



Winter
2026

The Manitou GIRL



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On the cover...

Girl Scouts from Brownie Troop 8405 prepping apples as part of earning their Snacks badge at Nourish Farms in Sheboygan Falls!

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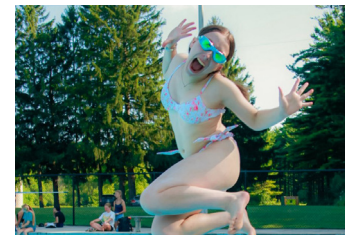
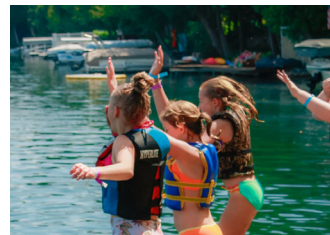
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Just for Girl Scouts!

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 K-pop Demon Hunters? 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. You should have already received your camp catalog in the mail. If you haven't, please [contact us](#) so we can get one to you. Head to our [website](#) to explore and get registered. We can't wait to see you this summer!



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 2026 and beyond. Many of the popular Destinations fill fast! You don't want to wait to submit your application. Applications are accepted until Destinations are filled.

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!



Cookie booths are here and we want you to have the best cookie booths possible so you can reach all your goals! Remember, be **BRAVE, FIERCE and FUN**! Here are some awesome ideas and tips to help you:

- **Promote Exploremores!** People love trying new things. Tell everyone about the new Exploremores cookie and encourage them to purchase a box to try them out!
- **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. 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 22. 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 [2026 Cookie Sale rewards on our website](#).





Girl Scout Week 2026

March 8



Spirit Sunday

Do something kind in the spirit of Girl Scouts.

March 9

Affirmation Monday

Share a positive message with a friend.



March 10



Troop Tuesday

Appreciate your awesome troop besties.

March 11

Wisdom Wednesday

Share a Girl Scout pro tip or life hack.



March 12



National Girl Scout Day

Post a photo in your Girl Scout gear and tag @girlscouts!

March 13

Flash Forward Friday

Make your plans for a brighter future!



March 14

Service Saturday



Serve your community as a sisterhood.



Snag your patch to commemorate Girl Scout Week!

Celebrate 114 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.

Spirit Sunday – Spread some joy today with a simple act of kindness—compliment a stranger or lend a hand to a neighbor.

Affirmation Monday – Start the week with good vibes! Post a positive quote or text a friend something that'll brighten their day.

Troop Tuesday – Check in with a fellow Girl Scout and see how you can support each other this week! Consider sending a 'cheer' within Digital Cookie if you are in season.

Wisdom Wednesday – From building new skills to life-changing discoveries, share something useful or meaningful that you learned from a Girl Scout adventure.

National Girl Scout Day – Rock your favorite Girl Scout gear this Thursday then share a pic on social, remember to tag us @girlscouts and use #NationalGirlScoutDay.

Flash Forward Friday – Dream big! Share a goal you're excited about with a friend.

Service Saturday – Give back by volunteering at a local shelter or lending a helping hand to those in need.



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.

Silver Award Girl Scouts

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

Troop 8094 from Port Washington noticed the middle schools in their community had issues with recycling. The troop thought that their Silver Award would be the perfect opportunity to teach their communities about the importance of recycling and how to recycle properly.



The troop started off by talking to teachers and janitors about what they could do to improve recycling at Thomas Jefferson Middle School and Saint John XXIII School. After gathering this information, they began to make a plan!

Their plan was to improve recycling by purchasing recycling bins for the lunchrooms, creating educational posters to display throughout the schools, presenting to all students at Saint John XXIII School, and even making an educational skit for Thomas Jefferson Middle School.

To achieve these goals, the troop needed to do some money-earning activities. Impressively, these Girl Scouts reached out to different community groups and businesses to pitch their idea. Several of these groups helped sponsor their project. By doing this, they were able to make their project happen.



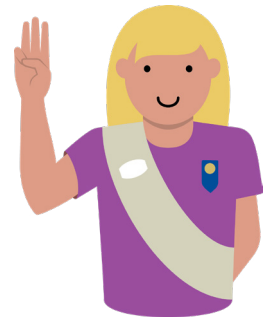
Their recycling project helped the community by repurposing reusable products and teaching kids what it means to recycle!

These Girl Scouts learned a lot when working on their Silver Award and used many skills to make it happen. They learned that helping your community and peers can be a fun learning experience. By teaching others about what it means to recycle, they learned important skills as well that they will carry on for the rest of their lives.

You can watch the video they made on our [website](#)! **Congratulations Troop 8094!**



Isabell from Troop 8204 from Manitowoc wanted to make a lasting impact in her community. One issue she noticed was people experiencing homelessness in her community. She also noticed this was a bigger problem than many people thought or were willing to admit. After noticing these things, she wanted to use her Girl Scout skills and Silver Award to make a difference. Her idea was to make supply bags with essential items that people experiencing homelessness could use.



Isabell collaborated with her troop to do money-earning activities for her project. After her money-earning activities, she made a budget for what she could purchase and then went shopping for the items. She worked with her troop leaders to find out what items are most needed in her community and what things she did not need to purchase. After making all her purchases, she began to assemble bags stocked with all the items.



When all her bags were assembled, she personally handed them out to the police station and to the homeless shelters in the area. By completing her project, she was able to supply essential items to the people in need in her community.

Congratulations Isabell!



GO, GiRL, GO!

Girl Scout Pride

Troop 8207 earned their Outdoor Art Explorer badge with the help of one of the troop members leading the meeting! The Girl Scout who led the badge has a passion for art. She brainstormed, prepared for, and implemented her vision to work with her troopmates on creating their outdoor art canvases! You go Girl Scouts!



Go-Getter

Brownie Girl Scout Addie from Troop 8489 in Two Rivers set big goals for herself this cookie season. She even went selling door-to-door in the rain because of her big goals. You go Girl Scout! We hope you continue to have a great cookie season, learn a lot, and reach those big goals!



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.

Help Her be a Force for Good Online



It's always important to model kindness and empathy to our kids — especially online! From navigating social media to cyberbullying, parenting in the digital age is definitely complicated. The good news is that you can play a big role in teaching your girl the power of spreading positivity. The message is plain and simple: it's cool to be kind.

Here are five ways you can teach your girl to lead with kindness online:

- 1. Be kind online.** The golden rule applies online just as much as in-person: treat others how you'd like to be treated! Teach your girl that being kind and respectful to others online makes the internet far more positive and safe for everyone. Talk to your girl about how she might

feel angry, sad, or embarrassed if someone said or wrote something mean about her online. Since she doesn't want to feel that way, she should do her best to ensure she doesn't make anyone else feel that way. Talking with her about which comments or content are positive and which are negative will empower her to make good choices.

- 2. Set a good example.** Your girl is a leader who can model kindness online! Let her know that she has the power to lead by example. Help your girl develop skills to take a leadership role online. Show her how to communicate respectfully and kindly in the digital world and in real life by modeling these behaviors yourself. Treat others with empathy in your digital interactions, whether on social media or over email. Encourage her to create and share content that uplifts and inspires others. Whether it's sharing achievements, creative projects, or kind messages, promoting positivity online will create a ripple effect. When she leads by example, she'll also support her friends in making good choices.



If her friends and peers see her spreading positivity online, they'll be more likely to do the same. Kindness is contagious!

- 3. Stand up to cyberbullies.** Unfortunately, bullies can be anywhere — especially in the digital world. Cyberbullying can take many forms, including insults, threats, and spreading rumors. By helping her gain the confidence to stand up to bullies, you'll give her skills she can use throughout life when conflicts arise. If someone is being unkind or making her uncomfortable, encourage her to talk to the person calmly and directly if it is safe to do so. This conversation could lead to a resolution. If this doesn't work, help her handle the situation online by blocking, muting, or unfollowing people who are mean-spirited or who demonstrate inappropriate behavior. Of course, if there's any threat of violence, remind her to come to you or a trusted adult for help instead of trying to deal with the situation alone. Help her recognize the signs of bullying and the importance of standing up for herself and others. Encourage her to speak up and report online bullying.



- 4. Stop harmful or untrue information.** Most of us have heard untrue information shared about us at some point. Rumors hurt us all. The best way to teach your girl to recognize and challenge false information is by making her aware that people and situations online aren't always what they seem. Discerning between what's real and fake is a lesson in digital safety. Help guide her in determining if information is true and reliable, and what isn't. Before she shares information she hears online, she should first consider where the information came from. Is the person the information came from reliable, or have they spread rumors in the past? Can anyone else help her verify that what's being said is true? Ask her how she'd feel if someone spread false information about her online. Let her know she can call out this behavior if directed at her or other people if it is safe to do so.



- 5. Think before you share.** Once things are on the internet, they may be hard to erase, as a digital footprint follows us everywhere. Just like we should think before speaking, we should be thoughtful before sharing online, commenting, or communicating with others. If it isn't kind to say, it isn't kind to post. Remind her to ask herself, "How would I feel if someone said this to or about me?" and "Is this a positive comment?" Teach her the importance of keeping private information safe and secure online, and work together to create guidelines about what information is and isn't appropriate to share.



Get more *Raising Awesome Girls* advice at [girlscouts.org](https://www.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.

Cookie Proceeds Help Rebuild Homes



For most, watching a wildfire destroy your community would leave you feeling overwhelmed, heartbroken, and maybe even unsure of what to do next. But Girl Scouts aren't most people.

After the Almeda Fire ravaged the Rogue Valley area near Medford, Oregon in September 2020, the members of Troop 30021 asked how they could help rebuild homes. This was despite several troop members being displaced after evacuations forced them to leave their homes and one troop member even losing their home to the fire.

"After the 2020 Almeda wildfire decimated the community where most of our girls live, they really wanted to help rebuild homes," said troop leader Dena. "We reached out to Habitat [for Humanity] and although they couldn't physically participate due to their age, they decided to help by giving 100% of their earnings towards the homes that would be built for families displaced by the fire."

With the decision made, the troop set their sales goal for the year and went to work selling cookies. The troop later attended an event and were able to present a check for \$2,500. The event marked the beginning of rebuilding homes for two families displaced by the wildfire.

"We were able to meet the people from Habitat, the families, and the mayor," said Dena. "This particular wall raising was very emotional for every person there. There wasn't a dry eye in the house."

Attending the event was also a chance for the Girl Scouts to see their work during the cookie program pay off. "It was an honor to be able to attend and present our check," said Dena. "It gave the girls a sense of pride and accomplishment. They were able to see what their hard work and efforts were able to provide for their community."

Setting goals and working hard is nothing new for Troop 30021. Most of the troop members have been together since they were Daisies and have participated in the Girl Scout Cookie Program every year. "One of the reasons it's important for our troop to participate is the valuable life-long skills they are learning, from managing money to keeping track of inventory, and people skills," said Dena. "The cookie program has also been a way for our troop to earn money that allows us to help our community and to go on fun adventures."

Their next adventure funded by cookie proceeds? A trip to Paris.

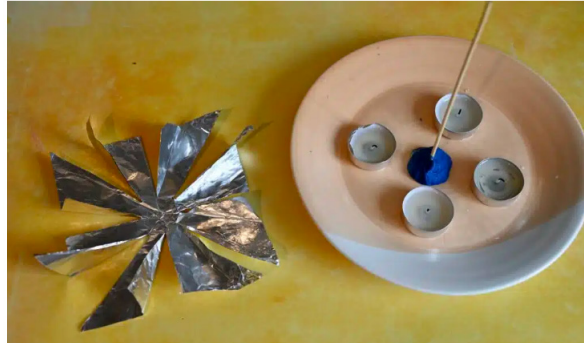


See more powerful Girl Scout stories at [girlscouts.org](https://www.girlscouts.org)!

STEM Spot: Candle Carousel

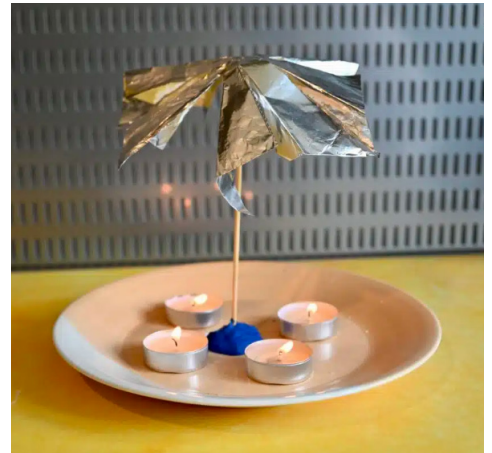
Candle carousels date back to the 1800s and originated in Germany. They are thought to have been inspired by windmills. Today, candle carousels are found around the world as decorations. Let's make our own!

Source: Science Sparks



Materials Needed:

- Scissors
- Kitchen foil
- Playdough
- Wooden skewer
- Heatproof plate
- Small candles



Follow These Steps:

1. Fold a sheet of kitchen foil in half and trim it to make a square about 15cm x 15cm.
2. Mark the central point of the square.
3. Fold the foil in half and then open it up again.
4. Fold the foil in half the other way and open up again.
5. Fold diagonally both ways and open up again.
6. Carefully cut along each fold line to about 1cm from the central point.
7. Fold a triangle shape along each cut line and half-fold it up to create tilted blade.
8. Place a ball of playdough onto the heatproof plate and push it down.
9. Stick the skewer into the playdough and balance the foil spinner on the top.
10. Place candles around the skewer.
11. Light the candles and watch as the foil spins!
12. Make it an investigation! Change something and make a prediction about what will happen.
Examples: Change the shape or angle of the blades, experiment with more or fewer candles, change the position of the candles.

The Science Behind It:

The heat from the burning candles warms the air above them. Hot air is less dense than cold air and rises upwards, creating a current as the warm air rises, cools, and falls. The hot air current pushes on the tilted blades, pushing them sideways. This creates a rotating force making the carousel spin.

Craft Craze: Digital Cookie Bracelet

QR code wearable

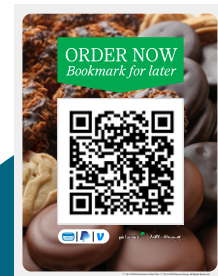
With this activity, Girl Scouts will make it easy for customers to scan, pay, and even bookmark their Digital Cookie link. There's also space to include a personal goal. Customers are often motivated to help Girl Scouts reach their goals.

Supplies:

- Template
- Tape
- Scissors
- Markers

Instructions:

1. Girl Scouts can write their goal in the "My Goal" circle.
2. Color bracelets.
3. Print out and add the Digital Cookie® QR code to center space.
4. Cut along dotted lines.
5. Tape ends to secure the bracelet.



Be sure to share the NEW booth posters.



Little Brownie
BAKERS®



Tasty Treats: Samoas Dream Cake



Samoas® Dream Cake

Ready in 1 1/2-2 hours
Serves 8



What you need

Ingredients

Cake

1 box yellow cake mix
1 can store bought caramel frosting

Coconut Caramel Filling

1 cup heavy cream
1 cup brown sugar
1 egg yolk, slightly beaten
1 stick of butter
1 teaspoon vanilla
2 cups sweetened coconut flakes
1 box Samoas®

Chocolate Ganache

1 cup heavy cream
2 tablespoons butter
2 tablespoons sugar
10 oz. chocolate chips
6 1/2 tablespoons milk

Bottom and Sides

2 boxes of Samoas®

Equipment

Large mixing bowl
Three 8" round pans
Medium sauce pan
Whisk
10" spring-form cake pan
Parchment paper
Cookie sheet (optional)



Directions

1. Bake cake:

Mix and bake cake according to manufacturer's instructions using three 8" pans.

2. Make caramel mix:

To prepare the coconut caramel, mix brown sugar, egg yolk, cream and vanilla. Melt butter in a sauce pan then add mixture. Cook mixture over medium heat until it boils for one minute — stirring often with a wire whisk. Remove from heat and stir in 2 cups sweetened coconut flakes. Chill mixture in refrigerator.

3. Prepare cake pan:

Line a 10" spring-form cake pan with parchment paper. Chop one box of Samoas and press into bottom of the spring-form pan. Sprinkle 2 ounces of chocolate chips over chopped cookies, place in the oven until chocolate chips melt. Using the back of a spoon, spread chocolate over cookie crumbs as evenly as possible.

4. First layer:

Place first layer of cake on top of melted chocolate and crumbs. Spread half of coconut caramel filling over cake. Place second layer of cake in pan and top with remaining filling. Place third layer of cake in pan. Remove sides of pan and spread caramel icing over top and sides of cake. Chill cake while preparing chocolate ganache.

5. Make chocolate ganache:

Prepare the chocolate ganache by melting butter and cream in the top of a double boiler until it is about the consistency of bottled creamy salad dressing — thin enough to pour, but thick enough to coat the top of the cake without running off.

6. Pouring ganache on cake:

Place cake on cooling rack with a cookie sheet (preferably with sides) underneath. Pour chocolate ganache on to the middle of the cake. Encourage it to roll over the sides of the cake with a palette knife, spatula, or the back of a spoon. Cover the cake as evenly as possible while trying to minimize the strokes used — the less strokes you use the smoother the finish will be.

7. Decorating the cake:

Chop the second box of cookies and press onto the sides of the cake. Chill cake and remaining ganache in refrigerator. If desired, slide cake off parchment paper and spring-form pan bottom using a long spatula.

8. Final touches:

Finish the cake with piped rosettes of ganache and cut cookies or other fanciful decorations such as butterflies, honeybees, birds, etc. Using tinted icing. Dream big!

Just For Fun: Seek and Find Game

Explore more
Exploremores™

Seek to find each of the
Exploremores™ flavors and
ingredients from the list below.
Customers are going to love this
new, flavor-filled sandwich cookie!



Chocolaty



Marshmallowy
Flavor



Airy Fluffy
Chocolate
Crème



Hint of
Almond Flavor



Inspired by
Rocky Road
Ice Cream

Contains peanuts, wheat, soy, milk. Manufactured in a shared facility with tree nuts and eggs.