 **January 2020**

**1 Membership**

Attached is the Service Unit Membership Goal sheet. We are super excited that we are at 81% of our membership goal for the year! Congratulations to Service Unit 629 and SUD Judy Scheiner for reaching their membership goal! How can you and your team help? Encourage leaders to invite more girls into their troop, support Cookie Rallies and programs in your region, host a Service Unit event and invite non-Girl Scouts, partner with the CEM’s in our efforts to start and grow new Daisy troops.

**2 Getting Ready for Cookies!**

Cookie season for top-sellers starts well before the cookies even arrive. Help your girls plan ahead, so they can avoid scrambling once sales start.

Provide them with a “Cookies are Coming” to-do list that includes cookie business that they can complete ahead of time, such as:

* Discuss the Five Skills: Goal Setting, Decision Making, Money Management, People Skills, and Business Ethics.
* Think about their personal cookie goals
* Prepare uniform and vest
* Make booth decorations and signs
* Schedule booth sales
* Set up your Digital Cookie Account NOW!

**Safety**

Before participating in any money-earning Girl Scout activity, it’s super important for girls and adults to review the following materials:

* [Digital Marketing Tips for Cookie Entrepreneurs and Families](https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsusa/forms-and-documents/cookie/selling-tools/GSUSA_Digital-Marketing-Tips-for-Cookie-Entrepreneurs.pdf)
* [Supplemental Safety Tips for Online Marketing](https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsusa/forms-and-documents/cookie/selling-tools/GSUSA_Supplemental-Safety-Tips.pdf)
* [Practical Tips for Parents](https://www.girlscouts.org/program/gs_cookies/pdf/2010_practical_tips_for_parents.pdf)
* [Safety Tips for Product Sales](https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsusa/forms-and-documents/cookie/Resources/Safety%20Tips%20Updated%20Aug%202014%20Final.pdf)

**Digital Cookie Log in**

Digital Cookie emails went out to parents on December 19.  Troop leaders will have access to Digital Cookie on December 27 – or when the Service Unit Product Manager adds them to eBudde.

**Wednesday Webinar Series**

Join us on Wednesday night for our Cookie Chats – we will cover topics such as Digital Cookie, Cookie Rookies (new cookie sellers), Initial Orders, and much more!  This is your chance to talk to the Product Program Team!  All webinars will be recorded.  [Click here](https://www.girlscoutstoday.org/en/cookies/resources.html) to sign up.

**3 Summer Camp 2020**

Adventures await at the premier camp for girls, Camp Liberty! Mark your calendars for January 16, when the digital camp guide will be released with all sessions planned for summer 2020. Registration officially opens for summer camp on February 3, 2020, so make sure to save the date, as sessions fill quickly! For more information about summer camp visit – <https://www.girlscoutstoday.org/en/outdoor/summercamp.html>

**Volunteer and Community Led Camps**

Are you planning a Volunteer and Community Led Camp for your service unit, area or community? If so, please be sure to fill out the intent to operate form – found here - <https://gseiwi514.wufoo.com/forms/volunteerled-community-day-camp-information/> . A form must be submitted at least 3 months prior to the start of your camp.

All Camp Directors and planning team members, mark your calendars for Saturday February 29 at Camp Liberty – where we will come together to share updates, resources, and information to the program from GSUSA,  as well as celebrate all that you do for providing outdoor experiences for girls in Girl Scouting! More information to follow, so be sure to check your emails!

**Outdoor Program and Volunteer Facilitator Training**

Come join us out at Camp Liberty for our first ever Outdoor Program and Volunteer Facilitator Training updates and refreshers, as well as celebrate all that YOU do for girls and adults in Girl Scouting! Sessions will begin at 9:00a.m. on Saturday January 11 and go till 4:30p.m. There is the option for staying the night on Friday January 10 – which starts at 6:00p.m. Cost is $10, with additional costs for Archery Facilitator Training, and or American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED training. Please share with other council wide activity area facilitators, outdoor skills trainers, and equestrian program volunteers. We hope to see you there! To register – visit <https://girlscoutstoday.doubleknot.com/event/2020-outdoor-program-volunteer-and-facilitator-training/2606801> For more information or questions, please email [info@girlscoutstoday.org](mailto:info@girlscoutstoday.org).

**4 Service Team Rally**

Bring your service team and join us for the 1st Regional Service Team Rally! Get all the latest council information,

share ideas and best practices, do some regional planning, network and leave re-energized for the new year.

Please reference the attached schedule for your location and RSVP to your Community Engagement Mgr. Can’t make

It, please share this information with your service team and encourage them to attend.

**5 Office/Shop News**

* **FYI -**Watch for pop up shops at select cookie rallies in your area. Please call ahead to see if a shop will be coming or to request cookie merchandise ahead of time.
* All GSEIWI offices and shops will be closed for MLK Day on January 20.
* The Cedar Rapids shop will be open Jan. 18 and the Bettendorf shop will be open on Jan. 25 during the Digital Cookie Open Houses.
* Cookie merchandise has limited inventory, so stop in early for the best selection.

**6** **Adult** **Recognitions**

Just a reminder about Recognition awards deadline is Feb 1. We want to honor as many deserving volunteers as possible. Please take some time to talk to your Recognition Coordinator and honor those in your service that have gone above and beyond for their troop, your service unit or the council as a whole. Contact Claudia Reich or Lindsey Phillips at info@girlscoutstoday.org if you have any questions. Applications and instructions are all available on our [website](https://www.girlscoutstoday.org/en/for-volunteers/volunteer_recognitions.html).

P.S. There is a [Grab and Go](https://www.girlscoutstoday.org/en/for-volunteers/service-units/service-unit-resources.html) for explanations on the awards on our website if needed

**7 Cookie Rallies**

Please help promote and support the regional cookie rallies. Attending a council sponsored cookie rally is a great way for girls to learn about the 5 Skills girls practice through the Girl Scout Cookie Program while having fun with sister Girl Scouts. We have some great activities planned and can’t wait to see everyone there! To learn more about council cookie rallies and to get registered, visit our [events calendar](https://www.girlscoutstoday.org/en/events/event-calendar.html)!

**8 World Thinking Day 2020**

World Thinking Day is Feb. 22 and there are a number of options for girls to work on leading up to Thinking Day. Backed by 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in locations worldwide, World Thinking Day 2020 celebrates the diversity, equity, and inclusion reflected in our global movement. Check out the activity guides designed by GSUSA and WAGGGS to explore this theme—and celebrate being part of the diverse global sisterhood that is Girl Guides + Girl Scouts.

**World Thinking Day award activities:**

[A](https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsusa/forms-and-documents/For-Girls/think-global/GSUSA_World-Thinking-Day_18_Activities%20DBJ-B.pdf)[ctivity Guide for Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors](https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsusa/forms-and-documents/For-Girls/think-global/GSUSA_World-Thinking-Day-2020_DBJ.pdf) (PDF)

[Activity Guide for Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors](https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsusa/forms-and-documents/For-Girls/think-global/GSUSA_World-Thinking-Day-2020_CSA.pdf) (PDF)

And there is also the option of working on the Global Action Award. Girl Scouts’ Global Action award calls for girls to address the 17 Global Goals for Sustainable Development developed in 2015. In 2019, the emphasis was on SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 15 (Life on Land). In 2020, girls will explore SDG 5 (Gender Equality) to earn their Global Action award.

**Global Action Award activities:**

2020 Global Action Award Activity Guide [For](https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsusa/forms-and-documents/For-Girls/think-global/GSUSA_Global-Action-Day-Activities-DBJ-B.pdf)[Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors](https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsusa/forms-and-documents/For-Girls/think-global/GSUSA_Global-Action-2020_DBJ.pdf) (PDF)  
2020 Global Action Award Activity Guide [For Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors](https://www.girlscouts.org/content/dam/girlscouts-gsusa/forms-and-documents/For-Girls/think-global/GSUSA_Global-Action-2020_CSA.pdf) (PDF)

The [GSUSA website](https://www.girlscouts.org/en/for-girls/think-globally/world-thinking-day.html) has more information on these two award activities. Encourage your leaders to check out these activities and participate in a Thinking Day event with other Girl Scout troops in your area.

**9 Town Hall Meetings**

 Town Hall Meetings are your opportunity to strengthen the connection between Girl Scouts and your community.  The meetings allow participants to receive information from and give input to the council leadership, influencing policy and operational decisions.  At this year’s meeting we will be discussing the upcoming Girl Scout National Convention being held in Orlando, Florida, October 21 - 25, 2020. You will meet the National Delegate nominees and hear about the proposals that will be addressed at this year’s session. We will also have information about our GSEIWI Annual Meeting Scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2020.

Girl Scouts, volunteers, families, and community members can attend one of three Town Hall Meetings in person or remotely via virtual video conference. The remote option allows for people who live far away or cannot attend on the specific date in their community to participate at their home, coffee shop, library, or anywhere they have an internet connection available. Diane Nelson, CEO, and other members of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois council staff and board will attend the specific dates below.

* **Quad Cities Leadership Center**, 940 Golden Valley Drive, Bettendorf, Iowa
* **Tuesday, Jan 21, 2020 -** 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 PM
* **Cedar Rapids Leadership Center**, 317 Seventh Avenue SE, Suite 201, Cedar Rapids, Iowa
* **Tuesday, Jan 28, 2020 -** 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 PM
* **West Burlington Leadership Center**, 1308 Broadway, West Burlington, IA
* **Thursday, Jan 30, 2020 -** 6:30 p.m. - 8:00 pm

Register through the link associated with each date on our activity calendar if you plan to attend in person

**10 Celebrate 75th Anniversary**

Celebrate 75 years of Girl Scouting in New Liberty, Iowa. Enjoy a day filled with memories and feelings of nostalgia of life changing summers. Join us as we celebrate getting girls in the outdoors and create new opportunities for the girls of the future. Opportunities that help them gain the same experiences as those who have camped before them – friendships, new skills, confidence, and a love for the great outdoors. See friends, old and new and connect with others that are as passionate as you, as well as enjoy activities, dinner, and a camp fire.

More details to come. For any questions, please reach out to Alicia Win at 563-823-9940 x315 or [AliciaW@GirlScoutsToday.org](mailto:AliciaW@GirlScoutsToday.org).

**Save the Date!**

* Saturday, February 1, 2020 – Adult Recognitions due
* Thursday, March 19, 2020 – Annual Meeting
* Saturday, April 18, 2020 - Leading the Way, Honoring Champions of Girls
* Saturday, April 18, 2020 – President’s Award Reception
* Saturday, May 16, 2020 –Girl Scouting at Camp Liberty 75th Anniversary
* Saturday, June 6, 2020 – One Tough Cookie