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**TOP 10** **|** May 2020

Troop Leaders & Service Team Members

Please forward the May Top 10 to all volunteers so everyone can keep connected on what is happening in our council. Thank you so much for your support and for keeping our movement going strong!

Our team is working to support you in any way that we possibly can. Please check out all of the virtual program resources at [www.girlscoutstoday.org/virtual](http://www.girlscoutstoday.org/virtual). If you, or another volunteer, are experiencing any stressors related to Girl Scouts, please reach out to info@girlscoutstoday.org so we can provide a solution and support.

1. Renewal

Renewal is open! We have decided to extend the renewal incentive deadline to June 1, 2020. While so many activities are canceled, Girl Scouts is still going strong with virtual programs.

* Troops will receive $5 for every girl who renews.
* Juliettes will receive $5 in Program Credit.
* The first 400 Troop Leaders who renew will receive a $5 shop coupon.
* Financial assistance is available for girl and adult memberships; however, those who use this option are not eligible for the $5 incentive because their membership fee is already subsidized.

Parents can pay Girl Scout membership fees, or girls can vote to have membership dues covered by Troop funds. We have a new online [ACH Renewal Form](https://gseiwi514.wufoo.com/forms/z1yae0qk0yughde/) for Troops paying with their bank accounts.

All renewal information can be found at [www.girlscoutstoday.org/renew](http://www.girlscoutstoday.org/renew), and our team is always here to help! Encourage Troop Leaders and parents to call 800-798-0833 or email Info@GirlScoutsToday.org for assistance.

We have a series of events for girls curious about what is next in Girl Scouts. Find out more!

Your Next Steps in Girl Scouts (grades K-3)

Thursday, May 7, 2020, 3:30-4:30 p.m. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1226419865028579596>

Tuesday, May 12, 2020 5:30-6:30 p.m. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7655828402236986382>

Continuing Cadettes (grade 4-5)

Thursday, May 14, 2020, 6:30-7:30 p.m. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4206160147980462349>

Stepping into Seniors (grades 6-8)

Thursday, May 14, 2020, 7:45-8:45 p.m. <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2351070726666603021>

2. Girl Scout Voices Count

In May, Girl Scouts of the USA will send a national survey to girls, parents/caregivers, and troop leaders called Girl Scout Voices Count. At Girl Scouts, we care about your experience, and we want to hear from you! Share what’s going well or what needs some work. We will use your feedback to find out if girls are reaching Girl Scout outcomes, to improve services and understand the impact of Girl Scout programs. Girl, Parent, Troop Leader surveys open in May, with reminders. Once completed, the reminders stop - though you may get more than one survey for members of your family and you. Service Unit volunteer surveys go out in June. Thank you for letting your voice count!

3. Volunteer Toolkit Updates

During this time of uncertainty, our team has been doing their best to keep up with the needs of girls, parents, and volunteers through live and recorded virtual programming, self-led badges, patch programs, and much more. One additional way to keep girls engaged is access to the VTK for parents. Any parent who requests access to the VTK will be able to see all badge and journey content, resources, etc. This way, girls can continue working on badges and journeys, even if their troop isn’t meeting. Parents will need to email Info@GirlScoutsToday.org or call 800-798-0833 to request VTK access.

4. Virtual Program

The team has been hard at work to ensure that programming, traditions, and fun are available to girls and their families during this time. Badges, Journeys, service projects, camp sings, and more are ready for them to enjoy! We will be releasing new content regularly, so encourage all girls, parents, and volunteers to follow us on Facebook ([www.Facebook.com/gseiwi](http://www.Facebook.com/gseiwi)) and Instagram (@gseiwi) and frequently check [www.girlscoutstoday.org/virtual](http://www.girlscoutstoday.org/virtual).

5. Family Resources

With the inability to host Troop meetings in person, parents have been stepping up to carry on the Girl Scout experience at home. Parents are new to tracking badges and patches, and sometimes our program in general. Encourage parents to download the [Keep Girl Scouts Going resource guide](https://www.girlscoutstoday.org/content/dam/girlscoutstoday/documents/Leaders/Keep%20Girl%20Scouts%20Going.pdf)! The last couple of pages in the guide have helpful tracking resources so parents can keep girls engaged at home.

6. Cookie Rewards

Cookie Rewards are in the process of being shipped! Service Unit Product Managers will be setting up a safe distribution of rewards to Troops once they receive all rewards. The safe distribution includes working out a way that limits personal contact, scheduling pick up times, or waiting until a later time to distribute.

We have worked to extend Program Credit expiration dates, so girls have more time to use their hard-earned reward.

* 2019 Cookie Program has been extended to July 31, 2020.
* 2020 Cookie Program has been extended to August 31, 2021.

Visit [www.GirlScoutsToday.org/ProgramCredit](http://www.GirlScoutsToday.org/ProgramCredit) for more info and always email Info@GirlScoutsToday.org with questions.

7. Troop Finance Reports

The Finance tab in the Volunteer Toolkit is the place to record troop income and expenses throughout the troop year for the Troop Finance Report. Designate a Troop Leader or treasurer to update this tab and submit it for the troop. There are a few questions at the end to highlight your troop’s activities for the year and plans. Parents can view the finance tab when they log into the Volunteer Toolkit or Troop volunteers can print a copy to share with families. Troops will want to update the Finance Tab with their troop’s finance info for their year and submit their finance report by August 31, 2020.

8. Bridging

Are you concerned about how to get the girls ready for bridging when it is already May? Our team will share tips for briding virtually or postponing your ceremonies until the fall. Check out the following webinars for leaders and girls! And don’t forget our shops are still open and taking orders for uniforms and briding kits that can be shipped or picked up safely at the offices.

Bridging Virtually - How-To’s for Troop Leaders

Claudia Reich and volunteer Michele VanderHorn will be hosting this session to help Troop Leaders make briding plans still special!

Wednesday, May 6, 2020, 6:00-7:00 p.m. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/7361326411890209035>

Briding Virtually – Exciting Next Steps for Girls

Bridging is an important transition for Girl Scouts to celebrate achievements and get ready for next year! Learn all about how to achieve briding awards at this webinar with Mikayla Ahrens.

Thursday, May 28, 2020, 3:30-4:30 p.m. <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/4112476260044723467>

Does your Troop need Bridging supplies? We’ve got you covered! Our shop team has Bridging Kits prepared that range from $8-$9.50. They include all the essentials you will need plus a bridging fun patch with matching pencil. Call 800-798-0833 or email Info@GirlSocutsToday.org to place your order for shipping or curbside pickup.

9. New Member Deal

This year, the benefits of the New Member Deal look a little different. Because new members will begin their Girl Scout experience virtually, we want to ensure that they still get the high-quality experience we want to deliver. When someone registers for Girl Scouts using the New Member Deal, they will receive access to all of our virtual programming, an email series to earn three badges at home, and an invitation to four virtual council-wide Troop meetings. We are also prepared to host in-person events if we have that opportunity later in the summer. To learn more or share the New Member Deal, visit [www.GirlScoutsToday.org/Info.](http://www.GirlScoutsToday.org/Info.)

10. Quick Updates

Offices, shops, and properties will be closed through June 1, 2020. However, staff members are still working, so call 800-798-0833 or email info@girlscoutstoday.org for support.

During this challenging time, our focus is to serve the Girl Scout community in any way we can. Because of this, we’re offering free standard shipping on all orders with no minimum. Our shop team has got you covered! If you need any Girl Scout supplies, just give them a call at 800-798-0833 or place an online order at [www.tinyurl.com/shopgseiwi](http://www.tinyurl.com/shopgseiwi).

When you are ready, designate a Troop Leader to update your [Troop’s information form](https://gseiwi514.wufoo.com/forms/troop-information-update/). Our member support team will then update your troop record. The member support team may reach out throughout the summer to confirm information – please reply when they do! Our system will be updated, and accurate Troop info is essential.

It is important to stay connected during this time! Updates, guidance, and adjustments are being made frequently. While our properties are closed through June 1, 2020, our movement is still going strong.

Check your email for updates from our team and stay tuned on:

Website – [www.girlscoutstoday.org](http://www.girlscoutstoday.org)

Email – info@girlscooutstoday.org

Phone – 800-798-0833

gsLive – [www.tinyurl.com/gslivewebinar](http://www.tinyurl.com/gslivewebinar)

Facebook – [www.Facebook.com/gseiwi](http://www.Facebook.com/gseiwi)

Instagram – [www.Instagram.com/gseiwi](http://www.Instagram.com/gseiwi)

Twitter – [www.Twitter.com/gseiwi](http://www.Twitter.com/gseiwi)

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