

Service Unit Update

October 2025



Updates for Service Unit Teams

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

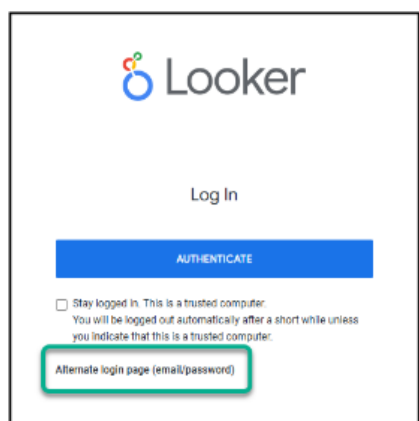
Important Cookie Program Update

Cookie Materials will be sent to SUPM's for distribution and NOT to individual troops. They will ship in mid-November.

Looker Access & Training

Looker is a powerful data tool that helps Girl Scout volunteers access key information about their service units—like membership rosters, troop details, and participation stats. It's designed to support planning, outreach, and decision-making. Don't forget to update your email contact lists frequently!

Service Unit Directors, Service Unit Product Manager and Registrars have access to this resource. Here are a few brief reminders for Looker users:



Logging into Looker:

1. Go to girlscouts.looker.com
2. Click **Alternate login page (email/password)** (not the blue Authenticate button).
3. Enter your email and password, then click **Log In**.

If you are new to Looker, or need a refresher, check out the "Looker for Service Unit Volunteers" training in gsLearn. The course covers:

- What Looker is and how it's used
- How to access and navigate Looker
- Using dashboards to support your service unit

To access the training, go to the gsLearn content library and search "*Looker for Service Unit Volunteers*" or [use this link](#) and log in using your MyGS account information.

Need help? Reach out to Marsha Thompson at marshat@girlscoutstoday.org or 319-752-3639.

Staff Invitations to Service Unit Events

During this year's Event Coordinator Meetups, many of you shared that you'd love to see more staff members at your events. We heard you, and we're excited to support! If you have an upcoming event and would like to invite a member of the Events and Experiences team, we'd love to hear from you. Staff attendance is based on availability, so we encourage you to send your invitation as early as possible.

Please fill out this [form](#) to invite a staff member to your event. Thank you for all you do to create incredible experiences for our members!

Building Stronger Community Connections

According to recent research, *75% of surveyed Girl Scouts participated in a Service Unit event during the 2024–2025 membership year*. Service Unit events play a vital role in keeping Girl Scouts engaged and connected. Partnering with other organizations in your community can make them even stronger.

By inviting community partners to support your Service Unit programming, you are:

- Raising the visibility of Girl Scouts within the community
- Bringing in subject matter experts to enrich programming
- Expanding perspectives for girls, helping them see themselves reflected in GSEIWI programs and/or experience diverse cultural viewpoints

If you have questions about building community partnerships, contact info@girlscoutstoday.org. Our Events and Experience team is happy to help. Thank you for supporting girls as they connect with one another and their communities!

Welcoming New Troop Leaders

New troop leaders are essential to the Girl Scout experience—and a warm welcome from the service unit can make all the difference! Service Unit Directors will get an email connecting them to new troop leaders around two weeks after they get started, so they have a chance to get start on their training and onboarding. Don't forget to check Looker roster's regularly to ensure no one is missed, and emails go out to all current troop leaders!

Here's how your service unit can help:

- Reach out early with a friendly email or call
- Invite them to meetings and events
- Share helpful resources like gsLearn and VTK
- Pair them with a mentor for support
- Celebrate their start with a shout-out or small gesture

A little support goes a long way in helping new leaders feel confident and connected!

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.

Check your troop roster and update troop info

Hey Troop Leaders — it's that time again! A brand-new Girl Scout year is kicking off, and we're buzzing with excitement! Reminders are being sent out to troop leaders. Now's the perfect moment to double-check your troop rosters, make sure your members are renewed, and refresh your troop's meeting info so everything's good to go!

Submit your troop update form by October 15 and you'll be entered to win \$50 worth of fabulous Girl Scout swag!

Link to form- <https://gseiwi514.wufoo.com/forms/troop-information-update/>

AVAILABLE NOW: Youth Mental Health First Aid Courses

Be the difference – save a life.

Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) is skills-based training that teaches adults how to identify, understand, and respond to signs and symptoms of a mental health or substance use challenge in adolescents and teens. Similar to physical First Aid and CPR, YMHFA helps you assist someone experiencing a mental health or substance use crisis until professional assistance is obtained or the crisis is resolved. Mental Health First Aiders learn a 5-step Action Plan to recognize warning signs of a mental health or substance use challenge, provide help in crisis and non-crisis situations, and understand where to turn for additional assistance.

[Register for Youth Mental Health First Aid training today!](#)

Recruitment Support Opportunities

The Community Engagement team is actively working on recruitment efforts across all service units. If you have ideas or suggestions to support recruitment or would like help planning a recruitment event, please reach out to your Community Engagement Manager directly.

Halloween at Camp Liberty!

October 18 [Pre-register by October 15](#)

Join us for a spook-tacular day of fall fun: trick-or-treating, Halloween crafts and activities, hayrack rides, a spooky trail walk, a giant slide and laser tag inflatables, glitter tattoos & more!

Add-ons still available: pony rides, climbing wall, zip line, *Save the Plushie* scavenger hunt to take home a small stuffed animal, caramel apple nachos, and overnight camping opportunities for troops and families!

\$5 advance | \$10 walk-in

Can't attend with your troop? Encourage your troop families to attend!

Learn to Lead: Level Up

November 15-16 at Camp Liberty [Register by October 29](#)

The ultimate hangout for Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts: meet, chill, and make memories with friends from outside your hometown. Learn to Lead is an annual leadership conference for older Girl Scouts. *Level Up* at this year's event while learning "adulting" skills. The weekend will be packed with hands-on activities that build confidence, creativity, and leadership.

Here's what's on the lineup:

- **DIY Fashion Fix** – Upcycle and sew your own looks
- **Money Moves** – Budget like a boss with a Price is Right-style game show
- **Quick Thinking** – Try improv and learn to think on your feet
- **Tasty Skills** – Cook up easy recipes (and taste-test your creations!)
- Plus, even more ways to grow your skills, meet new friends, and have fun! We hope to see you there!

Outdoor Skills Training

Outdoor Skills Training registration is live on the Events Calendar; here's what we have scheduled:

- Saturday, October 11th at Camp Little Cloud
- Saturday, October 25th at Camp L-Kee-Ta

All sessions take place from 9am-4pm. [Register on our events page.](#)

Permission Forms

Remember to get new permission forms for your troop members, now that the new troop year is starting! Troop Leaders should keep these forms all year, to ensure they have necessary information in the event of an emergency, as well as permission to participate in both the Fall Product Program and Cookie Program. Find the [Year Long Permission and Health form on our website.](#)

Product Program Calendar Access

Important dates for both the Fall Product Program and the Cookie Program are typically found on our website under the [Cookies](#) tab. However, to make things easier for volunteers and families, these **dates are now also be added to our [Events Calendar](#)** – providing quick, at-a-glance access to key deadlines and product sales milestones.

Fall Product Program

Important Fall Product Program Dates

- October 3: Fall Product Program Begins
- October 19: Last day for order cards and deadline for parents to enter in-person orders in M2OS
- October 22: Deadline for troops to enter in-person orders in M2OS
- October 26: Last day for customers to place online girl delivery orders

Fall/Cookie Crossover Patch

Girls can earn a Fall and Cookie Crossover patch! To earn the patch, girls will send out 20+ emails and sell 20+ online items, use the NEW Share my Site option in M2OS PLUS set up Digital Cookie and sell 250 packages during the 2026 Cookie Program!

Early Booth Sign Up!

All troops that participate in the Fall Product Program will have the opportunity to sign up early for one council sponsored cookie booth spot. Early booth sign up is on January 14, 2026.

Update troop bank account information and Troop Product Manager roles

- This is the best time of year to make sure all Girl Scout bank accounts have two registered, background checked signers! All troops must have ACH/Banking paperwork completed before participating in the Fall Product Program or Cookie Program. Volunteers should reach out to info@girlscoutstoday.org for assistance.
- If you oversee either Product Program for your troop, make sure you are assigned the role of Troop Product Manager in [MyGS](#).

Cookie Program

New Cookie: Exploremores!

Exploremores are a rocky road ice cream—“inspired” decadent chocolate sandwich cookie! The creamy middle layer takes on hints of chocolate, marshmallow, and toasted almond-flavor. Each troop will receive a sample package of Exploremores at their SU Cookie meeting!

Important 2026 Cookie Program Dates

- January 2: Troop and Girl Scout access to Digital Cookie
- January 5: Digital Cookie opens and pre-orders begin
- January 6: GSUSA Cookie Finder opens for troop links
- January 21: Deadline for the troop initial cookie order
- January 31, February 2-5: Cookie delivery to service units
- February 6: In-hand and booth sales begin
- March 22: Cookie Program ends

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! Follow the camp Facebook and Instagram pages to keep up with cabin makeovers, renovations, and more.

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)! As Girl Scouts you also can add on items like Knife Kits, Knot Kits, Compasses and more to use for skill building.

[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!

Safety Activity Checkpoints updates for the 2025-2026 membership year

An updated version of *Safety Activity Checkpoints* will be posted on girlscoutstoday.org next week, for the new membership year starting October 1. For context, *Safety Activity Checkpoints* is developed by GSUSA and distributed to councils for local customization annually. Most of the updates are minor, such as clarifications or added links and resources, but there are a few significant changes worth noting. See summaries of the changes below.

What changed?	Why?	Revised policy (if relevant):
Removed COVID-19-specific guidance.	Shifted focus to general illness prevention measures	
Removed option for online-only First Aid/CPR courses	In-person or blended learning is now required to ensure skill practice and feedback. (Online-only classes were first allowed in response to COVID-19 and the lack of available in-person courses)	“While some organizations offer online-only first-aid and CPR courses, these do not meet the minimum requirements of first aiders for Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois. In-person opportunities are ideal to practice and receive feedback on life saving techniques.”
Updated Activity Insurance guidance	Activity Insurance will be automatically included for members and invited non-members as of 10/1/2025	“Activity accident insurance is supplemental health insurance that protects registered Girl Scout members. Registered members are automatically covered under activity accident insurance when participating in all approved and supervised Girl Scout events and activities, including day events, overnight trips (including camp), and international travel. Activity Accident insurance extends to non-members who are invited to participate in a Girl Scout approved and supervised activity, whether a family member, an adult volunteer for the day, or a friend of a Girl Scout who is joining along to try out scouting.”
Clarified language around Visiting and Participating Adults	Defined when adults must have membership, background checks, and training	“Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois requires a background check, child abuse prevention training and safety training requirements for adults who will have shared oversight over members, participate in an overnight stay, or drive youth members. Additionally, adults who handle Girl Scout troop or service unit funds must complete background check and finance training for their role. Arrange for background checks for participating adults or episodic volunteers, as needed. Visiting adults that have not completed registration, background check, and volunteer training must not be counted for the purpose of adult supervision or volunteer-to-youth ratios. See <i>Adult Supervision</i> for details.”
Added specific requirements for adults attending overnight events	Aligns with GSUSA’s Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Training and industry best practices	“All adults attending overnights with a troop or service unit must complete a background check and required safety training. (Note: Adults attending council-sponsored parent-daughter or family overnight, and sleeping in a designated family accommodation space may not be required to complete a background check. Check with the council to confirm details of any specific event.)”
Consolidated overnight trip guidance	Combined sections for easier reference; reformatted to clarify sleeping arrangements	“Before planning an overnight trip, take the relevant travel training in gsLearn. Prepare Girl Scout members to be away from home by involving them in planning the activity or event so they know what to expect. For safety considerations when traveling overnight, see <i>Safe Overnight Sleeping</i> for details.”

Adult supervision requirements clarification	Reinstated GSUSA's definition of "approved" volunteer, aligned policies across documents, reformatted for ease of use	"Whenever Girl Scouts meet, either in-person or virtually, they must be supervised by at least two unrelated, registered, and Girl Scout approved adults, at least one of whom is female. For the purposes of adult supervision: • "Approved" volunteers are those who: ○ Are at least 18 years old (volunteers transporting youth members must be at least 21 years old) and are no longer in high school. ▪ Note: Youth or youth members (including teens) are never permitted to substitute for adult supervision. There are no exceptions to this rule. ○ Have completed a background check (and background check renewal, as required for the position) ○ Have completed all required training for their position, including Girl Scouts Child Abuse Awareness and Neglect Prevention in gsLearn. ○ Do not have any disqualifying circumstances, such as prior dismissal or having a member of their household who has been convicted of a crime against a child. • "At least two" approved volunteers is the minimum for supervision. Additional approved volunteers are required for certain types of activities or when more youth members are present (see volunteer-to-youth ratios below). • The term "unrelated" means not living in the same household or residence and not considered family (for example: not a sibling, spouse, domestic partner, parent, child, or anyone who would be considered a family member). Individuals that have not completed a background check, have not completed required training for their role, or have been disqualified as a volunteer may not be counted for adult supervision requirements for Girl Scout Activities. Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois requires a background check and child abuse prevention training and safety training requirements for adults who will have shared oversight over members, participate in an overnight stay, or drive youth members. Additionally, adults who handle Girl Scout troop or service unit funds must complete background check and finance training for their role. This requirement applies to every Girl Scout gathering including troop meetings (in person and virtual), day trips, camp, sleep-away travel, special events, activities, and projects. Members should be advised of this policy so that they can report to the council if there is a violation. "
Added Volunteer-to-Youth Ratios chart	Provides clarity and ease of use	

Upcoming Events

Oct 3, All ages, friends and families, [SU810 Rock Climbing At Coe College-Cedar Rapids](#), Register by 10/1

Oct 11, Brownie, [Equestrian Howdy Partner Brownie-Camp Liberty](#), Register by 10/1

Oct 11, Junior, [Equestrian Howdy Partner Junior-Camp Liberty](#), Register by 10/1

Oct 11, All ages, [International Day Of The Girl](#)

Oct 14, Daisy-Brownie, [Stepping Into STEM-Iowa City](#), Register by 10/8

Oct 16, Daisy-Junior, [Pinch Pot Pals-Waterloo](#), Register by 10/8

Oct 17, Brownie, [Brownie Space Science Adventurer-Ely](#), Register by 10/10

Oct 18, All ages, friends and families, [Halloweekend-Camp Liberty](#), Register by 10/15 for \$5, or register at the door for \$10

Oct 24, All ages and families, [SU877 Girl Scout Night at Skinner's Landscaping-Aledo](#)

Oct 24, All ages, friends and families, [SU810 Halloween Overnight-North Liberty](#), Register by 10/20

Oct 25, Junior-Ambassador, [Wicked Wing Workshop-Decorah](#), Register by 10/15

Oct 25, All ages, friends and families, [Girl Scout Night With UNI Panther Volleyball-Cedar Falls](#), Register by 10/23

Oct 26, Cadette, Senior, Ambassador, [Spooky Bug Creations-Cedar Rapids](#), Register by 10/22

Oct 26, Daisy-Brownie, [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) Patch For Daisies And Brownies-Online](#), Register by 10/22

Oct 26, Junior, [Cybersecurity Basics Badge Workshop \(Juniors\)-Online](#), Register by 10/22

Oct 26, All ages, [SU855 Halloween Parade-Davenport](#), Register by 10/19

Oct 28, Daisy-Brownie, [Jurassic Adventures-Cedar Rapids](#), Register by 10/22

Nov 1, Daisy-Junior, [Happy Trails-Camp Liberty](#), Register by 10/27

Nov 1, Daisy-Brownie, [Jurassic Adventures-Dubuque](#), Register by 10/22

Nov 1, Daisy-Brownie, [Jurassic Adventures-Waterloo](#), Register by 10/22

Nov 4, Daisy-Brownie, [Jurassic Adventures-Decorah](#), Register by 10/29

Nov 7, Daisy, [Daisy Space Science Explorer-Ely](#), Register by 10/31

Nov 8, Daisy, [Animal Explorations Badge Workshop With Indian Creek Nature Center-Cedar Rapids](#), Register by 11/5

Nov 8, All ages, [SU855 Kids Against Hunger-Bettendorf](#), Register by 10/18

Nov 8, All ages and families, [Circle of Thanks: A Girl Scout Friendsgiving-Camp L-Kee-Ta](#), Register by 10/22

Nov 8, Junior, [Animal Habitats Badge Workshop With Indian Creek Nature Center-Cedar Rapids](#), Register by 11/5

Nov 10, Daisy-Brownie, [Dollars And Sense With GreenState Credit Union-North Liberty](#), Register by 11/5

Nov 11, Junior-Cadette, [Smart Cents With GreenState Credit Union-North Liberty](#), Register by 11/5

Nov 13, Daisy-Brownie, [Jurassic Adventures-Moline](#), Register by 11/5

Nov 15, Daisy-Junior, [Girl Scout University-Iowa City](#), Register by 11/5

Nov 15, Cadette, Senior, Ambassador, [Learn To Lead: Level Up-Camp Liberty](#), Register by 10/29

Nov 15, Daisy-Junior, [Treasure Dish Handbuilding Workshop-Dubuque](#), Register by 11/5

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

Upcoming Training

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training:

October 13, Volunteers, [Youth Mental Health First Aid-Online](#), Register by 10/8

November 11, Volunteers, [Youth Mental Health First Aid-Online](#), Register by 11/5

December 1 & 2, Volunteers, [Youth Mental Health First Aid \(Split Session\)-Online](#), Register by 11/26

January 19, Volunteers, [Youth Mental Health First Aid-Online](#), Register by 1/13

May 4 & 7, Volunteers, [Youth Mental Health First Aid \(Split Session\)-Online](#), Register by 4/28

June 2 & 4, Volunteers, [Youth Mental Health First Aid \(Split Session\)-Online](#), Register by 5/27

Red Cross CPR, First Aid, AED Training:

October 10, CSA-Volunteers, [Red Cross CPR, First Aid, AED Training-Cedar Rapids](#), Register by 10/2

November 1, CSA-Volunteers, [Red Cross CPR, First Aid, AED Training-Bettendorf](#), Register by 10/22

November 21, CSA-Volunteers, [Red Cross CPR, First Aid, AED Training-Waterloo](#), Register by 11/14

December 19, CSA-Volunteers, [Red Cross CPR, First Aid, AED Training-Cedar Rapids](#), Register by 12/11

Outdoor Skills Training:

October 11, Volunteers, [Outdoor Skills Training-Camp Little Cloud](#), Register by 10/3

October 25, Volunteers, [Outdoor Skills Training-Camp L-Kee-Ta](#), Register by 10/17

Find all upcoming training opportunities [on our events page](#).