

Volunteer 411

Family Connection

*A Guide to Welcome Families
to Girl Scouts*

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 Reregister 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@gsmanitou.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, or program credits (you will need the program credit certificate code for each girl using program credits).
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.



Troop Cookie Manager:

Please register a Troop Cookie Sale Manager when you register your troop.

Preparing New Troop Leaders

We want all new troop leaders to feel confident, prepared, and ready to lead their troop. Girl Scouts of Manitou Council requires each troop to have at least one leader who has completed the full training.

Step One: In-person orientation with troop organizer or staff member (Approximately one hour)

New leaders will learn about the basics of Girl Scouting, how to access the information they need, how to get assistance, how to access the vital tools in MY GS (the Volunteer Toolkit, gsLearn), and how to access the following onboarding trainings there.

Step Two: Complete online trainings on gsLearn (self-paced, approximately one hour and 15 minutes)

- **GSUSA New Leader Onboarding — Your First Troop Meeting:** This course guides you through planning a successful first meeting that welcomes girls and sets the tone for the year.
- **GSUSA New Leader Onboarding — What Girl Scouts Do? (age level specific):** Uncover the exciting world of Girl Scouts, exploring the program for each age level and the amazing experiences it offers girls.
- **GSUSA New Leader Onboarding — Troop Safety:** Learn essential safety protocols to keep your troop safe during activities and outings.
- **GSUSA New Leader Onboarding — Funding the Fun:** Explore options for financing troop activities, including budgeting, fundraising, and the Girl Scout Cookie Program.
- **OPTIONAL: GSUSA New Leader Onboarding — Engaging Families and Planning Your Parent Meeting**

Following completion of each onboarding section, watch for an email with local council details pertaining to that topic. By completing these onboarding courses, you'll gain the confidence to lead your troop and create a fun and rewarding experience for the girls. The entire training must be completed by new leaders within three months of appointment.

First Aid and CPR Certification

Many community organizations such as hospitals, clinics, fire departments, and technical colleges offer first aid and CPR courses to the general public. Organizations might even set up a private class if there is a small group of students wishing to take the class. **American Heart Association** and **The Red Cross** offer an online/blended course which may be a great option if you cannot find an in-person class.

Manitou Council's Program Specialist, Abby Weber, is working on getting her certification to teach these classes. We will have more information on in-house class opportunities soon.

For more information on local class opportunities, visit our **website**. Having trouble finding a class near you? Contact Hope at **hope@gsmanitou.org**.

Online Outdoor Adventure Training

By completing the online course, you will have completed your Outdoor Adventures requirement. Our online Outdoor Adventure Training is available on gsLearn. All you need to do is search for it in your assigned training. You must complete every course in the learning path and the final assessment to meet the requirements of the training. If you have any questions about the online training, please contact the Director of Program Quality, Hope Spies, at **hope@gsmanitou.org** for assistance.

A group may request an Outdoor Adventures session at either Camp Evelyn or Camp Manitou by contacting the Director of Program Quality, Hope Spies, at **hope@gsmanitou.org**. Please note: scheduling will depend upon facilitator and facility availability.

Girl Scout Teen Advisory Board

Shout out to all Girl Scouts in 6th grade and up! We would love for you to be a part of our Teen Advisory Board. This opportunity will allow girls to help make informative decisions on programming and more. We will be selecting 10 girls throughout our council area 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 experience to the next level!

Apply at bit.ly/ManitouTeenAdvisoryBoard by November 1st!

After the review of your application, you will be contacted for an interview. Please note: current members will need to reapply. If you have any questions about the Teen Advisory Board, please contact the Program Specialist, Abby Weber, at abby@gsmanitou.org.

Single-Use Elimination Contest

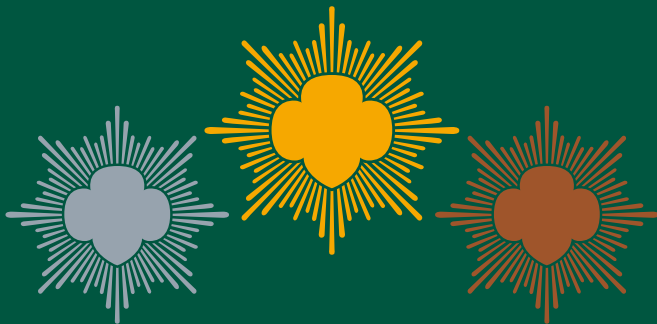
Together we can make a change! Join Girl Scouts of Manitou Council in helping create a cleaner and more sustainable future by reducing the use of single-use plastics. Single-use (or disposable plastics) are plastic items that are typically used once, then thrown away or recycled. Over 1 million plastic bottles are sold every minute worldwide. 170 trillion plastic particles are afloat in the world's oceans. As part of our sustainability efforts, we are going to be holding a council-wide single-use recycling contest starting this fall.

Watch for more details on social media and in your email about this exciting challenge as we get closer to fall!

Congratulations Natalie!

Girl Scout Natalie from Fond du Lac recently received a \$5,000 scholarship from Girl Scouts for her Gold Award. Natalie's project focused on music education and she built an outdoor music garden at a local park. Read more about her Gold Award & story on our [website](#)!

Girl Scouting's Highest Awards



Do the girls in your troop want to earn their Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award but do not know where to start? Our Program Specialist, Abby Weber, would love to meet with your troop to talk about these wonderful Highest Awards in Girl Scouting and all the opportunities they bring. Contact Abby at abby@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, but they will also meet new friends from across the country and maybe even 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 the Program Specialist, Abby Weber, at abby@gsmanitou.org.

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 will 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. The camp store will be open for shopping during the event so you can score some discounted camp gear. Costumes are welcome! Make sure to cast your vote for your favorite scene before you head out.

When: October 19 from 5:00-8:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5/person in advance

\$10/person at the gate

Register at: bit.ly/3VOzPOB by October 17th at 8:00 a.m. for the \$5/person price

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.



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 2024 is September 14 & 15. 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 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 2023 recap video on our Facebook page or Instagram! Last year we had over 100 Girl Scouts participate, visiting 20 different parks. Let's see if we can beat that this year! Get ready to get outdoors Girl Scouts!

Accessing MY GS – gsLearn & The Volunteer Toolkit

Click on MY GS at the upper right corner of www.gsmanitou.org. If you know your username & password, simply log in. If it's the first time you are logging into MY GS or you have forgotten your password, click on the "Forgot Your Password?" link and use your email address as your username. You will receive a link to reset your password. Be sure to check your SPAM/junk folders. If you don't receive the email, have any problems logging into MY GS, or need help with gsLearn or the Volunteer Toolkit, please contact Director of Program Quality, Hope Spies, 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 14 & 15. We have the Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge patches in-stock at our *Petals to Patches* store! After completing the challenge, be sure to stop in or contact Diane to purchase this special patch!



Thank you for promoting summer camp to your troop & encouraging girls to experience camp!



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**](mailto: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!**



2025 Girl Scout Cookie Sale



With each new cookie sale season, Girl Scout entrepreneurs embrace the possibility of all the excitement that lies ahead. This year's theme is Embrace Possibilities and the mascot is a panda!

In 2025, cookies will sell for \$6 and \$7 for specialty cookies (S'mores and Toffee Tastic). Troops will earn \$1.10 per box in troop proceeds in 2025.

Important Cookie Sale Dates

- **January 1:** Digital Cookie open for all orders. Door-to-door sales begin.
- **January 1-19:** Door-to-door sales.
- **January 19:** Girl orders due to troop cookie sale manager.
- **January 19 - March 16:** Digital Cookie will remain open for donated and shipped orders only.
- **January 20, 11:59 p.m.:** Troop cookie sale manager submits order via eBudde.
- **February 4:** Troops can preorder and pick up cookies for cookie booths from local cupboards.
- **February 5 - March 16:** Booth sales. Troops can begin holding booth sales at Festival Foods on February 5, and then at Pick'N Save stores on February 6. Troops can schedule their own booth sale with a local place of business.
- **February 7-17:** Delivery to local communities/troops. Community Cookie Sale Managers will know the date of their delivery by November 2024.
- **February 28:** Girl monies due to troop.
- **March 3:** Troops deposit into their troop account.
- **March 4:** Girl Scouts of Manitou Council debits troop accounts 65% owed to council.
- **March 18:** Final girl/troop rewards orders due to be submitted via eBudde.
- **March 24:** Final debit of troop accounts for balance owed to council.
- **April 22 (approximately):** Troop cookie sale managers will receive girl rewards.

Final Year for Girl Scout S'mores



The 2025 cookie season will be the last chance Girl Scout S'mores cookies will be available. Get them while you can!

