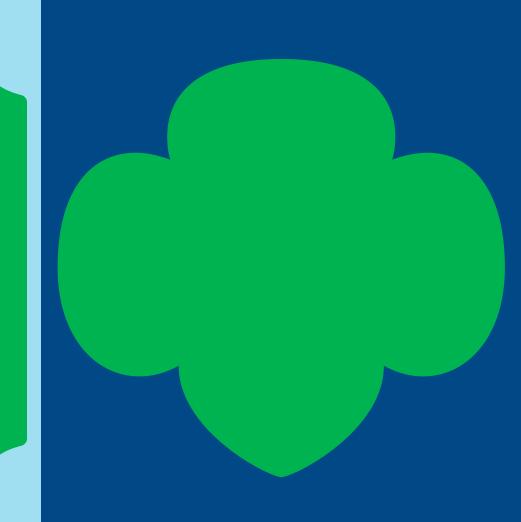
September 2025 Council Updates

girl scouts
of greater chicago
and northwest
indiana



Service Unit TeamMeeting Schedule for MY26

September SUM Meetings

These meetings will take place:

- September 11 Vernon Hills
- September 15 virtual
- September 16 Burbank

In addition to our quarterly meeting, SUMs or SU representatives will have the opportunity to pick up Service Unit Experience Boxes for October, November, and December meetings.

To RSVP for a meeting and order your Experience Boxes, visit forms.office.com/r/003sukBsC1

February & May SUM Meetings

February meetings will take place:

- February 10 Chicago location TBD
- February 11 virtual
- February 12 Greene Wood

May meetings will take place:

- May 14 Schererville
- May 18 virtual
- May 19 Joliet

Virtual SU Meetings will be held on October 8, November 13, and January 13.

ACTION ITEMS



- RSVP for the September SUM meetings or invite another member of your SU to attend at forms.office.com/r/003sukBsC1
- Reserve your SU Experience Boxes for October, November, and December when you RSVP for the September meeting!
- Join us for an Adult Recognition event! (see slide 5)
 - Come out to LEAP and bring your SU along! (see slide 6)
- See the **new organizational charts** for each department, located just after the title page for each department (slides 9, 14/15, 20, 25, 36, 44, 47, 51, and 56)

Announcements

Register today!



2024-2025 Recognition Ceremony

Celebrating adult volunteers, service units, community partners and Ambassador Girl Scouts.

Sunday, September 21, 2025 Society of the Danube Swabians Des Plaines, Illinois Last day to register is Sep 14

Sunday, October 19, 2025
Center for Visual & Performing Arts
Munster, Indiana
Last day to register is Oct 5

Adult Members in a milestone year for the 2024-2025 membership year (5 years, 10 years, 15 years, etc.) are invited to attend to receive their Years of Service pin!

Learn more and register at <u>girlscoutsgcnwi.org/recognition</u> Questions? Email adultrecognition@girlscoutsgcnwi.org





(Leader Enrichment Activity Program)

September 26 - 28

Camp Butternut Springs in Valparaiso, IN

You can attend all weekend or just make it a day trip on Saturday!

Register today to get the lowest pricing girl scouts of greater chicago and northwest indiana

What is LEAP?

LEAP is a camp-style program for Girl Scout volunteers.

LEAP is an opportunity for volunteers to make friends and reconnect with friends from the past.

LEAP is a fun way to learn new skills and have your own Girl Scout camp adventure.

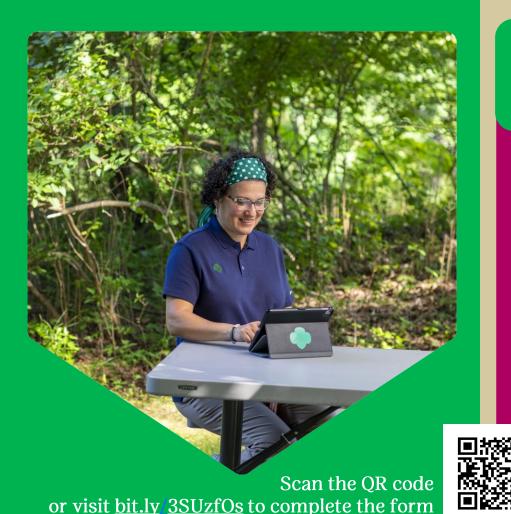
And most importantly...

LEAP is a chance to have FUN

in a camp setting!



Scan the QR code for more information or visit girlscout.info/LEAP25



SUBMIT YOUR SERVICE UNIT FALL PRODUCT DELIVERY FORM TODAY!

Delivery Dates

October 30 thru November 2
Form Deadline: September 30th (don't wait!)

Stay tuned! Council will keep you posted on the final schedule as delivery week approaches.

Questions? Contact Sheri Lambert (slambert@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

Belonging and Culture

Belonging and Culture Organizational Chart

Veronica Aguiñaga
Director of Belonging and Culture
vaguinaga@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Christine Ward
Manager of Belonging and Culture
cward@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

We're for EVERY Girl Scout!

Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana welcomes the participation of all youth and adults. Our council strives to ensure that our activities are accessible to everyone, regardless of ability. Contact our Belonging and Culture Team to discover all that Girl Scouts has to offer you or your Girl Scout.

Looking for resources? We've got them!

KIT (Kids Included Together) provides training and development opportunities. Visit training options in gsLearn (through your MyGS account) or visit kit.org

Looking for accessible supports?

Click this link to complete a request form.

Looking for mindful resources?

Contact our Belonging and Culture Team to discover more

Veronica Aguiñaga, Director vaguinaga@Girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Christine Ward, Manager cward@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Introducing our council's ALL ABILITIES Patch Program

Completing this patch program will strengthen the following skills:

- Recognizing the abilities of others
- Embracing one another and appreciating our individual talents
- Embodying the fundamental human right to belong

Click here or visit
bit.ly/AllAbilitiesPatchProgramRequest
to request a copy of the All Abilities Patch Program



Questions? Email: everygirl@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Does your troop have sensory support needs?

Our council is now sensory certified...
And we can provide resources for YOU and YOUR TROOP!

Register for a session to learn more, during which you will learn how to:

- Support individuals with sensory needs
- Better engage with individuals with sensory needs



Click here to register or visit bit.ly/KultureCityTrainingforLeaderTeams

Membership

Membership Organizational Chart

Martha Sternickle
Director of Membership
msternickle@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Carolyn Wheat Regional Membership Manager cwheat@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Jeanette Pelz Regional Membership Manager jpelz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org Cassandra Wittkamp Regional Membership Manager cwittkamp@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Julia Carrillo Regional Membership Manager jcarrillo@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Stephanie Kasza Regional Membership Manager skasza@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Member Services Organizational Chart

Martha Sternickle
Director of Membership
msternickle@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Fern Cabardo Membership Manager fcabardo@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Jessica Galvan Senior Membership Specialist jgalvan@girlscoutsgcnwi.org



NOW THROUGH OCTOBER 31: Service Unit Membership Incentive Update!

We're halfway through the membership campaign, and it's time for an exciting update on how your Service Units are doing! Your dedication to early renewals, new member recruitment, and girl retention is making a difference.

- See which Service Units are leading the way
- **o** Check your progress toward incentive goals
- **f** Incentives:
 - Service Units that renew their girls by the October 31 deadline, will receive \$1 per renewed girl!
 - Receive \$1 for every New Girl through December 31

Let's keep the momentum going!



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 <u>GirlScoutsGCNWI.org/recruitment</u> to access flyers and other recruitment materials.



Product Program

Product Program Organizational Chart

Susan Rakis
Director of Product Program
srakis@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Angela Foster
Product Program Manager
afoster@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Selena Randecker
Product Program Manager
srandecker@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Sheri Lambert
Product Program Manager
slambert@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

SERVICE UNIT DREAM TEAM

Every successful service unit has the right people in the right roles.



Your dream team isn't just TWO amazing volunteers (Fall Product Manager and Cookie Manager), it's a whole CREW of cookie-loving, fall-fantastic helpers!

Why build this AMAZING team?

Because passionate volunteers (like YOU!) who LOVE their role, makes everything easier AND more fun!

No burnout – and LOTS of excitement.

The magic happens when:

- A Everyone focuses on their passion
- **f** Tasks feel fun, not overwhelming
- Your service unit becomes THE place volunteers want to be
 - Girls see adults having FUN while supporting their goals

Questions about building your team?

Please reach out to the Product Program Team at productprogram@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Our Troop Incentive is BACK!

Troops that
achieve 80% membership renewal* by September 15, 2025
AND sell over \$1,000 in the 2025 Fall Product program
will earn an additional 5 cents for each package
sold during our 2026 cookie program.

New troops can also qualify for the extra 5 cents by selling over \$1,000 in Fall Product. *Note: New troops are defined as those that started after November 1, 2024.*

Last year, during the fall product FY 25, our council distributed an additional \$53,816.45 to troops that exceeded \$1,000 in fall product sales and met their 80% renewal goal!



2025 Fall Product Program



Important Dates

Order Taking Period	September 19 thru October 16, 2025
Last day for parents to enter nut/candy order card sales into the M2 online system.	October 14, 2025
Troop leader deadline for entering in-person orders (paper card orders).	October 15, 2025
Last day for customers to place orders online for both girl-delivered and direct ship.	October 16, 2025
Service Unit Fall Product Manager deadline for entering in-person orders (paper card orders).	October 16, 2025
Council ACH Sweep - 100% of the amount due to council.	October 24, 2025
Product delivery of in-person nut/candy items to service units.	October 30 - November 2, 2025
Reward delivery to service units	December 2025

Girl Experience: Program

Girl Experience Organizational Chart: Program

LaToya Gardner
Director of Program
lgardner@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Andrea Vesecky
Program Manager
avesecky@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Fran Delacey
Program Manager
fdelacey@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Jessica Hickman
Program Manager
jhickman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Keonna Colbert Program Manager kcolbert@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Kisa Fitzgerald Program Manager jfitzgerald@girlscoutsgcnwi.org Samantha Lehman Program Manager slehman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

September 13: Craft It, Engineer It

- Schererville
- Whitney Young Library Chicago
- Greene Wood

\$25 per Girl Scout

Daisies

Brownies

Juniors





Click here to register



Click here to register for Schererville First Aid badge workshops

Sept. 26 | 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. | Vernon Hills GP | Brownies & Juniors

Click here to register for Vernon Hills First Aid badge workshops

In my Junior Era: Girl Scout Kick off Party



Are you in your Junior Era?

Join us at the Joliet Gathering Place for the Best Day of singing, dancing, service, and creation to kick of your Junior Girl Scout Era. This event is open to all Girl Scout Juniors. (Grades 4-5) Fun patch, snacks, and activities are included!



Saturday, September 13 from 12:00 pm to 2:00 pm Joliet Gathering Place, 1551 Spencer Rd, Joliet

Cost: \$25*

Level: Juniors (Grades 4-5) *Financial assistance is available









Community Service Corner

Join our virtual info sessions to learn more about upcoming Community Service Opportunities held every 2nd Tuesday

Daisy, Brownie, Junior Leaders 5:00 pm-5:45 pm How can your troop lend a hand? Searching for ideas? Join us to discuss

Cadette, Senior, Ambassador Girl Scouts and Leaders 6:00 pm-6:45 pm Looking to earn your Service Bars? Join us to learn more



Feed My Starving Children Event

Saturday, November 8

555 Exchange Court Aurora, IL

\$12 (includes \$10 donation to FMSC & a patch)

Available shifts: 9am-10:45am or 2pm-3:45pm

Interested in Participating? Please complete interest form: girlscout.info/FMSCinterest

Girl Scouts Pitch In For the Parks (Park Clean up)

Sunday, September 14 | 12:00 pm-2:00 pm | 4 park locations in Chicago **FREE to participate**

or purchase an optional service kit for \$30: *includes T-shirt*, *snack*, & *patch* Sign up for park clean and order the service kit at girlscout.info/PitchInFortheParks

Questions? Contact jhickman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

TRIP & TRAVEL

Savannah, GA Takeover



Ready for a Girl Scout Adventure to Savannah, Georgia?

Are you a troop leader or parent interested in exploring the birthplace of Girl Scouts?

We're planning an unforgettable trip to Savannah, GA—where history, sisterhood, and adventure come together!

Please complete this interest form: fs24.formsite.com/gsgcnwi2/savannah/index

It's the first step toward making this dream trip a reality!



Custom Programs are back!

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

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.**





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

Cost: \$8

Scan the QR code or register at bit.ly/highestawardstraining



Volunteers:

Are you interested in helping girls achieve the highest award in Girl Scouting?

Our Gold Award Committee is growing! We are looking for new panelists and coaches.

The panel meets once a month to review final reports, and coaches support the girls throughout their project with monthly check ins.

If you are would like to know more, reach out to Sam Lehman at goldaward@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Spark Days

Attend the Spark Day...get the patch!







Smart Girls, Strong Futures, too! (Grades 4-12)

Monday, October 13 9:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Centier Bank Corporate Center (Merrillville, IN)

To register, scan the QR code or visit bit.ly/3S2O8hb





Juniors & Cadettes

Join us for the NEW Leadership Program with our Associate Board

Saturday, October 18, 2025 10:00am-1:00pm

Scan the QR code or visit girlscout.info/ LeadWithConfidence



Beverly Branch Library 1962 W 95th St Chicago, IL 60643

This session is all about exploring leadership as a shared journey, where each of you has the power to create positive change in your life and the world around you.

Come hang out with the Associate Board!

Cost: \$25 (snack will be provided)

Girl Experience: Outdoor Program

Girl Experience Organizational Chart: Outdoor Program

Maria Hamann Director of Outdoor Program mhamann@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Kara Kastenholz Outdoor Program Manager kkastenholz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org Lauren Somogyi Outdoor Program Manager Isomogyi@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Margaret Gawlik Senior Outdoor Program Manager mgawlik@girlscoutsgcnwi.org Shannon Ross Outdoor Program Manager sross@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Pie Iron Pizza Day September 5, 2025

Celebrate Cheese Pizza Day camp style! Learn to cook with a pie iron, make a cheesy craft, and complete other fun pizzathemed activities.

Cost for this event is \$10/person

Camp Butternut Springs <u>Sign-Up</u> Camp Greene Wood <u>Sign-Up</u> Camp Palos <u>Sign-Up</u>





Girl Scouts Love State Parks September 13, 2025

Take the day to hike, create, and learn with your fellow Girl Scout friends, family, or troop at a local state park!

Click HERE for more information on how to participate and to find a State Park near you.

Explore everything camp has to offer!

Outdoor Expo Extravaganzas



Don't miss this chance to experience the outdoors with Girl Scouts. Whether you're a troop looking for your next adventure or a family seeking a screen free getaway, the Outdoor Expo Extravaganza promises fun, discovery, and lasting memories at our beautiful camps—all for FREE!

This program is designed for families, troops, or individuals with an adult chaperone.

Learn more and register by location:

- Camp Butternut Springs, <u>September 14</u>
 - Camp Greene Wood, <u>September 14</u>
 - Camp Juniper Knoll, <u>September 28</u>
 - Camp Palos, <u>September 28</u>

Get Outdoors Challenge: Fall September 20, 2025 at Camp Greene Wood

Join us at camp for an exciting Fall
Outdoor Challenge designed
specifically for your Girl Scout and
family! Earn the fall segment of this
four-segment patch program by
completing exciting challenges that
embrace the spirit of fall.
Cost for this event is \$25/youth and
\$5/accompanying adult.

Register by clicking **HERE**



Campfire and S'mores

September 20, 2025 at Camp Greene Wood

Join us for a fun evening of singing your favorite Girl Scout songs and making s'mores around the campfire!

Register by clicking **HERE**





Pumpkin Smash November 8, 2025 at Camp Greene Wood

Bring your old pumpkins to compost...and SMASH!
Join us for FREE at our 8th annual Pumpkin Smash event and unite with others in the effort to help divert compostable material from landfills.

Composing pumpkins is a great way we can help our planet and why not have some fun in the process?

Register by clicking **HERE**

Fund Development

Fund Development Organizational Chart

Glynnis Hokenson
Senior Director of Fund Development
ghokenson@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

LaTanya Gatewood
Annual Fund Manager
lgatewood@girlscoutsgcnwi.org





Click here to donate



Give the gift of Girl Scouts with a donation to Family Partnership Annual Giving Campaign.

Family Partnership donations support our financial assistance program which provides opportunities for girls to have a full Girl Scout experience.

Gifts of \$10 or more will receive our Family Partnership patch.

Governance

Governance Organizational Chart

Nancy Armstrong
Sr. Director of Governance and
Board Experience
narmstrong@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Alaina Greene
Manager of Volunteer Experience &
Delegate Liaison
agreene@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Nancy manages:

- Onboarding our Board of Directors
- Business related to our Board
- Girl Scout Reps to the Board
- Annual Meeting planning

Alaina manages:

- National Council Delegates
- District Delegates & District Chairs
- GSUSA Girl Advisory Board Applications



Washington, DC July 20-25, 2026 Save the Date for the 2026 National Council Session and Girl Scout Convention



Want the receive the latest news about the convention, including information on when registration opens?

<u>Sign up for the GSUSA Convention Insider email list here.</u>



Learn more at the GSUSA Convention Page.

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 <u>Democratic Process page</u>

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.

Become a **District Delegate!**

Questions? Email democraticprocess@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Volunteer Experience

Volunteer Experience Organizational Chart

Michelle Ptack
Director of Volunteer Experience
mptack@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Alaina Greene Manager of Volunteer Experience agreene@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Alaina manages:

- Onboarding of new leaders
- Adult Recognition process & team
- Our Historian team
- Pinnacle Award for Ambassadors
- Delegates

Jaclyn McCutcheon Manager of Learning & Development jmccutcheon@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Jaclyn manages:

- Trainings (& gsLearn management)
- Council trainer team
- First Aid & CPR process & trainings



The GCNWI Council Historians invite you to explore Girl Scout history!

To earn this fun patch, Girl Scouts must collect 10 points which can be earned through a variety of activities that explore Girl Scout history. This can be done at the Girl Scout History Center in Vernon Hills or at a location of your choice.

Girl Scouts can also utilize the
Historian Activity Kits
available to borrow at all Gathering Places
to help complete the activities!

Learn about our Girl Scout History with our new patch program!



Find the full patch program details on our websites <u>Patch Program Page</u>.

Annual Finance Reports (AFR) were due July 30.

- Troops can submit AFRs via the *Volunteer Toolkit.
- Service Units can submit AFRs via this form: https://fs24.formsite.com/gsgcnwi2/g3hvwntoc1/index



*Please disregard the published deadline in the Volunteer Toolkit. It is incorrect – however, we cannot update the page without losing all data that has been submitted for the year.

We apologize for any confusion this typo may have caused. Please plan to submit your troop AFR as soon as possible, as they are now overdue.

Starting this fall, all registered Girl Scout adults will be required to complete our Volunteer Basics Training.

This learning path includes five courses:

- Delivering Inclusive Program
- Mental Wellness 101
- New Leader
 Onboarding: Troop
 Safety
- Troop Safety Update
- Girl Scouts Child
 Abuse and Neglect

 Prevention



Why was this new learning path created?

This new training is an opportunity for all adults who register with us to learn about the Girl Scout mission, culture, and how we keep Girl Scouts safe.

Having this new training in place for everyone also minimizes the amount of training volunteers will need to take for other roles as they grow with the organization.

All five courses (combined) will take about 2 hours to complete. They do not need to be completed all at once.

Learn more about our adult training at

https://www.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/en/members/for-volunteers/volunteer-resources/volunteer-training.html



Customer Care, Retail, and Program Registration

Customer Care and Retail Organizational Chart

Jennifer Wood Sr. Director jwood@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Kerrie Dubrock Senior Manager, Customer Care kdubrock@girlscoutsgcnwi.org Amanda Cervantes
Senior Manager, Retail
acervantes@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Andrea Barrios
Property Registrar & Registration Specialist
abarrios@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Design your own custom apparel.

Mix and match designs on t-shirts, crewneck sweatshrts and a baseball t-shirt!





Mark your Calendars!

Burbank, Greene Wood, Joliet, Schererville & Vernon Hills

September 13 & 27 October 11 & 25 November 15 December 13

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



Troop Treats and Shopping Sprees!

Themed activities, discounts, spin the prize wheel, and more...

September 9 October 7 November 18 December 9

Burbank, Chicago, Greene Wood, Joliet, Schererville & Vernon Hills

Shops open 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

NOW OPEN!

Build-A-Bear Workshop at our Schererville Shop!





shop.girlscoutsgcnwi.org/contact-us/





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.

Troop and Volunteer Resources

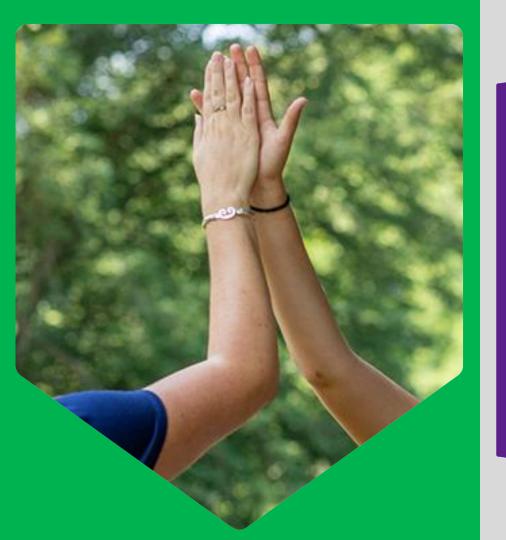
Are you looking for a no-cost meeting space for your Service Unit or troop?

Look no further. You can reserve space at one of our Gathering Places.





Scan the QR code or click here to book meeting space 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