

Around GSNI News from the council

January 2024

All GSNI Resource Centers will be closed, and all GSNI staff will be off on Monday, January 15, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

A Note from Kari



Hello GSNI and Happy New Year! My favorite time of year is now upon us! I cannot wait to hear from our Girl Scouts about their cookie program plans and what goals they will be working towards. Filming for our [Virtual Cookie Kick-Off](#) is complete, and I hope each of you is excited to see it like I am!

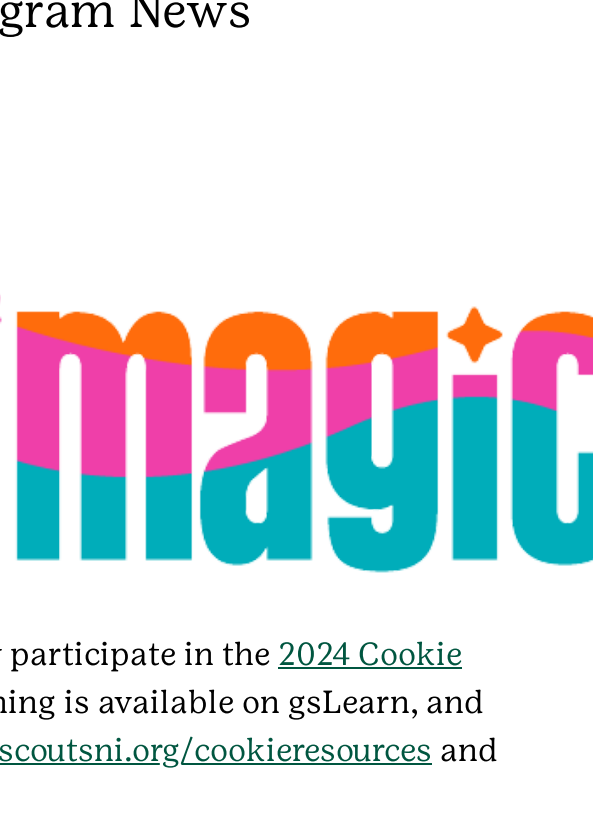
Don't forget to save the date for our 2024 Annual Meeting to be held this April 27, at the NIU Visitor's Center. Be on the lookout for event registration in our February 2024 newsletter!

Yours in Girl Scouting,
Kari L. Rockwell

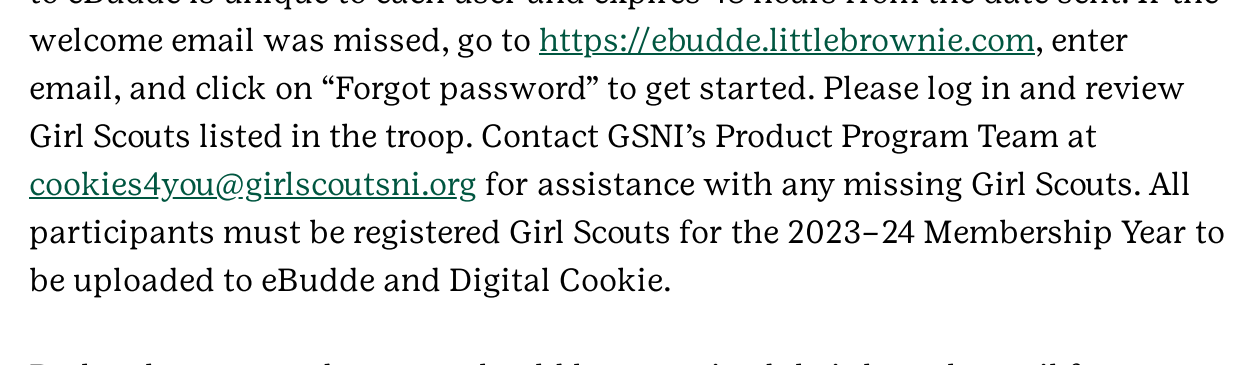
Volunteer Spotlight

"I enjoy volunteering, because we are making a difference in the lives of these girls and in turn, the girls will change the world." [Hear more](#) from Jennifer Hauch who has been awarded GSNI's most recent Volunteer Spotlight Award!

[READ MORE](#)



2024 Girl Scout Cookie Program News

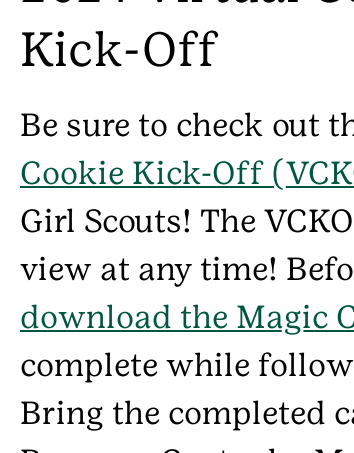


Girl Scouts will *Own Your Magic* as they participate in the [2024 Cookie Program](#)! Mandatory Troop Online Training is available on gsLearn, and resources are available now at www.girlscoutsni.org/cookieresources and [Rallyhood!](#)

Volunteers should have received their welcome email to eBudde on January 2. eBudde is the troop operating system for the cookie program. The link to log in to eBudde is unique to each user and expires 48 hours from the date sent. If the welcome email was missed, go to <https://ebudde.littlebrownie.com>, enter email, and click on "Forgot password" to get started. Please log in and review Girl Scouts listed in the troop. Contact GSNI's Product Program Team at cookies4you@girlscoutsni.org for assistance with any missing Girl Scouts. All participants must be registered Girl Scouts for the 2023-24 Membership Year to be uploaded to eBudde and Digital Cookie.

Both volunteers and parents should have received their launch email for access to Digital Cookie on January 3. Girl Scouts with their parents can set up an online sales site and be ready to contact customers to place Digital Cookie orders now!

Introducing Game Changer Girl Scouts

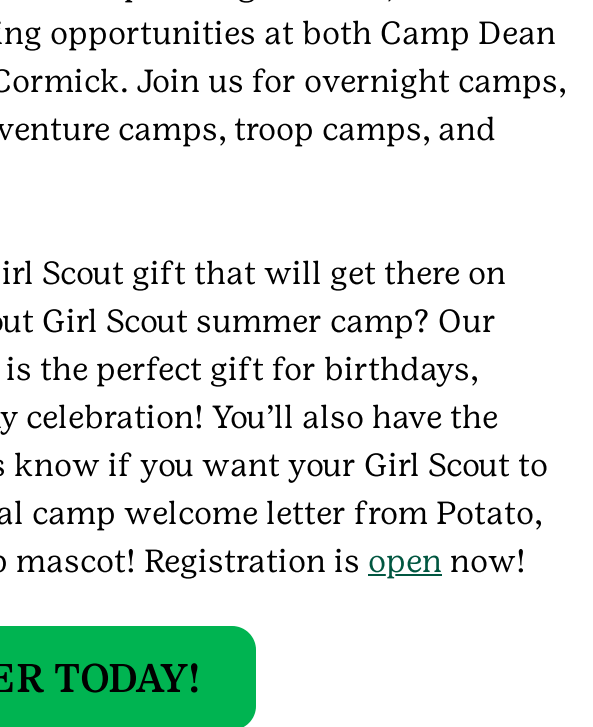


Do you know a GSNI Girl Scout redefining everything you thought you knew about the cookie program? This year GSNI is accepting nominations for innovative, creative, and courageous Girl Scouts who demonstrate original thinking, embrace new ideas, lead with compassion, and model true entrepreneurship through the Girl Scout Cookie Program. If this applies to a Girl Scout in your life, now's the time to [nominate](#) your Game Changer.

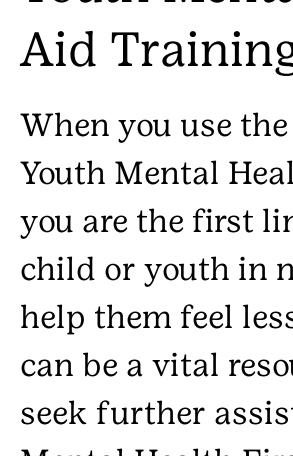
GSNI staff will review all nominations and make selections. Selected Girl Scouts will receive a special charm and may be featured on GSNI's social media channels. [Game Changer Girl Scout](#) nominations will be accepted, selected, and featured throughout the cookie program from January 5-March 10.

2024 Virtual Cookie Kick-Off

Be sure to check out the [2024 Virtual Cookie Kick-Off \(VCKO\)](#) led by GSNI Girl Scouts! The VCKO is available to view at any time! Before viewing, [download the Magic Card](#) to complete while following along. Bring the completed card to a Resource Center by March 9, 2024, for a special gift while supplies last. [Order 2024 Cookie Rally patches](#) for \$3 each (includes mailing cost).



Summer Camp 2024 Registration Open



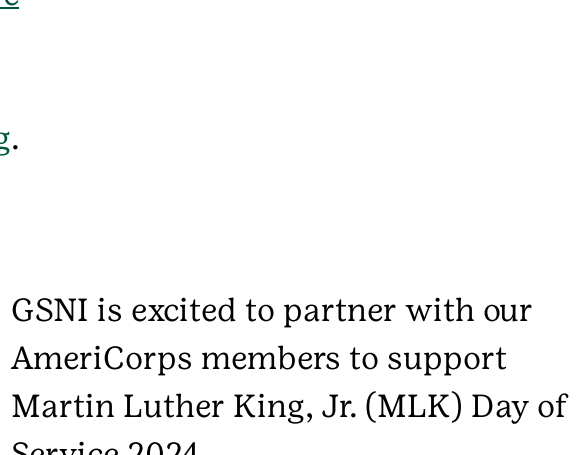
Summer is just around the corner. (No, really! It is!) Think outside, no box required, at GSNI's 2024 summer camps. This upcoming summer, GSNI is offering camping opportunities at both Camp Dean and Camp McCormick. Join us for overnight camps, day camps, adventure camps, troop camps, and more.

Want a great Girl Scout gift that will get there on time? How about Girl Scout summer camp? Our summer camp is the perfect gift for birthdays, holidays, or any celebration! You'll also have the option to let us know if you want your Girl Scout to receive a special camp welcome letter from Potato, our GSNI camp mascot! Registration is [open](#) now!

[REGISTER TODAY!](#)

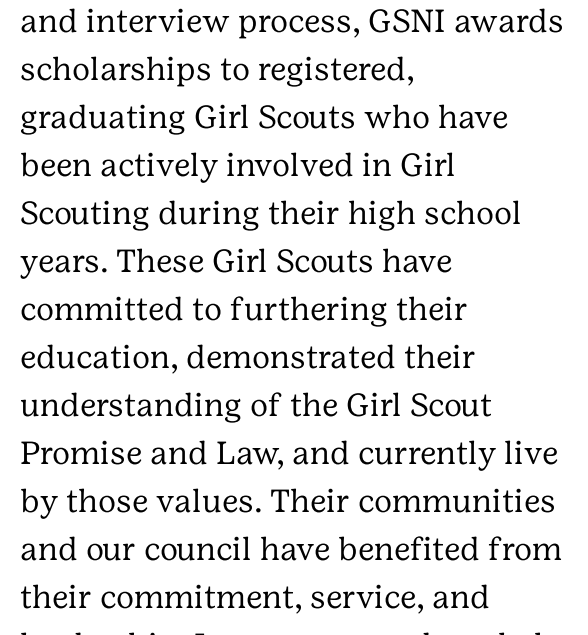
Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

When you use the skills you learn in Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHA), you are the first line of support for a child or youth in need. You are there to help them feel less distressed and you can be a vital resource in helping them seek further assistance. As a Youth Mental Health First Aider, you can be the one to make a difference in the life of someone with a mental health challenge. Your actions can be a first step in a youth's recovery journey.



If you are interested in registering for our GSNI's first YMHA training for adult volunteers, please consider registering for our January 27, 2024, training which will be held in Rockford from 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m. with a half hour lunch and breaks. All attendees will need to bring a sack lunch. Register [here](#) by January 14, 2024. For more information, please contact volunteerdevelopment@girlscoutsni.org.

MLK Day of Service



GSNI is excited to partner with our AmeriCorps members to support Martin Luther King, Jr. (MLK) Day of Service 2024.

All GSNI troops are invited to join us in collecting winter clothing donations, such as new or gently used hats, gloves, scarves, or coats of all sizes. Donations will be accepted at GSNI's South Elgin and Oswego Resource Centers and Grand Army of the Republic (GAR) in Aurora through January 10. For more information or to get involved, contact Customer Care at 1-844-476-4463 or customercare@girlscoutsni.org.

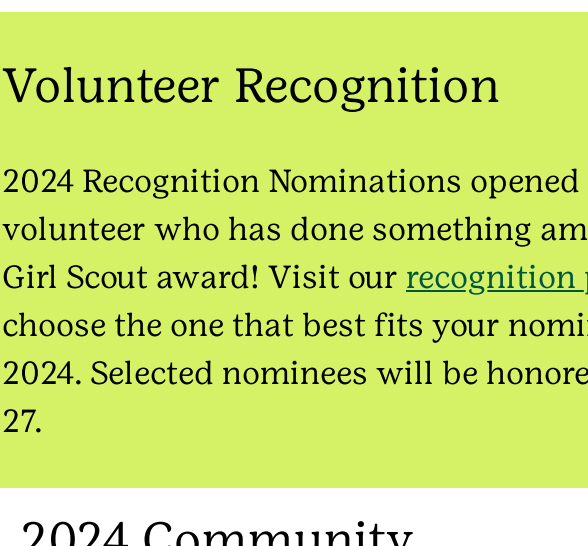
GSNI Scholarships for Graduating Class of 2024

Each year through an application and interview process, GSNI awards scholarships to registered, graduating Girl Scouts who have been actively involved in Girl Scouting during their high school years. These Girl Scouts have committed to furthering their education, demonstrated their understanding of the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and currently live by those values. Their communities and our council have benefited from their commitment, service, and leadership. Learn more and apply by visiting [our scholarship page](#). Applications are due January 12, 2024.



[APPLY TODAY!](#)

New Volunteer Corner



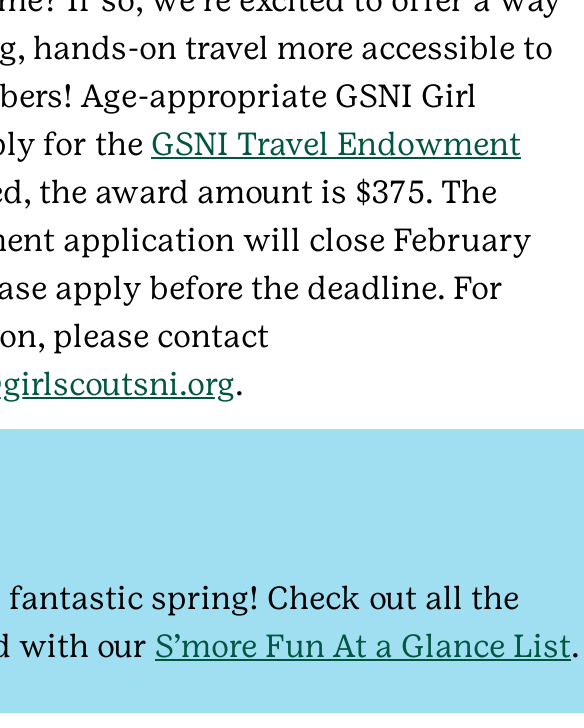
Reminder for all new volunteers! Register for a New Volunteer Orientation as soon as you receive your New Volunteer Welcome letter. All dates for January can be found on the [Activities Calendar](#) for registration. Volunteers who need to complete the 415 Let's Get Started virtual sessions can find registration in both [gsLearn](#) and [Activities Calendar](#) for upcoming sessions. Daisy Leaders can also register for an in-person Let's Get Started session from the [Activities Calendar](#). Check out dates for Oswego, Rockford, and South Elgin happening in January!

Volunteer Recognition

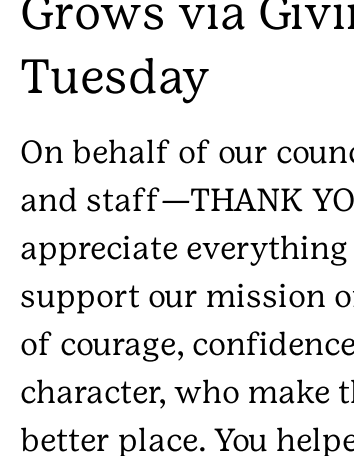
2024 Recognition Nominations opened December 1. Do you know a GSNI volunteer who has done something amazing? Nominate them for an official Girl Scout award! Visit our [recognition page](#) to review award descriptions and choose the one that best fits your nominee. Nominations close on February 2, 2024. Selected nominees will be honored at our 2024 Annual Meeting on April 27.

2024 Community Partnership Award Nominations Open

GSNI's Board of Directors established the Community Partnership Award to recognize businesses and organizations significantly supporting GSNI. A maximum of six nominees will be awarded and honored at GSNI's Annual Meeting in April 2024. Nominations are due by February 13, 2024. Enter nominations [here](#). Please give as much detail as possible. Unfortunately, we cannot consider late or incomplete nominations.



Travel Funds Available



Do you know a Girl Scout, age 12 or older, who would like to safely explore new places, have unique adventures, and make memories (and friends!) that will last a lifetime? If so, we're excited to offer a way to make exciting, hands-on travel more accessible to our youth members! Age-appropriate GSNI Girl Scouts may apply for the [GSNI Travel Endowment Fund](#). If selected, the award amount is \$375. The Travel Endowment application will close February 29, 2024, so please apply before the deadline. For more information, please contact customercare@girlscoutsni.org.

2024 Spring Programs

GSNI's Program Team is gearing up for a fantastic spring! Check out all the upcoming spring programs being offered with our [Spring Fun At a Glance List](#).

Travel Endowment Grows via Giving Tuesday



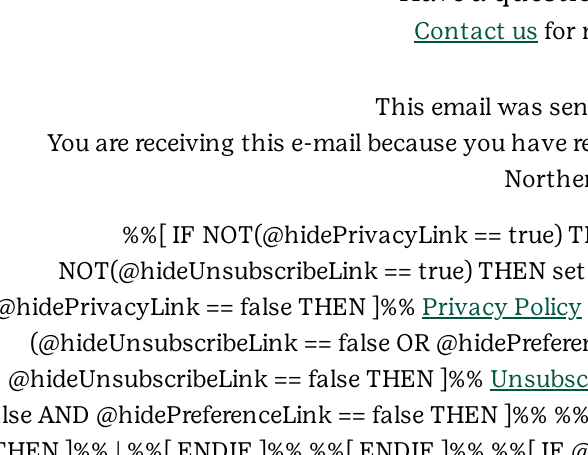
On behalf of our council, members, and staff—THANK YOU! We appreciate everything you do to support our mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. You helped us raise over \$10,000 for GSNI's Travel Endowment via your donations this past November 28, 2023, for Giving Tuesday!

No matter your reason for giving, we want you to know we appreciate you! We do not take for granted that our work would not be possible without supporters like you. As donors, volunteers, members, and friends, your giving spirit empowers us to make an impact throughout northern Illinois. Didn't get a chance to make your donation? [Click here](#) to donate today. Please add "Giving Tuesday" in the comments section to be applied to the GSNI Travel Endowment.

Adult Program Registration

All GSNI programs require adult registrations to be completed so our Program Team knows to expect proper safety ratios at any event being offered. The new Camp and Class Manager platform allows adult registration, so program availability is not taken away from our youth members. It is important we have the proper adult-to-youth ratios, so please follow all instructions when registering online for a GSNI program. Thank you!

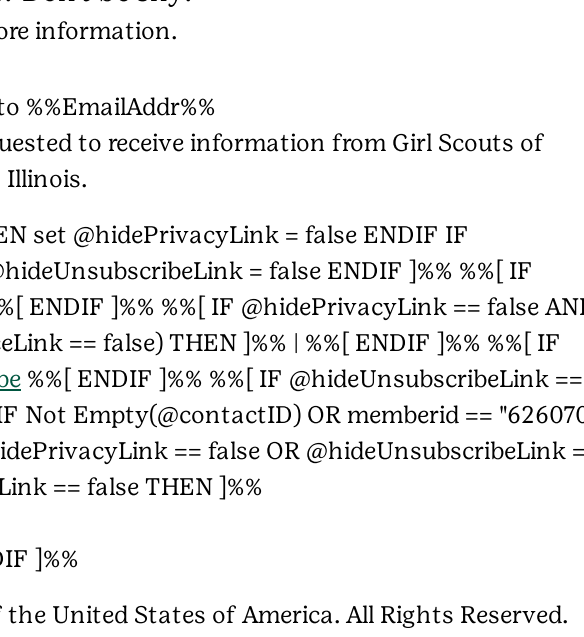
Volunteer Toolkit Tip of the Month



Did you know you can sync the Volunteer Toolkit calendar with your personal calendar? On the year plan tab, click the download button (arrow pointing down), and it will sync to the default calendar program on your device.

gsLearn Tip of the Month

Have you noticed you're not receiving emails from gsLearn as often? To ensure you are receiving gsLearn emails when registering for or completing a course, add the following email to your safe list in your email system: support@litmos.com. This will ensure you receive all your training emails moving forward.



Have a question? Don't be shy! [Contact us](#) for more information.

This email was sent to %EmailAddr% You are receiving this e-mail because you have requested to receive information from Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois.

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