Service Unit Update

July 2025



Updates for Service Unit Teams

This section provides information and updates for Service Unit Directors and other Service Unit Team members.

Service Unit Retreat, Camp Liberty, August 8-9, 2025

If you received an invitation for the Service Unit Retreat, don't forget to respond to the RSVP form!

At the 2025 Service Unit Retreat, volunteers will gain:

- Tools for effective communication and collaboration
- Ideas for building a culture of appreciation
- Tips and tools for hosting strong service unit events
- Meaningful connections with other volunteers

RSVP now to secure your spot!

Service Unit Finance Report

Now is the time to submit your year-end finance report! Finance reports for Service Units are due on August 31st. Service Units submit their information by email to info@girlscoutstoday.org – see the gsLearn Money Management for Service Units training or the report template for more details.

Service Unit Renewal Incentive & Plan of Work meetings

Service Units that meet their membership renewal goal by July 31 will receive a \$50 incentive. In total, units can earn up to \$250 by achieving goals in the areas of renewal, membership growth, cookie sales, service unit events, and the President's Award. If you have not yet done so, please get in touch with your Community Engagement Manager to schedule a review of your 2024–2025 Plan of Work.

Extended: Head Start partnership with Girl Scouts

Our partnership with Head Start has been extended until July 31! This is a new national partnership to drive participation in the Get Ready with Girl ScoutsTM Program. All girls enrolled in Head Start and entering kindergarten or first grade in the fall will be offered a FREE membership starting now through September 30, 2026, paid for by GSUSA. They will also receive three activity books shipped directly to their home this summer, filled with fun activities to get ready for the new school year, E-newsletters with more activities for the whole family, and a surprise welcome gift! Head Start families must sign up at www.girlscouts.org/headstart by July 31, 2025.

What's Ahead

This section provides information and updates for ALL volunteers. Please share the information below through email and social media and add it to your leader meeting agenda. If your leader meeting is later in the month, please share this info on Facebook or email beforehand.

Troop Finance Report – Due September 30

Now is the time to submit your Troop Finance Report! The Finance tab in the Volunteer Toolkit is the place to record troop income and expenses from the troop year. Submit your troop's VTK Finance Report to be included in a prize drawing. Your troop could be selected from the finance reports received by August 15, September 5, and September 26.

All troops need to submit their finance report before September 30, 2025.

Camp Adventures Await—All Year Long!

Guess what? Camping isn't just for summer anymore—start planning now to enjoy the magic of camp this fall and winter!

Camp Liberty (near the Quad Cities), Camp Little Cloud (near Dubuque), and Camp L-Kee-Ta (near Burlington) are open year-round—and yes, they've got cozy, climate-controlled cabins ready for your next adventure! Whether you're planning a troop sleepover or a full-on Service Unit bash, Girl Scout groups get an **awesome discount** with the code **GS50** (yep, it's case sensitive)!

Reserve Your Spot Now!

Got questions? We've got answers! Just send an email to Info@GirlScoutsToday.org with the subject line "Camp Rental."

Bonus: Our camps aren't just for Girl Scouts! Non-members are welcome, too! From dreamy weddings to peaceful weekend getaways, we're here to help you plan something unforgettable. Let's make some memories—see you at camp!

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Course in gsLearn

At Girl Scouts, the safety of our youth members is our top priority. Now available in gsLearn is the Girl Scout Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Course. This course is intended to help volunteers recognize, respond to, and report concerns of child abuse and neglect.

This training is required for all volunteers and expires after 2 years. Girl Scout Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention.

New: Leading Multi-Level Troops Training Available in gsLearn

This new course is designed to guide multi-level troop leaders in planning a rewarding and meaningful Girl Scout experience for troop members of all program levels. This training is valuable for new or returning troop leaders of multi-level troops!

The course is available to all volunteers in gsLearn now: Multi-level troop training in gslearn

Renew your Girl Scout Membership!

Supplies are running low on "Together, We're Unlimited" shirts! You can easily go online with the troop ACH Form if you haven't already renewed. <u>Start planning your next year in Girl Scouts!</u> The 2025-2026 Girl Scout membership is \$45, and the adult membership fee is \$30. If you need any help renewing your troop or have questions, please email <u>Info@GirlScoutsToday.org</u> or call 563-823-9940.

Wild Goose Chase Patch Program

Join our road trip adventure to discover the special, unique, and weird sites across our council region. Girls and their families or troops can take road trips to locations that make our communities unique and achieve the Wild Goose Chase patch. Embrace the adventure and join our wild goose chase today!

<u>Complete the Wild Goose Chase challenge for each region</u> over the next five years to collect all of the Wild Goose Chase patches.

Complete a region? <u>Submit your photos!</u> Wild Goose Chase patches can be purchased online or at the <u>Girl Scout shops</u> in Bettendorf and Cedar Rapids.

Girl Scout Experience Box for New Daisy or Brownie Troops

The Girl Scout Experience Box is a new program that provides an amazing resource to leaders of first-year Girl Scout Daisy (grades K–1 in the 2025/2026 school year) and first-year Brownie (grades 2-3 in the 2025/2026 school year) troops. This includes troops that are bridging from Daisy to Brownie!

Starting in August 2025, qualifying Daisy and Brownie troop leaders will receive a monthly supply box filled with step-by-step instructions, supplies, and thoughtful script suggestions. This complimentary resource will follow the <u>Daisy First Year Troop Plan</u> and the <u>Brownie First Year Troop Plan</u> and be delivered directly to troop leaders.

Each troop receives one box that contains enough ready-to-go supplies to serve all Girl Scouts in a troop and will help you build a stash of reusable items, such as child scissors. We'll update the number of Girl Scouts in your troop ahead of each shipment, so all you need to do is unbox the fun!

To receive your first box, each new Daisy and Brownie troop must:

- Register at least four new Daisy OR four new (or bridging) Brownie Girl Scouts
- Register at least one adult volunteer
- Complete the required order form
- o <u>Daisy Form</u>
- o Brownie Form

We have a helpful FAO page to answer additional questions, or contact us at info@girlscoutstoday.org.

All offices and shops will be closed for staff training on July 9.

Upcoming Events

- July 12, All ages, friends & families, Solar Day-Ely, Register by July 9
- July 12, Girl Scout Night With The Bucks-Waterloo, Register by July 9
- July 18, Girl Scout Night With The Quad Cities River Bandits-Davenport, Register by July 16
- July 19, Girl Scout Day With Kernels Baseball-Cedar Rapids, Register by July 16
- July 19, Daisies, Daisy Coding For Good: Coding Basics-Online, Register by July 16
- July 20, Daisies, Cybersecurity Safeguards and Investigations For Daisies-Online, Register by July 16
- July 21, Cadette-Ambassador, Defying Gravity: A Wicked Engineering Journey In A Day-Muscatine, Register by July 16
- July 26, Daisy-Junior, Patterns In The Wild-Effigy Mounds National Monument, Register by July 16
- July 31- August 3, Brownie-Ambassador, Camp Echo Camp Little Cloud, Register by July 16
- August 1-3, Junior-Ambassador, Yellow River Weekend Backpacking Trip-Harper's Ferry, Register by July 2
- August 6, Senior-Ambassador, Road To Gold: Gold Award Training-Online, Register by August 5
- August 8, All ages, friends & families, Girl Scout Night At Hawkeye Downs Speedway-Cedar Rapids, Register by July 30

August 22, All ages, friends & families, Wickedly Good Watch Party-Decorah, Register by August 13

Upcoming Training

August 15, CSA-Volunteers, Red Cross CPR, First Aid, AED Training-Waterloo, Register by Aug 8

Find more upcoming events at www.GirlScoutsToday.org/events