

Service Unit Directors

Thank you for all your hard work this year. We know it has not been easy, but between regular communication with your team and many virtual meetings, you all have made it through! Now that we can look ahead to the fall, mark your calendars for August 21, 2021, for the Service Unit Director Retreat at Camp Liberty. We will be back in person for this event and look forward to learning, sharing ideas, and having fun together!

1. Renewal

As we do every year, spring is the time to renew our memberships for the next year. It gives us a heads up on who will be returning and helps our council make plans for summer and fall recruitments as well as the programs for the following year. In 2021, girls and volunteers have special incentives for renewing before June 30, 2021. Find the most recent information on www.girlscoutstoday.org/renew.

P.S. Service Unit Directors will qualify to choose one free apparel item (up to \$15 value) if they achieve 57% of girls renewed by July 31, 2021.

2. Imagine Nations

Girls and their families are invited to enter their own 'Imagine Nation' as they color their year! Events will take place in each region of our council throughout May, creating a great opportunity for troops to come together and celebrate their accomplishments.

Each event will be a colorful experience with hands-on activities and stations for girls to expand their Girl Scout experiences. Plus, troops and girls can stop by renewal stations to pick up their incentives. And Pop-Up Shops will be at each event. Our shop team will bring fun, new items and stickers for girls to begin decorating their new water bottles.

Sunday, May 2 – Riverside Park, Spillville

Saturday, May 8 – Girl Scout Office, Bettendorf

Saturday, May 8 – Camp Little Cloud, Epworth

Saturday, May 8 – Camp L-Kee-Ta, Danville

Saturday, May 15 – Waterloo

Saturday, May 22 – Hauberg Mansion, Rock Island

Saturday, May 23 – Lake Macbride Main Lodge, Solon

Find your community's event on www.girlscoutstoday.org/events.

3. Cookie Program

Thank you for supporting your troop and making sure girls learn essential life skills through opening their very own cookie businesses. Your hard work has made a big impact on girls!

Girls who sold cookies had phenomenal success – the average number of boxes sold per girl was 199 (last year was 180)! Emails went out mid-April to let parents know their daughter's new Program Credit balance. (And don't forget, Program Credit can now be used to renew memberships, with parent permission). Reward orders are scheduled to be delivered to the Service Units by the end of April or early May. Please distribute the rewards to the girls as soon as you can and make time to celebrate their accomplishments.

4. Raise your Voice

Raise Your Voice is back to in-person! Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, met our safety standards while still hosting a fun weekend of learning and growing. This event is a great opportunity for girls in middle and high school to complete a Journey in one weekend, meet other girls across the region, and learn from engaging speakers and presenters. The conference also provides the opportunity to experience life on a college campus! [Sign Up!](#)

5. Volunteer Toolkit

There are some noticeable changes to working with the Volunteer Toolkit this summer! In 2021, you will not lose your yearly plan at the end of June because it will stay in place through August 2, 2021. At this same time, you will be able to start a new year of planning. Currently, registered members for the 2020-21 membership year will have uninterrupted access through September 30, 2021, and the finance tab will archive after September 30, 2021, when a new membership year begins on October 1, 2021.

6. Zoom Licenses

All zoom licenses that were purchased throughout last year will end as of July 30, 2021. To prepare for another year, please let our team know by May 25 if you would like to renew your Zoom license. Please let our council know if you do not plan to continue with your Zoom license so we do not have to cover the invoice for unused Zoom accounts. A letter will go out to all troops that currently have a license. New troops can purchase a license on August 1, 2021, for \$35.

7. Tent-N-Treat at Halloweekend

Join the fun with your whole troop by hosting a tent and offering treats at Family Halloweekend! Troops who register will receive a platform tent to decorate. Troops signed up will provide treats (and maybe a few tricks) to hand out from their tents at the annual event at Camp Liberty. Space is limited to the first 12 troops! [Sign Up!](#)

8. Gift of Girl Scouts

Now that cookie season has wrapped up; this is a wonderful time to sit down with your troop and discuss what they want to do with the funds they earned. Your troop has the option to lend a hand to another sister Girl Scout in need by giving her the Gift of Girl Scouts. Through this gift, your troop will ensure that other girls receive the support, friendships, and the adventures that come with being Girl Scouts. And if your troop makes a gift of \$25 or more, each girl in your troop will receive the Gift of Girl Scouts patch as a thank you for changing a girl's life! Go online to www.girlscoutstoday.org/donate and make a gift in honor of your troop today!

9. Volunteer Toolkit-Finance Tab

The Finance tab in the Volunteer Toolkit is active and accessible to troops! This troop tool gives a place to record troop income and expenses throughout the troop year. Parents can also view their troop's finance tab when they log into the Volunteer Toolkit, or troop volunteers can print copies to share with families. All troops should submit their finance report by August 31, 2021. A new finance tab will open for 2021-22 on October 1, 2021.

10. Service Unit Volunteer Survey

The Voices Count Survey for girls and adults ends at the end of April. Service Unit volunteer surveys are scheduled for May 10-June 4. We strongly encourage you to complete the survey. Thank you for letting your voice count!

BONUS: Outdoor Happenings

Troop Camping

Camp L-Kee-Ta, Camp Liberty, and Camp Little Cloud are all open for reservations. You can check availability and make your [camp reservations](#) online. Please be sure to review the most current [Troop Guidelines](#) before planning your camping trip. As always, volunteers must seek [council prior approval](#) before planning any overnight stays, follow the guidance in [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#), and continue to practice the Hygiene and COVID-19 Risk Mitigation guidance. Troops traveling, even to a Girl Scout property, must submit the [Troop Trip and Overnight Approval form](#). For help with reservations or planning your adventure, please email Info@GirlScoutsToday.org.

Summer Camp

[Summer Camp](#) is just around the corner, and there are still spaces available at Camp Liberty. Campers entering grades 2-3 should check out Wild About Animals and Adventurer. Campers entering grades 4-5 should check out Cave Explorers and Serve It Up! (cooking). Campers entering grades 6 -8 should check out Wanderer and Outdoor Wanderer. Campers entering grades 9-11 should check out Design It, Extreme Cuisine, SPARK, or Counselor in Training I. There is also a great caving trip, Wilderness Voyager: Spelunker Edition with a few available spots.

Family Camp

Camp Little Cloud and Camp L-Kee-Ta are hosting Family and You and Me camps. Create special memories that will last a lifetime with a special adult guy or gal or the whole family. You can register and check [Troop/Family Camp](#) availability online.

Into the Wild

Do not miss this special summer camp opportunity at Camp Little Cloud. In this special three-night session, girls will learn outdoor survival skills like orienteering, fishing and gun safety through hands-on activities. Campers will practice outdoor cooking, learn about foraging and still have time for swimming, creek stumping, and even star gazing.

Upcoming Events

National Bridging Week | June 12-19

Raise your Voice | June 18-20

Maquoketa Drive-In Movie Event | June 24

SUD Retreat | August 20-21

Overnight at Blank Park Zoo | September 11-12

Find more programs at www.girlscoutstoday.org/events

Keep Updated

Website – www.girlscoutstoday.org

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