

TOP 10 | December 2020



Service Unit Directors

Yes, this is coming to you a little early! It normally would come out on the fourth Thursday of the month which in this month is also Thanksgiving Day. So, we are getting out early, so you can share all this good information early! Happy Thanksgiving!

Though we are not sure what this December may bring, we can enjoy the holidays 2020-style. This might mean decorating early, baking more, enjoying time with your immediate family, and getting in one more virtual troop meeting with the girls to talk about cookies. Whatever your holiday plans may be, we wish you safety and happiness. Of course, don't forget to spread the word that virtual cookie order taking starts a little early with this unique year!

1. COVID-19 Safety

Currently, all office locations are closed, and staff are working from home, so please give us a call at 800-798-0833 or email Info@GirlScoutsToday.org if you need anything.

We recently updated our COVID guidelines to reflect the latest state mandates and very small groups with masks can meet in person in Iowa. Please check back frequently on www.girlscoutstoday.org/guidelines. State rules and case numbers change quickly, and this page on our website will have the most current information.

Virtual meetings are always a great alternative, and our team is well-versed in programming over zoom, so please reach out if you are struggling with technology or keeping girls engaged.

2. Zoom Licenses

We are still offering Zoom licenses for troops to meet virtually for the low price of \$30 through July 31, 2021. If your troop is interested, visit www.girlscoutstoday.org/events or contact us at info@girlscoutstoday.org. We will need your name, phone number, email, and the email you want to use on your zoom account. You cannot use the same email on two zoom accounts.

3. Virtual Troop Meeting Help

There are so many options for virtual troop meetings! Girls need to connect with their friends outside of a school setting, and you can still do that with them.

- You can find info about running a virtual meeting on our [website](#) and [Girl Scouts at Home](#), run by GSUSA, has resources as well.
- Our [virtual page](#) has recorded sessions and virtual activities for girls, and new [programs on demand](#) have been released with kits shipped directly to girls and volunteers.
- The Volunteer Toolkit has icons on meetings with virtual components, and the [Blueprint](#) for Troop Leaders was recently released.

These programs will give you the guidance to have fun and interactive meetings that look nothing like school! If you still need help, contact your [Community Engagement Manager](#) and she will help you get things set up.

4. Give the Gift of Girl Scouts

Troop Leaders, we need your help! Have you received a letter about the Gift of Girl Scouts yet? You know better than anyone that now is the time when all girls need a sense of structure, mental and physical support, and a connection to other girls! But we find that some families don't have the necessary resources to join, and your troop can help. The girls in your troop are very fortunate to have the opportunity to participate in Girl Scouts and have amazing leaders such as yourself. Please take the time to have this conversation with your girls and consider making a gift today and provide other girls in the community with the support they need to get through this difficult year. Every troop that donates will receive a Gift of Girl Scouts patch for each girl in the troop.

5. Cookie Program

We offer two types of training for Troop Product Managers. Pick one live training time based on your experience level and schedule.

December 2 at 6:00 p.m. – [Troop Product Manager Training](#) (for new Troop Product Managers)

December 10 at 6:00 p.m. – [Troop Product Manager Training](#) (for new Troop Product Managers)

Topics covered will include accessing eBudde (the online business tool for cookies), placing the initial order, how to sell cookies, managing the troop's inventory, and cookie finances.

December 3 at 6:00 p.m. – [Troop Product Manager Training](#) (for 2+ years Troop Product Managers)

December 16 at 6:00 p.m. – [Troop Product Manager Training](#) (for 2+ years Troop Product Managers)

This training is for Troop Product Managers who have held that position for at least two years. We will cover what is new for this year.

December 7 at 6:00 p.m. – [Digital Cookie Training](#) (for all Troop Product Managers)

Digital Cookie is an online platform that allows girls to sell cookies in a safe and contactless way. Girls and troops can accept debit/credit card payments when selling cookies door-to-door or at cookie booths. Topics in this training include setting up girl and troop accounts, managing Digital Cookie sales, and using the mobile app.

December 1 – Digital Cookie emails to volunteers

December 15 – Digital Cookie emails to parents

December 18 – Digital Cookie starts

6. Mid-Year Check In's for SUDs

Your Community Engagement Manager will be contacting you soon to schedule your mid-year check-in for your plan of work. How are you doing with the plans you put in place this summer? Do you need to think about adding anything? Are you feeling proud of all that you have accomplished so far? Are you struggling with some of the requirements? Now is the time to have that discussion with your Community Engagement Manager so she can help your Service Unit be successful and thriving for girls and volunteers in your region.

7. Recognitions

It is that time of year when we start to think of recognizing our very special volunteers who do so much for Girl Scouting locally and on a council level. This year has been especially challenging and so many leaders have stepped up to the plate and given their all during this pandemic. Which leaders jumped right in and started meeting virtually as soon as COVID-19 hit? Who led community service projects on a troop level or a Service Unit level? Who has gone above and beyond to ensure safety at in-person meetings? Who led an event virtually or in-person that put a smile on our Girl Scout faces? There are all levels of awards! [Find the requirements](#) and start planning today.

We have tried to make the process a little easier this year by not having an endorsement form. Yes, you still need an endorsement letter for all of the awards, but it can be a simple email sent to the nominator. The nominator can then fill out the one nominating form online by cutting and pasting the endorsement letters and

hit submit! The **deadline is February 1, 2021**. If you have any questions, please contact us at info@girlscoutstoday.org.

8. Juliette Access to the Volunteer Toolkit

Once our new system is in place in early December, there will be an option for Juliettes and/or their caregivers to have access to the Volunteer Toolkit, just like leaders do. They will pick and choose what badges they want to work on and have some instructions on how to earn them. It will not be automatic, but it will be just a simple request. So spread the word to those Juliettes in your Service Unit.

9. 55th National Girl Scout Session Results

The 55th National Council Session was held virtually on October 23-25, 2020. There were six proposals on the slate and all six passed with some minor adjustments. [See a complete listing](#) of all the approved proposals and a list of the National Council elected the National Board for 2020 – 2023.

10. New Trainings Coming

We have a new series of online trainings designed for Service Unit Team Members! Developed by GSUSA, they cover topics including Leading Effective Digital Meetings, Developing and Growing the Service Unit Team, Effective Meetings, and Goal Setting and Planning. We will be offering one each month through the Top 10. More to come!

Upcoming Events

Winter Star Party, December 6

Gingerbread Architect, for the whole family, November 30 and December 4

Hour of Code, December 7

Winter Star Party, December 9

Find programs at [girlscoutstoday.org/events](https://www.girlscoutstoday.org/events)

Keep Updated

Website – www.girlscoutstoday.org

Email – info@girlscoutstoday.org

Phone – 800-798-0833

Facebook – www.facebook.com/gseiwi

Instagram – www.instagram.com/gseiwi

Twitter – www.twitter.com/gseiwi

gsLive – <https://bit.ly/2IRzcSW>

Next month's gsLive, on December 15 at 6:00 p.m., guest speaker, Mollie Schmelzer, psychotherapist and Troop Leader, will share info about supporting children's mental health. She will also showcase how Girl Scouts can create a stable environment for happy and healthy girls.