

Volunteer 411



The Girl Scout Family Connection guide was provided to you to give to each Girl Scout in your troop. This 20-page guide highlights the benefits of Girl Scouting and outlines ways for parents to get involved with their daughter and your troop. There's even a place for girls to record their Girl Scout adventures all year long. Make the distribution of this guide a troop activity by having girls write or draw their hopes and dreams for the troop year on page four. It is also a great resource for parent meetings.

There are sections about:

- What Girl Scouting is all about
- How to live the Girl Scout Promise and Law at home
- Badge and patch placement on sashes and vests
- Girl Scouting's Highest Awards to which girls aspire
- A yearly calendar - feel free to add your troop activities as well
- Information about the program pillars - STEM, Outdoors, Life-Skills and Entrepreneurship
- The Girl Scout Cookie Program

Let your Area Manager, Troop Organizer, or membership staff member know if you need more than those in your packet. We want each Girl Scout to get a Girl Scout Family Connection Guide.

To Re-register Your Troop:

Troop leaders should have received an email listing all girls and adults in your troop. If you need it sent again, send an email with your troop number to nate@g smanitou.org.

1. Review the information. Note where there are changes (addresses, email addresses, grades, schools attending, members not returning, etc.) to **reregistering** members so you can mark those on the registration form. Gather the names and corresponding email addresses for **new** girls and adults joining your troop. (You will not be paying for new girls or adults with this form, however.)
2. Click on the link provided in the email. Complete the information, and submit it with the \$30 girl membership dues and \$25 adult membership dues for each **reregistering** member, in the form of credit or debit card, PayPal, program credits (you will need the program credit certificate code for each girl using program credits), or gift card.
3. Once we receive your reregistering information, we will send you an email to send to all new girls and new adults joining your troop. (Be sure to include your name, email, and troop number when you send it to them, as they will need this info to register!) The email you send them will include a link where they can submit all necessary information, along with their membership dues. You will receive confirmation when they have done so. That's it!

To Register a New Troop:

Troops of all new girl and adult members will need to have parents (of girl members) and adult members complete the appropriate registration form provided in your troop packet, collect the membership dues (\$30 for girls, \$25 for adults) for each person, and mail or deliver the membership forms and membership dues to the Girl Scout Center. This can also be completed online.



The 2024 Cookie Season theme is "Own Your Magic." The mascot is an adorable axolotl. **PLEASE NOTE:** 2024 Cookie Sale dates will be published in November in the hopes that councils will receive confirmation from Girl Scouts of the USA and Little Brownie Bakers that all ordering methods (girl delivery, shipped and donated) in Digital Cookie will begin on the same date.

Preparing New Troop Leaders

We have three easy steps for new leader onboarding!

1. Attend an in-person orientation for new leaders.
2. Complete the *New Leader Onboarding: What Girl Scouts Do* training available on gsLearn.
3. Complete the *Volunteer Toolkit 101* training available on gsLearn.

Once you have completed all three steps, please complete the **New Leader Learning Quiz**, which can also be accessed via gsLearn. All steps are required to be completed by new leaders within three months of appointment.

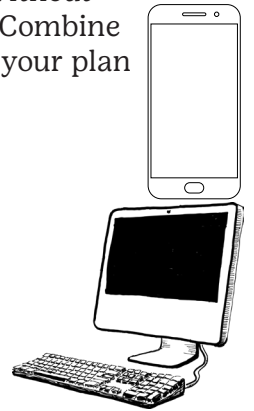
Head to MY GS on our website, www.gsmanitou.org, to access *New Leader Onboarding: What Girl Scouts Do* and the *Volunteer Toolkit 101* trainings. If you have any questions with accessing MY GS or gsLearn, please contact Hope at hope@gsmanitou.org.

Volunteer Toolkit Updates

Using the Volunteer Toolkit is critical to great Girl Scout Program. Explore all year long without starting over! Now the Explore Tab adds-on to your meeting plan instead of resetting it. Combine pre-selected tracks or add individual meetings, the choice is yours! If you need to delete your plan and start over, the Delete button is on the Year Plan tab.

What else is new?

- Even more information about the Girl Scouts in a troop all in one place, grade, communication preferences and secondary caregiver information has been added to the My Troop Tab.
- Use the New for 2023-2024 filter when searching for meetings (Explore Meetings or when you Add Badge/Journey) to find everything new in one easy place.
- Invite topic experts to share their knowledge and passion with your troop. Use the Speaker Invite under Manage Communication on the meeting plan to get started.



First Aid and CPR Certification

Convenient and cost effective through the American Heart Association's Blend Ed.

Part 1: Heartsaver Pediatric First Aid CPR AED online course is at: <http://www.onlineaha.org/courses>

Part 2: Hands-on skills practice sessions and test with an authorized American Heart Association Instructor within 60 days.

For a list of authorized American Heart Association instructors, go to: <https://www.gsmanitou.org/en/members/for-volunteers/learning-opportunities/first-aid-and-cpr-.html>

Girl Scout Teen Advisory Board

Shout out to all Girl Scouts in 6th grade and up! At Girl Scouts of Manitou Council, we will be starting a Girl Scout Teen Advisory Board. This is an opportunity for girls in 6th grade and up to help make informative decisions surrounding camp, program, and sustainability of our properties. We will be selecting 10 girls throughout our council areas to serve a one-year term. Most Teen Advisory Board meetings will be held virtually.

Get ready for your voice to be heard and take your Girl Scout experience to the next level! Apply at bit.ly/ManitouTeenAdvisoryBoard by **October 1st!**

A new resource for Bridging Junior, Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador troops...

Girl Scouts of Manitou recently created a new platform just for our older Girl Scouts and their troop leaders. This is hosted on Mighty Networks. Troop leaders will find helpful information about scholarships, earning Highest Awards, Destinations and other travel information, and more. You can also connect to your community of other leaders, share posts and join in discussions, join weekly events, and participate in our community chat. The Girl Scouts of Manitou Council Mighty Networks page has all of these resources and will be a valuable asset to our older Girl Scout troops.

To join this new platform, visit mightynetworks.com or download the Mighty Networks app. Then search for Girl Scouts of Manitou. If you have any questions, please contact Kat at kat@gsmanitou.org.

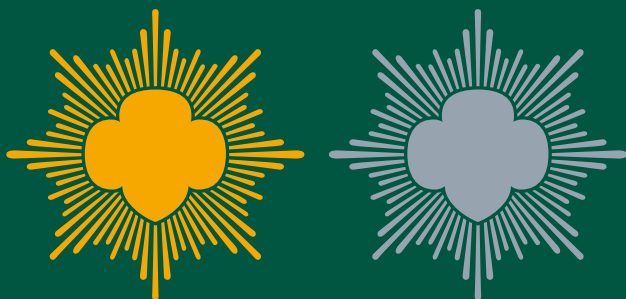
Girl Scout Trailblazers

In 2023, Girl Scouts of Manitou Council will be starting a Trailblazer troop with the goal of providing teen Girl Scouts ways to engage in high-adventure activities in wilderness areas. This Trailblazer troop is for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors. Trailblazers develop skills in orienteering, survival camping, trail hiking, and environmental stewardship. Think of it as a group of Girl Scouts from around the council who all love high-adventure outdoor activities. They will likely be traveling around the state for activities.

We want YOU to tell girls in your troop who might be interested about this opportunity. They do not have to leave your current troop to do this. They would simply do this on top of their current traditional troop. If the majority of your troop isn't into the outdoors but a few girls are, they may want to consider participating in Trailblazers!

We are just getting this exciting opportunity started. Please contact Hope at hope@gsmanitou.org OR Jamie Zalewski at jamiej410@gmail.com. Jamie is going to be one of the Trailblazer troop leaders!

Girl Scout Silver and Gold Award



Do girls in your troop want to be a Silver Award Girl Scout or a Gold Award Girl Scout, but are not sure where to start? You can schedule a meeting with Kat Zimmerman to learn the steps for the Girl Scout Silver or Gold Award, get ideas, and start brainstorming! Contact Kat at 920-565-4575 ext. 316 or kat@gsmanitou.org to schedule a meeting.

Destinations



Girl Scout Destinations are the ultimate adventure for individual girls ages 11 and older! With different trips every year, there is something amazing for everyone. Not only will girls have life-changing experiences on their Destination, they will meet new friends from across the country and maybe even from around the globe. Girls apply and submit reference forms for Destinations online. Girl Scouts of Manitou Council helps pay the cost of Destinations and aids girls in planning for money earning, so do not let cost be a deterrent to girls applying.

Destination information can be found at girlscouts.org/travel

Have questions or want more information? Contact Kat at kat@gsmanitou.org.

Online Outdoor Adventures Training

Outdoor Adventures Training is required for at least one registered adult volunteer of a troop before bringing a troop camping in tents or cooking over a fire. In this online training course, you will learn about safety, building fires, outdoor cooking, and all things Girl Scouting in the outdoors. By the end of the course, you will have an excellent start on planning and preparing your very first outdoor adventure with your troop! This is for volunteers of all troop levels.

To access the online course, click on MY GS from our website, www.gsmanitou.org. You'll then head to gsLearn and take the course titled Outdoor Adventure Training. If the course is not in your dashboard, or if you have any questions about the content or using gsLearn, please contact Hope at hope@gsmanitou.org.

Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge

Let's GO! The end of summer and start of fall is the perfect time to head outdoors. While you're at it, join the Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge. Complete the designated number of activities from the [Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Activity Sheet](#) and unlock a cool new patch. Use #gsoutdoors to share your story on social media and see how other girls are completing this fun outdoor challenge. This challenge will conclude with Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend on September 9 & 10. We have the Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge patches in-stock at our *Petals to Patches* store!



Girl Scouts love the outdoors, especially our state parks! Girl Scouts of the USA and the National Association of State Park Directors partner in hosting the annual, Girl Scouts Love State Parks, a weekend dedicated to showcasing the stunning beauty of state parks' and Girl Scouts' passion for exploring the great outdoors.

Girl Scouts Love State Parks 2023 is September 9-10. Girl Scouts, troops, and families are encouraged to get out and explore Wisconsin's beautiful, and many, state parks during this weekend. We will have a limited number of the special Girl Scouts Love the State Parks patches to give away for free! To receive a free patch from us:

1. Get out at a state park during Girl Scouts Love State Parks weekend!
2. Parents or troop leaders take pictures of their Girl Scout(s) at the park.
3. Send the photos to cassie@gsmanitou.org.

We always love seeing what our Girl Scouts do for State Parks Weekend! Watch the 2022 recap video on our Facebook page or Instagram! Last year we had over 70 Girl Scouts participate, visiting 18 different parks. Let's see if we can beat that this year! Get ready to get outdoors Girl Scouts!

Ghostly Ghou Scout Trail Walk at Camp Evelyn

Come out to Camp Evelyn for a special Ghostly Ghou Scout Trail Walk. Our Girl Scout troops have created special exhibits all throughout camp for your viewing. Each exhibit includes a spooktacular scene with a Girl Scout twist. All exhibits will be kid-friendly, so feel free to bring the whole family along. Warm refreshments will be available and our camp store will be open for shopping during the event so you can score some discounted camp gear. Make sure to cast your vote for your favorite scene before you head out.

Costumes are welcome! If you think you have what it takes to create a fabulous costume, consider entering our first ever costume contest! This will take place at 5:30 p.m. Group costumes can enter. Prizes will be given for the top costumes in the following categories: funniest, most original, and best homemade.

When: October 21st from 5:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5/person in advance
\$10/person at the gate

Register at: bit.ly/GhouScoutWalk by October 19th

Does your troop have what it takes to create a spooky Girl Scout scene? We're looking for troops to participate in the event. There will be a limited number of spots available, so register soon! One group from each Girl Scout level will win a free stay at one of our camp buildings. This will be based on votes received during the trail walk. Register to participate & view the full set of rules at bit.ly/3Dh3NSt.

Camp Evelyn's Diamond Jubilee Ball

Camp Evelyn turned 75 this year and we're celebrating with a special ball! Current and former Girl Scouts in grades 9 and up, teen campers, and camp alums of that age and older are invited to join us to celebrate 75 years of fun, community, and learning at Camp Evelyn. Come snap a selfie in the photo booth, submit your name for a giveaway, enjoy snacks and punch, walk the runway during the grand march, and of course, get down on the dance floor to some of your favorite tunes!

This is a formal event. You are welcome to bring a guest. All attendees must register in advance. Dinner is not included, but we will have plenty of snacks.

When: Saturday, September 23rd
6:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Cost: \$10 per person

Register at bit.ly/CampEvelynBall
by September 18th

Shop Local!!!

Your local Girl Scout shop, *Petals to Patches*, is located at the Girl Scout Center in Sheboygan!

This back-to-troop season (and beyond!), be sure to SHOP LOCAL! *Petals to Patches* is fully-stocked for all your badge, uniform, insignia, and pin needs. Program credits can easily be applied to each girl's uniform & badge needs.

There are two easy ways to SHOP LOCAL:






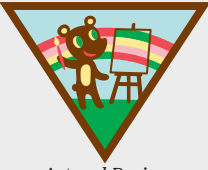








1. Stop in at the Girl Scout Center to shop in-person. We are open **Monday - Thursday from 8:00 a.m. to noon & 1:00-4:00 p.m.**
2. Contact the shop manager, Diane, by calling 920-565-4575 ext. 310 or emailing diane@gsmanitou.org, to place an order. You can arrange to pick-up your order at the Girl Scout Center. Or you can have the items shipped right to you. **All items ordered from *Petals to Patches* ship to you for free!**



New and Newly Updated Badges for Girl Scouts

Get ready to change the world! New Girl Scout badges are here - and Girl Scouts has added even more skill-building, friend-making, life-changing experiences to the Girl Scout program! There's never been a better time for girls to practice ambitious leadership - and there's no better place to do it than at Girl Scouts. This year, Girl Scouts added new Maker and Animal badges.

- **Maker badges:** There are three badges for each level (Daisy, Brownie, and Junior), including: Art and Design, Craft and Tinker, Create and Innovate.
- **Animal badges:** There is a new animal badge for Girl Scout Daisies. The Junior and Cadette animal badges are newly updated, with the Cadette badge featuring a new design as well.
- **STEM Career Exploration badges:** Newly added Daisy, Senior, and Ambassador STEM Career Exploration badges complete the badge line for all levels. Troop leaders can add these to their year plan in the Volunteer Toolkit! From your Year Plan, use the Add Badge/Journey button to search for "STEM career" and choose meetings 1 and 2 for your program level.

	Maker			Animal	STEM Career Exploration
Daisy	 <i>Art and Design</i>	 <i>Craft and Tinker</i>	 <i>Create and Innovate</i>	 <i>Animal Observation</i>	 <i>STEM Career Exploration</i>
Brownie	 <i>Art and Design</i>	 <i>Craft and Tinker</i>	 <i>Create and Innovate</i>		
Junior	 <i>Art and Design</i>	 <i>Craft and Tinker</i>	 <i>Create and Innovate</i>	 <i>Animal Habitats</i>	
Cadette				 <i>Animal Helper</i>	
Senior					 <i>STEM Career Exploration</i>
Ambassador					 <i>STEM Career Exploration</i>