

July 2026 Council Updates

girl scouts 
of greater chicago
and northwest
indiana



ACTION ITEMS



- **Don't forget to join us for Growing Together (See slides 4 & 5)**
 - Service Units and/or troops can sponsor attendees for Growing Together
 - Celebrating a milestone year as a Girl Scout volunteer? (5, 10, 15, 20+ years) Let's celebrate at Growing Together - see slide 27 for more details
- **Annual Finance Reports (AFRs) are due by July 30** from both troops and service units
 - More details on slide 9
 - Office Hours on July 27 (see slide 10)
- **Service Unit Fall Product Manager Training – August 19 & 20 (slide 12)**
- **Camp CEO applications are now open (slide 18)**

Growing Together
September 26, 2026



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!](#)

If you received a discount code for completing Early Renewal before 6/30, use it for \$10 off your Growing Together registration before 7/31.

Growing Together is all about YOU



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!](#)

If you received a discount code for completing Early Renewal before 6/30, use it for \$10 off your Growing Together registration before 7/31.



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!

Announcements



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

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

Annual Finance Reports
(AFRs) - DUE 7/30

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



Troop Annual Finance Reports are due by July 30!

Not sure how to submit?

Join us at an Annual Finance Report office Hour to get your questions answered!

Sign up for Office Hours on
Monday, July 27, 7:00 p.m.
at bit.ly/AFROfficeHours2026

TIP: Can't make an office hour
but need more support?

Check out the
430 AFR Refresher training
on [gsLearn](#)

Product Program



SERVICE UNIT FALL PRODUCT MANAGER TRAINING (VIRTUAL)

Register Today

SESSION 1

August 19

7:30 PM

OR

SESSION 2





August 20

9:30 AM



Register Today at <https://bit.ly/3OFpLYG>

 **It's going to be a GREAT season — Register now & bring the excitement to your troop leaders!** 

-  Brand-new theme & mascot revealed!
-  Fresh ideas for your most successful season yet
-  Easy strategies to get troops fired up & started
-  Help troops kick off the year with a funding boost

This session is for service unit managers and service unit fall product managers. **Session will be recorded & posted to our website.*

IT'S BACK! ★

Earn an Extra **5¢** Per Cookie Package!

During the 2027 Cookie Program



80% Membership Renewal
by September 15, 2026

AND



Sell Over \$1,200
in the 2026 Fall Product Program



★ **New Troops:** Also qualify by selling over \$1,200 in Fall Product alone! *(Troops started after Nov 1, 2025)*

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



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?



Girl Scout Family Day at Holiday World & Splashin' Safari

Join Girl Scouts from Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio as we partner up for a day of fun at Holiday World & Splashin' Safari. Troops and families are welcome!

AUGUST 29, 2026

452 E CHRISTMAS BLVD
SANTA CLAUS, IN

DEADLINE TO REGISTER JULY 31, 2026

ROUNDRIP TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED!

Payment Plans Available

Scan here for
more information!

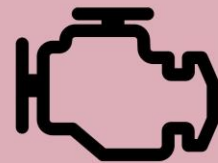
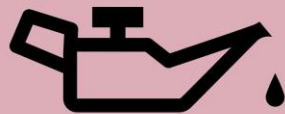


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Questions? Contact
GSTravel@GirlScoutsGCNWI.org

<https://girlscout.info/travel>





Meet your instructor



Ray Chafin

Lead Automotive Technician at Mechanista!

Road Ready

Girl Scouts Auto Safety Badge Workshop

September 26, 2026 | Grades 9-12

Camp Greene Wood

Girl Scouts will get up close and learn all about tires, brakes, warning lights, car fluids, and what to do in a roadside emergency.

girlscout.info/autosafety



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)

Camp CEO 2026 Applications 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>

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:
August 20, October 8



Upcoming Gold Award Workshops:
July 9, September 10

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

Cost: \$8

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





Book a Custom Program!

Let us bring the programming to you.
Choose from 1 of 4 engaging activities:

Spa Science, Fairy Tale STEM, 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

Booking
now through
June 2027!

Reach out by
September 1st!





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

Questions? 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!

Brownie
Outdoor Bash
July 18, 2026
at Camp Palos



Head out to camp to explore the outdoors through some special Brownie Girl Scout fun! Your outdoor adventure will include nature exploration, a craft, plus making s'mores!



Outdoor Skills
Series
July 27, 2026 at
Camp Palos

Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages, this fun-filled program is designed to equip you with essential skills for your outdoor adventures.

**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 Upcoming Outdoor Programs!



Pool Party

July 27, 2026 at Camp Butternut Springs



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

Daisy Outdoor Extravaganza

August 4, 2026 at the Vernon Hills Gathering Place



Spend time exploring the outdoors through games, crafts, and teambuilding activities designed to spark friendship and discovery

You and Me: Glow and Grow

August 8-9, 2026 at Camp Butternut Springs



Spend time at camp surrounded by nature, laughter, and light as you and your Girl Scout strengthen your bond and make lasting memories.

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

Adult Recognitions

Join us at Growing Together on September 26, 2026 as we recognize our awardees

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 celebration, please be sure to indicate that you are an awardee when registering for the event!



GROWING TOGETHER
A Volunteer Event
2026



This year, we are recognizing our awardees during the Appreciation Celebration at the Growing Together Event!

- The celebration is automatically included in the full day ticket.
- A ticket to attend the celebration only is available for those who do not wish to attend the full day event. Awardees may use code “**Honoree26**” to access the appreciation celebration ticket price when registering for the celebration only ticket.

Register for the ticket of your choice here: <https://girlscout.info/GrowingTogetherEvents>





Girl Scout Enthusiast

Kami and Mike
Daisy's Ice Cream
Palatine, 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

Customer Care and Retail

Vernon Hills Build-A-Bear Workshop



Schererville Build-A-Bear Workshop



Now offering parties!



girlscout.info/buildabearparties



Semi-Annual

CLEARANCE SALE

JULY

Don't miss out!

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

If you're a returning volunteer recruiting girls in your community, visit 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 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)
<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