

May 9-10, 2026

at Camp Butternut Springs

*(Saturday-only option also available)*



Spend quality bonding time with your Girl Scout in nature! Go on hikes, make crafts, and celebrate love at this special weekend event.

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



Scan the QR code or click [HERE](#) to reserve a spot at Camp Greene Wood for your next troop meeting!





# More Outdoor Program



## Tie-It-Up Tie Dye Party May 30, 2026 at the Vernon Hills GP



Join us at the Tie-It-Up Tie Dye Party to celebrate the end of another Girl Scout season!

## Brownie Outdoor Bash June 20, 2026 at Camp Greene Wood

Head out to camp to explore the outdoors through some special Brownie Girl Scout fun!



## Pool Party July 11, 2026 at Camp Butternut Springs

Bring your troop or family to soak up the sun, have some fun, and relax by the pool!



Scan the QR code or click [HERE](#) to register for a GCNWI Outdoor Experience!



[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



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.

## For Ambassador Girl Scouts

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

Applications for the  
2026 Pinnacle Award  
close 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)



## Girl Scout Hero

Nicole A.  
Hunter A.

Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago



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)

Every year, we recognize adult members with the Years of Service Pin.

This pin is presented in 5-year increments (5 years, 10 years, 15 years etc.) based on registered adult's years of service.

If the 2025-2026 membership year was a milestone year for you and you would like to be presented your pin at the reception, please be sure to indicate that you are an awardee when registering!

The 2026 Council Wide Recognition Event will take place at our Growing Together event on September 26, 2026!

Save the Date and join us at our Appreciation Reception!



**GROWING TOGETHER**  
A Volunteer Event  
2026

[Click here to learn more about the event](#)

# Customer Care and Retail



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

May 16

Burbank, Greene Wood, Joliet,  
Schererville & Vernon Hills

CLEARANCE

SALE

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

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

HALF  
PRICE  
HEAT PRESS



May Promotion

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

## Vernon Hills Build-A-Bear Workshop



## Schererville Build-A-Bear Workshop



Now offering parties!



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



# GCNWI Bridging Kits

Daisy through Ambassador!



**Congratulations!**

This certifies that \_\_\_\_\_

has bridged from Girl Scout **Daisy** to Girl Scout **Brownie**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Troop Leader

*Renee K. Wright*  
CEO, Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Troop #: \_\_\_\_\_

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

A large purple rounded rectangle with a white border, centered on a light gray background. The text is white and centered within the rectangle.

# Girl Scout Democratic Process



# GIRL SCOUTS UNITE

July 23–25, 2026 | Washington, DC



1 Day Unite Tickets  
are now available!



Every three years, Girl Scouts from across the Movement gather for the Girl Scout National Council Session.

**YOU** can join them!

Want to learn more?

Visit the  
[GSUSA Convention Page](#)

Join the [GSUSA Convention Insider Email List](#) for the latest updates.

# Troop and Volunteer Resources

## 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



## 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](#)



**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 or camps.



Scan the QR code or  
**click here to book meeting space**  
<https://girlscout.info/ReserveGPs>





## 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)