



Cookie Rewards

We have reached the point in cookie season that all Girl Scouts love – rewards! Rewards will start shipping to Service Unit Product Managers (SUPMs) this month. SUPMs should open all packages, check contents for damages or missing items, and report issues to the product program team **immediately**. Our baker's deadline for requesting replacement items will be three weeks from the shipment date. Please keep an eye on your email for shipping updates.

Product Program Survey

Please fill out Product Program's End of Season Survey by May 10. We will use this survey to gauge the success of our programs and to help with planning future programs. We ask that you provide honest and detailed feedback.

Girl Scout Voices Count

Each spring GSUSA surveys Girl Scouts to help councils assess how best to serve their membership. This year, it will consist of a shortened survey for caregivers to complete with their Girl Scouts. The survey will open April 15 through May 15.

Year Planning Roundtable

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 pm for **Best Year Ever** virtual volunteer roundtable to jumpstart troop year planning for the 2024-2025 Girl Scout year! Register by May 7.

Spring Renewal Dates + Incentive Details:

Spring renewal ends soon! The last day to receive exclusive, limited-time incentives is May 15, 2024. Members can renew past this date, but the incentives will no longer be included. Make sure to renew before this date so you don't miss out!

*Troops that renew between April 10, 2024 – May 15, 2024, will be included in the on-time renewal giveaways during the month of June. Stay tuned for giveaway details!

Spring Renewal Renew by May 15	
Limited edition membership t-shirt available for purchase \$15.00	●
Cardboard Boat Regatta discount — Your choice of two events: ▶ 25% off Girl Scouts – Diamonds event at Lake Dardanelle October 5 ▶ 50% off event hosted by Sloan Service Unit at Crowley's Ridge State Park September 14	■
Spring Renewal Fun Patch and die-cut sticker <i>(for girls, and adults/lifetime members who renew their roles)</i>	■

Fall Product Update

An announcement was made last year that in our final contract year with Ashdon Farms, the 2024 Fall Product Program would proceed as an **online only** sale. We'd like to provide you with a big update on this program.

At their strategic planning retreat, our board took a comprehensive review of our current and 5-year budget forecast. They took special note of the fall product program...and more specifically, the outstanding success our girls, volunteers and caregivers have historically had with the sale.

The fall product program has been a steady success, with outstanding results in each of the last 4 years. Our board members felt it would be prudent to take advantage of the final contract year. They recognized that many troops rely on this program to generate revenue for their own activities, meet standards of additional troop earning activities and also hone their entrepreneurial skills as a precursor to the annual Girl Scout cookie program.

In light of this discussion, our board has made the decision **to offer the standard, full fall product program for one more year**. We'd like to reiterate that participation isn't mandatory, so troops can make the decision that works best for them. We'd like to thank our board members for their thoughtful consideration of this program and for recognizing the important tool it provides to our troops.

You might wonder what this means for the fall product in subsequent years. Any decisions on this will depend on contract negotiations. What you can expect is that the same careful consideration will take place before any final decisions are made.

Questions? Contact our team at product@girlscoutsdiamonds.org.



Diamonds Leadership Conference

Registration is open for Diamonds Leadership Conference! Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors and volunteers are invited to Little Rock for our first council-wide conference since 2019. Meet up with your Girl Scout friends from across the council to celebrate volunteer and girl achievements, attend enriching workshops, network with volunteers and staff, and more!

Be sure to wear your official Girl Scout uniform – our retail staff can help you get with your vest, sash or insignia needs!

SWAPS

SWAPS stands for “*Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere*.” They are small tokens of friendship that Girl Scouts exchange with one another, and each SWAP uniquely reflects a fellow Girl Scout, their troop, or a memory of a special event. They’re a great way to share stories and get to know Girl Scouts from across the country and the world. Girls and adults frequently exchange SWAPS when they meet other Girl Scouts at events. You are invited to bring SWAPS to Diamonds Leadership Conference this summer. Learn more about [SWAPS](#) and the etiquette of exchanging them. There are so many cute, neat ideas for making SWAPS that can be found with a simple online search – especially on Pinterest!

Important Troop and Service Unit Finance Dates

May 31, 2024	2024 troop financials are due
June 30, 2024	2024 troop financials are due for any troops that were approved for an extension. 2024 service unit financials are due along with troop financials reports received and reviewed. *MY24 cycle for service unit financials will be July 1, 2023 – May 30, 2024
July 31, 2024	Outstanding product program debt must be paid in full to participate in the next membership year product program (2024 Fall Product and 2025 Cookies).

Upcoming Program Events

- Girl Scouts Love State Parks - September 14-15
- Cardboard Boat Regatta - October 5-6 at Lake Dardanelle
- Alumnae Weekend at Camp NOARK - October 19-20
- Badge Frenzy and Camp Out at Radford House (Hot Springs) - November 2-3,
- Cadette Campout at Lake Fort Smith – January 24-26, 2025
- Girl Scout Night at MidAmerica Science Museum - March 29, 2025
- Spring Encampment at Lake Chicot State Park - April 4-6, 2025
- Girl Scout Night at Amazeum (Bentonville) - Spring 2025
- Highest Awards and Graduating Seniors Ceremony Summer Spring/Summer 2025
- High Adventure Mountain Biking (and more!) in the Ozarks at Camp NOARK - June 1-8, 2025

Troop ABC's for Summer

A is for *Awards*. Are you hosting or participating in an end of year Court of Awards ceremony? Do you have older girls taking part in the council Highest Awards and Graduating Senior ceremony?

B is for *Bridging*. Have you planned or held a bridging ceremony if you have girls going from one grade level to another?

C is for *Camp*. Have your Girl Scouts signed up for one of our fun camp sessions at Camp NOARK?

D is for *During the Summer*. What are your troop plans for the summer? Are you continuing your regular meeting schedule or changing it up for a couple special events or travel?

E is for *Early Renewal*. You have until May 15 to participate!

F is for *Finances*. Don't get an "F" on your Annual Troop Financial Report – be sure to get it in by May 31.

G is for *Get Out the Word* about council events and opportunities so your Girl Scouts can participate even if the troop does not plan to go as a group.

H is for *Have You Submitted* a troop travel application for overnights or day trips that are over 120 miles from your meeting place?

I is for *Information-sharing*, such as any changes to the troop for next year. Do all the families know and do our Placement and Volunteer staff know if they need to help with any changes?

J is for *Just Relax*, cause summertime brings a whole different schedule to our lives, but everyone needs to take a break.

K is for *Keep It Short*. As in, "we will keep this list short and stop here!"

Disbanding Troops

While we want every troop to join us for another year of fun, friendship, and adventure, we understand that responsibilities and schedules change. If your troop is planning to disband, please email training@girlscoutsdiamonds.org. Your regional Volunteer Experience Specialist will walk you through next steps and timelines.

Level-Up

Are your girls bridging to a new grade level? Learn more about what that program level means for you as a troop leader. You will learn about developmental milestones, what girl-led looks like at this level, and what programming opportunities are available to girls at their new level. Level-Up trainings are available in gsLearn.

Hints for a Healthy Service Unit

Every year we take the information gathered from the Service Unit Partnership Reviews throughout the year along with data from our finance and product sales department to assess the health of our service units. We do this so we can see how we can help your Girl Scouts and their troops have the best year possible. Expect your regional Volunteer Experience Specialist to reach out to SU Leadership Team to fill in any missing information.

If there will be any turnover in SU Leadership positions, please let us know. We'd love to be able to start the fall with a complete team in place, and this often takes time.

Summertime is a great time for SU events. Many troops take a break from regularly scheduled meetings in the summer and love to have events to keep everyone engaged!

I am One Voice (song)

Melinda Carroll and the Girl Scouts of Hawaii chorus have an especially beautiful [version](#) of this song available online.

Solo (a cappella):

I am one voice and I am singing.
I am one voice and I am singing.
I am one voice and I am singing.
I am not alone.

Duet:

We are two voices, we are singing.
We are two voices, we are singing.
We are two voices, we are singing.
We are not alone.

Add more voices:

We are a hundred voices singing.
We are a hundred voices singing.
We are a hundred voices singing.
We are not alone.

Add more voices:

We are a thousand voices singing.
We are a thousand voices singing.
We are a thousand voices singing.
We are not alone.

Add more voices:

We are a million voices singing.
We are a million voices singing.
We are a million voices singing.
We are not alone.

Everyone

We are one voice, and we are singing.
We are one voice, and we are singing.
We are one voice, and we are singing.
We are not alone.

Solo:

We are not alone.



Water Games Day

How to get cool when you don't have a lifeguard for swimming? Have a water games day! Be

sure to assess games and the environment for safety since things can quickly get muddy and slippery. There are lots of fun games using water that can be played, and an online search will help you find several fun options.

Bucket Brigade is a classic way to get soaked. You will need two buckets per team, and a disposable cup per player. You will also need water to fill one bucket per team. You will also need some way to mark a fill line on one bucket per team – a marker or waterproof tape is good.

Your teams should have even numbers. It is best to try to limit it to 10 or less per team.

Have each team sit in a line all facing towards the same end of the line. You might need to explain it as the train facing forward. Players should sit about a foot apart and should each be given a cup.

Place a full bucket of water in front of the bucket brigade and an empty bucket behind the last player on the team. The empty buckets should all be the same shape and have the same fill line marked on them. You will want to plan for a lot of water loss as you choose where to mark the fill line on the final bucket!

You can play this game standing or seated. If sitting, use the rule that they are not allowed to get up or move from their seated position. At a signal, the front person in each team dips their cup into their bucket of water and then reaches over the head and pours it behind them – without turning

around. The person behind them tries to catch as much water in their cup as possible and then passes it to the person behind them in the same manner. The last person pours it in the bucket at their end of the line. The first team to fill their bucket to the fill line wins.

A variation of this game uses less cups, but these cups have holes poked in them so they leak. (Be sure to place the holes so SOME of the water can make it to the end!) Instead of pouring the water, the person with the cup holds it over their head and the person behind them takes it. We suggest 1 cup for every 2 or 3 players for this variation. Empty cups can be sent back to the front of the line to be used again, but players have to remain in their spot even if they drop it or it rolls away.



Juliette's Hat SWAP

This SWAP is made of a circle of painted bottle cap, a circle of craft foam, a little ribbon, and a jeweled sticker. You'll also need scissors and glue. A circle die punch could also be handy.

To make it into a SWAP add a safety pin and tag with your name, troop or service unit number and the name and date of the event.