

Volunteer 411

EVERY GIRL DESERVES THE CHANCE TO CAMP!

Girls love camp! In fact, it is their #1 rated Girl Scout activity. It is exciting and chock-full of opportunities for new adventures. And we at Manitou Council want to make sure every girl has the opportunity to enjoy our legendary camps, and all the activities, outdoor challenges and adventures that camp has to offer. In short, we want girls to have the camp experience they have always dreamed of.

Summer Camp 2021 is sure to be a hit! Classic camp themes like *Unicorn University*, *Just Add Water*, and *Bits & Bridles* are back. There are fun new sessions like *Treasure Hunters* and a Camp Manitou overnight for younger Girl Scouts (grades 2-4). With so many different themes and activities, there's truly something for everyone! At Girl Scout Camp, girls will have the opportunity to make new friends that will last a lifetime, gain valuable leadership and life skills, and most importantly have fun! They'll gain independence, confidence and return home more willing to take a risk and try again when met with an obstacle - skills we all want for our daughters.



We are planning and hoping for in-person camp this summer! We will be following all guidelines provided by the American Camp Association, CDC, state and local health departments for operating summer camp during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure camp is a safe experience. If we are unable to hold camp, full refunds will be provided.

All Girl Scouts should have received a camp catalog in the mail, and troops will be provided with two per troop as well. At a troop meeting, give girls an opportunity to talk about what looks fun, and encourage them to sign up. Ideas on camp themed troop meetings are here in the 411!

Troop Leader Blueprint

Looking for ways to conduct virtual or safe in-person Badge activities with your troop? Check out the Troop Leader Blueprint on our [website](#)! The Troop Leader Blueprint is an online resource filled with tips, tools, and plans for virtual and in-person activities. New badges are continually being added so please be sure to bookmark it for your reference. The latest update included plans for:

- World Thinking Day
- Outdoor Adventures, Camping and Art
- Think Like a Citizen Scientist Journeys
- Pets
- STEM Career Exploration
- Space Science

A Better Blueprint

- ✓ Badges
- ✓ Journeys
- ✓ Troop tips



PROMOTING SUMMER CAMP TO YOUR TROOP!

Help your Girl Scouts get excited about summer camp by having a fun, camp-themed troop meeting! Here are easy and fun ideas you can use to plan a troop meeting, whether it is in-person or virtual.

Have a Camp Counselor or the Director of Camp & Program attend your meeting!

Our Director of Camp and Program, Hope (aka Daisy) and our camp counselors are available to virtually attend your troop meetings and talk about camp. They'll talk all about life at camp, answer questions and help get girls excited about camp.

To request a meeting with one of our Camp Counselors or Hope, please fill out this online form: <https://form.123formbuilder.com/5751669/camp-conversations>

Experience a variety of camp activities:

Explore a variety of camp activities with the help of camp counselors new & old! These are a sampling of some of the activities girls might do at camp. There's much more fun to be had this summer! All of these videos can be found on our [Youtube Channel](#).

- Get up and sing with Twinkie
- Get creative with dot painting
- Get outdoors and make nature wind chimes
- Create your own pet rock
- Go on a colorful scavenger hunt (indoors or outdoors!)
- Learn to make friendship bracelets

Bring your camp catalog day!

New this year! The camp catalog features fun, camp-themed activities throughout. Have girls bring their catalogs to a meeting, or share your screen with the digital version.

- Make s'mores trails mix and have this as a snack!
- Spend time looking through the catalog and encourage girls to write down their favorite sessions.
- Have everyone fill out the mad lib and share the end results!
- Follow along with Pancake and create your very own [DIY camp journals](#).
- Get exploring with [this Camp Catalog Scavenger Hunt](#) activity!

More Ideas:

- Participate in the [Camp Pen Pal Program](#) and exchange letters with a camp counselor before camp this summer.
- See camp with your own eyes by watching the [Camp Evelyn](#) and [Camp Manitou](#) virtual tours or scheduling a tour with your troop at camp. To schedule a tour, contact the Director of Camp and Program, Hope, at hope@gsmanitou.org.
- Explore [Girl Scouts at Home](#) for fun outdoor and camp themed activities!



Girl Scout Tree Promise

Girl Scouts is joining forces with the Elliot Wildlife Value Project and American Forests to launch a bold tree-planting initiative. We are setting out to plant 5 million trees by 2026. Not only is this great for wildlife, but it will also provide tangible climate solutions.

Girl Scouts everywhere are being called to help by planting, protecting, and honoring trees in their backyards, communities, states, across the country, and even across the world. From Daisies to Ambassador Girl Scouts, to adult members and partners, every member and friend of the movement is being asked to join to support the Girl Scout Tree Promise. Five million trees are A LOT of trees, but TOGETHER we can do it!

The Tree Promise kicks off in April. Watch for more information to come on how Girl Scouts can get involved, track their Tree Promise progress and unlock the Tree Promise patch.



**THE START OF A TROOP
ADVENTURE IS**



**OUTDOOR
ADVENTURES
TRAINING**

**Saturday April 10, 2021
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Camp Evelyn, Plymouth**

Learn about building fires, outdoor cooking, staying safe and all things “Girl Scout Program in the Outdoors.” By the end of the session you will have an excellent start on planning and preparing your very first outdoor adventure with your troop.

This training is required for at least one troop leader before bringing girls on an overnight in tents or before cooking over a fire. Dress comfortably and for the weather as much of the time will be spent outdoors, rain or shine. Lunch is provided.

Register online by **April 3** at:
bit.ly/OutdoorAdventureTraining. Contact hope@gsmanitou.org with questions, and any dietary/activity restrictions. Cost: \$23.

There is also an online learning option available on gsLearn for Outdoor Adventures Training if this date doesn't work or you prefer online training.

**VIRTUAL
ADVOCACY DAY**

Friday, March 12



What better way to celebrate 109 years of Girl Scouting than by joining together with your sister Girl Scouts from around Wisconsin for a special virtual Girl Scout Advocacy Day!

The 90 minute workshop will feature opportunities for all girls to connect directly with state lawmakers and voice the issues important to them. Girl Scouts will hear from inspiring female legislators who will share their stories, take a virtual tour of the state capitol, and more.

This is an entirely virtual (Zoom) event for Girl Scouts in grades 6-12. There is a \$5 per Girl Scout registration fee. Deadline to register: February 23. Register online at bit.ly/GSadvoday.



BONUS: Girls will learn how to advocate for themselves by attending an optional pre-event workshop on February 27 from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Girls registering for Advocacy Day will be auto registered for the optional workshop and receive information separately prior to the event.



**Annual Finance Report on the
Volunteer Toolkit**

The Annual Finance Report in the Finance Tab provides vital information about volunteer satisfaction, an overview of troop activities for the year, girl outcomes, and an overview of troop finances. This information allows us to improve volunteer support based on your feedback and tell Girl Scout supporters about how you are building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

You may begin entering information in the finance report but please do not hit submit until the end of the Girl Scout year as information cannot be edited after it is submitted. The Annual Finance Report is due by **June 8**. It is important to submit the report in a timely manner as the Volunteer Toolkit is rolled over for the new membership year in July, and you may not be able to access the report. If you have any questions or need help using the Volunteer Toolkit, please contact Amy at amy@gsmanitou.org.

GIRL SCOUT WEEK: MARCH 7-13



Throughout the year, girls and adults celebrate some very special days in Girl Scouting. Girl Scout Week is celebrated each March, starting with Girl Scout Sunday and ending with Girl Scout Sabbath on a Saturday, and it always includes the Girl Scout Birthday, March 12, which commemorates the day in 1912 when Juliette Gordon Low officially registered the organization's first 18 girl members in Savannah, Georgia. Girl Scouts will be 109 years old this year!

Girl Scout Sunday and Girl Scout Sabbath give girls an opportunity to attend their place of worship to be recognized as a Girl Scout. If a place of worship is the group sponsor, girls may perform a service, such as greeting, ushering or doing a flag ceremony.

Celebrate Girl Scout Week every day! Each day during Girl Scout Week has a different theme to help you celebrate, learn, explore, grow, and show the world what it means to be a Girl Scout!

- **Sunday, March 7 - Girl Scout Sunday**
- **Monday, March 8 - Girl Scout Spirit Day**
- **Tuesday, March 9 - STEM Day**
- **Wednesday, March 10 - Get Outdoors Day**
- **Thursday, March 11 - Girl Scouts Give Back**
- **Friday, March 12 - Girl Scout Birthday!**
- **Saturday, March 13 - Girl Scout Sabbath**



Check out [this Girl Scout Week Flyer](#) for more ideas and inspiration to celebrate Girl Scout Week!

Volunteer of Excellence Award



It is time to show that STAR Girl Scout Volunteer, who is always going above and beyond, how much they are appreciated!

The Volunteer of Excellence Award recognizes those volunteers who have contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience using the national program portfolio or

who have contributed outstanding service in support of the Council's mission delivery to girl and adult members.

Nominate an outstanding volunteer online at: bit.ly/VolRecognition.

Do girls in your troop want to be a
Silver Award Girl Scout *or*
a Gold Award Girl Scout,
but aren't sure where to start?

Contact the Director of Program Quality to schedule a meeting to learn the steps for the Girl Scout Silver or Gold Award, get ideas, and start brainstorming.

Contact Amy at amy@gsmanitou.org to schedule a meeting.

