



Girl Experience

2025-2026 Program Catalog



gcnwi

Explore Our Programs

Spark Days

S.T.E.M.

Leadership Awards

Community Service

Girl Scout Days

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Financial Literacy

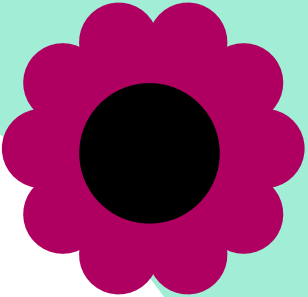
Outdoor Experiences

Girl Experience Leadership

[Link to Registration Website](#)



gcnwi



Spark Days

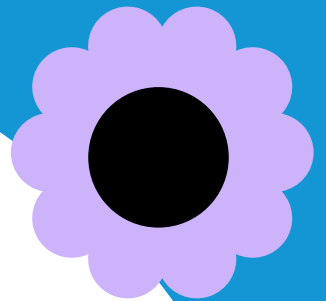
Contact: Jasmine Wardlaw



Girl Experience Administration Specialist

Phone: (815) 651-2727

Email: jwardlaw@girlscoutsgcnwi.org



S.T.E.M

Manager: Andrea Vesecky



Phone: (219) 472-1972

Email: avesecky@girlscoutsgcnwi.org



Discover Coding with Black Girls Code



Brownie, Junior, and Cadette (2nd-8th grade) | Saturday December 13

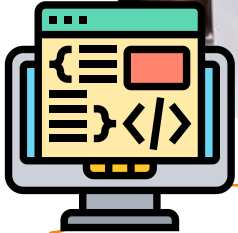


\$5

**Learn coding while
celebrating the holidays
in a creative way!**

Girl Scouts will be introduced to Scratch, a coding platform, by Black Girls Code. Using Scratch, Girl Scouts will design and create their own interactive holiday cards.

Beginner and intermediate level coders welcome.



When

9:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Where

Kennedy King College- Y Building:
Innovation One Lab
6343 S Halsted St Chicago IL 60621



Questions? Contact:
Customer Care at 855-456-8347

Scan the QR code to register
or use the link below

<https://girlscout.info/STEAM>

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**BLACK
GIRLS
CODE**

SAVE
THE
DATE

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STEM Fest

entry
\$30

April 25, 2026

10am to 4pm

Joliet Gathering Place

Featuring:

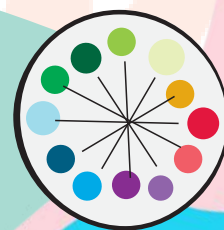
The Sloomoo Institute

Girl Scouts First Lego Robotics

More Community Partners to be announced!



Questions? Contact:
Customer Care at 855-456-8347
Scan the QR code to register
or use the link below
<https://girlscout.info/STEAM>



Custom Programs

We'll bring the programming to you!

Custom programs are back!

Are you looking for a fun, hands-on activity that's perfect for your troop? Our Custom Programs are designed to inspire creativity, learning, and teamwork.

Choose from four engaging themes:

Spa Science, Food Science, Craft It Engineer It, or Colorful Science.

Custom programs are \$20 per participant and last two hours. The cost includes all supplies, staff facilitation, and a patch!

Must meet 12 girl minimum, 30 girl maximum.* See form for complete details.

*Service unit managers can request larger programs

How Do I Reserve?

Complete the form to get started, and a member of the Girl Experience Team will follow up to confirm your program details.

Where?

You may use a location of your choice, but you must reserve it and cover associated costs. To use a Gathering Place, list that in your application and we will do our best to accommodate!



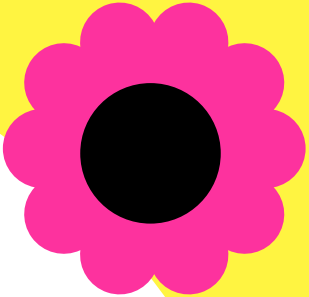
Complete the form using the QR code or the link below:

<https://bit.ly/GCNWICustomPrograms>

Questions? Contact:

programs@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

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and northwest
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Leadership Awards

Manager: Andrea Vesecky



Phone: (219) 472-1972

Email: avesecky@girlscoutsgcnwi.org



You're
Invited

True North to Awards

Come earn the (NEW!) True North Award! The True North award is about discovering what matters to you and staying true to yourself.

Girl Scouts will spend the first two hours of our program earning most of their True North award followed by a one hour training about going for the Girl Scout Highest Awards.

Grades: 4-12 | Cost: \$30.00



Questions? Contact:
Customer Care at 855-456-8347
customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Scan the QR code to register
or use the link below
<https://girlscout.info/awards>

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

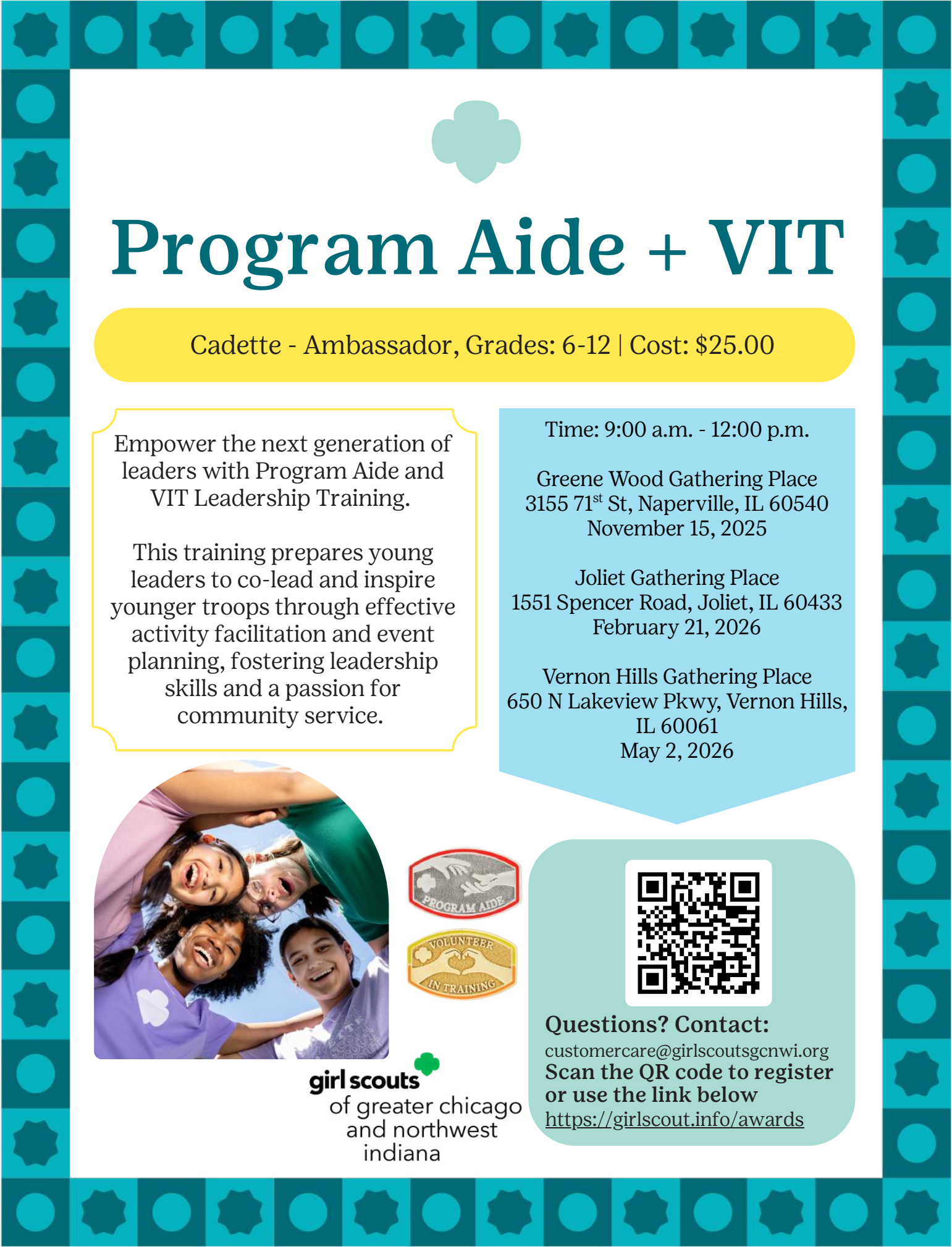
Joliet Gathering Place
November 8, 2025

Greene Wood Gathering Place
Naperville
January 10, 2026

Vernon Hills Gathering Place
February 7, 2026

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Program Aide + VIT

Cadette - Ambassador, Grades: 6-12 | Cost: \$25.00

Empower the next generation of leaders with Program Aide and VIT Leadership Training.

This training prepares young leaders to co-lead and inspire younger troops through effective activity facilitation and event planning, fostering leadership skills and a passion for community service.

Time: 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Greene Wood Gathering Place
3155 71st St, Naperville, IL 60540
November 15, 2025

Joliet Gathering Place
1551 Spencer Road, Joliet, IL 60433
February 21, 2026

Vernon Hills Gathering Place
650 N Lakeview Pkwy, Vernon Hills, IL 60061
May 2, 2026

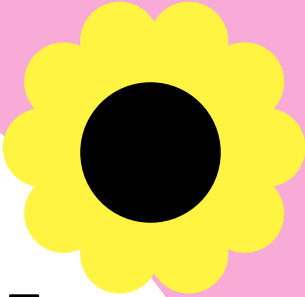


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Questions? Contact:

customer@girlscoutsgcnwi.org
Scan the QR code to register
or use the link below
<https://girlscout.info/awards>



Community Service

Manager: Jessica Hickman



Phone: (708) 658-2312

Email: jhickman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org



Ornament Donation Drive

October 27 - November 12

This holiday season, help us spread joy and hope! We're collecting new or gently used ornaments to donate to Hope Ornaments, an organization that brings holiday cheer to families and individuals in need. Every ornament donated will be given to patients to bring a smile to their face.

How You Can Help?

Donate new or handmade ornaments.



**Accepting donations at all Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago
and Northwest Indiana Gathering Places.**

***Excluding the Chicago Gathering Place**

Items can be dropped off Tuesday–Thursday between 10:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.
(Please note: gathering places are closed from 1:00–2:00 p.m.)

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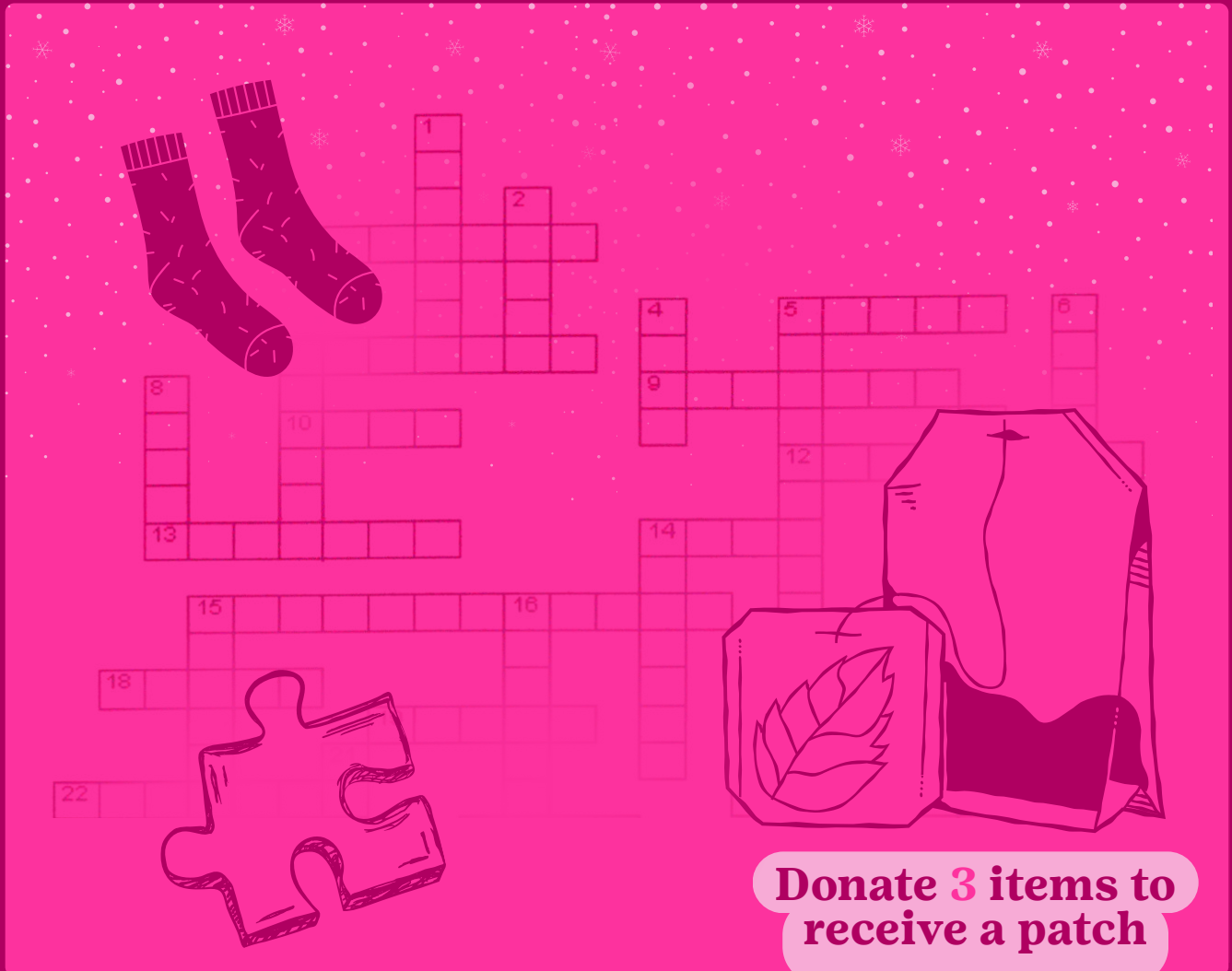
Scan for gathering place locations
<https://girlscout.info/ShopHours>

Questions? Contact
girlEXP@girlscoutsgcnwi.org



COLLECTING DONATIONS:

November 17th - December 19th



**Donate 3 items to
receive a patch**

**Collecting Fuzzy Socks, Tea Bags, Hot Chocolate Packs,
Puzzles, Word-Search Books, and Handwritten Cards**

Winter Service Project

Collecting items at all Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana locations except downtown Chicago.

Items will be gifted to seniors through
holiday care packages.



Council Community Service Corner

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Join Us to Serve, Lead, and Lend

October - December

10/1-10/30

Kindness Rock Kits

11/8

Feed My Starving Children

9:00 - 10:45 a.m.

2:00 - 3:45 p.m.

11/10-12/12

Collecting Donations for

Senior Holiday Care Packages

*Fuzzy Socks, Tea Bags, Hot Chocolate Packs,
Puzzles, Word Search Books, Handwritten Cards*

January - March

1/20-2/27

Collecting Birthday in a Bag Donations for

pantries, churches and shelters

Cake Mix, Icing, Cake Pan

Can of Sprite, Small Toy

3/14

Packing Day for Birthday Kits at each
Gathering Place

April - June

4/1-4/30

Service Unit Service Project

Recycle Cookie Boxes

to make Cat Scratchers

April-June

'Planting Hope, Growing Leaders'

Tree Promise (Two Locations)

Adopt-a-Garden

July - September

7/8-8/20

Collecting Comfort Wellness Donations

for Students at local schools

Small Fidget Toy, Hand Sanitizer, Lip Balm,

Tissue (travel size), Compact Brush,

Small Notebook, Pens

September

Pack Wellness Bags at the Gathering Places



Scan the QR code for
more information

or use the link below
girlscout.info/communityservice

Questions? Contact:
girlEXP@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Community Service Virtual Information Sessions

Join us every second Tuesday of the month to learn more about upcoming community service opportunities.

How can I be of service?

Daisy, Brownie, Junior

5:00 - 5:45 p.m.

How can your troop lend a hand?
Searching for ideas?

Join us to discuss!



girlscout.info/LendingaHand

Looking to make the world a better place?

Cadette, Senior, Ambassador

6:00-6:45 p.m.

Looking to earn your Service Bars?

Join us to learn more!



girlscout.info/CommunityServiceBars

Community Service Bar

Demonstrate your commitment to
community service by completing service
at one approved organization.

Levels: Cadette, Senior, Ambassador



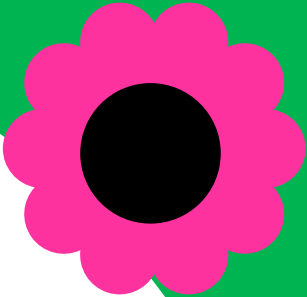
Each bar requires a minimum of 20 hours of service.

Service to Girl Scouting Bar

Demonstrate your commitment to service
by assisting with Girl Scout
activities/troops.



To learn more visit
girlscout.info/gcnwicommunityservice



Girl Scout Days

Manager: Jessica Hickman



Phone: (708) 658-2312

Email: jhickman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org



You're
Invited

Girl Scout Day at the Movies

Saturday, November 29 | Showtime 11:00 a.m. | Doors open: 10:00 a.m.

Zootopia 2

Girl Scout ticket price (\$22)

Includes: movie ticket, box of popcorn and a reusable double wall movie cup with lid and straw filled with their drink of choice

Adult ticket price (\$8)

includes: Movie ticket to accompany Girl Scout

Space & special cups are limited!

There are no seating assignments.

Open to all Girl Scouts and families.

Where: Hollywood Boulevard Cinema
1001 75th St.
Woodridge, IL 60517



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Questions? Contact:
girlEXP@girlscoutsgcnwi.org
Scan the QR code to register or
use the link below

<https://girlscout.info/zootopia2>



WREATH

A You
and Me
Program!



Workshop

December 13
10:00 a.m- 12:00 p.m.
Vernon Hills and
Schererville
Gathering Places
\$25

Come get cozy and craft!
Girl Scouts and adults are
invited to create wreaths
together while also
enjoying winter crafts and
snacks.



Questions? Contact:
Customer Care at 855-456-8347
Scan the QR code to register
or use the link below
<https://girlscout.info/STEAM>

Girl Scouts Day at Bulldog Skating Rink

Sunday, December 21
6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Bulldog Ice Skating Rink
103 S West St. Crown Point, IN



Bundle up and join us for an evening of ice skating at Bulldog Park in Crown Point, IN.

This event is open to all Girl Scouts friends and families. Troops are encouraged to come as a group.

Every person entering the building must pay.



Skates and Fun Patch
Included!



Questions? Contact:
girlEXP@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Scan the QR code to register
or use the link below

<https://girlscout.info/bulldogiceskating>



Girl Scout Day

at the 4 Seasons Horse Stable

4613 E 109th Ave, Crown Point, IN

Saturday, March 7 | 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.



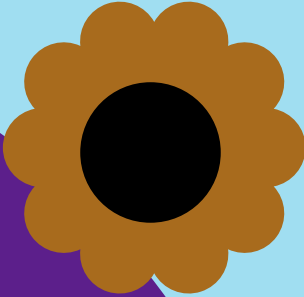
\$30 per person | Patch included!
Signed waiver required to participate.



Scan the QR code
or [click here to register!](#)

Questions? Contact: girlEXP@girlscoutsgcnwi.org





Older Girl

Manager: Samantha Lehman



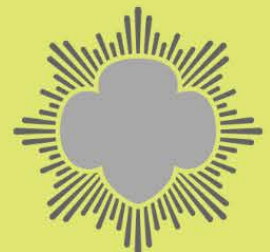
Phone: (630) 544-5924

Email: slehman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org



Highest Awards Workshops

Want to learn more about earning your Silver Award or Gold Award?



Want to tackle an issue important to you and your community while engaging in one of the oldest Girl Scout traditions? Join us for our Highest Award Workshops where our program staff will go through the steps, processes, and paperwork to ensure you're ready to hit the ground running.

All trainings are held virtually through Zoom. Link provided after registration.

Silver Award Workshops

(Generally the third Thursday of the month)
October 23, December 11, February 19

Cost: \$8 | 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Gold Award Workshops

(Generally the third Thursday of the month)
September 18, November 20, January 15

Cost: \$8 | 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.



Questions? Contact:
customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Scan the QR code to register
or use the link below
girlscout.info/HighestAwardsWorkshops

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Project Law Track



Saturday, February 28, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

at Dirksen U.S. Courthouse, Chicago, IL

Grades 6-12

If you enjoy tackling challenges and standing up for what you believe in, using your voice, or if you're simply curious about the life of a lawyer, then Project Law is for you!

Before registering, you must complete the application and schedule a "Get to Know You" interview. Scan the QR code, or follow <https://girlscout.info/PLTinfo> to apply!



Cost: \$35*

If you have any questions, please reach out to GirlEXP@girlscoutsgcnwi.org.

*Financial Assistance may be available.



You're
Invited

Project Law Dupage

Saturday, March 14 | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

If you enjoy tackling challenges, standing up for what you believe in, using your voice, or if you're simply curious about the life of a lawyer, then Project Law is for you!

Spend the day with women law professionals serving as your mentors while you explore the path to law school and the many different opportunities a legal career can offer.

Grades 6-12

Where: 1001 Warrenville Rd, Lisle, IL

Cost: \$30

*Financial Assistance may be available.

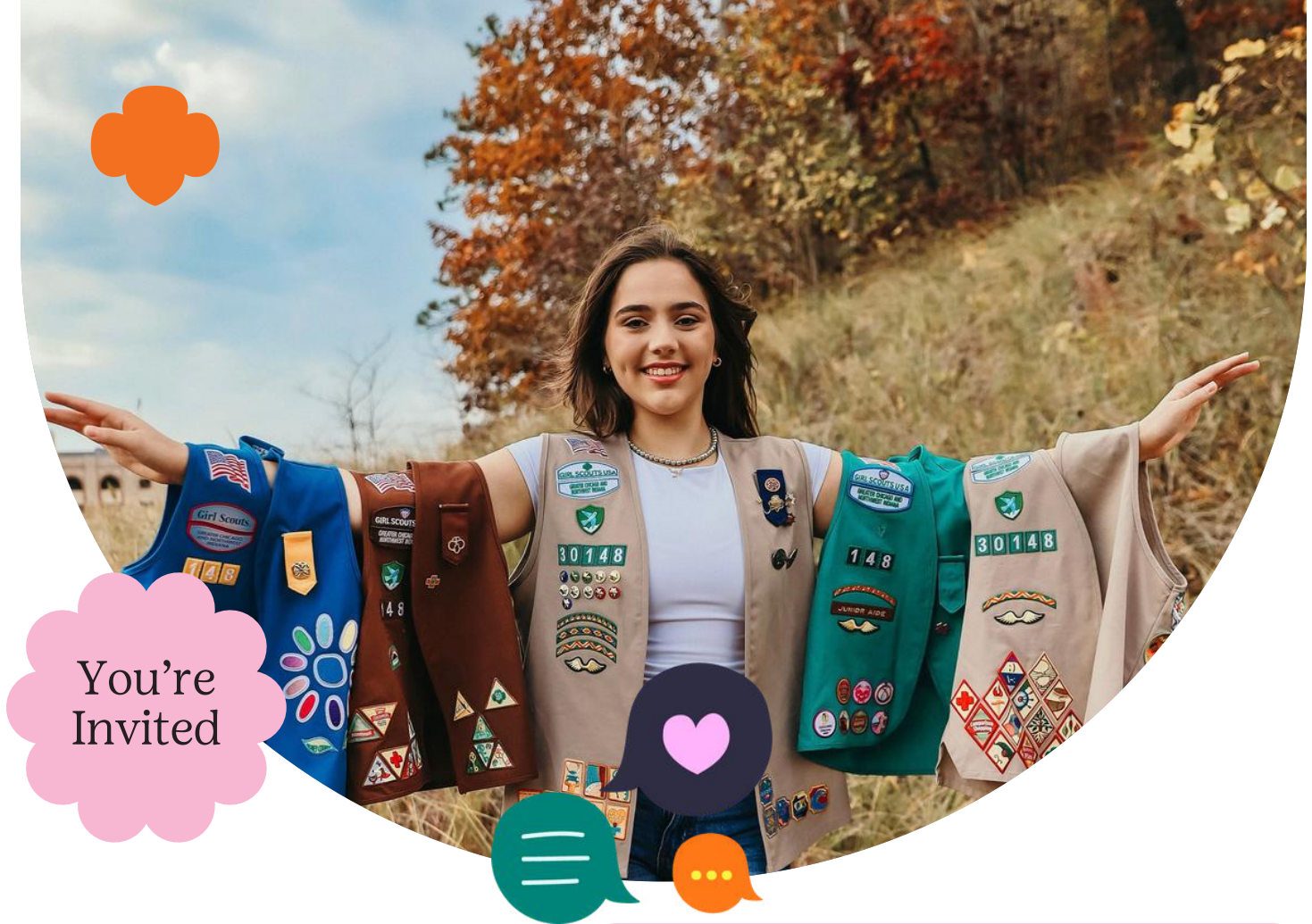


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Questions? Contact:
Customer Care at 855-456-8347
Scan the QR code to register or
use the link below

<https://girlscout.info/ProjectLawDupage26>





You're
Invited

Highest Awards Picnic

Calling all Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award
Girl Scouts!

Join us for an afternoon of fun in celebration of the
hard work you put into earning a higher award in
2025-2026.

This program is designed for Girl Scouts and their
family and/or troop leader(s).

Cost: \$30 for highest award recipients (includes swag
bag and patch), \$10 for all other attendees

Sunday, July 12 / 3:00 -5:30 p.m.

Where:

Joliet Gathering Place
1551 Spencer Road
Joliet, IL 60433



Questions? Contact:
Customer Care at 855-456-8347 or
customer care@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Scan the QR code to register
or use the link below
<https://girlscout.info/Picnic>

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Camp CEO

September 18 - 20, 2026 | Grades 9 - 12 | Cost \$100

A Premier Leadership Camp for Girls.

Nothing is more empowering than having
someone believe in you!

Camp CEO is dedicated to creating a safe
space for Girl Scouts to network and
interact with women from a variety of
industries and backgrounds who believe
in girls and all that they can accomplish.

Where:

Camp Butternut Springs
Valparaiso, IN



The weekend environment is fun, camp-based, and full of unique opportunities to hear about the twists and turns of the women mentors' career paths and ask questions about how they got to where they are today.

Their stories give Girl Scouts a "peek behind the curtain" and reinforce how tenacity, persistence, being curious, and taking risks without fear of failure can be the catalyst for interesting careers.

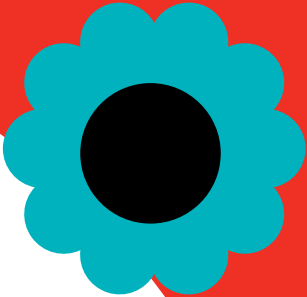
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Questions? Contact:
Customer Care at
855-456-8347

Scan the QR code to apply or
use the link below



girlscout.info/CampCEOApply



Trip and Travel

Contact: Kisa Fitzgerald



Phone: (219) 472-1958

Email: Jfitzgerald@Girlscoutsgcnwi.Org

In summer 2028, we are traveling the world!

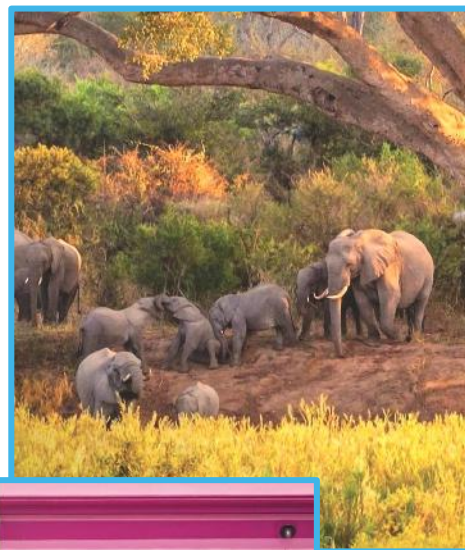
Interested learning more? We're holding two info sessions where you can hear all about each travel opportunity, what we'll see and do, travel logistics, safety, pricing, how to enroll and more. Be sure to RSVP!

In June 2028, we're heading to

South Africa

RSVP to info session:
Tue. Nov. 11th @
6:30pm CT

bit.ly/4pyljri

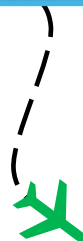


In July 2028, we're heading to

Italy & Greece

RSVP to info session:
Wed. Dec. 3rd
@ **6:30pm CT**

bit.ly/42sEdY3



*Can't make the meeting but want more info?
RSVP on the site and select "No but send info."

Questions? Contact: gstravel@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Girl Scout Day at The DuSable Black History Museum



Date: February 22, 2026

DuSable Black History Museum
740 E 56th Place, Chicago, IL 60637

10AM - 5:00PM

Cost: Free museum admission!
**Optional \$15.00 includes an exclusive, custom
T-shirt & matching Black History patch.**



Meet us for Girl Scout Day! Discover the stories, achievements, and rich cultural heritage of African Americans through hands-on exhibits and interactive experiences designed to inspire curiosity and courage.

Open for all troops, families and friends.



<https://girlscout.info/travel>

Scan the QR code to register!
Questions?

Email GSTravel@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

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The Chicago Big Bus Tour & Scavenger Hunt

Saturday, May 2, 2026 | 11:30 a.m. | Cost \$45.00

You're Invited! Family Event!

Join us for a day of fun exploring Chicago's most famous landmarks!

Climb aboard this double-decker bus and take a one-of-a-kind adventure and see Chicago's must see sights! Then, embark at your own pace on a fun and interactive scavenger hunt visiting some of the city's most iconic landmarks!

Financial Assistance is available.

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Questions? Contact:
gstravel@girlscoutsgcnwi.org



Scan the QR code
to register or use
the link below.



girlscout.info/travel

Troop & Family Getaway KALAHARI RESORTS

June 5 - 7, 2026
Wisconsin Dells, WI

Flexible One and Two
Night Options Available

ROAD TRIP!!!

Meet us at Kalahari Resorts in
Wisconsin Dells, WI for an
unforgettable family and troop
adventure with Girl Scouts.

<https://girlscout.info/travel>



Scan here for more
information!



Questions? Contact
GSTravel@GirlScoutsGCNWI.org

Savannah, Georgia Takeover!

Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana



TROOP AND FAMILY TRIP!!

Join Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana on a journey as we take over Savannah, GA! Discover the roots of Girl Scouting in the charming city of Savannah—home of our founder, Juliette Gordon Low. Don't miss this unforgettable Girl Scout experience!

<https://girlscout.info/SavannahTakeover26>

LIMITED SPOTS AVAILABLE!!

\$200 DEPOSIT DEADLINE DEC 15, 2025

TRIP INFORMATION

August 3 - 7, 2026

- Round-trip transportation from Chicago, IL to Savannah, GA via private charter bus
- Four-night hotel stay
- Ground transportation in Savannah, GA
- Visit Juliette Gordon Low's birthplace and the first Girl Scouts headquarters
- Visit to Tybee Island with a dolphin cruise
- Daily breakfast at the hotel

Open to troops and individually registered members.

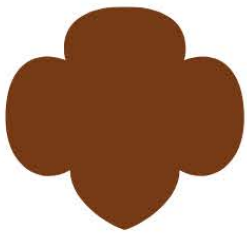
Leaders and families are invited to attend.



Scan the QR code to register!



Contact Kisa at GSTravel@girlscoutsgcnwi.org .
or 219-472-1958



Ready, Set, Travel!

Volunteer Travel Training

Whether you're a troop leader or a parent with a passion for travel, this self-paced training is for you! Designed to help you plan and lead safe, memorable trips, this training is your first step toward exciting Girl Scout travel opportunities. Let's get ready to explore!



1. LOGIN TO GSCONNECT

2. SCAN HERE!

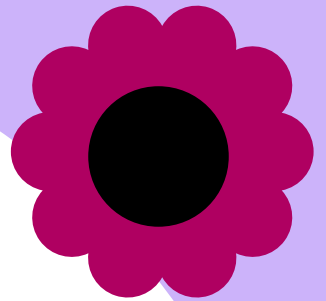


Need More Information?

Email: gstravel@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

<https://bit.ly/3UXYdNL>

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Life Skills

Manager: Fran Delacey



Phone: (224) 207-9246

Email: fdelacey@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Winter Reading Challenge

How it works:

1. Register for the Winter Reading Challenge
2. Choose at least one book to read from our Girl Scout Book List.
3. Complete 20 hours of reading.
4. Submit your reading reflection log.

Details:

Dates: December 1 - February 1

Cost: \$7*

Includes: Reading list, reading tracker, reflection log, and patch!

*Financial Assistance Available

Register using the QR code or link!
girlscout.info/WinterReadingChallenge



Check out our Reading Challenge patch set!



Base Patch



Seasonal rockers

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Completed Patch Set

Will you earn them all?

Starting with our 2025 Summer Reading Challenge, each participant will receive a base patch and accompanying seasonal rocker. First time participating? Select that you need a base patch when you submit your reading reflection log!

Book Club 2025-2026

Join us for our monthly book club! On the last Sunday of each month, Juniors and Cadettes are invited to attend Book Club to discuss monthly readings. Below is the schedule and reading selections for the 2025-2026 Girl Scout year. This program is free to attend! Registration information is listed on the next page.

Date	Junior Book List	Cadette Book List
October 26, 2025	Hummingbird by Natalie Lloyd	Paola Santiago and the River of Tears by Tehlor Kay Mejia
November 23, 2025	Marvellers by Dhonielle Clayton	Elastoe by Darcie Little Badger
December 14, 2025	Wild Oak by C.C. Harrington	Melt by Ele Fountain
January 25, 2026	Tree Table Book by Lois Lowry	Red Scarf Girl: A Memoir of the Cultural Revolution by Ji-Li Jiang
February 23, 2026	Curlfriend New in Town by Sharee Miller	Raybearer by Jordan Ifueko Black
March 29, 2026	The Fire, the Water, and Maudie McGinn by Sally J. Pla	Piece by Piece: The Story of Nisrin's Hijab by Priya Hug
April 26, 2026	Island of the Blue Dolphin by Scot O'Dell	Tethered to Other Stars by Elisa Stone Leahy
May 17, 2026	The Cat Ate my Gymsuit by Paula Danziger	Weedflower by Cynthia Kadohata
June 28, 2026	It's All or Nothing Vale by Andrea Beatriz Arango	A Wizard's Guide to Defensive Baking by Ursula Vernon

Date	Junior Book List	Cadette Book List
July 26, 2026	Pie by Sarah Weeks	When the Mapou Sings by Nadine Pinede
August 30, 2026	Picture of Hollis Woods by Patricia Reiley Giff	Keeper of the Lost Cities by Shannon Messenger
September 27, 2026	The Burning Season by Caroline Starr Rose	Amal Unbound by Aisha Saeed

How it works:

1. Book club meets virtually on the last Sunday of each month.
2. Juniors meet from 5:00-5:45 pm and Cadettes meet from 6:00-7:00 pm.
3. Use the QR code or link below to register for your session. These will take you to all of our club sessions for the entire year. You can register for multiple sessions at once!
4. You will be emailed the meeting information on the Thursday and Sunday morning before each session.



<https://girlscout.info/Clubs>

Do you love reading with Girl Scouts? Register for our seasonal reading challenges!
Our Book Club selections are included on reading challenge book lists!

Fall reading challenge registration link:

<https://girlscout.info/FallReadingChallengeRegistration>

Questions?

Please contact Irene Crea at Icrea@Girlscoutsgcnwi.org or (224) 207-9233.





Junior Experience

Manager: Fran Delacey



Phone: (224) 207-9246

Email: fdelacey@girlscoutsgcnwi.org



Bronze Award Trainings

October 21, 2025 | January 20, 2026 | April 21, 2026

Do you have a Girl Scout earning her Bronze Award? Join us at the Bronze Award Leader Training to fully equip yourself to lead her through her first Highest Award!

Participants will be mailed a Bronze Award Leader Toolkit!

Meeting Details:

Location: Virtual on Zoom

Time: 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Cost: \$8*



Her First Highest Award

The Bronze Award is a Girl Scout's first Highest Award. By earning the Bronze Award, Girl Scouts in grades 4–5 take the lead on a team project that addresses a community need.

They'll learn to plan, collaborate, and create real change. Along the way, they build confidence, develop leadership skills, and discover the difference they can make when they take action. It's more than a project. It's a journey of service, leadership, and making the world a better place.

girlscouts 
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indiana

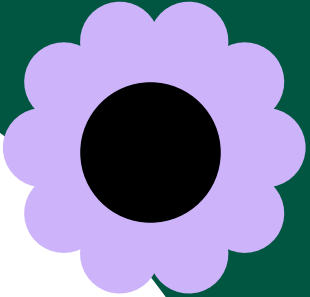
Questions? Contact:
GirlEXP@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Scan the QR code to register or
use the link below

<https://girlscout.info/OctBronzeAwardTraining>



**Financial Assistance Available*



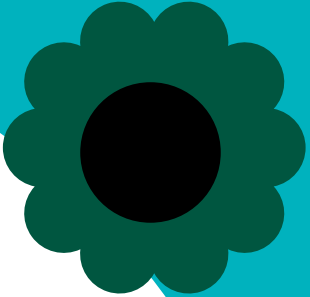
Financial Literacy

Manager: Keonna Colbert



Phone: (219) 472-1955

Email: Kcolbert@Girlscoutsgcnwi.Org



Outdoor Programs

Contact: Lu Teinowitz



Outdoor Experiences Specialist

Phone: 224-207-9264

Email: lteinowitz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org



Camp Lights

December 5, 6, and 12, 2025 | 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. | All Ages

See the lights under the stars!

Camp is getting a festive glow-up during our annual **Camp Lights** event! Join us for an evening filled with twinkling lights, winter-themed fun, and magical memories waiting to be made.

Wander through camp at your own pace and choose your own adventure with a variety of glowing and wintry, hands-on activity stations like arts and crafts, games, and hikes. Even stop by for a warm, campfire snack after going on a wagon ride around camp!

Lights will sparkle, bellies will be warm, and laughter will fill the air during this festive celebration of winter magic at camp. No matter which activities you choose, you're sure to leave with glowing memories.



Bring your troop to camp and help decorate Camp Palos for the holidays and the upcoming Camp Lights events!

Stop by Camp Palos on either December 3 or 4 from 3:00 to 5:30 p.m. ready to decorate a tree or bush that lives at camp!

Location: **Camp Palos**
11736 S. Will Cook Road
Palos Park, IL, 60439



To register for **Camp Lights** or for a **Camp Lights: Troop Decorating Extravaganza** scan the QR code or visit:

girlscout.info/Palos26



Join
the
party!

Outdoor Clubs Combined Holiday Party

December 7, 2025
10:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.



To register, scan the QR code or visit:
girlscout.info/HolidayParty25

**Celebrate 2025 and get excited for
a year of outdoor fun in 2026!**

Join us for a club holiday party and get excited for 2026 club and outdoor opportunities! Reminisce about your favorite camp and outdoor memories, enjoy some delicious pizza, play some fun holiday-themed games, and do some favorite camp crafts. Lunch is provided as part of this event.

This event is for youth participants who have joined us for **Astronomy Club**, **Outdoor Leadership Club**, **Hiking Club**, or **Trailblazer Club** meetings in the past as well as new club members who are interested in learning about nature and the outdoors in the new year!

Camp Palos
Location: 11736 S. Will Cook Road
Palos Park, IL, 60439

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Summer Camp Kickoff

Saturday, January 31, 2026 | 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Ask the camp staff and director questions ahead of
Summer Camp 2026 registration!

**Summer camp registrations go live on February 2, 2026, at 6:00 a.m.
Help us celebrate!**

Join us for our Summer Camp Kickoff and enjoy a delicious s'more, talk to the camp director, and ask any questions you have about the upcoming summer camp options. Camp staff can also help you make sure you can access and navigate the registration system to prepare for summer registration going live. This event will be an opportunity to have a casual conversation with the GCNWI Outdoor Program Team on all things summer camp!

For information about
Camp Greene Wood visit
Camp Greene Wood
3155 71st St.
Naperville, IL, 60540

Sign-Up:
girlscout.info/KickoffGW



For information about
Camp Butternut Springs visit
Camp Butternut Springs
650 N. 175 W.
Valparaiso, IN, 46385

Sign-Up:
girlscout.info/KickoffBNS



For information about
Camp Juniper Knoll visit
**Vernon Hills
Gathering Place**
650 N. Lakeview Parkway
Wilcox Room

Vernon Hills, IL, 60061
Sign-Up:
girlscout.info/KickoffJK



Explore the cosmos with...

Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana

Astronomy Club

Open to astronauts and astronomers of all ages!

Welcome to the GSGCNWI Astronomy Club, where stargazers embark on a thrilling journey through the universe! This Girl Scout club is designed to spark curiosity and foster a love for astronomy among budding scientists. Activities will vary each month. Attend once or sign up for every month. Locations will vary.

This year participating Girl Scouts will have the opportunity to visit award-winning planetariums, investigate and unravel the most fascinating space science mysteries, and explore outer space without ever leaving the ground!

Astronomy Club activities may include: Starry storytelling, cosmic crafts, interactive planet puzzles and games, telescope time, virtual spacecraft tours, night sky star parties, and planetarium visits!



Astronomy Club Events



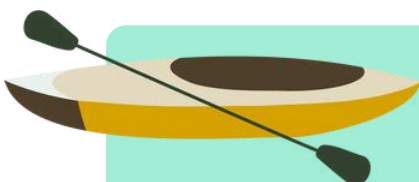
To register for these programs
scan either QR code and:
> go to "2025-2026 Year-Round Programs"
> filter by session type, date/time, or location
> click on the session to sign-up!



Date	Program	Location	Sign-Up Link
11/01/2025	Black Holes	Vernon Hills Gathering Place	girlscout.info/ASTNov25
12/07/2025	Outdoor Clubs Combined Holiday Party	Camp Palos	girlscout.info/HolidayParty25
01/10/2026	Challenger Learning Center	Challenger Learning Center	girlscout.info/ASTJan26
02/28/2026	Space Travel	Camp Palos	girlscout.info/ASTFeb26
03/28/2026	Earth Hour Appreciation	Camp Greene Wood	girlscout.info/ASTMar26
04/11/2026	Planets of Our Solar System	Schererville Gathering Place	girlscout.info/ASTApr26
05/01/2026	Full Moon Hike	Camp Butternut Springs	girlscout.info/ASTMay26
06/28/2026	Naperville Astronomical Association - Astronomy Education Center	Naperville Astronomical Association	girlscout.info/ASTJun26
07/29/2026	Phases of the Moon	Camp Palos	girlscout.info/ASTJul26
08/29/2026	Galaxies	Vernon Hills Gathering Place	girlscout.info/ASTAug26
09/27/2026	National Astronomy Day at Adler Planetarium	Adler Planetarium	girlscout.info/ASTSep26

Sign-up
for a
camp
near you!

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Register for a 2026 GCNWI Camp Open House



Check out our beautiful camps with your troop or family at an open house! You'll be able to tour the camp, check out the different lodging options, talk to camp staff, and ask questions about camp programming and property rentals. Remember to stop by the camp shop to stock up on camp swag and visit the campfire to enjoy a s'more!

Scan a QR Code or visit a link to register for a Camp Open House!

Camp Palos

11736 S. Will Cook Rd
Palos Park, IL, 60439

April 12, 2026

[girlscout.info/
OH26PAL](https://girlscout.info/OH26PAL)



Camp Butternut Springs

650 N. 175 W.
Valparasio, IN, 46385

April 19, 2026

[girlscout.info/
OH26BNS](https://girlscout.info/OH26BNS)

Camp Juniper Knoll

W5095 State Rd. 20
East Troy, WI, 53120

April 26, 2026

[girlscout.info/
OH26JK](https://girlscout.info/OH26JK)



Camp Greene Wood

3155 71st St.
Naperville, IL, 60540

May 3, 2026

[girlscout.info/
OH26GW](https://girlscout.info/OH26GW)

Campfire Songs and S'mores



Sessions available March - September 2026

Join us for a fun evening of singing your favorite Girl Scout songs!

Belt out the classics and pick up a few new favorites while dancing around the campfire. Then experience the magic of camp by roasting a marshmallow over the fire to make yourself a delicious s'more! Bring your troop, family, and friends to these all-ages campfires.

Celebrate the outdoors by joining us for one of the many exciting events that take place right before Campfire Songs and S'mores sessions!

Bring your best singing voice and a list of all your favorite songs, and get ready for some Girl Scout Summer Camp fun!



To register for these programs scan either QR code and:

- > go to "2025-2026 Year-Round Programs"
- > filter by session type, date/time, or location
- > click on the session to sign-up!

More information on session dates, times, and locations will be on the other side of this flyer.

Flip the page to find a cozy campfire near you!



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Campfire Songs and S'mores Events

Campfire Songs and S'mores Dates	Location	Sign-Up Link	Additional Program Information	Additional Program Sign-Up Link
03/28/2026	Camp Butternut Springs	girlscout.info/CSS26MarBNS	Girl Scouts Stick Together	girlscout.info/Stick26BNS
03/28/2026	Camp Palos	girlscout.info/CSS26MarPAL	Girl Scouts Stick Together	girlscout.info/Stick26PAL
03/28/2026	Emily Oaks Nature Center in Skokie, IL	girlscout.info/CSS26MarEONC	N/A	N/A
04/17/2026	Camp Palos	girlscout.info/CSS26AprPAL	N/A	N/A
04/24/2026	Camp Butternut Springs	girlscout.info/CSS26AprBNS	N/A	N/A
05/02/2026	Camp Greene Wood	girlscout.info/CSS26MayGW	Get Outdoors Challenge - Spring	girlscout.info/GOC26Spring
05/16/2026	Camp Butternut Springs	girlscout.info/CSS26MayBNS	Ziplining into the True North Award	girlscout.info/TN2026BNS
07/25/2026	Camp Palos	girlscout.info/CSS26JulPAL	Outdoor Skill Series	girlscout.info/OSSJULY26
09/18/2026	Camp Greene Wood	girlscout.info/CSS26SeptGW	N/A	N/A
09/26/2026	Camp Butternut Springs	girlscout.info/CSS26SeptBNS	Get Outdoors Challenge - Fall	girlscout.info/GOC26Fall

Programs that occur on the same date and location as a Campfire Songs and S'mores session will be listed as "Additional Programs." Additional programs are separate events. Members may register for a Campfire Songs and S'mores event without registering for any additional programming. Attending both the Campfire Songs and S'mores session as well as the additional program will require two separate registrations.



November 2025 - August 2026

Girl Scout Hikes

Step outside, catch your breath, and reconnect with nature!

These hikes are available for all ages. No prior hiking experience necessary.

Embrace the great outdoors and enjoy the benefits of hiking with your Girl Scout crew. Celebrate friendship and fresh air with a hike through the woods —the perfect activity for sharing the love of the natural world! Explore our camps throughout the year and see for yourself the beauty of the changing seasons. Come with your troop or make some new connections with friends and with nature.

This year, go-getters will have the opportunity to hike, learn, and explore the beautiful ecology of the Midwest. Visit trails all over Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana to learn about the natural beauty in endless grasslands, wooded trails, sandy dunes, and sprawling cities. Celebrate the changing of the seasons by lacing up your boots and trekking outside! Welcome winter by going snowshoeing and seeing the icy magic of Starved Rock State Park's frozen waterfalls. Enjoy spring by exploring newly bloomed prairies and traversing wetlands as they prepare for the new season.

Step into the outdoors and hike trails surrounded by water and wildlife, and bring your curiosity as we capture the natural beauty of Illinois and Indiana throughout the year!

Girl Scout Hiking Sessions



To register for these programs
scan either QR code and:
> go to "2025-2026 Year-Round Programs"
> filter by session type, date/time, or location
> click on the session to sign-up!



Date	Program	Hiking Location	Sign-Up Link
11/16/2025	Hike and History	Isle a la Cache in Romeoville, IL	girlscout.info/HIKENov25
01/11/2026	Frozen Waterfalls Hike	Starved Rock State Park in Oglesby, IL	girlscout.info/HIKEJan26
02/14/2026	Valentine Hike	Camp Palos	girlscout.info/HIKEFeb26
03/29/2026	Spring Hike	Sand Ridge Nature Center in South Holland, IL	girlscout.info/HIKEMar26
04/26/2026	Urban Adventure Hike	Chicago Riverwalk in Chicago, IL	girlscout.info/HIKEApr26
05/01/2026	Full Moon Hike	Kemil Beach in Westchester, IN (Drop-Off at Camp Butternut Springs)	girlscout.info/HIKEMay26
06/14/2026	Nature Photo Hike	Jackson Park in Chicago, IL	girlscout.info/HIKEJun26
07/11/2026	Teddy Bear Hike	Camp Greene Wood	girlscout.info/HIKEJul26
08/29/2026	Sunset & Full Moon Hike	Skokie Lagoons in Winnetka, IL	girlscout.info/HIKEAug26





Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana

Outdoor Leadership Club



Develop the Natural Leader in You!



Are you passionate about the outdoors and looking to take your leadership skills to the next level? Join us each month to develop the innate outdoor leaders in you through leadership and outdoor skills workshops.

This year, leaders will have the opportunity to learn advanced camping skills, work directly with younger Girl Scout members and lead them in classic camp activities, go on new adventures together all over camp, and teach them the importance of helping take care of our planet and how to Leave No Trace.

This club is specifically designed for Girl Scout **Cadettes**, **Seniors**, and **Ambassadors** with a passion for the outdoors and a desire to help cultivate the minds and inspire the next generation of campers, explorers, and adventurers!



Outdoor Leadership Club Events



To register for these programs
scan either QR code and:
> go to "2025-2026 Year-Round Programs"
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> click on the session to sign-up!



Date	Program	Location	Sign-Up Link
11/14/2025 - 11/16/2025	National Camp T-Shirt Day	Camp Palos	girlscout.info/OLCNov25
12/07/2025	Outdoor Clubs Combined Holiday Party	Camp Palos	girlscout.info/HolidayParty25
01/25/2026	Knot-Tying and Lashing	Vernon Hills Gathering Place	girlscout.info/OLCJan26
02/22/2026	STEM	Joliet Gathering Place	girlscout.info/OLCFeb26
03/15/2026	Geocaching	Camp Greene Wood	girlscout.info/OLCMar26
04/10/2026 - 04/12/2026	Volunteer Work Weekend	Camp Juniper Knoll	girlscout.info/OLCApr26
05/17/2026	Letterboxing: Mystery, Maps, and Exploration	Camp Greene Wood	girlscout.info/OLCMay26
08/09/2026	End of Summer Celebration	Camp Butternut Springs	girlscout.info/OLCAug26
09/13/2026	Girl Scouts Love State Parks at Starved Rock State Park	Camp Greene Wood	girlscout.info/OLCSep26



Experience Nature and Adventure at a Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Camp!



Looking for a lake experience or a getaway to the forest? Are you planning an overnight Girl Scout troop campout or a corporate business meeting? From small events to large retreats, we provide the perfect backdrop for unforgettable experiences! Check out our four beautiful camp properties located all across Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana. From high ropes and ziplining to canoeing, kayaking, and archery, unplug from your everyday life and adventure out into nature and the outdoors!

For more information visit girlscoutsgcnwi.org/camp

Camp Greene Wood

Camp Address:

3315 71st St., Woodridge, IL 60540

Acreage:

136 acres

Program Opportunities:

Archery, Creek walking, Hiking trails, Team building challenge course, Games area with gaga ball pit, tetherball, and badminton net



Scan the QR code or visit girlscout.info/GW26 for year-round programs at Camp Greene Wood!



Scan the QR code or visit girlscout.info/Palos26 for year-round programs at Camp Palos!

Camp Palos

Camp Address:

11736 S. Will Cook Rd, Palos Park, IL 60439

Acreage:

80 acres

Program Opportunities:

Archery, Creek walking, Hiking trails, Games area with gaga ball pit and volleyball net, Hammock area, and Campfire circle with bench seating

Experience Nature and Adventure at a Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Camp!

girl scouts
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For more information visit girlscoutsgcnwi.org/camp

Camp Juniper Knoll

Camp Address:

W5095 State Rd 20., East Troy, WI 53120

Acreage:

136 acres

Program Opportunities:

Pleasant Lake waterfront, Archery, Hiking trails, Swimming in the lake, Canoeing, Kayaking, Sailing, Amphitheater with fire ring, stage, and seating



Scan the QR code or visit

girlscout.info/JK26
for year-round
programs at
Camp Juniper Knoll!



Camp Butternut Springs

Camp Address:

650 N 175 W, Valparaiso, IN 46385

Acreage:

304 acres



Scan the QR code or visit

girlscout.info/BNS26
for year-round
programs at
Camp Butternut Springs!

Program Opportunities:

Albert C. Hanna High Adventure Course, Outdoor heated pool, Archery, Hiking trails, Canoeing, and Large campfire circle with log seating

Campfire Songs and S'mores



Sessions available March - September 2026

Join us for a fun evening of singing your favorite Girl Scout songs!

Belt out the classics and pick up a few new favorites while dancing around the campfire. Then experience the magic of camp by roasting a marshmallow over the fire to make yourself a delicious s'more! Bring your troop, family, and friends to these all-ages campfires.

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Campfire Songs and S'mores Events

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03/28/2026	Emily Oaks Nature Center in Skokie, IL	girlscout.info/CSS26MarEONC	N/A	N/A
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07/25/2026	Camp Palos	girlscout.info/CSS26JulPAL	Outdoor Skill Series	girlscout.info/OSSJULY26
09/18/2026	Camp Greene Wood	girlscout.info/CSS26SeptGW	N/A	N/A
09/26/2026	Camp Butternut Springs	girlscout.info/CSS26SeptBNS	Get Outdoors Challenge - Fall	girlscout.info/GOC26Fall

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**May 16, 2026
and
July 25, 2026**



Join us for an unforgettable day of adventure at our Outdoor Skills Series Day!

Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages, this fun-filled program is designed to equip you with essential skills for your outdoor adventures. Learn everything from how to setup the perfect campsite to first aid. Practice your knot-tying and pick up useful campfire cooking skills. Use a map and compass to find your way across camp and don't forget to build yourself the perfect, cozy campfire!



By the end of the day, you'll have completed the GCNWI Outdoor Skills Series patch program that consists of five patches, a testament to your newfound knowledge and abilities. Whether you're a beginner or looking to refine your skills, our experienced camp staff will guide you every step of the way.

Don't miss this opportunity to become a confident and skilled outdoor adventurer!

May 16, 2026

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Sign-Up:

girlscout.info/OSS26May



July 25, 2026

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

Sign-Up:

girlscout.info/OSS26July



Girl Experience Leadership



Latoya Gardner
Director of Girl Experience
(708) 658-2325
LGardner@Girlscoutsgcnwi.Org



Carmen Evans
Vice President of Mission Delivery
(708) 658-2326
CEvans@Girlscoutsgcnwi.Org

View all of our Girl Experiences by scanning
the QR code or using the link below!



girlscout.info/Programs26