

June 2026 Council Updates

girl scouts 
of greater chicago
and northwest
indiana



ACTION ITEMS



- Join us at Growing Together on September 26 (see slides 4, 5, and 29)
- **Annual Finance Reports (AFRs)** are due for Service Units and for Troops by July 30:
 - Questions about AFRs? Attend Office Hours or complete the 430 AFR Refresher training (see slide 11)
 - Service Units can submit their AFRs using this link: <https://fs24.formsite.com/gsgcnwi2/6ava2azcik/index>
 - Troops should submit their AFRs through the Volunteer Toolkit

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!

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!

Announcements



Badge Boost of the Month

Grow your skills—one badge at a time!

Why now?

Because Girl Scouts is all about discovery—not just for girls, but for leaders, too!

Badge Boost makes gsLearn more than a place to check off requirements—it's your space to explore, grow, and earn your next “badge” of leadership.

This Month's Badge Boost is Here



Ready to pick up a new tip, try something different, or just get inspired?
Head to the [gsLearn library](#) and search:

430 Volunteer Toolkit Resources

Learn how the VTK can simplify meeting planning, streamline parent communication, and spark new ideas for your troop's badge journey.



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
customer care@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!

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.

Sign up for the Office Hour of your choice 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

Mark Your Calendar & Register

SERVICE UNIT FALL PRODUCT TRAINING • VIRTUAL 

SESSION 1

August 19





7:30 PM

OR

SESSION 2

August 20

9:30 AM

-  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.*



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

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



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! ★



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)*

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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?

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



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

Everyone is welcome to come together, connect, celebrate.



Upstander Patch Program

Stand up to bullying and earn your Upstander Patch.

Register using the link below:
girlscout.info/UpstanderPatch

Download your activity guide, complete each section, and submit your log by June 30 to earn your patch! Patches will be mailed in early July.

Cost: FREE! Levels: All levels!





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

ROUNDTrip TRANSPORTATION PROVIDED!
Payment Plans Available

Scan here for
more information!



Questions? Contact
GStavel@GirlScoutsGCNWI.org

girl scouts
of greater chicago
and northwest
indiana

<https://girlscout.info/travel>





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>



Book a Custom Program!

Let us bring the programming to you.
Choose from 1 of 5 engaging activities:

Spa Science, Fairy Tale STEM, Craft It Engineer It,
Colorful Science, or Babysitting Training

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!

You and Me: Glow and Grow
July 11, 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.

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



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

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!



Teddy Bear Hike and Picnic July 11, 2026 at Camp Greene Wood

Stuff and fluff your very own Girl Scout Build-A-Bear to take home. Then join us for a lovely hike around camp!



Daisy Outdoor Extravaganza July 11, 2026 at Camp Butternut Springs

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



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, either scan the QR code to the left or click the link!



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



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
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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 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

Customer Care and Retail

Vernon Hills Build-A-Bear Workshop



Schererville Build-A-Bear Workshop



Now offering parties!



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

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

Date: _____ Troop #: _____

www.girlscout.info/gcnwibridgingkits

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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

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