



March 2026 Council Updates

girlscouts 
of greater chicago
and northwest
indiana

Service Unit Team

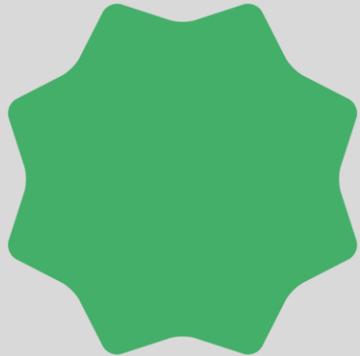
Meeting Schedule for MY26

May SUM Meetings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. on:

- May 14: Schererville (plus a social from 8:00-9:00 p.m.)
 - May 18: Virtual (*no social*)
 - May 19: Joliet (plus a social from 8:00-9:00 p.m.)

RSVP by May 7 at
<https://forms.office.com/r/5m68bDgf9M>

ACTION ITEMS



- We are excited to host your Spring Experience parties over the next couple months!
- Please RSVP for our May service unit team meetings (See slide 2)
- Cookie Season has been extended: Our cupboards will be open until March 21!
- Check out the latest programs in the Girl Experience Guide: girlscout.info/GirlExperienceGuide
- Cute new Girl Scout apparel is here – just in time for Girl Scout Birthday...and you can even shop on Saturdays (see slides 34-36)

Announcements



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 2026 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

Questions? Email Alaina at agreene@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

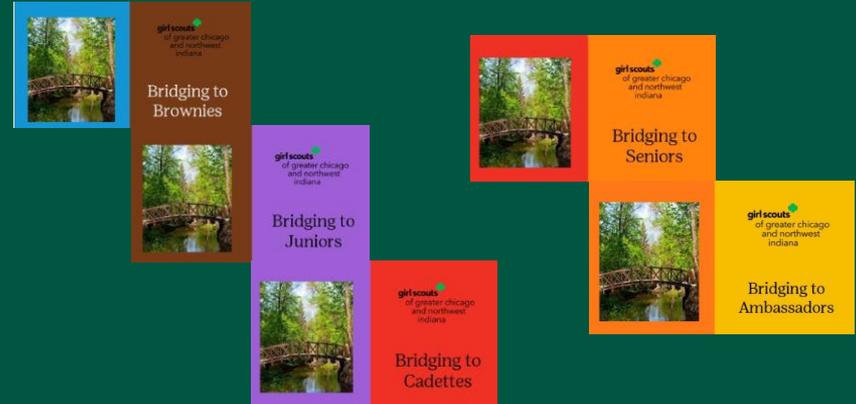


Badge Boost of the Month

Every month, **Badge Boost** highlights a training designed to give you tools and ideas to make troop life more meaningful.

This month's Boost is all about **bridging**—the special Girl Scout tradition where girls move from one level to the next (like Daisies to Brownies, or Juniors to Cadettes). In these trainings, you'll find creative celebration ideas, planning tips, and resources to make bridging memorable for your girls and stress-free for you.

This Month's Badge Boost is Here



Head to the gsLearn library and search:

430 Daisies Bridging to Brownies
430 Brownies Bridging to Juniors
430 Juniors Bridging to Cadettes
430 Cadettes Bridging to Seniors
430 Seniors Bridging to Ambassadors

to get inspired for your troop's upcoming bridging celebrations!



Prepping for Spring:
Early Renewal & AFRs

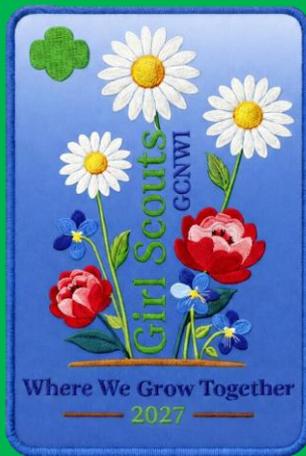
This Years Giveaways:



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.*

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

Product Program

COOKIE PROGRAM PHASE TWO

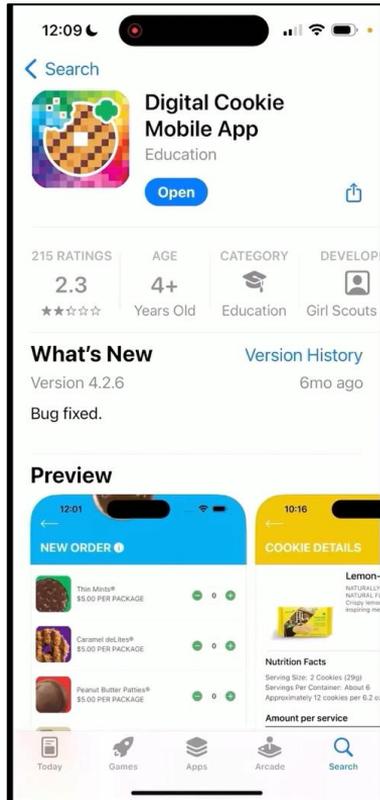
BRAVE, FIERCE & FUN—LET'S KEEP GOING!



BRAVE. FUN!
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 13th).

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

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)

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

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?



Older Girl Listening Sessions

These sessions will give participants space to have an open conversation about their council experiences. We'll also have pizza and patches to personalize a tote bag or bring an item of your choice!

Joliet Gathering Place

Sunday, March 15

Time: 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

[girlscout.info/OlderGirlListeningJL](https://www.girlscout.org/oldergirllisteningjll)

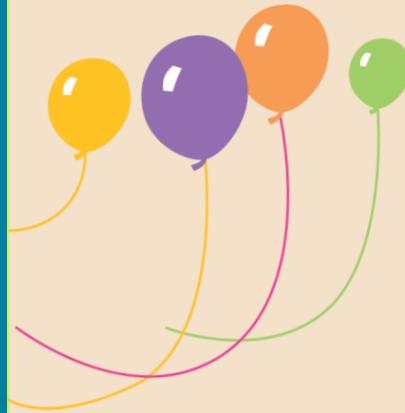


Beverly Branch Public Library

Sunday, April 5

Time: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

[girlscout.info/OlderGirlListeningBeverly](https://www.girlscout.org/oldergirllisteningbeverly)



You're Invited!

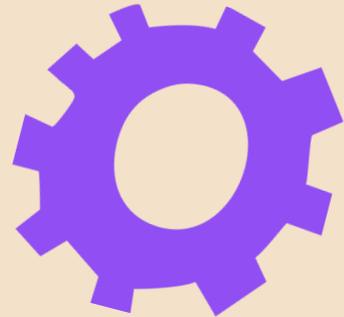
Celebrate Girl Scout
Week at

STEM on Wheels!

Saturday, March 14

Participants will skate
and do a STEM
workshop!

Scan the QR code or use
the link below to register!



[girlscout.info/STEMonthewheels](https://www.girlscout.org/stemonthewheels)





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



2026 High School Graduates!

Join us in a day celebrating YOU as a graduating Girl Scout!

Lunch will be served for all guests.
Participate in a Bridge to Adult ceremony.

Where: Hilton Oak Lawn

When: Saturday, May 30
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Cost: \$20 for Graduating Girl Scouts
and \$35 for any additional guests

Register for these events at [girlscout.info/awards](https://www.girlscout.info/awards)



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!



Girl Scouts Stick Together
March 28, 2026

Camp Butternut Springs
and Camp Palos

Celebrate "Something on a Stick Day" by making a stick craft and enjoying a campfire hotdog, fruit kebab, and s'more!



Work Weekend
April 10-12, 2026

Camp Butternut Springs
and Camp Juniper Knoll

Spend time outdoors and make a positive difference alongside your Girl Scout community.

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



Find
programs by
using the new
Search Bar!

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





More Outdoor Program



Go Green for Good
April 18-19, 2026 at
Camp Juniper Knoll

Team up with new friends and old to make the world a greener, cleaner place—one courageous Girl Scout at a time!

Daisy Outdoor Extravaganza
Multiple sessions, locations,
and times available
April - August 2026

Come explore camp during an
afternoon designed just for
Girl Scout Daisies!
(Ages 4+ and Grades Pre-K – 1)



Get Outdoors Challenge
Spring: May 2, 2026 at Camp Greene Wood
Summer: June 27, 2026 at the Joliet GP

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!



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

Council Historians Kits:

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

Perfect for World
Thinking Day and
Girl Scout
Birthday Events!

Reserve a kit today by contacting
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.girlscoutsgenwi.org/recognition





Service Units - Apply for the President's Award!



President's Award nominations are open as part of our Board Approve Recognition Awards!

A representative of the Service Unit may submit the nomination anytime now through April 30, 2026

Learn more today by visiting www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/recognition

Recognition FAQs



Who do I contact with questions?
Email Alaina at
adultrecognition@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

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 for more info, including to find a copy of the new Volunteer Appreciation Guide.





Girl Scout Enthusiast

Fr. Simon B.
Queen of All Saints Basilica and School
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

Adult Recognition Office Hour

Interested in nominating someone for an award but not sure how to get started?

Have specific questions about an award or nomination process?

Join us on **March 23, 2026, at 6:30pm** to get your questions answered.

Register today.

This is open to anyone who wishes to learn more!



bit.ly/2026AROfficeHour

For more information, visit www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/recognition and look for our Volunteer Appreciation Guide!



Customer Care and Retail



March - May

Burbank, Greene Wood, Joliet,
Schererville & Vernon Hills

March 21

April 18

April 25 - Joliet Only

May 16

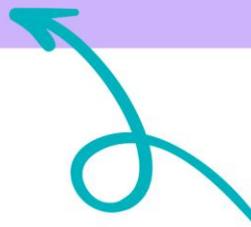
Shops open 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

Vernon Hills Build-A-Bear Workshop



Schererville Build-A-Bear Workshop



Now offering parties!



<https://girlscout.info/buildabearparties>

March 1 - 15

20% OFF
New Apparel



<https://girlscout.info/gcnwishoppromotions>

Belonging and Culture

Coming Soon: Social Inclusion Experiences 2026

Register today at
girlscout.info/socialinclusion

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



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Girl Scout Democratic Process

Registration
Now Open!



**GIRL SCOUTS
UNITE**

July 23-25, 2026 | Washington, DC



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](#)

Tickets and hotel room blocks are now available.

General questions about the convention experience?
Email Alaina Greene at
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

Become a District Delegate!



ATTN: Delegates must be in place by March 18 to vote at our meeting on 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

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





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.**

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



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