

# Around GSNI News for Families

February 2024

All GSNI Resource Centers will be closed, and all GSNI staff will be off on Monday, February 19, in observance of Presidents Day.

## A Note from Kari



Hello GSNI! Girl Scout Cookie Booths have started, and I can't wait to visit as many of you as possible. I am very proud of our new and returning entrepreneurs!

For our youth members who will be 14 on or before April 27, 2024, please consider applying for the position of Associate Board of Directors Member [here](#). Your ideas, opinions, and voice are incredibly important to the Girl Scout movement, both locally and nationally!

2024 Annual Meeting registration is now [open](#). I hope you can join us on April 27. As a reminder, registration closes on April 18, and no further registration opportunities will be available. I don't want anyone to miss out!

Yours in Girl Scouting,  
Kari L. Rockwell

## Volunteer Spotlight

"I see the way the girls grow and become stronger, braver, bigger, better versions of themselves. I love the supportive community that is created within the troop and within the service unit, where girls and volunteers alike all explore their interests and figure out new things together." [Hear more](#) from Lori Janis who has been awarded GSNI's most recent Volunteer Spotlight!



[READ MORE](#)

## Cookie Deliveries



Girl Scouts will Own Your Magic as they participate in the [2024 Cookie Program](#). Resources are available at [www.girlscoutsni.org/cookieresources](http://www.girlscoutsni.org/cookieresources) and [Rallyhood!](#) When Girl Scouts receive their cookies from Initial Orders, please deliver them to customers as soon as possible. Don't forget to include a Thank You note! Watch for and read the Cookie Chat emails sent from eBudde and review the [Family Newsletter](#) for assistance throughout the cookie program. For additional assistance, contact your Troop Cookie Chair or the GSNI Product Program Team at [cookies4you@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:cookies4you@girlscoutsni.org).

## 2024 Community Partnership Award Nominations

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 on April 27, 2024. Nominations are due by February 13, 2024. Enter nominations [here](#), giving as much detail as possible. Unfortunately, we cannot consider late or incomplete nominations.



## President's Volunteer Service Award



Volunteering is near and dear to your heart, and it shows! Why not be honored for doing what you love? The President's Volunteer Service Award does this. Everything you do for Girl Scouts—from answering phone calls and text messages from parents to attending service unit meetings—all counts towards your hours. This award may be earned by adults, Girl Scouts (ages 5+), as well as families and groups, such as a Service Unit Team, Day Camp Committee, or Troop. You already put in the hours, so receive recognition for all you do! The deadline to submit applications is February 15. All award recipients will be recognized at the GSNI Annual Meeting on April 27. For more information, [visit our website](#).

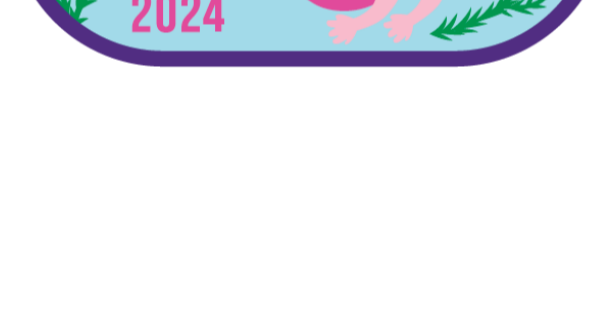
## Super Spring Programs

GSNI's Program Team and Preferred Partners have created amazing programming opportunities for spring. [Registration is now open!](#) Check out:

- Overnight at the Museum; March 2-3; Register by February 17.
- Maple Syrup Days; March 9 and March 16; Register by February 24.
- Outdoor Art Explorer; March 16; Register by February 23.

## Be a Goal Getter

Earn the Goal Getter patch through participation in [Cookie Cravers!](#) Cookie Craver orders will be accepted through March 2. Girl Scouts can use the [Cookie Craver Order Card](#) to take additional orders after initial orders. Parents, troop leaders or Cookie Chairs bring the [Cookie Craver submission form](#) to a [Council Cookie Cupboard](#) (during designated cupboard hours). Full payment is required at the time of submission/cookie pick-up. Cookie packages purchased do apply towards Girl Scout rewards and troop proceeds. Digital Cookie orders cannot be applied to Cookie Craver orders.



## Program Aide Training

Do you know a Cadette, Senior, or Ambassador looking to complete their Program Aide training? Join GSNI council staff at camp for a weekend of training—both Program Aide Basic and Program Aide Outdoor! [Register today!](#)

**Program Aide Basic**  
March 23; Mary Ann Beebe Center; Register by March 9.  
April 20; Camp McCormick; Register by April 5.  
May 18; Camp Dean; Register by May 3.

**Program Aide Overnight**  
March 23–24; Mary Ann Beebe Center; Register by March 9.  
April 20–21; Camp McCormick; Register by April 5.  
May 18–19; Camp Dean; Register by May 3.

## Cool Cookie Patches



Is there more than one Girl Scout in your household selling Girl Scout Cookies? Check out the [Multi-family Girl Scout Special Rewards](#) offers and find out how sisters can earn the unique 2024 Sister Sales Team patch!

Girl Scouts who participated in the 2023 Fall Product Program, used the Share My Site feature, and sent 18+ customer emails through the M2OS platform, qualified to earn the [Fall & Cookie Crossover Personalized patch!](#) To earn the patch, Girl Scouts must also send 18+ unique emails through Digital Cookie DC24 and sell 225+ packages of cookies during the 2024 Cookie Program.

## Introducing Game Changer Girl Scouts



Do you know a GSNI Girl Scout redefining everything you thought you knew about the cookie program? GSNI is accepting nominations for Girl Scouts who demonstrate creative thinking, embrace new ideas, lead with compassion, and model entrepreneurship through the cookie program. If this applies to a Girl Scout in your life, now's the time to [nominate](#) them. Selected Girl Scouts will receive a special charm and may be featured on GSNI's social media. Nominations will be accepted through March 10.

## Get Ready for 2nd Annual Online Auction!

[MORE INFO](#)



## 2024 Camp Service Days & Open Houses Update!

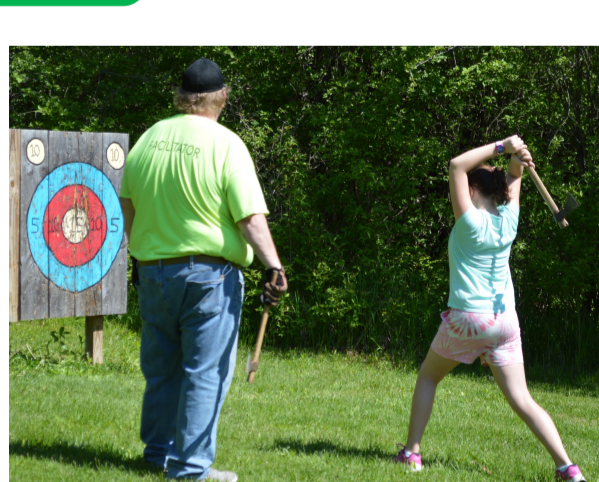


GSNI listens to our volunteers! We have changed the dates of our 2024 Camp Service Days and Camp Open Houses to increase attendance at the events. New this year is a troop overnight option. Troops that meet a minimum number of participants (8 people per group) may stay in one of the camp lodges at no charge! Make a note of all the date changes and learn [more on our website](#).

[READ MORE](#)

## Wanted: Outdoor Activities Facilitators

GSNI is looking for compassionate, energetic, and fun Girl Scout volunteers to join our facilitator program. GSNI Facilitators help instruct Girl Scouts during troop camping or council-led events from mid-April to mid-October each year. Facilitating with GSNI is a paid, seasonal position. Interested potential facilitators take training and receive certifications for our outdoor facilitated activities, including archery, small watercraft, high ropes, and more. For more information or to become a facilitator, email [customercare@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsni.org).



## Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

GSNI's first Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) training for adults working with GSNI youth took place on January 27 at the Rockford Resource Center! This blended-learning training involves online training (approximately 2 hours) that needs to be completed prior to the in-person training (5.5 hours), and then followed up with an online assessment/evaluation requirement (approximately 30 minutes). Participants who successfully complete all portions of the training become certified to recognize training issues, help youth to feel less distressed, and are a vital resource in seeking further assistance. If you are interested in becoming a Youth Mental Health First Aider or know of a group of volunteers who are interested, please contact Beth Metzler at [volunteerdevelopment@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:volunteerdevelopment@girlscoutsni.org).



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

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You are receiving this e-mail because you have requested to receive information from Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois.