

MY2026 Renewal Troop Leader Packet

*Everything You Need for a
Successful Renewal Season!*

Keep the Fun Going!

The fun is only beginning! Don't let it stop for your Girl Scouts. Now is the time to start planning for the 2026 membership year. What is the next step for your Girl Scouts? Have they been planning a trip? Are they ready to try something new? If the answer is yes, then get a head start by renewing everyone's Girl Scout membership now for the fall!

This year Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) and Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) have some exciting incentives for Girl Scout members who renew their membership early or on-time. Everything in this packet will guide you to a successful renewal season and more adventures in the new year!



Renewing Your Troop and Girl Scout Memberships

Girl Scout Memberships Available for Renewal

Starting April 1, current Girl Scout members can renew their membership for the 2025–2026 membership year. Check out the Girl Scout memberships available for all members:

- MY2026 Renewal Girl Scout membership - This membership is for Girl Scout youth who are currently Girl Scouts. Troop leaders and parents will be able to renew their Girl Scout's membership starting April 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Girl Scouts who renew their membership by specific deadlines will receive incentives. Check out the incentive page for this year's incentives!
- MY2026 Renewal Adult Girl Scout membership - This membership is for all adult Girl Scouts who are currently Girl Scout members. Current troop volunteers and adult members can renew their adult Girl Scout membership starting April 1, 2025, through September 30, 2026. Adult Girl Scout members who renew their membership by specific deadlines will receive incentives outlined on the incentive page of this packet.
- Lifetime Membership with Gift for Graduating Seniors - This membership is offered to Girl Scouts who are graduating high school this spring. Any graduating senior who purchases a Lifetime Membership will receive a special gift from GSUSA.
- Lifetime Membership Discount for Volunteers with 10+ Years of Service - This special Lifetime Membership discount is available for volunteers who have 10+ years of adult volunteer service. Volunteers who fit these criteria are welcome to renew their Girl Scout membership as a Lifetime Membership starting April 1, 2025.

How to Renew Your Troop's Memberships

If this is your first year renewing your troop, GSNI strongly recommends you take the "GSUSA Managing My Troop from My Account" gsLearn course. First year troop leaders can search for this course in your **gsLearn Content Library**. Current troop leaders who have not taken the course, and would like to, can also find the course in their Content Library in gsLearn.

Troop leaders can renew everyone in their troop at once through their "My Account" in MyGS. GSNI provides a Renewal Roster (see the handout section of this packet) for troop leaders to use during the renewal portion of the end-of-year Family Meeting. This roster allows parents to fill out an update to their information and serves as permission for the troop leader to renew youth and/or troop adult Girl Scout membership(s) online. Primary caregivers may opt to either participate this way or renew their Girl Scout's membership by themselves later. For a step-by-step handout for you, or your troop's caregivers, please see the handout section at the end of this packet for easy access to make copies.

Key Things to Consider:

1. If you mark a current Girl Scout member as *Decide Later*, nothing will happen, and you or the Girl Scout's caregiver will be able to renew this member later if they choose to renew.
2. If you mark a current Girl Scout member as *Not Returning*, an email will be sent out to the member's contact confirming that they have decided not to return to Girl Scouts. Please leave this option available for you or parents to mark in their MyGS account until October 1, 2025, only if the member is confirmed as not returning.

Ways to pay for members:

1. **Troop Funds** – Troops may pay for renewal memberships for all troop members (youth and adults) if members vote to use troop funds.

How to Renew Your Troop's Memberships ~ *cont'd*

- 2. Families Pay** – Troop leaders can offer to renew everyone who is returning and ask the caregivers to pay the troop for the \$45 membership fee for youth or \$30 for adult memberships and have the troop leader to take care of renewing everyone.
- 3. Financial Assistance** – If a member of the troop needs financial assistance, parents can mark financial assistance when checking out. Troop leaders do not have this option for troop members. Parents must do it.
- 4. Cookie Dough and Cashew Cash** – Girl Scouts who would like to use their Cookie Dough or Cashew Cash e-codes to pay for their Girl Scout renewal membership can give their code to their troop leader. The troop leader will follow the E-Code Reimbursement process once they use troop funds to pay for the Girl Scout's membership online.

Please remember GSNI is here to help! Feel free to reach out to customercare@girlscoutsni.org or your Membership Engagement Specialist if you have questions or need assistance.

New This Year - Annual membership dues for Membership Year 2025–2026 will be \$45 for girls and \$30 for adults. Visit girlscouts.org/benefits to learn more.

Girl Scout Experience Box - The Girl Scout Experience Box will be available for some renewing Daisy and Brownie Troops. Please reach out to your Membership Engagement Specialist to see if your Troop qualifies.

Renewal Incentives

There are so many reasons to renew your troop's Girl Scout memberships now! Check out the cool renewal incentives and the deadlines to receive them below:

Individual Incentive – Early Renewal fun

patches will be available for EVERY member that renews before May 31, 2025.

Troop Incentive – Troops that renew 50% of their youth members, at least two adult members, and have their Troop Financial Report turned in by June 30, 2025, will qualify for the Troop Incentive. This will be an \$8 per person value which will be sent this fall to the designated troop leader in the form of an e-code.

Juliette Incentive – Every Independently Registered Member (IRM/Juliette) who renews their membership by June 30, 2025, will qualify for the incentive of \$8 sent directly to their primary caregiver in the form of an e-code. Juliettes will also receive the individual incentive of the early renewal fun patch if they are renewed on or before May 31, 2025.

Please note - Early and On Time Renewal Incentives will be available to members currently registered for the 2025 membership year (MY2025) and renew their membership for the 2026 (MY2026) membership year. Troops that start with the Extended Year Program encompassing both MY2025 and MY2026 will NOT qualify for these incentives.

Service Unit Incentives

Early and On Time Renewal goals for service units will be based on the service unit's Girl Scout youth and adult members as of March 15, 2025.

Adult Lifetime members will be subtracted from these numbers prior to the goals being set.

Service units will be placed in categories - small, medium, or large - depending on the number of youth members they serve. Each category will have a different number as their monetary incentive. Descriptions of service unit incentive categories can be found below. Service Unit Treasurers or Service Unit Managers will receive their service unit's renewal incentive check after October 15, 2025, once all renewal numbers are final.

- If a service unit reaches 38% of Girl Scouts

Renewal Incentives ~ *cont'd*

renewed by June 30, 2025, they will receive the Early Renewal Girl Incentive listed for their service unit size.

- If a service unit reaches 38% of adults renewed by June 30, 2025, they will receive the Early Renewal Adult Incentive listed for their service unit size.
- If a service unit reaches 58% of Girl Scouts renewed by September 30, 2025, they will receive the On Time Girl Incentive listed for their service unit size.
- If a service unit reaches 58% of adults renewed by September 30, 2025, they will receive the On Time Adult Incentive listed for their service unit size.
- Service units will receive a BONUS if they achieve all four renewal goals!

Current Service Unit Categories (as of March 15, 2025):

Small (1-199)	Medium (200-399)	Large 400+
302	410	408
304	411	412
305	414	648
308	619	
310	629	
312	633	
313	646	
401	651	
407	653	
563		
565		
566		
611		
613		
615		
616		
618		
623		
638		
639		
640		

Monetary explanation based on service unit category size:

	Small	Medium	Large
Girl Early 38%	\$50	\$75	\$100
Adult Early 38%	\$50	\$75	\$100
Girl On Time 58%	\$50	\$75	\$100
Adult On Time 58%	\$50	\$75	\$100
Meet All Four	\$50	\$75	\$100
Possible Total	\$250	\$375	\$500

Renewal Handouts and Materials

All handouts and materials mentioned throughout this packet are found in the following pages for you to copy for your Renewal Parent Meeting. This includes an outline and sample agenda for your Renewal Parent Meeting. You can also find these handouts and materials on the Service Unit Hub on Rallyhood and on GSNI's Renew Page on our website: www.girlscoutsni.org/renew.

- Renewal Parent/Caregiver Meeting Plan
- How to Renew Your Troop
- How to Renew Your Girl Scout (for parents)
- E-Code Troop Reimbursement for Renewal Membership



Renewal Parent/Caregiver Meeting Plan

This Parent/Caregiver Meeting can be combined with any Girl Scout Meeting Plan in the Volunteer Toolkit. The Girl Scout meeting would be held in a separate room from the Parent/Caregiver Meeting. Remember to ensure adult/youth safety ratios are being met in the Girl Scout meeting room..

Welcome and Introductions (10 min.)

Leader introductions.

Go over how well the year has gone and Girl Scouts' accomplishments and plans for the end of the year.

Renew Time for Next Year (15–20 min.)

Explain that Early Renewal for the next membership year opened April 1.

Discuss why it is important for the troop to renew their memberships now.

- No down time between membership year.
- The troop can continue to plan activities and meet without stopping.
- Less stress when school starts to ensure everyone is registered for the new year.

Share overview of the troop's plans for the summer and early fall if you have any that could continue without interruption.

Share this year's incentives for both the Girl Scouts and troop if members renew by specific dates.

Share the decision on who will pay for memberships (the troop or parents/caregivers) and options for payment (Cookie Dough, financial aid if needed, etc.).

Ask if there are any questions or concerns about renewing. (It's ok if a family says not at this time, or they have to think about it.)

Optional: If the troop will be paying or the troop leader is willing to renew everyone, pass the Renewal Roster sheet around for parents/caregivers to update their information and give the troop leader permission to renew their Girl Scout's membership.

Family as Part of the Formula (20 min.)

Explain how you loved having parents involved during troop meetings and trips.

Encourage them to continue volunteering with the troop or to volunteer with the troop based on the plans the Girl Scouts have for next year.

Encourage parents/caregivers who were not involved this year to get involved next year and think about registering with the troop for the upcoming year.

Using the Make Her Experience Memorable Guide from the Volunteer Toolkit, point out that spending just a little time to help can make a big impact.

Secure adults to help with organizing and managing the calendar for troop snacks, carpool schedule, and the troop phone tree or social media page—all activities that can take as little as 15 minutes per week!

Encourage caregivers to consider other leadership opportunities listed. Emphasize they're not just welcome to lend a hand—they're wanted!

Let them know if there will be a special event to celebrate the accomplishments of the Girl Scouts at the end of the year and the details of the event.

Optional: Next Level Information (10 min.)

If the troop is bridging to the next level, outline costs to parents and caregivers (sash or vest and other supplies needed for the year), or if the troop is paying for specific uniform pieces, let the parents know.

Wrap It Up (10–15 mins)

Remember both meetings will wrap up/close together. Girl Scouts should join their parents/caregivers.

Make sure everyone has your phone number, email address, and all the information about the next troop meeting (date, time, location, and any supplies Girl Scouts will need to bring).

Collect forms but leave time for questions, concerns, and simply to get to know people better.

Invite Girl Scouts and caregivers to form a circle, cross arms, and then join hands. Close the meeting with a Friendship Squeeze. First, ask for a volunteer to start the squeeze. If needed, use the Quiet Sign to get everyone settled.

Say: Think of a silent wish you would like to pass along. Once you get the wish and the squeeze passed to you, then you will use your right hand to squeeze the hand of the friend next to you, and it will travel around the circle.

The last person to have their hand squeezed will say, "Goodbye, Girl Scouts."

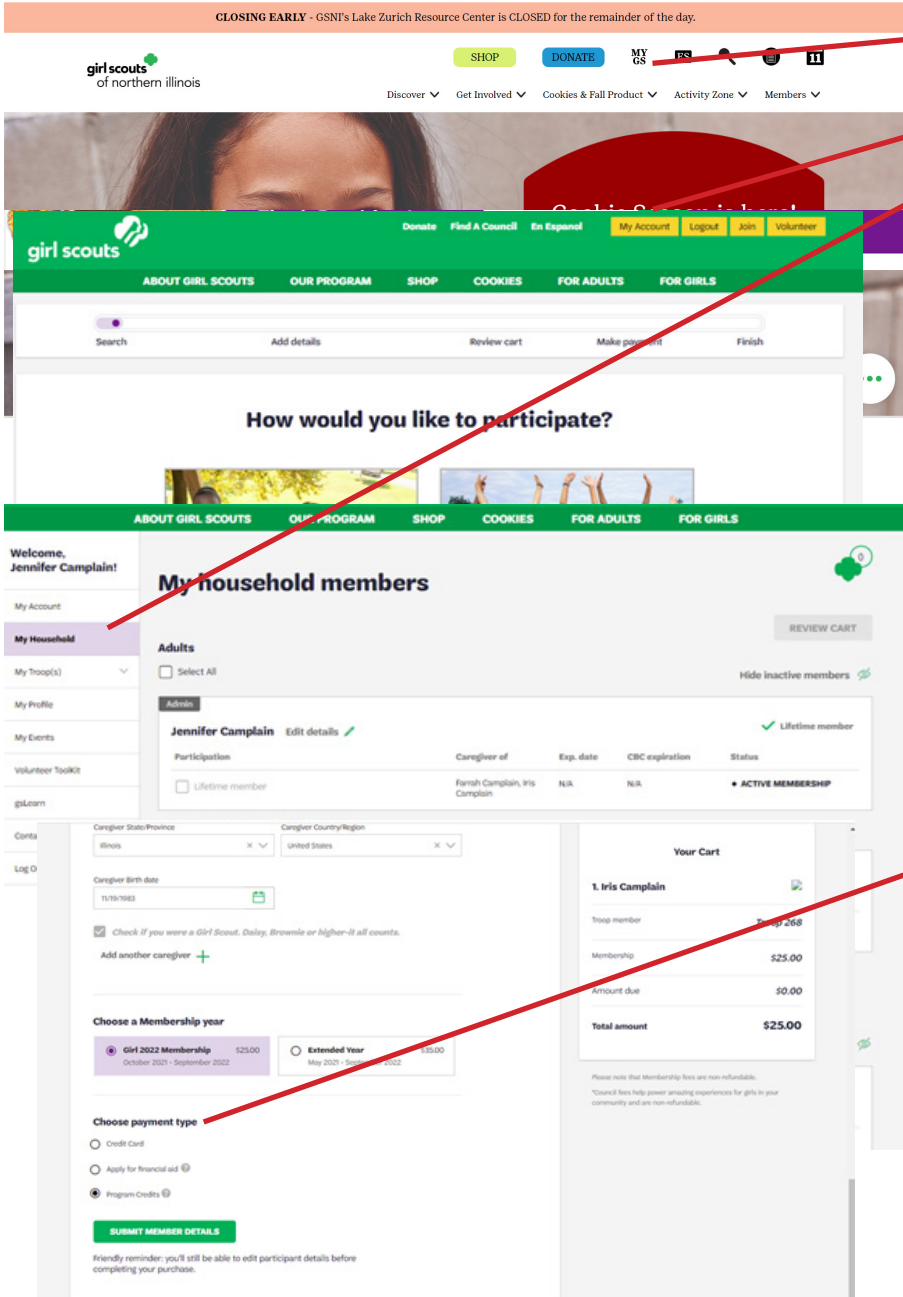
Then everyone raises their joined hands and twists clockwise out of the circle, so everyone is untwisted and facing away from the circle.

The next meeting is...

See you next time, Girl Scouts!

Follow up with a thank you! Keep the conversation going all year via email, in-person chats, and/or social media. Updating caregivers on troop activities helps them feel more invested and gives them a chance to build on their Girl Scout's experience at home!

Steps to Renew Your Girl Scout's Membership



1. Log into your MYGS Community Member Profile.
2. Click on My Account.
3. Click on My Household
4. Click any adult and youth members you want to renew along with the SELECT All box to ensure you renew all positions within the troop for each adult and youth member returning. Uncheck any box related to a position that the member is not returning for.
5. Click add Renewal
6. Confirm Member Details for each Girl Scout member you are renewing.
7. Select the Membership year you want.
8. Choose payment type and enter payment details.
9. Click on submit member details
10. Click on Review Cart
11. Check mark "I agree to the Girl Scout Promise and Law"
12. Scroll down and click "Submit"

For Your Information:

Girls can choose to use their Cookie Dough or Cashew Cash to renew their membership. If this is the case, please contact your troop leader, so they can follow the process for all GSNI e-codes.

Steps to Renew Your Troop's Membership

The screenshot shows the 'My household members' page on the Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois website. The page is titled 'Welcome, Jennifer Caplain!' and 'My household members'. It features a table of members with columns for Participation, Caregiver of, Exp. date, CBC expiration, and Status. A 'Your Cart' section shows the total amount due for membership renewal.

Participation	Caregiver of	Exp. date	CBC expiration	Status
<input type="checkbox"/> Lifetime member	Farah Caplain, W's Caplain	N/A	N/A	ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Your Cart

1. Iris Caplain	
Troop member	Troop 268
Membership	\$25.00
Amount due	\$0.00
Total amount	\$25.00

1. Log into your MYGS Community Member Profile.
2. Click on My Account.
3. Click on My Troop
4. Click any adult and Girl Scout members you want to renew
5. Click Renew
6. Confirm Member Details for each Girl Scout member you are renewing.
7. Select the Membership year you want.
8. Choose payment type
Note: Only parents are able to choose Apply for Financial Aid.
9. Update their information as needed.
10. Click on submit member details
11. Click on Review Cart
12. Check mark "I agree to the Girl Scout Promise and Law"
13. Scroll down and click "Submit"

Congratulations!

You're renewed for another year of Girl Scouting!

For Your Information:

Girls can choose to use their Cookie Dough or Cashew Cash to renew their membership. If this is the case, please follow the process for all GSNI e-codes. Troop Leaders can review a step by step video on how to renew your troop in the GSUSA Managing My Troops from My Account course in gsLearn.

You can find this course in your Content Library.



2026 Renewal Roster

Please use this roster so families can update their Girl Scout's information for early online renewal.

Girl Name	Address	Phone Number	Email	Parent Name	Parent Permission to Renew



GSNI E-Code Reimbursement for Renewed Membership Spreadsheet

Expired e-codes will not be accept by council. E-codes that expire **April 1 of next membership year**, must be turned in to your nearest resource center by **March 25 of next membership year**. Please plan accordingly.

It is imperative these codes are entered as soon as possible after they are received by GSNI. If they are not inputted right away, there is a chance, the family can accidentally use the code elsewhere. If they do, it will be the troop's responsibility to work with the family to resolve the issue.

Date of Request _____ Date Needed _____ Troop Leader Requesting _____
 Service Unit _____ Pay to _____ Email _____

Amount	Purpose GSNI E-code Reimbursement: Renewal Membership					
Number	Member First Name	Member Last Name	Please list e-code number	Cashew Cash/Cookie Dough/ Early Renewal Incentive	E-Code Expiration Date	Amount of e-code to be redeemed
1						\$ -
2						\$ -
3						\$ -
4						\$ -
5						\$ -
6						\$ -
7						\$ -
8						\$ -
9						\$ -
10						\$ -
11						\$ -
12						\$ -
13						\$ -
14						\$ -
15						\$ -
16						\$ -
17						\$ -
18						\$ -
19						\$ -
20						\$ -
21						\$ -
22						\$ -
23						\$ -
24						\$ -
25						\$ -
26						\$ -
27						\$ -
28						\$ -
29						\$ -
30						\$ -
31						\$ -
32						\$ -
33						\$ -
34						\$ -
35						\$ -
36						\$ -
37						\$ -
38						\$ -
39						\$ -
40						\$ -
Total Amount of E-codes -->						\$ -

Troop Leader Name _____
 Date _____

Total # of pages included _____ Total Amount
 of All e-codes (if more than one sheet)
 manually add --> \$

Please return to any Girl Scout of Northern Illinois Resource Center. Checks will be mailed. **Complete ALL information requested on this form, including email and zip code.**

Internal office instructions: Scan all requests into an email and send to the correct Member Support Specialist. Then follow the GSNI E-code Reimbursement procedure
 Charge to: 10-2140-320-_____ X # of girls _____
 8940-110-150-_____ X # of girls _____
 10-2140=320-_____ X # of girls _____
 (Billing codes may change)