June 2025 Council Updates

girl scouts of greater chicago and northwest indiana

Announcements

Calling all Girl Scouts who graduated high school this year



You made it! Join us at the highest awards picnic for a Bridge to Adult ceremony.

Sunday, July 20th 2:00 pm-5:00 pm Joliet Gathering Place 1551 Spencer Road, Joliet, IL 60433

Cost: \$30 for highest award recipients (includes swag bag and patch), \$10 for all other attendees

Scan the QR code or register at <u>bit.ly/458YBPM</u>

Are you a troop leader of a faith-based troop? Would you like to help create more faith-based programs for troops?

Girl Scouts is launching a focus group to better understand and support the unique needs, strengths, and perspectives of faith-based troops. This group will help us shape resources, programs, and partnerships that reflect the values and missions of troops connected to faith communities.

To join this group, complete this survey: https://fs24.formsite.com/gsgcnwi2/ bv3flqmelm/index



Membership

Get Ready with Girl Scouts!

New PreK and Kindergarten girls registering as a Girl Scout between April 1 - June 30 not only get five extra months of fun, but they will now also receive three activity books! Each book is mailed monthly for even more Girl Scout adventures.

Scan the code to see how you can register to receive these amazing booklets!



GET IT BEFORE IT'S GONE!

Kick off her summer with fun adventures and new friendships.

Join today and receive three monthly activity books plus a gift!

girl scouts

scouts

Outs

Start building school-ready skills together now.

Renew Your Membership!

We can't wait to see all the chapters you add to your story in the new Girl Scout year.

Renew your membership by July 31 and receive a 2026 Adventure patch!





Bridging Daisy Troops to New Brownies

Did you know that Daisy Troops that bridging are eligible to receive the new Brownie Experience Box?!

It's true!

Daisy Troops bridging into Brownies for the upcoming membership year OR First time new Brownie Troops

Can get a FREE monthly subscription box for the troop



<u>Learn more here</u>

Whether it's encouraging troops in your service unit to make sure all their spots are filled, or creating new troops in your communities, there is always room for more girls to become Girl Scouts.

Now when new girls or troop leaders register, they can receive some amazing perks! Share the links below with anyone who you know is interested in joining Girl Scouts!

To learn more about the areas of opportunity in your community, contact your Community Specialist or email us at <u>customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org</u>







Fund Development Programs

FUN RUN AND FAMILY FEST





Kinder Joy of Moving Fun Run/Walk & Family Fest

Join us for a day of fun family fun at Camp Palos!

\$25/ person, includes: T-shirt, water bottle, food, Family Partnership patch, and LOTS of fun activities!

<u>Click for more details and to register</u>

Try the TRI!

Join Team GCNWI at the 2025 Chicago Triathlon Saturday, August 23rd

Registration by age level: • Ages 7-10 Kids Jr.

- Ages 11-14 Kids Sr.
- Ages 15+ Super Sprint

<u>Click here to learn more or</u> <u>to join Team GCNWI today</u>



Family Partnership



<u>Click here to donate</u>



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. Girl Experience: Programs



There is so much to do! Find a council program that is the perfect fit for your troop.

<u>See All Program</u> <u>Offerings Here</u>

Upcoming Girl Scout Days

Chicago Fire | 6/14 @ 7:30 pm www.gofevo.com/event/Girlscoutsoffer2025

Chicago Sky | 7/12 @ 12:00 pm www.gofevo.com/event/GirlScoutNight2025



Coming Soon: Gary RailCats | 7/19 @ 4:00 pm

Movie Night: "Smurfs" Hollywood Blvd Woodridge | 7/19 @ 11:00 am

Questions? Contact zhou@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Partner Program

How do we taste? Why do apples turn brown when you cut them? What goes into making our favorite foods?

Explore the exciting world of Food Science with our FREE Spark Day, hosted and sponsored by the **Chicagoland Food Science Foundation**.

Girl Scouts will explore hands-on experiments with food, including getting to make a sweet treat, as well as learn about all the different career opportunities in the field of food science.

> July 19 at Joliet Gathering Place Cadettes, Seniors & Ambassadors



Register at <u>bit.ly/3S3gvfm</u>

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



Scan the QR code or <u>click here to register</u> -

Questions? Contact programs@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Fun Clubs in Schererville

Cooking Club Back by popular demand!

Let's whip something delicious while we create friendship.

> June 6 July 12 July 26 August 1





Scan the QR Code or <u>click</u> <u>here to</u> <u>register</u> **Art Club**

June 14: Art Club is on the road! Pick and paint a ceramic at the Artist's Den in Highland, Indiana.

July 19: *Girls decide!* Girl Scouts will vote on what art project they want to complete.

Fun Every Day of the Week

Get messy on **STEM Saturdays**

July 12: Let It Fly Greene Wood, Joliet, Schererville, and Vernon Hills



September 13: Craft It, Engineer It



Schererville, Whitney Young Library Chicago, Greene Wood

\$25 per Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies & Juniors Scan the QR code or <u>click here to</u> <u>register</u>

\$35 per Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors & Ambassadors

Virtual Wellness Wednesdays July 9 – July 30

Girls will explore emotions through fun activities like drawing, writing, and making self-care crafts. Each session encourages self-expression and emotional awareness.

> Materials for this 4-week virtual program will be available for pickup at Gathering Places in late June.

It's time to compete!

Join us for a day of friendly competition at the Joliet Gathering Place where we'll go head-to-head playing classic Field Day games. Come as a team!

Fun patch is included!

Sunday, July 13 from 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm Joliet Gathering Place Cost: \$25*

*Financial Assistance is available



Scan QR code or register at <u>https://girlscout.info/GSFieldDay</u>

Girl Scout Field Day



Questions? Contact programs@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Read with us!

Register for our **Summer Reading Challenge** to take part in the fun.

Girl Scouts who participate are asked to read for twenty hours between June 1 and August 1.

To earn the summer reading patch:

- Please register for the program by scanning the QR code or visiting bit.ly/GCNWISummerReading
- Read at least two titles from the Summer Reading List
- Read at least twenty hours
- Submit the Reading Log form by August 2



Read, Reflect, and Create at the Library!

Girl Scouts go to the library! Join us to create bookmarks, make your own story board, read silently, and explore the library. A fun patch is included.

Independence Branch Library 4024 N Elston Avenue Chicago



Tuesday, June 24 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Find us in the Meeting Room girlscout.info/RRCIndependence

Glen Ellyn Public Library 400 Duane Street, Glen Ellyn

Monday, July 14 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm 🖥 Find us in the Meeting Room girlscout.info/RRCGlenEllyn



Cost: \$25 (Financial assistance is available) • **Questions?** Contact programs@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

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 <u>https://girlscout.info/CustomPrograms</u> for more details or to start scheduling your custom program:



Questions? Contact programs@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Girl Experience: Community Service Opportunities

Community Service Corner

Join our virtual info sessions to learn more about upcoming **Community Service Opportunities** held every 2nd Tuesday beginning Tuesday, July 8

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

Pre-order your Kindness Rock Kit for \$30 between

June 1 - June 30 Learn more and pre-order at girlscout.info/SpreadingKindnessRocks

Kits available for pick up June 24-26 or July 8-10 between 10:00 am – 1:00 pm or 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm



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: <u>girlscout.info/FMSCinterest</u>

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 <u>girlscout.info/PitchInFortheParks</u>

Questions? Contact jhickman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Girl Experience: Trip & Travel Opportunities

TRIP & TRAVEL WORKSHOPS

Ready, Set, Travel Adult Virtual Workshop

Dreaming of taking your Girl Scout or troop on an unforgettable adventure? Whether you're planning a local day trip or a big outof-town journey, this informative virtual workshop is for you!

FREE for Volunteers

Wednesday, June 25 Wednesday, August 27 Tuesday, September 23 All sessions start at 6:00 pm

Scan QR code or register for all these workshops at <u>bit.ly/4dpMuzW</u>



Girl Travel Programs:

Adventure City: Build, Map and Explore! Imagine, create and explore in this hands-on adventure. Girl Scouts will learn to plan for a trip, design a city, create a map and build a sculpture. \$25 per Girl Scout (Daisies, Brownies, & Juniors) Friday, June 27 - Joliet Saturday, July 26 - Schererville

Travel Smart!

Through fun, interactive activities, girls will explore how to choose a destination, pack efficiently, and prepare for a trip. This workshop will inspire young adventurers to travel with confidence.

\$25 per Girl Scout (Cadettes, Seniors, & Ambassadors)Wednesday, July 9 - JolietTuesday, August 5 - Schererville

The Chicago Big Bus Tour and Scavenger Hunt



Climb aboard this double-decker bus and take a one-of-a-kind adventure and see Chicago's must-see sights. Then set your own pace on a fun and interactive scavenger hunt.

> Saturday, September 9 12:00 pm to 4:00 pm Cost \$45



Scan the QR code or register at <u>bit.ly/432lH9w</u>

Kalahari Resort Family Getaway



August 22 – 24

Meet us for a fun-filled Girl Scout getaway at Kalahari Resort in Wisconsin Dells! Enjoy a weekend of adventure, bonding, and splashes at one of America's largest indoor waterparks. This is an overnight trip with the option to stay for one or two nights, and includes Kalahari waterpark passes, admission to Timbavati Wildlife Park and the Tommy Bartlett Exploratory, an interactive science center.

Scan QR code or register at <u>bit.ly/4jgfCLr</u>



YOU & ME IN INDY!



Get ready for an unforgettable day of discovery, creativity, and connection as you and your Girl Scout embark on a fun-filled adventure at the Indianapolis Zoo!

Saturday, September 13 \$125.00 per child \$150.00 per adult Cost includes: Round-trip coach bus to the zoo, entry into the zoo, zoo tour & a boxed lunch

Scan QR code or register at <u>https://bit.ly/4kjsm4W</u>



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: <u>fs24.formsite.com/gsgcnwi2/savannah/</u> <u>index</u>

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

Girl Experience: Outdoor Program **CAMP CEO** September 19-21 Camp Butternut Springs, Valparaiso, IN



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 that they can accomplish.

> <u>Click here to learn more or to apply to</u> <u>attend as a Girl Scout or as a mentor</u>



Friday Fun at Camp Greene Wood

Friday, June 6 at Camp Greene Wood

From playing classic camp games to roasting a s'more, you'll get a frontrow seat to the magic of camp while making memories with your troop or family. Get to know the camp staff as they try out their new camp skills to make our summer camp programs safe, inclusive, and packed with fun. This event is **free** to all participants. Sign-up <u>HERE</u>



Experience a Day at Camp

Thursday, June 12 at Camp Butternut Springs

Experience the magic of camp while making memories with your troop or family. Get to know the camp staff as they try out their new camp skills to make our summer camp programs safe, inclusive, and packed with fun. Activities include canoeing, rock climbing and zip lining (4th grade+), and much more! Sign-up <u>HERE</u>

This event is free to all participants.

Lunch will be provided. Limited transportation from Camp Palos or the Schererville Gathering Place is available for \$10 per person.



Experience a Day at Camp

Thursday, June 12 at Camp Juniper Knoll

Experience the magic of camp while making memories with your troop or family. Get to know the camp staff as they try out their new camp skills to make our summer camp programs safe, inclusive, and packed with fun. Activities include canoeing/kayaking (4th grade+), making cookout snacks, and much more! Sign-up <u>HERE</u>

This event is free to all participants.

Lunch will be provided. Limited transportation from the Vernon Hills Gathering Place is available for \$10 per person.



Explore the Outdoors June 18 & August 9 at Camp Juniper Knoll

This fun-filled program will equip you with the necessary skills for exploring the great outdoors. Enjoy tying knots, practicing basic first aid, working on making the perfect s'more, and so much more! June 18 sign-up <u>HERE</u> August 9 sign-up <u>HERE</u>

Explore the Outdoors and Aquatics!

June 18 at Camp Butternut Springs

Spend a day learning outdoor adventure skills, then take a dip in the pool or ride around the pond in a canoe. End your day with building a campfire and enjoying a s'more with new friends! Sign-up <u>HERE</u>





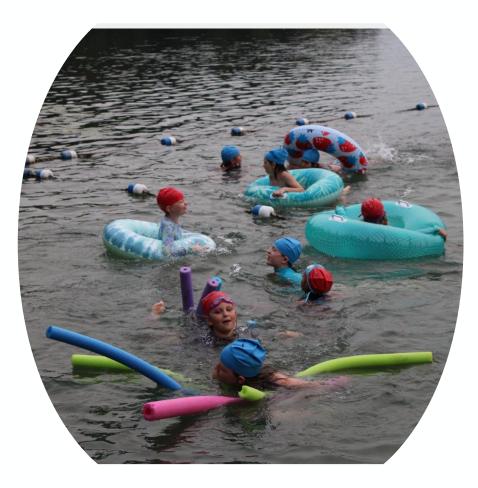
Explore the Outdoors and the Sky!

June 20 at Camp Butternut Springs

Learn to navigate with only a map and compass, practice basic first aid, learn how to set up a tent and campsite, and perfect your knottying skills. After, explore the sky on our camp zipline, rock wall, or adventure course! Sign-up <u>HERE</u> Pleasant Lake Beach Party

June 20 at Camp Juniper Knoll

Spend the day having fun in the sun at Pleasant Lake. Enjoy activities like swimming, boating, sandcastle building, beach games, and more! Sign-up <u>HERE</u>



You and Me: Troop Camping Weekend at Camp Butternut Springs



Grab a special adult in your life and join us for a weekend of making memories. Sleep overnight at camp, go on a scavenger hunt, swim in the pool, relax in a hammock, hike, get crafty, and so much more. Cook your dinner over a fire, then enjoy songs and a s'more around the campfire. Bring SWAPS from home to exchange with your new friends.

July and **August** sessions available.

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You and Me: Troop Camping Weekend at Camp Butternut Springs



Spend time together this summer!

Each Girl Scout should register with an adult for this event.

Learn more and register HERE: July 11-13, <u>Two Nights</u> July 12-13, <u>One Night</u> July 12, <u>Saturday Only</u> August 8-10, <u>Two Nights</u>

August 9-10, One Night

August 9, <u>Saturday Only</u>

Financial Assistance is available for this program.



Troop Summer Camp Getaway: World Explorers

August 5-8 or August 6 at Camp Juniper Knoll

Experience a vibrant cultural odyssey as a world explorer. Enjoy time at camp as a troop while you craft traditional artifacts, create international artworks, and explore diverse cultures through storytelling, music, and dance. Plus, savor the flavors of the world as you dive into international cuisines. Join in this colorful adventure where creativity, craftsmanship, and cultural understanding come together in a celebration of global arts, traditions, and culinary delights!

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Troop Summer Camp Getaway: World Explorers

August 5-8 or August 6 at Camp Juniper Knoll

Sign-up is available for any of the following lodging options:

<u>Lodge</u> | <u>Platform Tent</u> | <u>Tabin/Yurt</u> | <u>Wednesday-Only</u> |

Financial Assistance is available for this program.

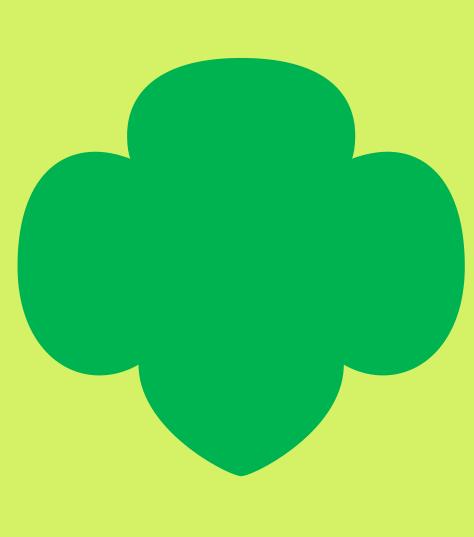
More Summer Fun

Bring your troop for summer fun at Camp Palos!

Not sure where to start with planning your campout activities? Add some of these facilitated options to your list:

- For \$10/youth you can participate in sprinkler and water games, tie-dye and friendship bracelets, campfire with songs and s'mores, and a night hike.
- Other add-on activities scheduled separately:
 - o Trading post
 - Archery (Junior+) (\$100/youth/1.5-hour session)
 - Facilitated cookout (\$30/person/3-hour session)
 - Outdoor badge workshop (\$25/youth/3-hour session)





Summer Camp

There's still space at Camp Butternut Springs, Camp Greene Wood, and Camp Juniper Knoll for more Girl Scouts to dive into a world of summer fun!

Register your Scout today and get them excited for a summer of fun, friendships, and adventure.

Scan the QR code or click here to see summer camp offerings and to register.





Highest Awards: Bronze, Silver, and Gold

Bronze Award Celebration



Join us in a celebration of our Bronze Award Recipients 2024 and 2025 recipients are invited along with their fellow troop members and their family members

July 11, 2025 from 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm Candlelight Lincoln Park, 1501 N Kingsbury St, Chicago

\$15* for recipients, \$27* for all other attendees.Cost includes a pizza buffet, plus a certificate and SWAG bag for all Bronze Award recipients

*Financial assistance is available

Scan the QR code or



register at <u>bit.ly/CelebrateBronze</u>

Questions? Contact programs@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Calling all Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award Girl Scouts

Let's celebrate your hard work on earning a higher award in 2024-2025

When: Sunday, July 20 2:00pm-5:00pm Where: Joliet Gathering Place 1551 Spencer Road, Joliet, IL 60433 Cost: \$30 for highest award recipients (includes swag bag and patch); \$10 for all other attendees

Highest Awards Picnic





Scan QR code or register at girlscout.info/Picnic

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 22, December 11

Upcoming Gold Award Workshops: July 17, September 17, November 20

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

Cost: \$8

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



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

Governance

Get a seat at the table with our Board of Directors

Learn more and apply now through July 15, 2025



bit.ly/GirlRep2025

Girl Representatives to our Board of Directors



Must be in high school by the fall of 2025

Questions? Contact Nancy Armstrong, <u>narmstrong@girlscoutsgcnwi.org</u>

Save the Date for the next Girl Scout Convention

Join GSUSA and 10,000+ Girl Scouts at the next Girl Scout Convention. This special sixday event only happens once every three years. You won't want to miss it!



Scan the QR code or click the link below to learn more and sign up for the Convention Insider List: <u>bit.ly/2026GSConvention</u>

General convention questions? Email Alaina at nationaldelegate@girlscoutsgcnwi.org



Volunteer Development

Troop Annual Finance Reports (AFRs) are due July 30, 2025!



Unsure how to submit your report? Need some tips and tricks? Join us at an Annual Finance Report Office Hour

2025 AFR Office Hours:

- Wednesday, June 4, 7:00pm
- Monday, June 9, 12:00pm
- Tuesday, June 17, 7:00pm
- Wednesday, June 25, 9:00am
- Thursday, July 10, 7:00pm
- Tuesday, July 15, 12:00pm

Register here:



bit.ly/2025AFROfficeHours

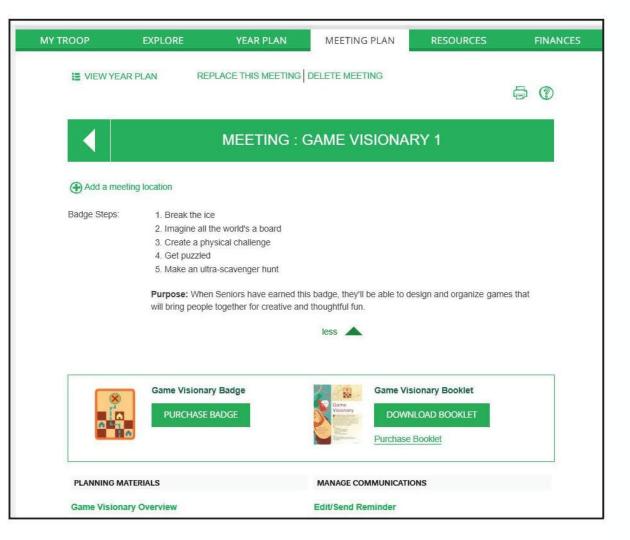
Unable to make an Office Hour but aren't sure how to get started? Check out the *Troop Financial Report Training Video* on **gsLearn**. This video is part of the *Managing Troop Finances Module* and is available year-round.

Breaking News!

PDFs of Badge Booklets are now available in the Volunteer Toolkit for download!

You will find these under Meeting Plans once a badge is added to your Year Plan.





Product Program

Service Unit Fall Product Manager Training

Virtual trainings are being held on Wednesday, August 20 at 6:30 pm or Thursday, August 21 at 9:30am

Join us as we explore the theme "Brave. Fierce. FUN!"

Discover the latest updates for our fall product program.

Learn about our adorable new mascot and gather fresh ideas to make the fall product season the best yet for your service unit!



Scan the QR code or visit <u>bit.ly/4dlHwnP</u> to register



SAVE THE DATE!

Service Unit Cookie Manager Training

Tuesday, October 21 – Schererville and Vernon Hills Gathering Places Wednesday, October 22 – Burbank and Greene Wood Gathering Places Thursday, October 23 – Joliet Gathering Place Wednesday, October 29 – Virtual Session **6:30 – 8:30 pm**

Whether you join us live or online, it's guaranteed to be a blast! Watch for more details.

Girl Scout Shop

All Gathering Places will be closed on June 19 in observation of Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Emancipation Day.

nTh In el el celebrate freedom





Brand-new Bridging Kits Daisy through Ambassador!





girlscout.info/gcnwibridgingkits

Design your own custom apparel. Mix and match designs on t-shirts, crewneck sweatshrts and a baseball t-shirt!





girlscout.info/JGLQUARTER

Order our collector edition key fob and patch, honoring Juliette Gordon Low!

Includes official JGL Quarter from the US Mint in Denver. Limited quantities available. While supplies last.

Brand-new Investiture and Rededication Kits



Troop

acnw

Date:

Yoop Leader

Available now. In-store and online! shop.girlscoutsgcnwi.org **COMING SOON!** Build-A-Bear Workshop at our Schererville Shop!

Girl Scout Thin Mints

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SISTERS FOREVER

https://girlscout.info/buildabear

GIRL SCO

Troop and Volunteer Resources



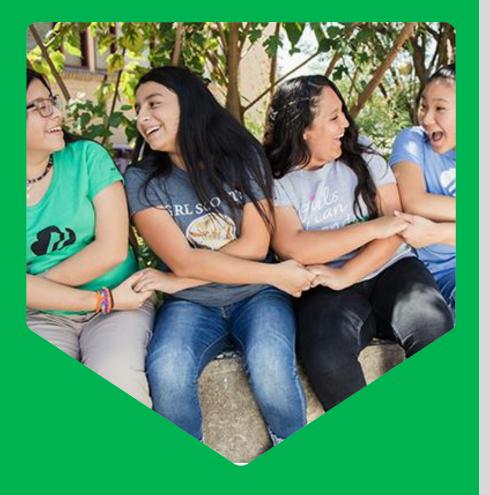
Are you looking for a no-cost meeting space for your Service Unit or troop?

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





Scan the QR code or <u>click here to book meeting space</u> <u>fs24.formsite.com/gsgcnwi2/jgrefeuz7u/index</u>



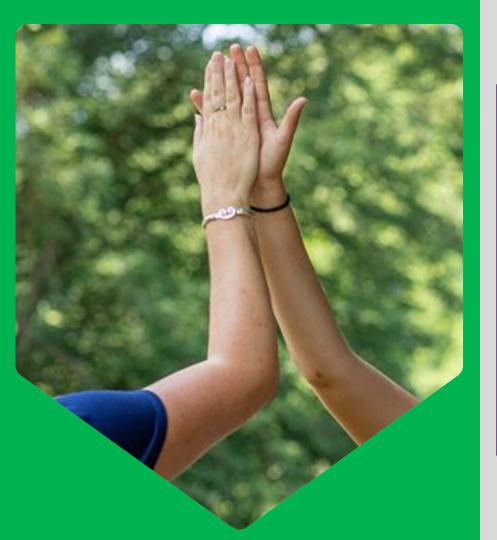
Financial aid is available to all Girl Scout members

Members can receive financial assistance for:

- Troop dues
- Troop-led outings
- Uniform essentials (once per level)
- Council-sponsored program
- Council-sponsored summer camp; day camp/resident camp, or signature series/events*

*Only one application in this category will be approved per year.

Find financial aid form here



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: <u>CustomerCare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org</u>