



Summer 2026

The Manitou GIRL



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Featured on the cover

These Daisies brought their Girl Scout spirit to the Herd Game and even got the chance to stand on the court with the players during the national anthem. Talk about a slam dunk experience!



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.

Girl Scouts Love The Outdoors Challenge

Why go outside? Outside is a place to think outside the box, get outside our comfort zones, and look outside known possibilities! That's why we're encouraging everyone to get out there and enjoy the wonder of the outdoors! Did you know there's actually more to the outdoors than national parks and overnight camping trips? The outdoors are accessible right outside your own front door! Whether you spend five minutes meditating in nature, writing a poem about a tree, or jumping in five puddles, the outdoors are a great place for people, not just plants, to grow!



Girls of all ages experience outside benefits like improved mental health, better attention span, and heightened confidence! Check out our free, all-ages activity page, venture outside, and unlock a new patch, because the world is a better place when you *Put Yourself Out There*.

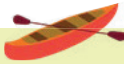


Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge 2026

Celebrate summer! Earn the Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge patch by finding new ways to enjoy the great outdoors—while building your confidence, creativity, and teamwork skills. You don't need to travel far! Complete activities in your neighborhood, at a local park, or at home using your imagination. The challenge begins on June 1 and ends with the [Girl Scouts Love State Parks](#) weekend in September 2026 (dates vary—check with your council). Use #gsgoutdoors on social media to share your adventures with family and friends.

Complete at least 25 activities from the list below to earn your patch. You decide what you want to try—go for anything on the list that seems like fun!

1. Attend [Girl Scouts Love State Parks](#) in September
2. Draw a map from your home to your favorite outdoor spots
3. Make a recipe using a fresh in-season fruit or vegetable 
4. Watch two sunrises or sunsets and compare the colors you see
5. Find (but don't touch) three different types of insects
6. Paint or draw the view from a window in your home
7. Learn about pollinator gardens and help plant one, if you can
8. Get muddy on a rainy day
9. Search for animals outdoors and draw the ones you see
10. Make a meal with friends or family, then enjoy it outdoors
11. Learn about the connections between nature and the Indigenous people in your area
12. Plan and enjoy a screen-free outdoor day with friends or family
13. Learn to identify three different types of birds and their calls
14. Attend an outdoor event related to a cause that's important to you
15. Build a bat box
16. Plant, protect, or honor a tree with friends or family as part of the [Girl Scout Tree Promise](#) 
17. Talk to a local farmer about their work
18. Find a new way to be active on a rainy day
19. On a clear night, search for shooting stars or identify constellations

20. Team up with a friend or family member and dance around your block or neighborhood
21. Visit local outdoor art and talk about what you see
22. Bury your feet—or a friend's—in the sand
23. Jump rope
24. Help someone care for their lawn, garden, or other outdoor space
25. Take a close-up look at a tide pool
26. Set up an indoor "campsite" with sleeping bags or blankets
27. Draw or paint your favorite outdoor memory 
28. Learn about climate change or take on the [Girl Scout Climate Challenge](#)
29. Listen quietly in nature and count how many different sounds you hear
30. Share your favorite outdoor activity with a friend and talk about why you love it
31. Swing at a playground, in a backyard, or on a tire swing
32. Search for sidewalk cracks and make up stories about the shapes you see
33. Draw, paint, or take pictures of clouds for a week
34. Try citizen science with a project for [Girl Scouts on SciStarter](#)
35. Visit an animal sanctuary
36. Go canoeing, paddleboarding, or kayaking 
37. On a hot day, make your own ice pops
38. Learn about and try laughter yoga

39. Work on a craft outdoors
40. Read a book or sketch on a park bench 
41. Sleep in a tent, cabin, or tree house
42. Get outdoors as you earn a [Body Appreciation badge](#)
43. Write a story or poem starring animals that live in your area
44. Play soccer
45. Take turns making animal noises with friends
46. Make s'mores while singing your favorite Girl Scout songs 
47. Smell three different flowers
48. Play a classic outdoor game such as capture the flag or hopscotch
49. Visit a community pool
50. Attend or host an outdoor performance or movie night

Completed your 25 activities?
Get the patch!



Stop in our Petals to Patches shop at the Girl Scout Center to purchase this patch when completed!

Girl Scout Tree Promise



All over the world in parks and forests, climate change is damaging the ability of forests to grow back on their own. In cities, trees help cool communities, reducing the heat island effect created by buildings, machines, and pavement that hold heat. Tree planting provides habitat for wildlife, creates shade on hot summer days, cleans water, and removes asthma-causing air pollution.

Girl Scouts have pledged to take five million actions to address climate change by planting, protecting, and honoring trees to support wildlife conservation and ease the negative effects of climate change. In partnership with the Elliott Wildlife Values Project, American Forests, and The Arbor Day Foundation, Girl Scouts are working hard to plant trees in all 50 states and globally but we must keep going!

You can download the FREE activity [here!](#)

Stop in our Petals to Patches shop at the Girl Scout Center to purchase your patch when completed!

There's Still Time for Summer Camp



There are leaves to rustle through, water to plunge into and trails to explore. There are campfire stories that make you laugh and shiver, like the night air causing you to snuggle deeper into the warmth of your sleeping bag...drifting off to dream of the fun you'll have tomorrow.

You can bring a buddy or come on your own, but in no time you will know all the girls in your camping unit just like your friends back home. That is just the “nature” of summer camp! Friends made summer after summer often become your friends for life. You might even come to camp with your whole troop!

There is still time to register for camp! Registration closes the Wednesday before the session start date. For more information and to register, visit our [website](#). Happy camping, Girl Scouts.

It's America's 250th Anniversary

On July 4, 2026, it will be 250 years since the Declaration of Independence was signed. Girl Scouts of the USA has partnered with America250.org to recognize the anniversary—and you can earn a commemorative five-patch collection to mark it!

To earn your patches, you'll need to complete one activity. You can:



Take part in an [America250 tentpole program](#).

You can explore, create, or help others through projects like [America's Field Trip](#) or [America's Stories](#). You might also do community service and add your hours to the national count on [America Gives](#). Keep checking in—more programs will be added throughout the year!



Join an [America250 event](#).

Events of all kinds are happening in communities across the country—maybe even your own state! You might try a walking challenge, share a story, or visit a local museum. Visit your state's America250 website to find opportunities near you, then join an event—in person or online—to recognize this milestone.



Participate in your own way!

Mark the moment in any way that feels meaningful to you—create an art piece, take part in a [national service project](#), or express your feelings however else you like. As a starting point, you might consider: What historical contributions have people made over the years that feel especially important to you? How can you contribute to shaping the future of the U.S.?

No matter what you choose, **let your family and friends know about it!** Tell others what you did to recognize the 250th anniversary and how it made you feel. Sharing your project on social media? Tag **@girlscouts** and your local council.



Visit girlscouts.org/america250 to find out more.

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.

Gold Award Girl Scout Cova's Story



Girl Scout Cova, from Two Rivers, earned her Gold Award! The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn. Cova, a passionate music student, understood firsthand how music programs can positively impact students' education, confidence, and personal growth.



When funding concerns threatened to reduce music programming at her high school by cutting a teaching position to part time status, she recognized the potential impact this could have on current and future students.

Determined to make a difference, Cova began planning her Gold Award project. She partnered with the school community to create a large mural that would serve as a lasting reminder of the value of music education. The mural featured vibrant colors, musical notes, rhythms, and representations of both band and choir programs. Designed to be welcoming and inspiring, the mural highlights the many forms music can take and encourages students to find their own place with the arts.

Throughout the project, Cova led a team of volunteers who helped bring the mural to life. She created schedules, assigned tasks, and ensured that every volunteer felt included and appreciated. Even when unexpected challenges arose, such as needing additional supplies and adjusting project plans, she remained flexible and guided her team toward success.

The mural became not only a work of art, but also a symbol of teamwork, dedication, and advocacy for music education.

Cova's project advocated for students' access to the arts while creating a lasting and visible reminder of music's role in education. Her work promoted the idea that every student deserves opportunities for creative expression and a welcoming environment where they can explore their interests and talents.



Cova's dedication and leadership through her Gold Award project earned recognition at both the state and national levels. Recently, she was awarded a \$5,000 national scholarship from the Girl Scouts of the USA, becoming one of only 110 Gold Award Girl Scouts nationwide to receive this honor.

"Cova and her project are the perfect embodiment of Girl Scout values. We at Manitou Council were delighted to nominate her for the \$5,000 scholarship from Girl Scouts of the USA," said Denise Schemenauer, CEO of Girl Scouts of Manitou Council.



Cova was also invited to the Wisconsin State Capital, where she joined fellow Gold Award Girl Scouts in meeting Governor Tony Evers. During the event, she shared details about her music education advocacy project and received congratulations from the governor for her achievements and lasting impact on her school community.

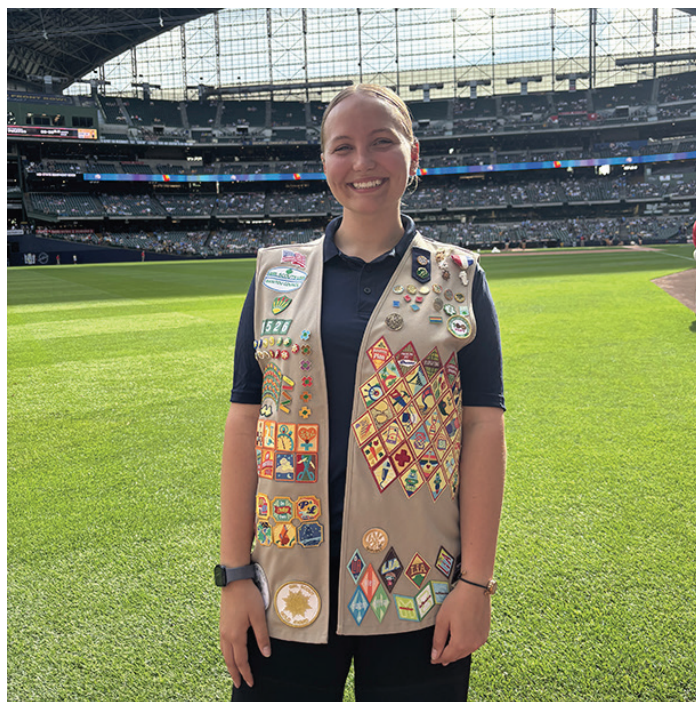
In addition, Cova was recognized during a Milwaukee Brewers game alongside other Gold Award Girl Scouts, celebrating the outstanding accomplishments of young women who are making a difference in their communities. These honors reflect the lasting impact of her project and her commitment to leadership, service, and advocacy.



Girl Scouts think towards the future, their own and others', and want a better future for everyone. With the Girl Scout Gold Award, many girls are able to take a topic they're passionate about, a concern they see that isn't being handled, and they are able to dive into the topic themselves and address that concern. With this project, Cova better prepared herself for her future career while also paving the way for many other students with the same interests.

"This scholarship will aid my research at UW-Milwaukee for my studies in social work. I want to continue to help others and spread love."

Cova



Girl Scout Pride

Brownie Girl Scout from Troop 8356 spent Memorial Day placing flags at Wildwood Cemetery in Sheboygan to honor the brave veterans who served our country. Her thoughtful act of service helped pay tribute to those who made lasting sacrifices and ensured their memories were recognized on this special day.



Go-Getter

It's time to celebrate **five outstanding Girl Scouts from Troop 8585** who have earned the Brownie Summit Award Pin! This achievement recognizes their dedication and perseverance in completing all three Brownie-level Journeys: Brownie Quest, World of Girls, and Outdoor Journey. Through teamwork, leadership, and hands-on experiences, these Girl Scouts have demonstrated what it means to make a difference in their communities while growing as confident leaders. Congratulations to these Brownies on reaching this exciting milestone!



Raising Awesome Girls

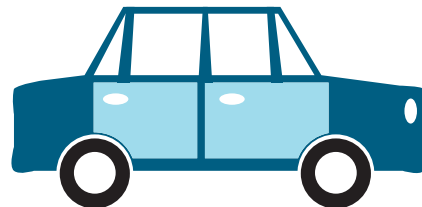
Raising girls to be happy, healthy, and successful is simpler than ever with help from Girl Scouts. We're proud to stand with parents as they raise up the next generation of girls and young women. We've got everything you need to raise girls with confidence.

Road Trip Games Your Girl Will Love

There's nothing quite like piling into the car, rolling down the windows, and setting off on a family road trip. While the destination is exciting, some of the best memories are made along the way. Long stretches of highway can quickly become hours of laughter, friendly competition, and unforgettable moments with the right games. That's why we've put together the ultimate collection of family road trip games to keep everyone entertained, make the miles fly by, and turn every journey into an adventure worth remembering.

All of these game ideas work for both independent older girls, who can take on most challenges on their own and for younger girls, who can try their hardest at these activities with the help of a parent or other caring adult.

Ready for a fun car ride? Let's go!



1.

Story Rounds

Pick a person in the car to start telling a story, but then tell them they're only allowed to tell the first sentence of the story they're making up. Going clockwise, each person in the car will add to the story until three rounds are over. So, for instance, your girl might start with, "Once there was a dragon who liked to make pasta." (Seriously, encourage the silliness—it'll help grow your child's imagination.) Then your partner might say, "And he had his very own cooking show on TV called Dragon Treats!" Nothing passes time faster than creating exciting new worlds. If you're on a longer trip and need to give your girl an added activity, set her up with some crayons and paper, and have her draw pictures to go along with the stories you create.

2.

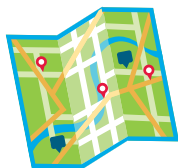
License Plate Bingo

Print out a map of the U.S. for each person in your car (someone else needs to handle the driver's map, obviously!) and then play a fun—and educational!—game of bingo. When anyone in the car sees an out-of-state license plate, they need to shout it out and then mark it on their map. By the end of the trip, the passenger with the most states marked off on their map wins. Competitive fun? Check. An activity that isn't screen-based? Double-check. Sneaky geography skill-builder? Triple check! Basically? Everyone wins.

3.

The Picnic Game

On this variation of the alphabet game, the driver starts off by saying, "I'm going on a picnic and I'm bringing an apple!" (It doesn't have to be an apple— anything starting with the letter A will do.) Then, going clockwise, the next person will say, "I'm going on a picnic and I'm bringing an apple and a banana!" Each person needs to recite the whole list of what came before, before adding an additional item that starts with the next letter of the alphabet—making each round a little tougher than the last. The first person who breaks the chain and can't remember all the picnic basket items has to start from scratch!



Getting away from it all and hitting the open (or, um, completely congested with traffic) road can be one of the most economical ways for families to spend their holidays. But not only are car trips easier on your wallet than a plane trip, they can also be an amazingly fun way to bond with your family and make memories that your children will treasure forever. After all, in this busy world, time with our loved ones is more precious than ever. Make the getting-there part of your holiday even more magical by playing these easy games. You'll be there before you know it!

A Worldwide Sisterhood

In this section, you'll hear from some pretty incredible Girl Scout graduates and discover their awesome experiences with Girl Scouts. You'll see all their fun memories, hear some advice, and even get ideas and inspiration for your own future.

Graduating Girl Scouts

On behalf of Girl Scouts of the USA and Girl Scouts of Manitou Council, we want to congratulate our graduating Ambassadors and the Class of 2026! These girls have accomplished so many things, not only for themselves, but for their communities as well.

Let's take a look at the Manitou Council's graduating class! In total, we have 18 graduating Girl Scouts for 2026!

These 18 Girl Scouts are from all over our Manitou Council! Our graduating class is from...

- Sheboygan Falls High School - 6
- Lincoln High School (Manitowoc) - 3
- Fond Du Lac High School - 1
- Reedsville High School - 1
- North High School (Sheboygan) - 3
- South High School (Sheboygan) - 1
- Central High School (Sheboygan) - 1
- Brillion High School - 1
- Horace Mann High School (Fond du Lac) - 1



We have...



Meet Riley!

For the past 11 years, Riley has been making memories, building friendships, and growing as a leader through Girl Scouts.

Reflecting on her experience, Riley shares this advice for younger Girl Scouts:

“At times it may not seem worth it, but the friendships and memories you’ll make are so worth it. I couldn’t be happier to have spent these past years with my girls.”

After graduation, Riley plans to attend UW - Green Bay to study Education and Political Science. She hopes to inspire the next generation to become strong, independent leaders.

One of Riley's favorite Girl Scout memories was traveling to South Carolina with her troop, where they shared countless adventures together. Her favorite was surfing along the coast.

Riley's Girl Scout journey has been filled with friendship, growth, and unforgettable experiences, and we can't wait to see what she does next.



Meet Kailey!

Kailey has been a Girl Scout for the past 10 years, creating lasting friendships, unforgettable memories, and valuable life skills along the way.

Reflecting on her Girl Scout experience, Kailey shares this advice for younger Girl Scouts:

“Stick with it. You will create a family with your girls, and it’s the most amazing bond I have formed. I will miss them so much!”

After graduation, Kailey plans to work and save money before persuing her dream of attending college. With a passion for poetry and music, she hopes to major in Creative Writing and minor in Music.

Throughout her decade in Girl Scouts, Kailey has made many cherished memories. Some of her favorites include camping with her troop at Crystal Lake, where they spent time painting and having fun together, as well as their memorable trip to Myrtle Beach this past summer.

Kailey's dedication, creativity, and love for her Girl Scout family have made her journey truly special, and we look forward to seeing all she accomplishes in the future.



Meet Olivia!

Olivia has been a member of Troop 8960 for 13 years!

She has spent her years camping with her troop, selling cookies, and making unforgettable memories, including a senior trip to Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

When asked what advice she would give the younger Girl Scouts, Olivia shared:

“The friendships matter more than the badges.”

It’s a lesson she learned through years of adventures, teamwork, and experiences with her troop.

This fall, Olivia will attend UW- La Crosse to study Biology as she works toward her goal of becoming a Physician Assistant.

Whether she was spending weekends camping or representing Girl Scouts during cookie season, Olivia made the most of her 13 years in the Girl Scouts and earned her Gold Award in her last year of Girl Scouts. She will be working at Camp Evelyn this summer and we can’t wait to see where this next adventure takes her.



Once again, we want to congratulate EVERY Girl Scout that has graduated this year! We are so proud of all that you have accomplished and know that all our Girl Scouts have a bright future ahead! Thank you to the parents, volunteers, guardians, and friends that have been with them since the beginning!

You can read more of our Worldwide Sisterhood stories at www.gsmanitou.org!

STEM SPOT: Crystal Growing Flower



What you will need:



1. Pipe Cleaners
2. Borax
3. Hot Water
4. Food Coloring
5. Glass Jar
6. Pencil or Skewer
7. Clothespin



Source: [Little Bins Little Hands](#)

1. Make pipe cleaner flower



- Bend and shape pipe cleaners into a flower.
- Add as many layers of petals as you like!
- Twist the base tightly to secure.
- Straighten the stem.

2. Make the borax solution



- In hot water, add 3 tablespoons of borax.
- Stir until the borax is completely dissolved.
- Add a few drops of food color and stir.

3. Prepare your jar



- Pour the solution into the jar.
- Use a pencil and clothespin to suspend the flower so the stem is in the solution without touching the bottom.

4. Let the crystals grow



- Place your jar in a quiet spot.
- Let it sit undisturbed for 12-24 hour.
- Crystals will start to form on the flower!

5. Watch the magic happen



- The longer it sits, the more crystal will grow!
- Best results in 24-48 hours.
- Top off with more solution if needed.

6. Enjoy your crystal flower



- Once you're happy with the crystals, remove your flower.
- Let it dry.
- Display your beautiful crystal flower!

Get Crafty: Puffy Sidewalk Paint!

What you will need:

- 16 oz squeezable bottles
- large mixing bowl
- rubber spatula
- flour
- water
- dish soap – just about any dish soap will work.
- food coloring or washable paint



Instructions:

1. In a large mixing bowl stir together the flour and water until there are no lumps.
2. Stir in the dish soap to the flour mixture.
3. Add food coloring of your choice of color until the desired color is achieved.
4. Pour the mixture into your squeeze bottle.
5. Use up the paint on the same day you make it, this recipe doesn't save well... it will pop if you leave it closed.



Tasty Treats: Popcorn Marshmallows

Ingredients:

- 2 bags of microwavable popcorn
- 1 10-ounce bag of marshmallows
- 6 tablespoons butter
- 1 cup mini marshmallows
- 1 cup white chocolate chips
- Colorful sprinkles

Source: [Bite Size Bash](#)



INSTRUCTIONS

Step 1:

First things first, prepare a 9×11 baking pan by coating it with butter.

Step 2:

In a large saucepan or pot, melt your butter over medium heat. Stir it constantly so it doesn't burn.

Step 3:

Add your 10-ounce bag of marshmallows into the pot with the melted butter. Stir continuously until the marshmallows melt down into a smooth, sticky mixture.

Step 4:

While the marshmallows are melting, pop your two bags of microwavable popcorn. Once they're done, combine popcorn and marshmallow mixture. Stir together until every kernel is coated.

Step 5:

Now for the fun part, add in your mini marshmallows and white chocolate chips.

Step 6:

Pour the popcorn and marshmallow mixture into your prepared baking dish. Use buttered hands or a buttered spoon to spread and flatten it out evenly.

Step 7:

Sprinkle the top with colorful sprinkles.

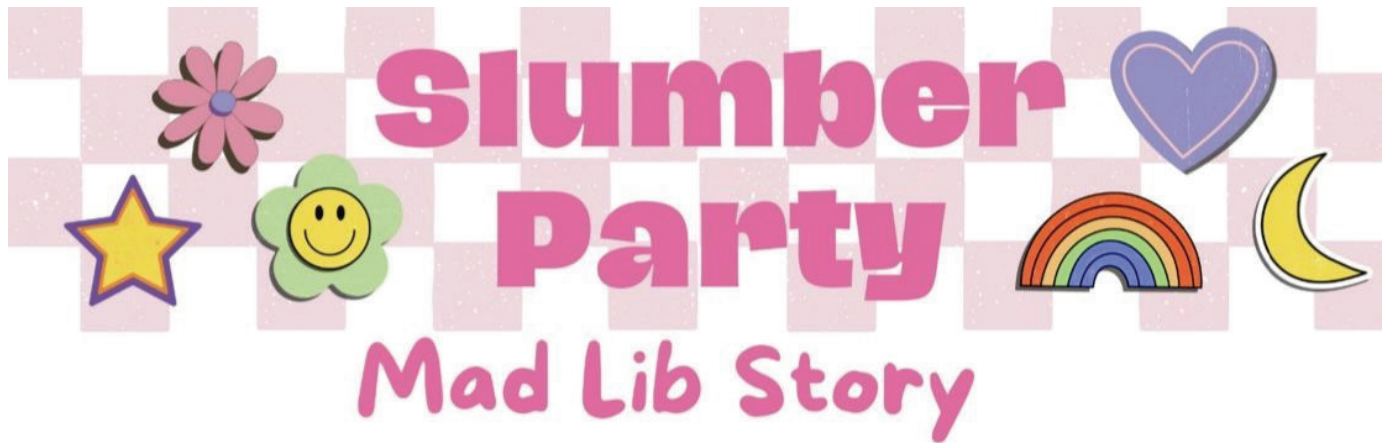
Step 8:

Let It Set. Cover the dish and let your treats set at room temperature for a couple of hours.

Step 9:

Cut them into squares or rectangles and get ready to enjoy.

Just For Fun!



Instructions - Fill in the blanks. See who can make the funniest mad lib story!

Last time I went to a _____ sleepover at
ADJECTIVE
_____ house, for her _____ party,
PLURAL NOUN ADJECTIVE
everything was fine until we decided to _____
a movie about _____ that is when, VERB
PLURAL NOUN
the whole night changed. The _____ from
NOUN
the movie came to life and _____ through
VERB
the _____ I tried to _____ them, but
NOUN VERB
they started a _____ pillow fight & I had to
ADJECTIVE
_____ out of the way. I tried to _____
VERB VERB
back, but they were too _____ so I turned &
ADJECTIVE
I picked up my pillow and _____ but I hit the
VERB
_____ instead and my pillow exploded.
NOUN
There were _____ everywhere. This is when I
NOUN
woke up and realized it was all a _____ dream.
ADJECTIVE