



May 2026 Council Updates

girlscouts 
of greater chicago
and northwest
indiana

ACTION ITEMS



- Don't forget to join us for our **May SU Team Meetings** RSVP by May 13 at [SU Team May Meetings](#)
- Learn more about our “**Growing Together**” event (slides 4, 10 & 30)
- **Early Renewal is HERE!** And there are incentives for everyone (slides 9 & 10)
- **Annual Finance Reports (for troops and SUs) are due July 30.** We are holding office hours to answer questions about this annual process (slides 11-13)
- **SU AFRs can be submitted via** <https://fs24.formsite.com/gsgcnwi2/6ava2azcik/index>
- **Saturday, May 16 – Retail Shop Clearance Sale** (slide 32)

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

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

**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

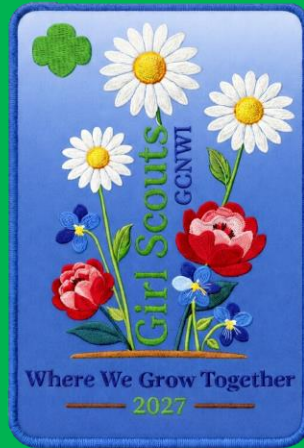
This Years Giveaways:



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



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

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

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! ★



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.



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



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!

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

Questions? Email Alaina at 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

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

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

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

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

Date: _____ Troop #: _____

www.girlscout.info/gcnwibridgingkits

A large, solid purple rounded rectangle with a light gray background. The text is centered within the purple shape.

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