



Spring Service Unit Summit

Calling all Service Unit Directors, Treasurers and Product Managers! It's time to register for the Spring Service Unit Summit on Thursday, April 4 at 6:30 pm. This is a hybrid meeting with virtual and in-person participation options. Those who register by March 22 and are in attendance day of will be entered into a gift card drawing! Registration closes March 28.

Updated Volunteer Resources

Be sure to check out the updated Volunteer Essentials on our website! In addition, the revised and board-approved Girl Scouts - Diamonds Policies and Procedures include guidance for both girl and adult members. *Volunteers should review the updated document, paying special attention to updates in the following sections:*

- Adult Member Standards of Conduct: Pages 2-3
- Visitor's Standard: Page 3
- Volunteer Background Check Policy: Pages 3-5
- Conflict Resolution Policy: Pages 7-9
- Substance Abuse & Smoking and Smokeless Products Policies: Page 9
- Girl Member Conduct & Standards of Conduct: Pages 12-13
- Girl Number Exception for Senior and Ambassador Troops: Page 14
- Troop Renewal Standard: Page 16
- Troop and Service Unit Financial Policies and Standards: Pages 17-25*

*Please note that disbanded troop funds will now be absorbed into the service unit account on October 1 of each new membership year.

Adult Recognitions

It's Recognition Time! Take a moment to review the Adult Recognition Descriptions and nominate volunteers who go above and beyond and truly radiate the Girl Scout Law and Promise in everything that they do. We will be using Jotform this year. It will allow an individual to submit a nomination form and send a unique link to each endorser to complete their endorsement through a convenient online form. Review the How to Submit a Council Award Nomination section to learn more!

Nomination Submissions are now live. All forms must be received no later than **April 15**. [Questions?](#)

Insurance Clarification

We have received a lot of questions about the expanded Basic 1 Activity Insurance. Please review Additional Insurance Clarification for Visitors to learn the difference between participants, visitors, youth tagalongs, and who is covered. Caregivers and volunteers received an email with this information in February.

Year Planning Roundtable

Mark your calendars for Thursday, May 9 at 6:30 pm for a virtual volunteer roundtable to jumpstart troop year planning for the 2024-2025 Girl Scout year! Registration coming soon.

Girl Scout Voices Count

Girl Scout Voices Count surveys are coming up! Troop leader, Girl Scout and Caregiver surveys will go out the first week of April and Service Unit volunteer surveys will go out in May. We know you may be surveyed out, but these surveys help to inform our local council and GSUSA and movement-wide initiatives. Your voice matters!

Spring Renewal

Spring Renewal is right around the corner, and you don't want to miss out on the exclusive incentives!

- Day 1: April 10, 2024
- Final Day: May 15, 2024

Renew on Day 1 to receive additional incentives. Be on the lookout for exciting incentive information.



Solar Eclipse Patch Pre-Order

This patch is a total eclipse of the heart. 🌞🕶️

Preorder this special edition Girl Scouts – Diamonds fun patch through March 3. All patch orders will also receive an amazing activity sheet.

Special Retail Hours

Hey Girl Scout volunteers! In addition to our normal retail hours, we will also be open during the following Saturdays to serve you better during this busy time of year:

- March 2, 8:30-10:30 am
Little Rock Retail Store ONLY
- March 9, 8:30 am- 2:30 pm
Little Rock AND Rogers Retail Stores

Questions/orders?

retail@girlscoutsdiamonds.org

Digital Cookie Update

In Digital Cookie, customers can no longer place a girl-delivered order for the Gluten Free Caramel Chocolate Chip cookie. Customers can order them through direct shipping. Additionally, Girl Scouts and troops can use the Digital Cookie App to process credit card payments for any cookies they may already have in their possession via the 'in-hand' feature.

Smart Cookies Just-In-Time Training

Service unit and troop volunteers utilizing Smart Cookies are invited to join the product program team and our ABC baker representative for our final just-in-time Smart Cookies training. Mar. 13 at noon | Wrapping Up the Sale

We recommend registering even if you cannot attend. Registrants will receive an email from GoToWebinar with the recording link for any missed session. For instance, you might find the recording of the Booths, Transfers and Payments training helpful.

Barn News

With the weather warming up, things are in full swing at the NOARK Barn:

- We've opened Private/Semi-Private weekday lessons and participants are really enjoying them.
- Come see us for our FREE April 27 [Barn Fest](#) event for hands-on activities offered by Ag and Environment vendors as well as demonstrations, food, and music!
- We're already booking our Fall slots, get your Family and Troops on the schedule for arena lessons and trail rides.

Little Rock Trojans Game

Girl Scouts are invited to come out and support your Little Rock Trojans as they take on the Tennessee Tech Golden Eagles on March 2 at 1 pm. All Girl Scouts will receive free [tickets](#) to the game. \$5 tickets are available for family and friends using code "scouts."

EmpowerHer Razorback Gymnastics

Girl Scouts are invited to this year's *EmpowHER* meet which will recognize and honor the women who have paved the way and made an impact in our society and local community. March 10 at 3:45 pm, Bud Walton Arena. Promo code "GSGYM" for \$3 [tickets](#).

Earth Day

Earth Day is an annual event on April 22 to demonstrate support for [environmental protection](#). It now includes a wide range of events coordinated globally by Earthday.org including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. The official theme for 2024 is "Planet vs. Plastics."

Observe the day with a clean-up or by learning about alternatives to plastic that you can use in your home, or learning how plastics damage our environment.

Tree Promise

All over the world, deforestation and climate change are damaging the planet. Trees help cool communities, reducing the heat island effect created by buildings, machines, and pavement. They also provide habitat for wildlife, create shade on hot summer days, clean water, and remove asthma-causing air pollution. Join Girl Scouts to make the world a better place as we plant, protect, and honor trees with the Girl Scout Tree Promise. Learn how to solve community problems and use team-building skills to sow seeds of change with family and friends today! The Tree Promise program has Girl Scouts working to plant 5 million trees over a 5-year period leading up to 2026. Get your [activity](#) guide and purchase [patches](#). Arbor Day is April 26 and that is a great time to plant a tree or two!

Hints for a Healthy SU: Volunteer Appreciation

One of the things that healthy Service Units do is show appreciation to the volunteers in their communities. Now is the time to make plans for how to recognize your volunteers' hard work during Volunteer Appreciation Month in April.

Each year we provide a thank you gift from the council for troop leaders and Service Unit leadership teams, and we are asking our service units to help distribute those. But what else can you do to honor your volunteers? A meal, an activity, an awards ceremony, a gift from the service unit, cards, and yard signs are all excellent ways to celebrate your hard work. Many of our volunteers say they love to hear from the girls in their troop about what they like about Girl Scouting, so thank you cards or a video from the girls would be a fantastic idea. Have one troop notify families in the service unit and suggest the girls make cards for their troop leaders.



Solar Eclipse Fun

How do you organize solar eclipse activities?
You planet.

All puns aside, we've got some eclipse related activities for your troop.

Sun-Powered Art

Make a solar photo with special paper and nature items. Cyanotype or sunprint paper might not be available locally, but it is easy to find online. Have girls place small items with interesting shapes on a piece of the paper and set it out in the sun for a few minutes. You will get an image with silhouettes of the items – it's pretty cool! Flatter items work best but have fun experimenting.

Sun-Powered Cooking

Check out the attached directions for a solar oven using a pizza box. It's a great (though slow) way to use the power of the sun to cook and is perfect for a *light snack*.

Sun, Moon, Earth Game

Here is a quick active game for younger girls. Use three cones (or other markers) and designate them as the sun, moon and earth. When the leader calls out Sun, girls run to the cone designated sun. For the call of Moon, girls hop on two feet to it, and for Earth, they walk to it.

Stomp Rockets

How do astronauts get to the moon? In a rocket! And now you can make your own rocket – a stomp rocket! Even adults love this activity.

You will need an empty two liter soda bottle, some duct tape and some pvc to make a [launcher](#). You won't need one for every girl, but it is fun to have at least two for the group.

Girls will each make a rocket out of paper and scotch tape. Some rockets will fly further than others. Let girls assess the design and make a second rocket with engineering modifications.

Moon Phases Craft

Why is the moon so hungry? Because it is only full once a month. This craft activity illustrates the phases of the moon. Girls will need two pieces of black paper or cardstock, with a moon image on the back piece that shows through a hole cut out of the front piece. They will use a third piece of paper to slide between these two to block out the moon – this slider should have one end cut in a curve.

Get full instructions and sample images for a version with spatter paint stars on this [blog](#) or watch this [video](#) for a version with cut-out stars.

With the solar eclipse coming up, this could easily be adapted to explain eclipses. The back image could be of the sun, and the slider could represent the moon.

Eclipse Service Projects

Many communities in our council are expecting extra visitors for the April 8 Solar Eclipse. This is a great time for your troop to beautify your town ahead of time or clean up afterwards.