

# Girl Experience

2025-2026 Program Catalog



**gcnwi**

# Explore Our Programs

Spark Days

S.T.E.M.

Leadership Awards

Community Service

Girl Scout Days

Older Girl Experience

Trip and Travel

Life Skills

Junior Experiences

Financial Literacy

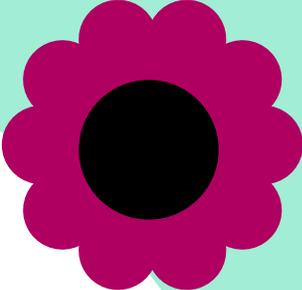
Outdoor Experiences

Girl Experience Leadership

[Link to Registration Website](#)



**gcnwi**



# Spark Days

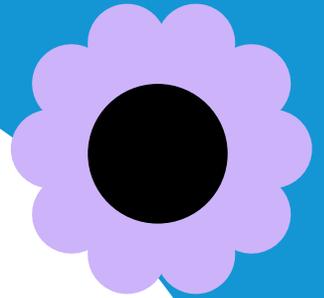
Contact: Jasmine Wardlaw



Girl Experience Administration Specialist

Phone: (815) 651-2727

Email: [jwardlaw@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:jwardlaw@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)



# S.T.E.M

**Manager: Andrea Vesecky**



**Phone: (219) 472-1972**

**Email: [avesecky@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:avesecky@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)**

SAVE  
THE  
DATE

girlscouts<sup>®</sup>  
of greater chicago  
and northwest  
indiana



# STEM Fest

April 25, 2026

10am to 4pm

Joliet Gathering Place

entry  
\$30

Featuring:

The Sloomoo Institute

Girl Scouts First Lego Robotics

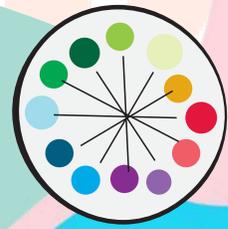
More Community Partners to be announced!



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!



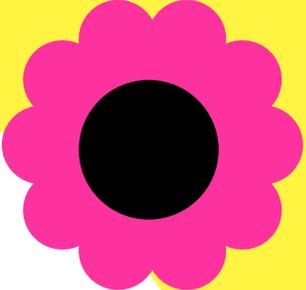
**Complete the form using the QR code or the link below:**

<https://bit.ly/GCNWICustomPrograms>

**Questions? Contact:**

[programs@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:programs@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

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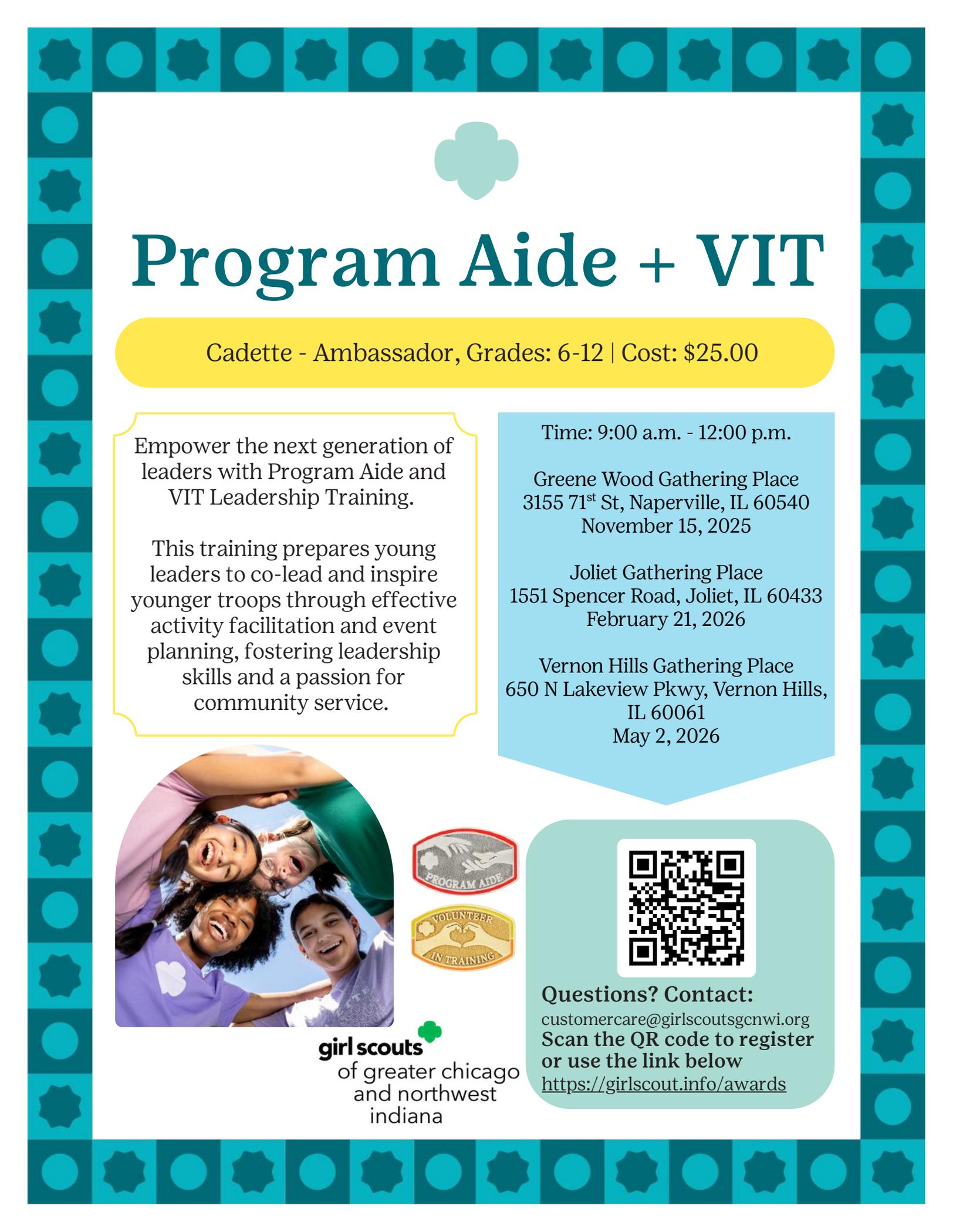
# Leadership Awards

**Manager: Andrea Vesecky**



Phone: (219) 472-1972

Email: [avesecky@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:avesecky@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)



# 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 71<sup>st</sup> 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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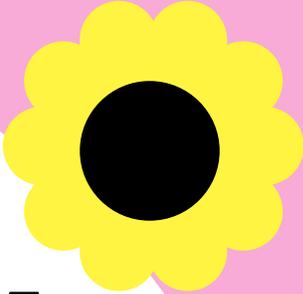


Questions? Contact:

[customer care@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:customer care@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](mailto:jhickman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

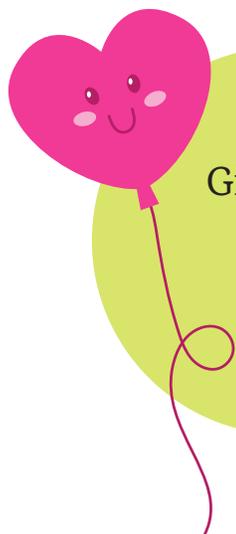


# Let's Celebrate!

Help those in need celebrate birthdays with their children or loved ones by making kits to bring joy on their special day.



*Accepting Donations*  
January 20 – February 27



Donations can be dropped off in person at all Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Gathering Places except Chicago.

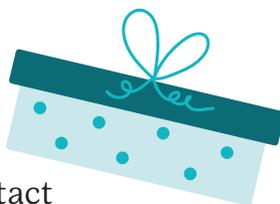
**Tuesday – Friday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.**

Limited number of patches at each donation drop off location. 



## Donation Items Needed:

- ✓ Boxed cake mix (allergy-free and regular)
- ✓ Canned pop: 7up or Sprite (canned pop replaces the need for vegetable oil and eggs)
  - ✓ Frosting
  - ✓ Disposable foil cake pan with lid
  - ✓ Disposable foil cupcake pan
- ✓ Small toys: hot wheel car, Barbies, art supplies, etc.



Any questions or concerns, contact  
Jessica Hickman [jhickman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:jhickman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

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*council-led community service project*

# CAT SCRATCHERS

**April 1 - April 30**

**Don't let your cookie cases go to waste!**

**This April, recycle with our council by turning cardboard into cat scratchers for donations.**



**Learn How to Make  
Your Own Cat Scratcher**



**Find Nearby Shelters  
to Donate Your Projects**



**Questions?**

**Contact: [girlEXP@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto: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](https://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](https://girlscout.info/CommunityServiceBars)

# Council Community Service Corner

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indiana

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](http://girlscout.info/communityservice)

Questions? Contact:  
[girlEXP@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:girlEXP@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

# Community Service Bar

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

**Levels: Cadette, Senior, Ambassador**



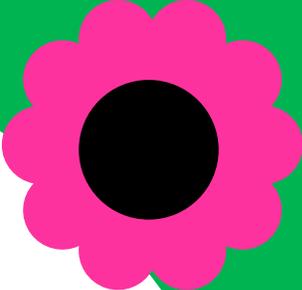
**Each bar requires a minimum of 20 hours of service.**

# Service to Girl Scouting Bar

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



To learn more visit  
[girlscout.info/gcnwcommunityservice](http://girlscout.info/gcnwcommunityservice)



# Girl Scout Days

Manager: Jessica Hickman



Phone: (708) 658-2312

Email: [jhickman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:jhickman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)



# STEM on Wheels

**Saturday March 14**  
**8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

Join us for an exciting Girl Scout Day at Dr. Martin Luther King Recreation Center, where Girl Scouts from all levels come together for a fun-filled celebration of Girl Scout Week!

This special event blends learning, leadership, and laughter as participants explore hands-on STEM activities, enjoy physical fun through skating and celebrate the spirit of sisterhood.

## Where:

Dr. Martin Luther King  
Roller Skating and Bowling Center  
1219 W 76th St, Chicago, IL 60620

**Youth Cost: \$30**

includes STEM Lesson, skating  
patch, pizza and a drink

**Adult Cost: \$25**

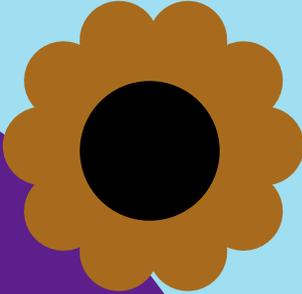
Everyone that enters the  
building must pay.



Questions? Contact:  
[girlEXP@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:girlEXP@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

Scan the QR code to register  
or use the link below  
[girlscout.info/STEMonwheels](http://girlscout.info/STEMonwheels)

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# Older Girl

**Manager: Samantha Lehman**



**Phone: (630) 544-5924**

**Email: [slehman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:slehman@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)**



# Older Girl Listening Sessions

Multiple Dates and Locations | Grades 8-12 | \$5\*

## Locations and Dates

Danny Z's House Of Pizza  
1864 45 Ave, Munster IN  
Saturday, February 28, 2026  
Time: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
[bit.ly/GirlScoutOlderGirlListeningIndiana](https://bit.ly/GirlScoutOlderGirlListeningIndiana)



Vernon Hills Gathering Place  
650 N Lakeview Pkwy Vernon Hills, IL  
Sunday March 1  
Time: 2:30 - 4:30 p.m.  
[girlscout.info/OlderGirlListeningVH](https://girlscout.info/OlderGirlListeningVH)



Joliet Gathering Place  
1551 W Illinois Hwy, Joliet, IL 60433  
Sunday March 15  
Time: 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.  
[girlscout.info/OlderGirlListeningJL](https://girlscout.info/OlderGirlListeningJL)



Beverly Branch Public Library  
1962 W 95th St, Chicago, IL 60643  
Saturday, April 4  
Time: 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.  
[girlscout.info/OlderGirlListeningBeverly](https://girlscout.info/OlderGirlListeningBeverly)



Do you have an idea that can make our council better? Use your voice at one of our Older Girl Listening Sessions to tell the Girl Experience Team what you want to see from your council.

We will provide a pizza party and patches (bring your own item from home to decorate, or decorate a canvas bag that we will provide) while we have a thoughtful discussion about how we can enhance our council.



We kindly ask that this is a drop-off only event!



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

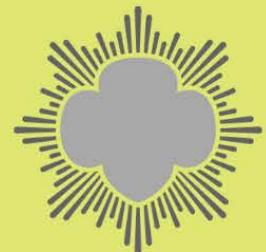
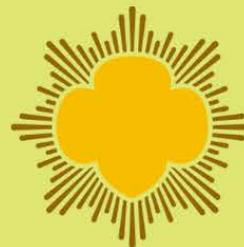
<https://girlscout.info/ProjectLawDupage26>





# 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

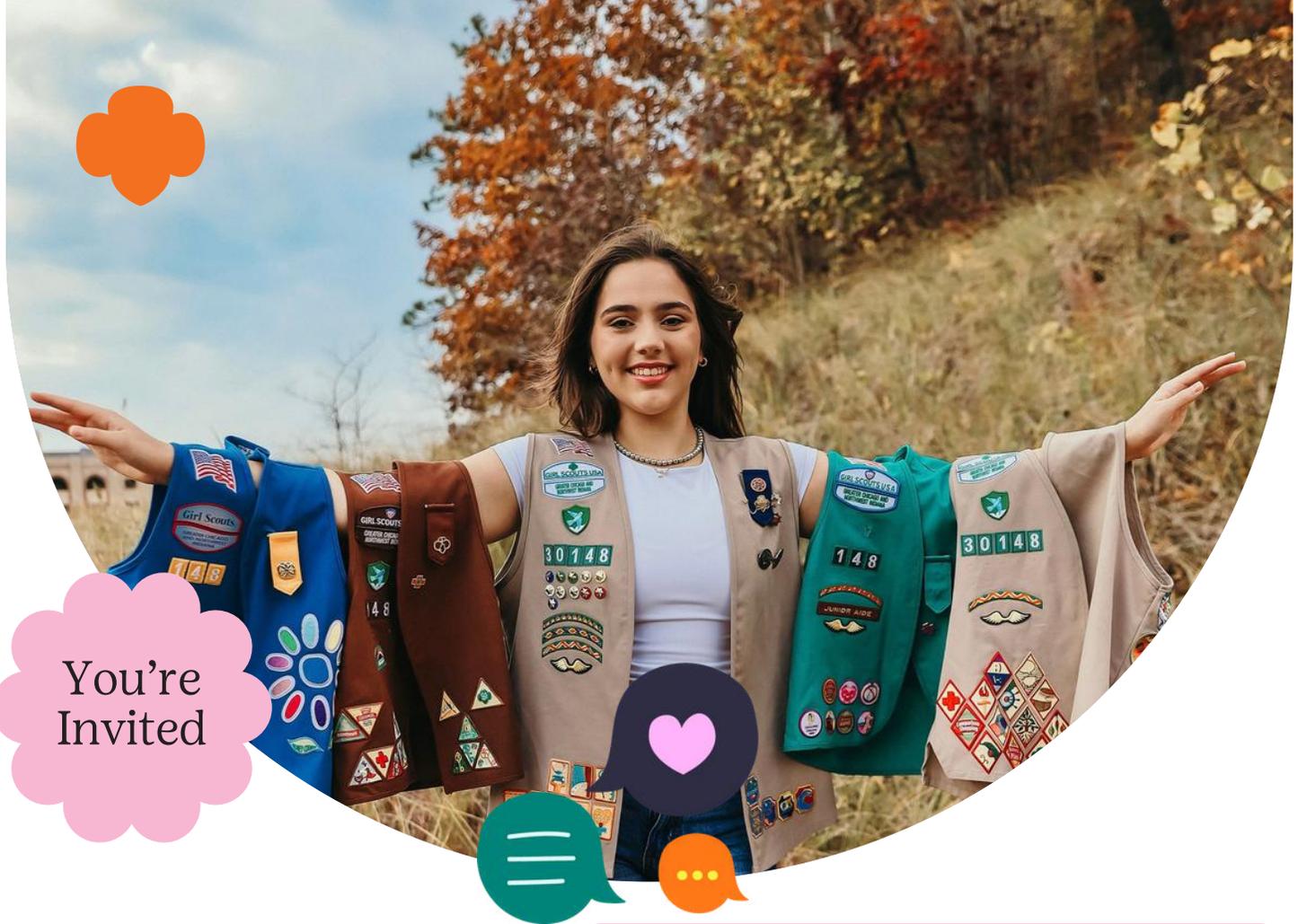
Cost: \$8 | 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.



Questions? Contact:  
[customer care@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:customer care@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

Scan the QR code to register  
or use the link below  
[girlscout.info/HighestAwardsWorkshops](http://girlscout.info/HighestAwardsWorkshops)

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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.

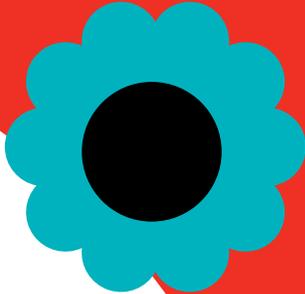
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Questions? Contact:  
Customer Care at  
855-456-8347

Scan the QR code to apply or  
use the link below



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



# Trip and Travel

**Contact: Kisa Fitzgerald**



Phone: (219) 472-1958

Email: [Jfitzgerald@Girlscoutsgcnwi.Org](mailto:Jfitzgerald@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](mailto:GSTravel@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

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# Girl Scout Day at the Statehouse

## Thursday, March 12, 2026

Indiana Statehouse: 200 W Washington St., Indianapolis IN 46204

Girl Scouts in grades 4-12 have the opportunity to go on Statehouse Tours, listen to Speakers of Advocacy and Influence, and be part of the United States' Semi quincentennial anniversary!

### How to Register:

#### Step 1:

Register here to attend the event in Indianapolis through our friends at Girl Scouts of Central Indiana:  
[girlscout.info/INStatehouseDay](https://girlscout.info/INStatehouseDay)



Girl Scout Cost: \$25  
Adult Cost: \$20

#### Step 2:

Optional: add roundtrip transportation and lunch, use the link or QR code to sign up here:  
[girlscout.info/StatehouseTransportation](https://girlscout.info/StatehouseTransportation)



Cost: \$30\*  
Limited seats available!

All attendees MUST register for the event by Step 1. You may drive your personal vehicle, or register for GSGCNWI Transportation! Seats are limited for Transportation. Drop-off location will be given at a later time to participants. Girl Scouts will receive a school-absence excuse letter. \*Financial Assistance available.



# 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](mailto:gstravel@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)



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



[girlscout.info/travel](https://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

GIRL SCOUT TRAVEL

# Savannah, Georgia Takeover!

August 3–August 7, 2026

- Round-trip private charter bus (Chicago ⇌ Savannah)
- Four-night hotel stay + daily breakfast
- Local transportation in Savannah
- Tours of Juliette Gordon Low's birthplace and first Girl Scout HQ
- Tybee Island visit + dolphin cruise
- Open to troops, individually registered members, leaders, and families

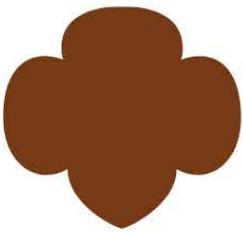


**Secure your spot today  
with a deposit of \$200.**



*Payment plans available*





# 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!**

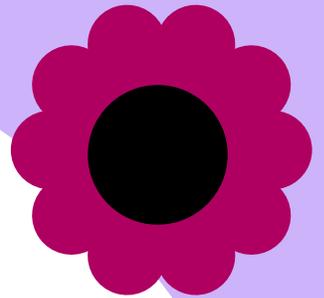


**Need More Information?**

Email: [gstravel@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:gstravel@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

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

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# Life Skills

**Manager: Fran Delacey**



Phone: (224) 207-9246

Email: [fdelacey@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:fdelacey@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

# Spring Reading Challenge

## How it works:

1. Register for the Spring 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: March 1 - May 1

Cost: \$7\*

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

\*Financial Assistance Available

Register using the QR code or link!  
[girlscout.info/SpringReadingChallenge](https://girlscout.info/SpringReadingChallenge)



## Check out our Reading Challenge patch set!



Base Patch

◆ Winter Reading Challenge

◆ Spring Reading Challenge

◆ Summer Reading Challenge

◆ Fall Reading Challenge

Seasonal rockers

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◆ Winter Reading Challenge

◆ Spring Reading Challenge

◆ Summer Reading Challenge

◆ Fall Reading Challenge

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!

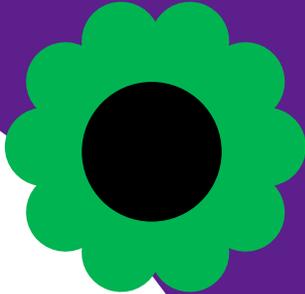
Fall reading challenge registration link:

<https://girlscout.info/FallReadingChallengeRegistration>

**Questions?**

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





# Junior Experience

**Manager: Fran Delacey**



Phone: (224) 207-9246

Email: [fdelacey@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:fdelacey@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)



# Historian's Tea Party

**When:**

Saturday, March 28, 2026  
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.

**Where:**

Camp Greene Wood Gathering  
Place 3155 71st St, Naperville, IL  
60540  
In the upstairs dining area!

**Cost:**

\$15\*

\*Financial Assistance is available



## Join us for our annual tea party!

Juliette Gordon Low was a Southern lady who enjoyed entertaining her friends at tea parties. Join the Council Historians to learn more about Juliette, and enjoy an afternoon of games, songs, and a delicious afternoon tea menu. Party clothes are encouraged. A souvenir and patch are included.

**This event is for Juniors  
in Grades 4 and 5!**

Scan the QR code to RSVP  
or use the link below  
[girlscout.info/HistorianTeaParty](https://girlscout.info/HistorianTeaParty)



Questions? Contact: Fran Delacey at 224-207-9246 or [fdelacey@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto: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.

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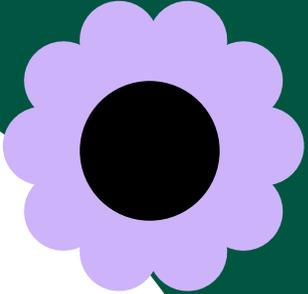
Questions? Contact:  
GirlEXP@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Scan the QR code to register or  
use the link below

<https://girlscout.info/OctBronzeAwardTraining>



*\*Financial Assistance Available*



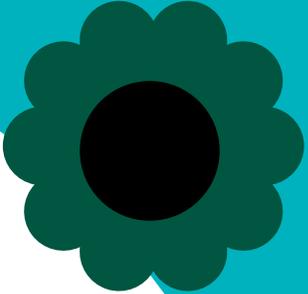
# Financial Literacy

**Manager: Keonna Colbert**



Phone: (219) 472-1955

Email: [Kcolbert@Girlscoutsgcnwi.Org](mailto:Kcolbert@Girlscoutsgcnwi.Org)



# Outdoor Programs

Contact: Lu Teinowitz



Outdoor Experiences Specialist

Phone: 224-207-9264

Email: [lteinowitz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:lteinowitz@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

# Pudgie Pi(e) Day

Friday, March 13 | 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. | Ages 7+



## Celebrate Pi Day camp style!

Learn to cook with a pie iron, make a pie-themed craft, and complete other fun pi(e) activities. Practice cooking over a fire and take your tastebuds camping!

Cost for this event is \$10/Girl Scout youth and \$10/Girl Scout adult. Financial Assistance is available for this program.

**Camp**  
**Butternut Springs**  
650 N 175 W  
Valparaiso, IN 46385  
[bit.ly/PieBNS26](https://bit.ly/PieBNS26)



**Joliet**  
**Gathering Place**  
1551 Spencer Road  
Joliet, IL 60433  
[bit.ly/PieJOL26](https://bit.ly/PieJOL26)



**Vernon Hills**  
**Gathering Place**  
650 N. Lakeview Parkway  
Vernon Hills, IL 60061  
[bit.ly/PieVH26](https://bit.ly/PieVH26)



Stick around  
and have some  
Girl Scout fun!

# Girl Scouts Stick Together

March 28, 2026 | Ages 5+



A Girl Scout can never go wrong with the perfect stick, especially in the outdoors! Join us in celebrating "something on a stick day" by making a stick craft then enjoying a yummy campfire hotdog, fruit kebob, and s'more!

Cost for this event is \$10/Girl Scout youth and \$10/Girl Scout adult. Financial Assistance is available for this program.

**Location:** **Camp Butternut Springs**

650 N 175 W  
Valparaiso, IN 46385

**Time:** **11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.**



**Location:** **Camp Palos**

11736 South Will Cook Rd  
Palos Park, IL 60439

**Time:** **3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**



Camp Butternut Springs  
Sign-Up:

[girlscout.info/StickBNS26](https://girlscout.info/StickBNS26)

Camp Palos  
Sign-Up:

[girlscout.info/StickPAL26](https://girlscout.info/StickPAL26)



# Campfire Songs and S'mores



Sessions available March - September 2026 | Cost: \$10/Person | Ages 5+

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! Get ready for some Girl Scout Summer Camp fun! Locations, dates, and times will vary each month.



**Sign-up for a session by scanning the QR code!**



Or visit [girlscout.info/Nature2026](https://girlscout.info/Nature2026)



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# Grilled Cheese Day

Sunday, April 12 | 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Ages 7+

Join us at camp to celebrate  
“Grilled Cheese Day!”

Make your very own pie iron grilled cheese to start. Then, if you are feeling adventurous, try a savory s'more for a new twist on a classic campfire treat. That's not all, though, top it all off by making a grilled cheese craft to remember the day by. Sounds pretty cheesy to us!

Cost for this event is \$10/Girl Scout youth and \$10/Girl Scout adult. Financial Assistance is available for this program.



**Camp  
Butternut Springs**  
650 N 175 W  
Valparaiso, IN 46385  
[girlscout.info/  
GCDBNS26](http://girlscout.info/GCDBNS26)



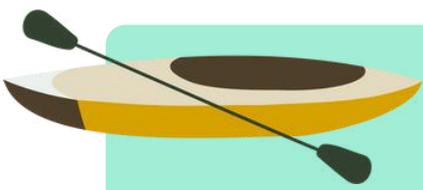
**Camp Greene Wood**  
3155 71st St  
Naperville, IL 60540  
[girlscout.info/  
GCDGW26](http://girlscout.info/GCDGW26)



**Camp Palos**  
11736 South Will Cook Rd  
Palos Park, IL 60439  
[girlscout.info/  
GCDPAL26](http://girlscout.info/GCDPAL26)



Sign-up  
for a  
camp  
near you!



## 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)



# Camp Butternut Springs Work Weekend

Ages 9+ | Cost: FREE

April 10-12, 2025

Saturday Only option from  
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. is available as well

## Location:

Camp Butternut Springs

650 N 175 W  
Valparaiso, IN 46385

To register, scan the QR code or visit:  
[girlscout.info/WWBNS26](https://girlscout.info/WWBNS26)



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Time commitment depends on what works best for you and your group's needs. Participants can choose to sleep over just Friday, just Saturday, or both nights.

Spend time outdoors  
and help out around camp!

Enjoy a weekend of fresh air while helping to improve and restore areas around camp. Whether you have been to camp before or not this is a great opportunity to gather your friends, family, or troop to volunteer and work on a variety of service projects. Be prepared to work hard and to make a positive difference at our camp for our entire camp and Girl Scout community!

To register for Saturday Only,  
scan the QR code or visit:

[girlscout.info/WWSOBNS26](https://girlscout.info/WWSOBNS26)





Work hard and make a difference!

# Camp Juniper Knoll Work Weekend

Ages 9+ | Cost: FREE

April 10-12, 2025

Saturday Only option from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. is available as well

**Location:** **Camp Juniper Knoll**  
W5095 State Road 20  
East Troy, WI, 53120

**Spend time outdoors and help out around camp!**

Enjoy a weekend of fresh air while helping to improve and restore areas around camp. Whether you have been to camp before or not this is a great opportunity to gather your friends, family, or troop to volunteer and work on a variety of service projects. Be prepared to work hard and to make a positive difference at our camp for our entire camp and Girl Scout community!

To register, scan the QR code or visit:  
[girlscout.info/WWJK26](https://girlscout.info/WWJK26)

To register for Saturday Only, scan the QR code or visit:  
[girlscout.info/WWSOJK26](https://girlscout.info/WWSOJK26)

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Time commitment depends on what works best for you and your group's needs. Participants can choose to sleep over just Friday, just Saturday, or both nights.





Calling all new and current Daisy Girl Scouts (Grades Pre-K – 1)!  
Join us for our...

# Daisy Outdoor Extravaganza

Sessions available from April - August 2026 | For ages 4+

Come explore Girl Scout camp during a day designed  
just for Girl Scout Daisies!

(Ages 4+ or Grades Pre-K – 1)

Play games, make a craft, and go on a scavenger hunt. Roast a s'more and sing songs around the campfire! Experience the fun and excitement our camps have to offer at one of the many Daisy Outdoor Extravaganza sessions in 2026.

Cost for this event is \$10/Girl Scout youth and \$5/Girl Scout adult.  
Financial Assistance is available for this program.

## Southwest Region:

April 18, 2026 at  
Camp Greene Wood  
in Naperville, IL  
May 9, 2026 at the  
Joliet Gathering Place  
in Joliet, IL

## Indiana:

July 11, 2026 at  
Camp Butternut Springs  
in Valparaiso, IN

## North Region:

August 4, 2026 at the  
Vernon Hills Gathering Place  
in Vernon Hills, IL  
August 8, 2026 at the  
Vernon Hills Gathering Place  
in Vernon Hills, IL

Scan the QR code to find a  
Daisy Outdoor Extravaganza near you!

Or visit:

**[girlscout.info/Nature2026](https://girlscout.info/Nature2026)**

Use the new search bar function to find  
programs by name!



Session times vary  
depending on location.  
Morning and Afternoon  
times are available for  
most Daisy Outdoor  
Extravaganza sessions.

May 16, 2026  
and  
July 25, 2026



# Outdoor Skills Series

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

9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. | \$75/Girl Scout Youth | Ages 5+

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



Perfect for outdoor enthusiasts of all ages! 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!

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



**May 16, 2026**

**Sign-Up:**

[girlscout.info/OSS26May](http://girlscout.info/OSS26May)



**July 25, 2026**

**Sign-Up:**

[girlscout.info/OSS26July](http://girlscout.info/OSS26July)





Calling all new and current Brownie Girl Scouts (Grades 2-3)!  
Join us for our...

## Brownie Outdoor Bash

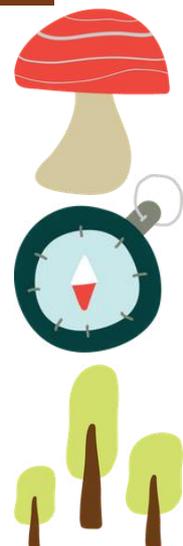
Sessions available from June - August 2026 | For ages 7+

**Head out to camp to explore the outdoors through  
some special Brownie Girl Scout fun!**

(Ages 7+ or Grades 2-3)

Your outdoor adventure will include nature exploration, games, a craft, hiking, and teambuilding challenges, plus making s'mores around the campfire and creating lasting memories to inspire your next adventure.

Cost for this event is \$10/Girl Scout youth and \$5/Girl Scout adult.  
Financial Assistance is available for this program.



June 20, 2026 at  
Camp Greene Wood  
3155 71st Street  
Naperville, IL 60540

July 18, 2026 at  
Camp Palos  
11736 South Will Cook Rd  
Palos Park, IL 60439

August 8, 2026 at  
Camp Butternut Springs  
650 N 175 W  
Valparaiso, IN 46385

Morning (9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.) and Afternoon (1:00 - 4:00 p.m.) sessions  
are available for all Brownie Outdoor Bash experiences.

Scan the QR code to find a  
Daisy Outdoor Extravaganza near you!

Or visit:

**[girlscout.info/Nature2026](https://girlscout.info/Nature2026)**

Use the new search bar function to find  
programs by name!



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November 2025 - August 2026



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# Girl Scout Hikes

**These hikes are available for ages 4+. No prior hiking experience necessary.**

Embrace the great outdoors and enjoy the benefits of hiking with your Girl Scout crew. 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! Attend once or sign up every session. Locations, dates, times, and cost will vary each month.

**Sign-up for a hike near you! Visit: [girlscout.info/Nature2026](https://www.girlscout.org/Nature2026)**



Explore the cosmos with...

Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana

# Astronomy Club

Open to astronauts and astronomers ages 5+!

Sessions available January - September 2026

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. Attend once or sign up every session. Locations, dates, times, and cost will vary each month.

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!

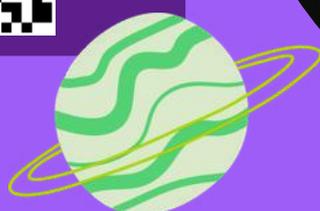


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**Sign-up today!**

Visit:

[girlscout.info/Nature2026](https://girlscout.info/Nature2026)





Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana

# Outdoor Leadership Club

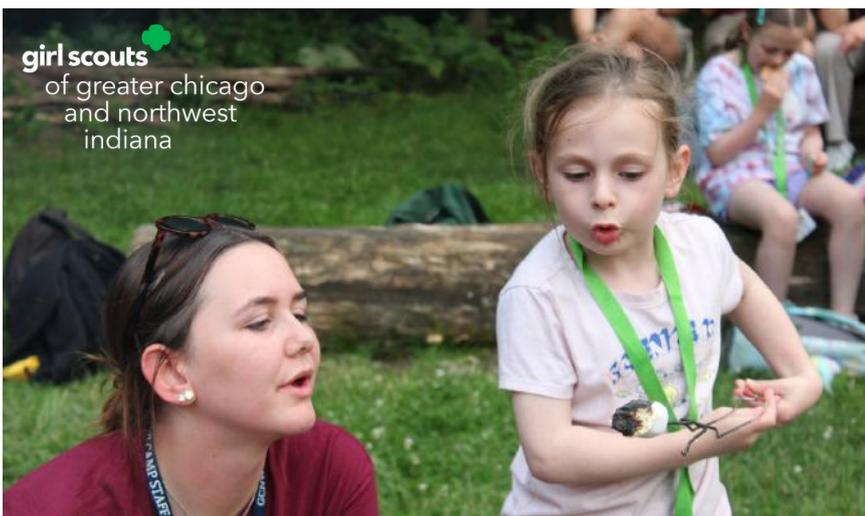


## Develop the Natural Leader in You!

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! Attend once or sign up every session. Locations, dates, times, and cost will vary each month.



Sign-up today!

Visit:

[girlscout.info/Nature2026](https://girlscout.info/Nature2026)



# 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](https://girlscout.info/Programs26)