

May

2026 Newsletter

Upcoming in May

- Girl Scout offices closed for Memorial Day - Monday, May 25, 2026
- Mental Health Awareness Month - May

May is
Jewish American
Heritage Month



May is National
Asian American
Native Hawaiian
Pacific Islander
Heritage Month



Girl Scout Registration

Early Bird starting April 1

This Early Bird Packet is your exclusive invitation to become an Early Bird Troop or Early Bird Service Unit and unlock exciting perks. Inside, you'll find everything you need to get a jumpstart on another unforgettable Girl Scout year!

Individual Reward

- Every Girl Scout renewed by Tuesday, June 30, 2026, will receive a FREE Early Bird patch to proudly showcase her commitment to another year of adventure!
- Every individual will receive a \$5 off certificate for a \$10 minimum pretax purchase! These will be mailed to each household.

Troop Rewards – Be an Early Bird Troop!

- Fall Product Program – Earn an additional \$0.10 per nut/candy item sold!
- Cookie Program – Earn an additional \$0.05 per package sold.

Service Unit Rewards – Be an Early Bird Service Unit!

- Service Units that meet the criteria listed in the 2026 Early Bird Packet will earn a \$100 gift certificate to the council shop.



[View 2026 Early Bird Packet Here](#)

Extended Year

For the 2027 membership year (October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027), Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) has set the annual national membership dues at:

\$65 for girl members
\$30 for adult members

Extended Year Membership (April 1 – July 31, 2026)

New members who join during this window can opt into the Extended Year Membership, which covers both the remainder of the current year and the full following membership year.

The standard dues for this option are:

\$91 for girls
\$42 for adults



Girl Scout Movement

2026 Girl Scout Convention July 20 - 25, 2026

Are you ready to connect with 10,000+ Girl Scouts from across the globe at the 2026 Girl Scout Convention, happening July 20 - 25, 2026, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.?

The event kicks off with the 57th National Council Session, July 20 - 22, 2026, where delegates gather to vote on important issues and elect national leaders. Then, from July 23 - 25, 2026, the full convention opens with interactive workshops, inspiring speakers, and unforgettable adventures welcoming Girl Scouts, alums, families, and friends!

Hosted by Girl Scouts Nation's Capital, this once-every-three-years celebration is your chance to experience the power, purpose, and pride of being a Girl Scout.

Girls Make History.

Join us in Washington, DC!
July 23-25, 2026



Join us as we celebrate all the ways that Girls Make History. Girl Scouts have transformed—and continue to transform—our country. We planted victory gardens during World War II and marched for civil rights. We launch new businesses and advocate for the issues we care about. We dream big. We spark change. We lead the way! There's no better time and place to celebrate the incredible impact of Girl Scouts than on the 250th anniversary of the U.S. in our nation's capital.

At the **Girl Scouts Unite** event, you'll:

- experience interactive workshops, inspiring speakers, and live performances
- meet girls who are taking action in their communities
- learn about trailblazers and barrier-breakers from past generations
- venture into the city for events and exhibits commemorating the 250th anniversary of the U.S.

Together, we'll make friends, make memories, and make a difference. It's a weekend you'll remember forever.

In the days leading up to the **Girl Scouts Unite** event (July 20-22), our 58th National Council Session will meet to discuss key issues, vote on proposals, and elect leaders. It's democracy in action, as girl delegates vote alongside adults and have a direct voice in shaping the future of Girl Scouts.

We'll see you July 23-25 with more than 10,000 Girl Scout community members and supporters. When Girl Scouts unite, anything is possible!

[Download PDF flyer](#)

[View Girl Scouts
Unite Website](#)

Scan the QR code to see unforgettable moments from 2023.



Product

Notes about the 2026 Cookie Recognitions



Recognitions with a class component

Some cookie recognitions include a class component due to IRS tax rules. Prizes are considered taxable income if given to individuals, but when tied to a group educational experience, this doesn't apply. That's why Girl Scouts must attend, keep their camera on, and participate to receive the recognition.

A Zoom registration link will be emailed within two weeks of the class date.

Experiences and travel recognitions

Some cookie recognitions are an experience, such as Howl at the Moon, or are a travel trip, like the GSUSA National Convention. Each girl who earns these recognitions is to bring an accompanying adult. This adult needs to be a currently registered Girl Scout member and have a clean background check. This is for liability insurance purposes.

The Girl Scout will receive an email asking if she is going to participate in the recognition. There will be a response deadline. Please check your email spam folder!

- The 500 Club includes participation in the Lego Derby and then an outside overnight campout at the Roswell Program Center.
- Howl at the Moon is the biannual GSDSW council gathering. The weekend is spent at Bonita Park Camp, north of Ruidoso, NM.
- El Paso Theatre will be an overnight at an El Paso downtown hotel (even if you are local!) and a matinee showing of Beauty and the Beast at the Plaza Theatre.
- The GSUSA National Convention is an event that is held every three years and brings 10,000+ Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from around the world to celebrate being Girl Scouts. The top six girls who sell more than 6000+ packages will receive this recognition trip. If at any time you need to know if you are in the top six, please feel free to email info@gsdsw.org, and we will be happy to tell you.
- Weekend in Paris is a chance to get a stamp in your passport! We will be staying downtown in Paris and will visit the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and more! Eat a crepe by the Seine River while gazing at Notre Dame! A current passport is required for both the Girl Scout and the accompanying adult.
- Note: Experiences and travel include (where applicable) airfare, hotel, entrance fees, and meals during the trip. Incidentals, such as souvenirs and snacks, are at the discretion of the Girl Scout and accompanying adult.

Program

Click to
view
program



Summer Resident Camp at Camp Mitre Peak



There are nine NEW programs this coming summer for new and returning campers! From third grade to twelfth grade, there is something for every Girl Scout!

[Register for
Summer Resident Camp here!](#)



Scan me

Pack It Up! - May 2026

Packing efficiently is an important skill that helps you stay organized, save space, and make traveling easier and less stressful. A great first step is creating a packing list so you can make sure you have everything you need before you even open your suitcase. When you plan ahead and pack smart, you can avoid overpacking, stay organized, and feel confident heading out on any trip. This activity will help you practice to make the most of your space and be prepared wherever you go.

What You'll Need:

- A suitcase or backpack
- Clothing and items from the list below
- A timer (phone is fine)
- Optional: small bags or packing cubes

Your Trip Scenario:

You're going on a 3-day trip. You need to pack everything you'll need, but your suitcase has limited space—so you'll need to pack smart!

Packing List:

- 3 shirts
- 2 pairs of pants or shorts
- 1 set of pajamas
- 1 jacket or sweatshirt
- 3 pairs of socks
- 1 pair of shoes
- Toiletries (toothbrush, hairbrush, etc.)

Step 1: First Try

Set a timer for 5–7 minutes.

Pack your suitcase however you think is best. Don't overthink it—just go! When the timer ends, open your suitcase and take a look:

- Is everything wrinkled?
- Can you find things easily?
- Do you have extra space, or is it overstuffed?



Monthly Challenge

The May Monthly Challenge
is about Packing!
https://bit.ly/PackItUp_May26



Program

Click to view full flyer



Sat.
June
6

How Money Works For Kids

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for a fun, hands-on workshop where girls will explore the building blocks of strong money habits. Through engaging activities, they'll learn how to value money, pay themselves first, understand the difference between good debt and bad debt, and develop a meaningful habit of giving.

Cadettes - Ambassadors (Grades 6 - 12)
Saturday, June 6, 2026
11:00 AM - 1:00 PM MDT
El Paso Girl Scout Program Center
9700 Girl Scout Way, El Paso, TX 79924
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/MoneyWorksCSAFP2026>
Registration deadline: Monday, June 1, 2026

What you will do:

- Beat the Money Trap — Play a quick game to learn smart money choices
- The \$100 Challenge — Save first, budget your cash, and grow your money
- Spot Wants vs Needs — Sort items fast to spot needs and wants
- Ripple Effect Game — Discover how small acts of giving make a big impact

Not a Girl Scout?
No problem - scan the QR code or sign up at the event!
Meet new friends, learn what Girl Scouts is about, and join the fun.
Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!

El Paso, TX

Wed.
June
10

Local Museum Tour

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest as we step into the past and uncover stories that shaped our community during this exciting museum tour! This interactive experience brings history to life for Cadettes through hands-on exploration, critical thinking, and teamwork. Girls will gain a deeper appreciation for local culture while building curiosity and confidence.

Cadettes (Grades 6 - 8)
Wednesday, June 10, 2026
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM MDT
Carlsbad Museum
418 W. Fox St., Carlsbad, NM 88220
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/MuseumTourCCB2026>
Registration deadline: Monday, June 1, 2026

What you will do:

- Exhibits exploration scavenger hunt
- Guided tour experience
- Museum moments photography

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Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!

Carlsbad, NM

Sat.
June
13

Discover Your Story, Girl Scout!

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for a warm, family-centered cultural workshop at Clardy Fox Library, where we'll celebrate the traditions, stories, and connections that make every family beautifully unique. Together, we'll enjoy time exploring what makes us who we are and create a simple keepsake that highlights each family's special roots. Families are welcome to bring a photo or small memento to share.

Brownies (Grades 2 - 3)
Saturday, June 13, 2026
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM MDT
Clardy Fox Library
5515 Robert Alba Ave., El Paso, TX 79905
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/YourStoryBEP2026>
Registration deadline: Monday, June 1, 2026

What you will do:

- Storytime celebration with a book about family
- Cultural sharing circle discussing traditions, dances, food, and more
- Create your own family tree
- Optional show-and-tell with a family photo

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Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!

El Paso, TX

Sat.
June
13

Self-Care Spa Day

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for a day of self-care and sisterhood at our Girl Scout Cadette Spa Day! Designed especially for girls in grades 6 - 8, this fun and uplifting experience will focus on wellness, confidence, and relaxation. Cadettes will enjoy hands-on activities that promote healthy habits, creativity, and positive self-image—all while spending quality time with friends.

Cadettes (Grades 6 - 8)
Saturday, June 13, 2026
2:00 PM - 3:00 PM MDT
Hobbs Girl Scout Program Center
522 E. Broadway St., Hobbs, NM 88240
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/SpaDayCHB2026>
Registration deadline: Monday, June 1, 2026

What you will do:

- Create a Bliss Box
- Stop and smell the roses
- Start gratitude journals

Not a Girl Scout?
No problem - scan the QR code or sign up at the event!
Meet new friends, learn what Girl Scouts is about, and join the fun.
Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!

Hobbs, NM

Engagement

Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

Midland, TX

- Open House - Saturday, June 13, 2026
- Back to School Open House - Saturday, September 12, 2026

Odessa, TX

- Open House - Saturday, June 13, 2026

Hobbs, NM

- Girl Scouts Fun Day Open House - Saturday, June 20, 2026

El Paso, TX

- Open House - Saturday, June 27, 2026

Contact info@gsdsw.org for more information



Introducing Girl Scouts Sprouts Program!

This is a completely free program for any Pre-K girl who is going to be in Kindergarten by September. Each location hosts one free event a month that families can register for and attend. Participating means free monthly local events, fun challenges, and a Program Passport to track her progress - all designed to help her build confidence and grow into a Girl Scouts member, all at no cost to you.

Locations: El Paso | Hobbs | Midland | Odessa



Service Unit Roundtable

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Important Troop Forms

- [Bank Account Request](#)
- [Emergency Procedures](#)
- [Health History](#)
- [Opportunity Fund Application](#)
- [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#)
- [Trip and High-Risk Activity Form](#)
- [Troop Disbandment Checklist](#)
- [Troop Disband Form](#)
- [Volunteer Essentials](#)

Resource Development

Driving Change Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest Topgolf Classic

Saturday, August 29, 2026 | 10:00 AM - 1:00PM
Topgolf El Paso
365 Vin Rambla Dr., El Paso, TX 79912

Sponsor Today!



A premier Topgolf experience bringing together corporate partners and community leaders to invest in leadership, STEM, financial literacy, and life skills programming for girls across the Desert Southwest.

All golfers participate through Bay Sponsorships
Each bay includes 6 golfers



Secure Your Sponsorship
funddevelopment@gsdsw.org



SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

- Presenting**
\$10,000
 - 2 Topgolf Bays (12 golfers)
 - Recognition as Presenting Sponsor on all event materials
 - Premier logo placement at event + materials
 - Verbal recognition during the event program
 - Featured across social media and marketing
 - Opportunity for welcome remarks
 - Breakfast buffet included
- Food**
\$7,500
 - 1 Topgolf Bay (6 golfers)
 - Recognition as Official Food Sponsor
 - Logo displayed at all food & buffet stations
 - Recognition during event announcements
 - Social media and event material recognition
 - Breakfast buffet included
- Event**
\$5,000
 - 1 Topgolf Bay (6 golfers)
 - Prominent logo placement at event
 - Recognition in event materials & social media
 - Breakfast buffet included
- Swag Bag**
\$2,000
 - Logo featured on all participants gift bags
 - Opportunity to include a branded item
 - Social media recognition
 - Breakfast buffet included
- Bay**
\$1,500
 - 1 Topgolf Bay (6 golfers)
 - Signage in player gift bags
 - Social media recognition
 - Breakfast buffet included
- Photo Booth**
\$1,500
 - Logo on photo backdrop
 - Branded digital photo sharing
 - Social media recognition
 - Breakfast buffet included

Council Properties

Council Property Building Rental / Usage

Reminder: Council Property Use Form Required

Planning to use a council property or building for troop meetings, programs, trainings, service unit meetings, or other gatherings? You must submit the Troop/SU Meeting Property Rental Application each program year, even if you submitted one last year.

If your previous form included dates that have already passed, a new request is required for any upcoming use. This helps us keep accurate, up-to-date scheduling and ensures proper support for all users.

Want to use or rent Camp Mitre Peak or any of our program centers for troop or service unit meetings, or special events? Submit your request here:

- [Camp Mitre Peak Rental Application](#)
- [Troop/SU Meeting Property Rental Application](#)
- [GSDSW Members and Troop Mitre Council Property Rental Application](#)



Camp Mitre Peak, Fort Davis, TX
Carlsbad, NM
Deming, NM
El Paso, TX
Fort Stockton, TX
Hobbs, NM

Las Cruces, NM
Midland, TX
Odessa, TX
Roswell, NM
Silver City, NM
White Spur Hut, El Paso, TX

Around the Council

Retail Shops

Council Shop Hours*

El Paso

Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM MT
(Closed for lunch 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)
1st Saturday of each month
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM MT

Las Cruces

At the monthly Service Unit event
Pre-orders will also be delivered.

Midland

Tuesdays 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT
Thursdays 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM & 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM
CT
1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CT

Odessa

2nd & 4th Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CT

For locations, [click here](#).

Shop orders will be placed on the second Thursday of each month for special orders and items not in stock.

*Subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest Career Opportunities

Engagement Specialist

- Las Cruces
- Roswell
- Silver City

Interested candidates should email careers@gsdsw.org with resumes and a cover letter.

Resource Development Specialist

- Midland

Explore Our New GSDSW Collection

Fresh GSDSW-branded items just landed at our El Paso and Midland locations, and they're ready for you to explore. Stop by, check out what's new, and say hello — we're excited to see you!



If your service unit is organizing an event and you would like to have the GSDSW Mobile Store present, please complete and submit [this request form](#) at least one month before the event.