



## Camperships

Last year, service units in our council supported 11% of the camperships (camp scholarships) for girls going to summer resident camp at Camp NOARK. That meant 6 additional Girl Scouts had the chance to experience the benefits of camp, some for the first time!

In a recent service unit survey, leadership from service units expressed interest in financially helping to send girls in their service unit to camp.

*Before filling out this form, service units should meet and agree on how/if they want to support camperships for Summer 2024. Please consider discussing this at a meeting and not just among SU leadership. This form closes on **February 29**.*

## Upcoming Surveys

We will launch the next Service Unit Partnership Review Survey in early January. There will be a second Troop Leader Survey in early February. Thank you for your continued participation and insight. As always, there will be drawing winners!

## CPR/First-Aid

We have exciting news! We received a grant to offer CPR training at 50% off for Girl Scout adult volunteers! Upcoming opportunities to get certified in CPR/First Aid/AED include February 3 (Central) and February 10 (Northwest).

Adults and girls (aged 11 or older) who are Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors can attend this training and receive their Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED certification. This is a hybrid training with online coursework and an in-person skills test. This training meets First-Aider criteria for adult members and leaders needing the certification for troop travel.

***Service Units interested in hosting a CPR training should email***

***training@girlscoutsdiamonds.org. The same grant funding will be available to offer this training at 50% off for adult volunteers.***

## Presidential Volunteer Service Award

It's time for troop leaders and service unit volunteers to count their volunteer hours for the 2023 calendar year! The Presidential Volunteer Service Award is available for Girl Scout adult volunteers serving a minimum of 100 or more hours between January and December 2023. The PVSA can be submitted via our online form available on our website.

***Our new submission deadline will be February 1.*** For questions, please email recognitions@girlscoutsdiamonds.org.

## Youth Mental Health First Aid

Are you interested in learning about the common mental health challenges for youth and a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations? Join us for the virtual Youth Mental Health First Aid offering on Saturday, February 3. Register by January 16.

## Smile Squad

February is National Children's Dental Health month, and we are proud to share that we have again received a grant from the *Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation* for the support of dental education for Girl Scouts.

This year, this funding allows us to provide 400 dental kits for Daisies and Brownies.

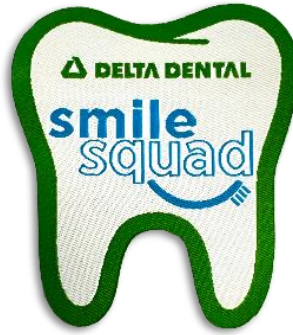
We would love for your troop to join us on the journey to oral health. By participating in this program girls will receive **one dental kit** (toothbrush, toothpaste, timer, floss, and brushing chart) and **one Delta Dental Smile Squad patch**.

We ask that you work with your girls January– March to complete the *Delta Dental Smile Patch Program* and make it part of your troop activities this spring. In April, we will send out a simple survey link for girls to complete (with the support of their caregiver) about their experience completing the program.

Patch kits are available in each regional office and can be picked up or mailed to you at your convenience. We recognize that your troop may include older girls. We have a limited number of additional kits that you can pick up for them as well. We ask that you ensure that all girls who receive a kit also complete the patch program and document their brushing on the chart.

*Kits will be provided on a first come, first served basis. Priority will be given to troops with Daisies and Brownies. We also want to give priority to girls that did not participate in this program last year.*

*For more information on this program and to request a Smile Squad Patch Program Guide and kits for your troop, please contact [info@girlscoutsdiamonds.org](mailto:info@girlscoutsdiamonds.org).*



## Girl Scouts of the USA Licensed Products

We know that some of our entrepreneurial Girl Scouts and volunteers have concerns regarding having cookie-inspired products on retail shelves during the cookie season. Research has shown that over 60% of cookie customers are more likely to purchase Girl Scout

Cookies when they see licensed products in stores. Licensed products also engage supporters by keeping Girl Scouts and Girl Scout Cookies top of mind throughout the year.

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) licenses its intellectual property, the trademarks it owns, and its cookie flavors to drive consumer engagement, raise awareness of and affinity for our brand, generate funding for the mission, and amplify our reach through the licensees' marketing investments. No new food products are launched or marketed during the national cookie season to ensure the focus stays on our entrepreneurs. GSUSA's national marketing efforts and partnerships from January to March are focused on supporting girls' sales and Daisy/Brownie member recruitment.

## Service Unit Contact Share

The Volunteer Team has received additional requests to share neighboring service unit contact information. To grant us permission to share your contact information, Service Unit Directors, Treasurers and Product Managers should complete this [Contact Permission Form](#).

*Girl Scouts – Diamonds offices  
will be closed on January 15  
in observance of  
Martin Luther King Day.*

## **Retail Event:** **Cookies N' Commerce**

Saturday, January 13, 10 am – 2 pm  
Rogers & Little Rock retail store locations.

**Eat Cookies. Set Goals.**  
**Buy Merchandise. Win Prizes.**

It's gonna be busy! Email your order to [retail@girlscoutsdiamonds.org](mailto:retail@girlscoutsdiamonds.org) by Monday, January 8 to skip the line. Be sure to specify the shop location.

## **Fall Product Program** **Rewards Deliveries**

The bulk of Fall Product rewards have shipped to SUPMs. These shipments should be checked immediately against reports in M2OS. Reports can be found under the "Delivery Tickets" section on the service unit and troop dashboards. Missing and/or damaged requests must be submitted to the product program team within 4 weeks of initial delivery. Higher-level rewards will be shipped from separate vendors. SUPMs should expect these shipments by the end of January.

## **Cookie Program** **It's Cookie Time!**

By now, troop leaders should be trained on the cookie program and ready to train their Girl Scouts and their caregivers. If a service unit or troop needs additional supplies (receipt books, order cards, money envelopes, etc.) please email [product@girlscoutsdiamonds.org](mailto:product@girlscoutsdiamonds.org) with your needs.

## **Smart Cookies** **Just-In-Time Training**

Service unit and troop volunteers who will be utilizing Smart Cookies are invited to join the product program team and our ABC baker representative for just-in-time *Smart Cookies* training. All sessions are scheduled during the lunch hour, from 12-1 pm as a lunch and learn. We recommend volunteers register for

each session even if you cannot attend. Registrants will receive an email from *GoToWebinar* with the recording link for any missed session.

Recording | Initial Login and Setup  
Jan. 24 | Initial Cookie Order Submission and Reward Review

Feb. 7 | Booths, Transfers and Payments  
Feb. 14 | Planned Orders and Cupboard Process

Mar. 13 | Wrapping Up the Sale

## **Program Dates**

Jan. 12	2024 Cookie program begins (order card + Digital Cookie)
Jan. 28	Order card sales end
Jan. 29	Troop initial order entry deadline
Jan. 31	SUPM initial order entry deadline
Feb. 16-23	Service unit deliveries
Feb. 23	Booths begin
Mar. 17	Booths and Digital Cookie ends



## **Even Superheroes** **need their team!**

Don't try to go it alone during cookie season – be sure to ask for and ACCEPT help during this busy time.

Caregivers, other members of your troop leadership team, your service unit and council staff can all help in different ways. Don't try to do it all and burn yourself out!

## Safety Tips for Adults

When it comes to the Cookie Program, adults are responsible for the safety of the girls, the product, and the money.

**Girls:** Make sure your girls know and follow safety rules for order taking and delivery. Pay extra attention at cookie booths to make sure that your girls are a safe distance from cars or foot traffic. Don't block a store entrance or exit – it's not only dangerous but isn't polite.

**Product:** When you have cookies in hand, make sure you have a safe space to store them that protects them from the weather, temperature changes or animals. Make sure that anyone who has access to your storage space is trustworthy. If you have multiple roles (SU Product Manager, Troop Product Manager, Parent/Caregiver) be sure to keep those groups of cookies separate. Always have both parties count and sign off on any cookie exchanges.

**Money:** Always have both parties count and do receipts for money exchanges. Make deposits quickly so that you don't have money around your house or car. Make sure that it is stored safely when you do have it at home. Be extra cautious at booth sales, keep the cash box where customers can't reach it and have an adult to safeguard. Don't flash the money around by counting it at the booths. You might want to keep a little cash in an apron for making change but the bulk of your funds hidden in a cash box out of reach. Take a few moments and think about how a thief might view your set-up and make any necessary adjustments.

## Safety Rules for Girls

Your Cookie Program Materials include [safety tips](#) but how do you help your girls learn those rules? You can learn them by a game of charades or bingo, but sometimes a *mnemonic* can help you remember something. Even better than *having* a mnemonic can be *creating* your own! Here's

one we put together in a few minutes – we had to stretch a bit for “eyes up” but it works when you say it out loud. What can your girls come up with?

**T** – Tell Them. Let them know you are a Girl Scout by wearing your uniform.

**H** – Hide It. Don't share your name, address or email with customers and keep customer information private.

**I** – Internet Safe. Follow the Internet Safety and Digital Cookie Pledges.

**N** – Never Enter. Don't enter cars, homes or dark spaces when selling cookies.

**M** – Make Plans. Be prepared for emergencies and make plans to prevent them, including keeping money safe.

**I** – Eyes Up. Be streetwise and be safe on the road. Keep your eyes up for cars and other dangers.

**N** – No night. Don't sell cookies after dark unless accompanied by an adult.

**T** – Team Up. Always use the buddy system and be sure to have adults present.



## Keep Good Records

Be sure to keep good records during the cookie sale – you don't want to spend the last days of the sale trying to figure out where that one case of cookies went or who participated in which cookie booth!



## The World Centres

As February and World Thinking Day approach, it is a great time to learn about the five World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) World Centres. These are places where Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from around the world can come together to make friendships and learn about many different topics. Pax Lodge in England, Our Chalet in Switzerland, Sangam House in India, and Nuestra Cabana (Our Cabana) in Mexico have all served girls from around the world for many decades. Kusafari opened in 2015 and is a little different from the others as it is not a fixed location but moves around Africa!

Each of the five world centres has its own song. The lyrics, dance steps and sing along video for *Karibu Kusafari!* can be found [here](#).

This Canadian Girl Guide [site](#) shares the lyrics and audio for each of the others' songs.

This [site](#) has information and activities to help girls learn about the World Centres, including games from one that might be played there. Check out the *Tortilla Toss* and the *Flower Foot Catch!*

## Sing that Song: Shake the Papaya Down

It's fun to learn songs from other countries or cultures. [Here's](#) a Jamaican folk song that is great for younger girls!

*Mama says no play; This is a workday,  
Up with the bright sun, get all the work done.  
If you will help me climb up the tall tree,  
Shake the papaya down.*



**World  
Thinking  
Day is  
February  
22.**

Find WTD activities and information [here](#).

## Sing That WAGGGS Song: The World Song

*The World Song* is the official WAGGGS anthem and is a meaningful and pretty song that older girls might want to learn. Melinda Carroll Music has great version of [The World Song](#).

*Our way is clear as we march on,  
And see our flag on high!  
It's never furled,  
Throughout the world,  
For hope shall never die.*

*We must unite for what is right,  
In friendship true and strong,  
Until the earth,  
In its rebirth,  
Shall sing our song,  
Shall sing our song.*

## Play that Game: Statues

This Greek version of "Freeze Tag" is for four or more players. The first person to be "it" stands in a large open area with their eyes closed and covered with their hands. They begin counting out loud but have no set number to reach. It should be to 10 at the minimum but it can be as high as they want. The number is random because they will want to catch their fellow players off guard. When they decide to stop counting, they will open their eyes and yell "agalmata," (statue in Greek).

At this point, the players around them freeze - preferably in poses of famous statues. "It" tags any statues that are moving, and they are "out." "It" then tries to make the steady ones laugh or move without touching them. The last player remaining composed is the winner and become the new "it."