



Winter
2025

The Manitou GIRL



In this issue...

Summer Camp ... 2

Destinations ... 3

Girl Scout Cookie Booth Tips ... 3, 4

World Thinking Day & Girl Scout Week ... 5

Troop Takeovers ... 6

Troop 8501 Bronze Award ... 7

Ella's Destination Experience ... 8, 9

Girl Scout Pride & Go-Getter Moments ... 10

Raising Awesome Girls ... 10, 11

A Worldwide Sisterhood ... 11, 12

STEM Spot ... 13

Craft Craze ... 14

Tasty Treats ... 15

Just for Fun ... 16, 17

On the cover...

Girl Scouts from Troop 8003 work on assembling a buddy bench and a Little Free Library that they later donated to their community.

8



3



2



Just for Girl Scouts!

In this section, you'll get to hear about all the new and exciting things in Girl Scouting, explore incredible opportunities, and find fun events made just for you.

Summer Camp Registration is OPEN!

Calling all Girl Scouts! Summer will be here before we know it, and we are ready for camp! Are you? Stay with us for the day or up to two weeks. Love Taylor Swift? We have a session for that. What about robots? We have a session for that too. Are water and nature your thing? We have sessions dedicated to those adventures, but no matter what session you pick, you'll have lots of fun in the water and outdoors. Your camp catalog will be arriving in the mail soon if you haven't already received it. Head to our [website](#) to check out a digital version of the catalog, pick your favorite sessions, and get registered. We can't wait to see you there!



Girl Scout Destinations



Girl Scout Destinations are the ultimate adventure for Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts! Make friends from all over as you travel with Girl Scouts from different states and countries. There's a unique, life-changing experience for every girl.

You'll definitely want to experience a [Girl Scout Destination](#)! You can apply now for Destinations in 2025 and beyond. Popular Destinations fill fast! You don't want to wait to submit your application. The deadline to apply is March 14.

With so many options, you're bound to find the adventure of your dreams. Manitou Council offers scholarships and assists girls in raising funds for Destinations, so don't let cost stop you from applying.

Rock Your Cookie Booths This Season!



Before we know it cookie booths will be here, and we want you to have the best cookie booths possible so you can reach all your goals! Here are some awesome ideas and tips to help you **EMBRACE POSSIBILITY:**

- **Power up your posters!** Make them stand out. Use big letters, fun colors, and bold designs.
- **Make it sing.** Using catchy songs or music will attract some attention as potential customers walk by. Play a recording or sing some classic Girl Scout camp songs.
- **Use bright colors.** You'll stand out! Who wouldn't stop and look at your booth with bright yellow or orange catching their eye.
- **Pick a theme.** People will notice your creativity and want to stop by. Carnival, circus, superheroes, girl power, animals – the sky is the limit.
- **Dress for success.** If you have a theme, dress to match your theme. Wear your uniforms. Use the council's cookie costumes to catch attention!
- **Show off your goals.** Create a goal poster and proudly display it at your booth. Allow customers to help you fill up your goal tracker. Or you can create goal T-shirts to wear. Make sure all your customers know about your troop's goals and what you plan to do with your cookie proceeds.
- **Create cookie bundles.** When you stack multiple boxes up together and add a bow or

handmade card, customers will be more likely to buy multiple boxes.

- **Offer samples.** Have your troop purchase a few boxes and offer customers a sample of their favorite (or ones they haven't tried before). They can't resist once they've tried them!
- **Buy multiples.** Encourage customers to buy several boxes (or even a case) of their favorites so they have plenty until next year. Pro tip: they freeze well!
- **Promote your troop gift of caring.** Let customers know where cookies will be donated and encourage everyone to donate a box or two, especially if people have dietary restrictions and can't enjoy the cookies themselves.



With all of these tips, you're set to have an amazing cookie booth season. For even more tips and activities from the cookie company, Little Brownie Bakers, visit their [website](#)!

DIGITAL COOKIE!

Don't forget that Digital Cookie will remain open for shipped orders and donated cookies until March 16. This is a great way to reach more customers and sell more cookies! Send your Digital Cookie page to customers you've already sold to encouraging them to buy more since you know they'll run out of their favorites. Your troop will receive all the proceeds from these orders, and they will count toward your rewards! Plus, there are Digital Cookie exclusive rewards! Check out all the **2025 Cookie Sale rewards on our website.**



World Thinking Day



Start thinking, start changing! Join your fellow Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from more than 150 countries around the world to celebrate **World Thinking Day** on February 22! You don't need to wait until February to get started though. Starting learning about World Thinking Day and embracing perspectives outside your own now. Dive into this year's focus of "Our Story: Reflecting the symbolism and values of our Movement," and explore how you can build the confidence to know you can make a real difference, in your community and beyond. Think about the issues that contribute to problems near or far and about the little things you can do to make a big difference! **Download the FREE Girl Scouts World Thinking**

Day activity guides and see how your thoughts are more powerful than you think! Our council store, Petals to Patches, has the 2025 World Thinking Day Patches in stock!



Girl Scout Week 2025

Celebrate 113 years of making the world a better place all week long!

Share your Girl Scout Week experience on social media by using #BecauseOfGirlScouts and #NationalGirlScoutDay hashtags and tagging @girlscouts.

March 9



Spirit Sunday

Do something kind in the spirit of Girl Scouts.

March 10

Affirmation Monday

Share a positive message with a friend.



March 11



Troop Tuesday

Appreciate your awesome troop besties.

March 12

National Girl Scout Day

Wear your Girl Scout gear this Wednesday for #NationalGirlScoutDay!



March 13

Thankful Thursday

Share something you're thankful for.



March 14

Flash Forward Friday

Make your plans for a brighter future!



March 15

Service Saturday

Serve your community as a sisterhood.



Watch for more information about Girl Scout Week on social media, our website, and in emails to your parents and/or troop leader!



Troop Takeover

Who is ready to take over Girl Scouts of Manitou Council's Instagram? You'll get to post to our stories and feed with your awesome Girl Scout activities and adventures! We can't wait to see your troop in ACTION! If you have any questions, please email: cassie@gsmanitou.org.

More information:

Is your troop doing something UNIQUE, going on an amazing TRAVEL adventure, or having an epic CEREMONY? All these things are the perfect opportunity to give our followers (parents, other Girl Scouts, volunteers, and supporters) an inside look at what Girl Scouting is all about!

Troop takeovers are available to an entire troop or individual Girl Scouts age 13 and older. This is meant to be girl-led and an exciting opportunity for our older girls, not their leaders.

To request a troop takeover, please fill out our interest form at bit.ly/TroopTakeovers.

You will receive your takeover login information, tips & tricks, and FAQ after your request is reviewed and approved.



Check out these girls!

In this section, you'll get to hear and see stories from some pretty inspiring local Girl Scouts who are bridging to the next level, earning Highest Awards, going on trips, and more.

Bronze Award Girl Scouts

It's time to give a special shout-out and congratulations to those troops who recently earned their Bronze Awards! Becoming Bronze Award Girl Scouts is no easy feat for Girl Scout Juniors. They choose an issue they care about and take action to make a lasting impact. Let's hear about recent Manitou Council Bronze Award Girl Scouts! If your troop also became Bronze Award Girl Scouts this year, we want to know about it! Have your parent or troop leader fill out the [Bronze Award Report](#) and submit your photos.

Troop 8501 from Manitowoc wanted to make an impact on a park in their community. After visiting multiple parks within Manitowoc, the troop brainstormed ideas of how they could improve their particular park. They worked with the Manitowoc Parks Department on the current state of the park, what future plans looked like, and how they could assist in improving the park.

Following their meetings with the parks department, they decided to repair and paint the benches and picnic tables. This included sanding down the benches and picnic tables, cleaning up the metal pieces up, priming, and painting. The troop also decided to purchase new boards for the benches and stain them a bright color.



Before they could start the work, they had to secure approval, brainstorm materials needed, develop a budget, shop for supplies, and form a timeline and plan. They wanted to help this park because it isn't always a top priority. They wanted to make the park more inviting and welcoming to the community.

The troop learned they could do more than they thought they were capable of. They learned how to brainstorm ideas and come to a group consensus. They learned how to prepare for a meeting and participate in a meeting with important

conversations and questions. They learned how to work together as a team to accomplish a task efficiently. They also gained a lot of hands-on life skills like sanding, priming, and painting.

Congratulations Troop 8501!



Travel Adventures

Many older Girl Scout troops plan epic travel adventures. They work hard for years budgeting and saving troop funds, planning, and preparing for their trip. Individual girls also go on Girl Scout **Destinations!** We love seeing the amazing adventures Manitou Council Girl Scouts experience, and we want to share their stories with you so you can see what's possible the longer you are a Girl Scout.



Girl Scout Ella from Port Washington went on a Girl Scout Destination trip! Ella attended the North Country Rock-N-Wilderness Destination to the Northwoods of Minnesota and Canada in summer 2024. She wanted to go on a Destination to meet new people and try something new outside of her comfort zone.

“I thought it would be fun to do something I wouldn’t normally get to do, and maybe make some friends,” said Ella.



Crystal-clear lakes, waterfalls, a stunning night sky, soaring eagles, and howling wolves are just some of what makes the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (Minnesota) and Quetico Provincial Park (Ontario, Canada) two of the most sought-after wilderness areas in the world. This trip featured well-trained and experienced Girl Scout guides leading Ella and her other Girl Scout sisters on a multiday canoeing expedition that challenged and enriched them.

The adventure started by heading to the stunning North Shore of Lake Superior, where Ella got to know the other Girl Scouts on the trip by tackling a whitewater adventure on the St. Louis River. She challenged herself on an aerial adventure with 12 high ropes course elements on two levels.



Then they headed to the Girl Scouts Northern Lakes Canoe Base off Moose Lake, on the edge of the wilderness. After a day of training, packing, and planning, they paddled north to Canada and spent 7-10 days paddling and portaging through the wilderness.

Trained Girl Scout canoe guides offered the tools and coaching to make the expedition crew succeed at their adventure and bring out the best in every Girl Scout. They enjoyed singing and laughing as they paddled along rocky shorelines, portaged around rapids, trudged through boot-squelching mud, swam in the clear lakes, and enjoyed the serenity of a quiet evening campfire under a starry sky.

Ella chose this trip in particular because she already had experience camping and canoeing and enjoyed it. She wanted to try a new experience that was still somewhat familiar to her and experience a new place that wasn't halfway around the world.

"I knew this trip would be much bigger and longer, but it was OK because it wasn't something totally new for me," said Ella. "I was interested in going beyond what I've done before, by meeting new people and experiencing a new environment. Traveling from Wisconsin to Minnesota wasn't too far away, so it was easy to feel comfortable."

When asked about her favorite parts or favorite memories, she mentioned she has a lot of favorites. She enjoyed the food ("Maybe in the wilderness everything tastes better!" she said), she liked seeing the pictographs on the rocks that Native groups had made, and she enjoyed sleeping during a thunderstorm. But she also really enjoyed the friends she made.

"I enjoyed the people I was with. It was fun singing with them and creating memories to help us bond."

Girl Scout Destination trips offer, not only amazing, once-in-a-lifetime experiences, but they also offer a lot of personal growth and confidence-building. This was true for Ella. She learned that she needed to be courageous and be open around new people so she didn't seem closed-off.

"I learned that I needed to be open and create my own positive experiences to more easily connect with others," said Ella.



She also learned that you're much more thankful for things when they are not with you and that she's pretty good at "bowing" – paddling from the front of the canoe.

Ella is so glad she chose to go on a Girl Scout Destination trip. She would like to tell others that it can be an amazing experience for many reasons, especially if you're open to trying new things and meeting new people.

"I was a little afraid at first, not knowing who I'd meet or what it would exactly be like, but I quickly learned that many others thought the same way, and we could make the trip meaningful and exciting together," said Ella.



GO, GiRL, GO!

Girl Scout Pride

Holiday parade season was in full swing in November and December! We absolutely love seeing large communities of Girl Scouts get together to spread Girl Scout joy and holiday cheer. Featured below are troops who participated in the Sheboygan holiday parade! We can't wait for the next parade season.



Go-Getter

Brownie Troop 8489 is so excited for Girl Scout cookie season! The troop got creative with making a special graphic to promote cookie season. These Girl Scouts spelled out COOKIES using only themselves and put it together to create this fun image. We love the creativity, Girl Scouts! Have a great cookie season!



Raising Awesome Girls

Raising girls to be happy, healthy, and successful is simpler than ever with help from Girl Scouts. We're proud to stand with parents as they raise up the next generation of girls and young women. We've got everything you need to raise girls with confidence.

Raise Your Girl to Be a Boss and Think Like an Entrepreneur



According to a recent study by the [Girl Scout Research Institute](#), a whopping 92% of girls think they're smart enough to be entrepreneurs and nearly 80% say they're interested in careers in the business world. Love this! What we don't love so much is that one in three girls feels the stress or risk of failure involved in entrepreneurship makes it not worth the effort. Another bummer? The majority of girls think their gender would make it harder for them to succeed as entrepreneurs.

If you're wondering why any of this matters, think of it this way: there's a lot of power (and money!) in the business world, and if girls are too intimidated to even give their entrepreneurial skills a shot, they're getting locked out of a lot of amazing opportunities. And even if your girl isn't interested in calling the shots someday at her own business, having an entrepreneurial spirit will be important when she's doing everything from writing a resume and

negotiating her salary to making smart household purchases.

Luckily, it's easier than you think to give your girl a business mindset and confidence in her entrepreneurial abilities. Borrow these five simple tips to get started:

- 1. Let her fail.** Resist the urge to step up and help her finish her science project. Let her suffer the consequences of forgetting her homework at home. It may sound harsh, but learning from her mistakes will also teach her that she has the ability to bounce back and do better next time. The more often this happens in her life, the more comfortable and resilient she'll be when faced with challenges and disappointments in the professional world.
- 2. Teach her to bargain with you.** If she's angling for a bit more freedom and wants to stay up later than usual, don't just say no – ask her to explain her side and outline why she thinks you should say yes. Hearing her out doesn't always mean she'll get her way, but it can help you understand her thinking a bit better and will definitely help her gain solid negotiation skills that will come in handy sooner than you think.
- 3. Play “Ten New Ways.”** The next time you're stumped for a conversation topic, play a round of Ten New Ways, where each person in your group is challenged to think of ten different uses for an everyday household item. It'll make the time fly by and strengthen her abilities of imagination, resourcefulness, and innovation – qualities all entrepreneurs need in abundance.
- 4. Have her spread the word.** The next time you host a yard sale, make her your advertising executive in charge of getting the word out. In business, no one can buy what you're selling if they don't know about it. The sooner your girl learns this lesson, the better she'll be at running her own business and convincing others of her worth in the marketplace.
- 5. Talk to her about the things she buys.** It's always a good idea to make sure your girl gets an allowance (even a small one) so she can make financial decisions on her own. Take that a step further, though, and actually talk to your girl about the things she buys with her own money. The more your girl talks about money and financial decisions, the more comfortable she'll be dealing with these topics and navigating that world when she's older!



Get more *Raising Awesome Girls* advice at girlscouts.org!

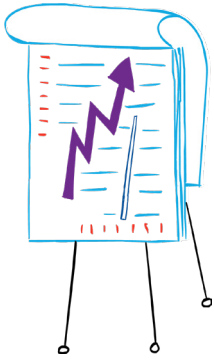
A Worldwide Sisterhood

In this section, you'll hear from some pretty incredible Girl Scout alums and discover how Girl Scouts changed their lives. You'll see all that you can be and achieve, and maybe even get ideas and inspiration for your own future.

How Girl Scouts Prepared this Alum for Neuromarketing

While working as a Los Angeles-based actress for commercials, alum Lexi started noticing something that intrigued her.

“I noticed all the food stylists doing things like polishing the burger buns with oil to make them shine, and I realized all the subliminal triggers these large brands were doing to entice buyers,” she said.



For the international business major, a new career in neuromarketing – creating subconscious triggers to prompt a person to make a positive association with a brand – was calling.

Lexi’s interest in how we connect with brands in an emotional way eventually took the form of The Darling Company, a neuromarketing agency she launched in Miami.

The agency, which offers marketing plans that combine neuroscience and search-engine optimization (SEO), provides clients with information about why consumers think a certain way along with SEO assistance to optimize the reach to those customers.

Today Lexi works with attorneys, doctors, and other business owners who have passed the launch phase.

“Our marketing strategy works for companies that have steady businesses but don’t understand technology and how to use it to find more customers, she explains. “That’s where we come in; we become a matchmaking service and help them find their perfect customer.”



Lexi credits her experience as a Girl Scout in the early 2000s with her current entrepreneurial venture.



“When it came to cookie sales, I outsold my region for years,” says Lexi, who grew up in St. Louis.

In fact, cookie season was always her favorite time of year.

She even created a cookie sales formula that provided the seed idea for her current company – encouraging people to customize their treats.

“For example, I would propose pairing Trefoils with Thin Mints ... [to create] a new combination of shortbread, mint, and chocolate.”

Eventually, Lexi connected this marketing approach to her role in helping companies market their businesses today.

“Specifying catering sales to each buyer,” she says, “is exactly what my company does today.”

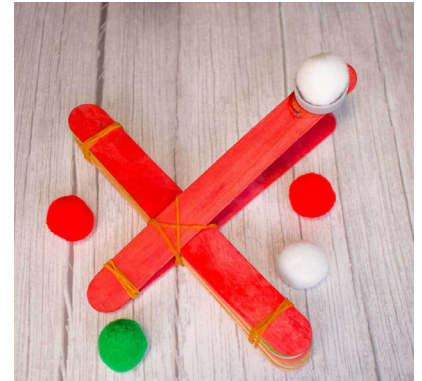
See more powerful Girl Scout alum stories at [girlscouts.org](https://www.girlscouts.org)!



STEM Spot: Snowball Catapult

This is a classic project with a fun, winter twist. We are making snowball catapults! Not only is this project a blast, but it's also a fantastic learning opportunity. So let's dive into the world of physics and engineering with our snowball catapults.

Source: Steam Powered Family



Materials Needed:

- Jumbo craft sticks (around 10-15)
- Rubber bands (minimum of 4, extras encouraged)
- Plastic spoon or bottle cap
- Hot glue gun or school glue
- Medium sized pom-poms

Follow These Steps:

1. Start by creating a strong base. Create a stack of about 7-10 craft sticks and wrap a rubber band around each end to hold the bundle together securely.
2. Create the lever. Take two craft sticks. Stack them on top of each other. Now wrap a rubber band around one end, so you can still open the other end to create a V.
3. Open it to make the V, then slide the bottom craft stick through the bundle you made for the base. It should slide right above the bottom craft stick in the bundle.
4. Secure the lever to the base. Do this by using another rubber band to create a hinge by tightly wrapping it around the top where the arm and the frame sticks meet.
5. Attach a holder for the snowballs. A bottle cap or a plastic spoon work well. Glue it onto the top of the lever near the end, but make sure leave a little space so you can push it down with your finger.
6. Time to play and learn! Load your snowball. Place a stabilizing finger on the bottom of the lever. Create tension by pushing down the top of your lever. Release! Watch it fly!

The Science Behind It:

In this project we are learning about potential and kinetic energy. When you press down on the catapult you are building tension and potential energy. When you release it, it becomes kinetic energy. During this kinetic energy stage, we also see energy transfer as the energy goes from the catapult to the snowball. You'll also learn about force and trajectory, as you discover how pressing down on the lever changes the amount of force behind the snowball launch, which in turn changes the trajectory (or path) the snowball takes during flight. Building a catapult also involves gaining an understanding of some simple engineering concepts. You'll learn about structural stability, weight distribution, and lever systems.

Craft Craze: Secret Reveal Valentines

Surprise friends and classmates with secret Valentine messages. White crayon designs on the DIY Valentine's cards are magically revealed with watercolors!

Source: Crayola



Materials Needed:

- Pencil
- Watercolor paints
- Cardstock
- Crayons
- Scissors
- Envelopes

Steps:

1. Lightly draw the outline of a heart with a pencil on cardstock.
2. Use a white crayon to create your secret designs, messages, and names on the card inside of the heart.
3. Use a black crayon to write "to" and "from" on the card.
4. Cut out the shape of the heart with scissors.
5. Place the card in an envelope and give to a friend, letting them know to use watercolors to reveal the secret. You can also give watercolor paint along with the card as a Valentine's Day gift.
6. Use watercolors to paint over the card to reveal the secret Valentine designs and messages!

Tasty Treats: Fried Samoas Shrimp



Fried Samoas® Shrimp

Ready in 30 minutes
Makes 5 shrimp



What you need

Ingredients

5 extra-large shrimp, peeled and de-veined
5 Samoas® Girl Scout Cookies®, finely chopped
2 cups seasoned bread crumbs
2 cups flour
1 cup coconut flakes
4 egg whites
1 pinch cayenne pepper
1 lime for garnish
Vegetable or peanut oil for frying

Equipment

2 medium sized bowls
Deep fryer or large frying pan
Bamboo skewer (optional)

Directions

1. Make breading:

Toss coconut flakes with bread crumbs, cayenne pepper and chopped Samoas Girl Scout Cookies®.

2. Coat the shrimp:

Dredge shrimp through flour, followed by egg whites and Samoas Girl Scout Cookies® mixture.

3. Cook:

Fry shrimp in vegetable oil at 350° until golden brown.

4. Final touches:

Garnish with coconut flakes and lime wedges and serve warm. Arrange in a star pattern on a salad plate, or on a bamboo skewer with tropical fruits. Can be served as an appetizer, in a salad, or as an entrée. If serving as an entrée accompany with fried plantains and wild rice.

Customer IQ Quiz

There are five types of Girl Scout Cookie™ customers.
Can you name them?



Name Those Customers! Questions:

**Program
Believers**

**Cookie
Lovers**

**Conscious
Supporters**

**Healthy
Indulgers**

**Life
Balancers**



1. These customers believe in supporting organizations that do good in the community and are kind to the environment.
2. These customers want to support your goals. They believe in the Girl Scouts® mission!
3. These customers are searching for familiar flavors that satisfy their cravings. They love a tasty treat!
4. These customers want healthier options that still taste delicious.
5. These customers are super busy. They like when the buying process is simple!

Name Those Customers!

Answers:



1. **Conscious Supporters**



2. **Program Believers**



3. **Cookie Lovers**



4. **Healthy Indulgers**



5. **Life Balancers**

It's
Girl Scout
CookieTM
Time!