


 Around GSNI  
News from the council

## 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!

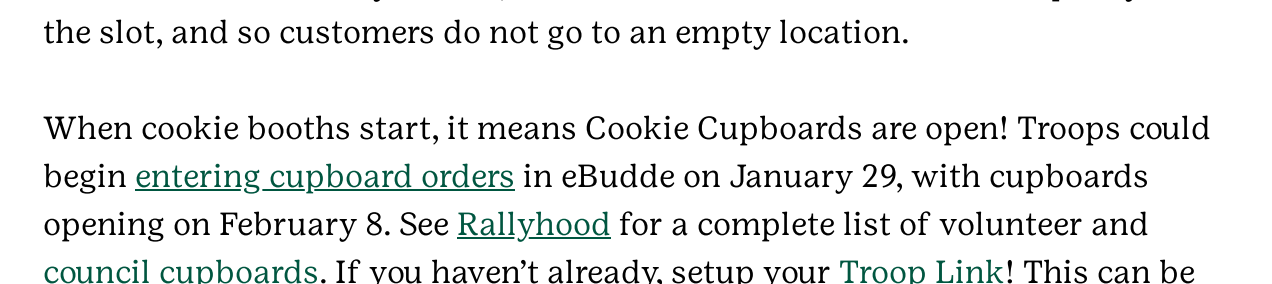
Yours in Girl Scouting,  
Kari L. Rockwell

## 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](#)

## 2024 GSNI Cookie Booths

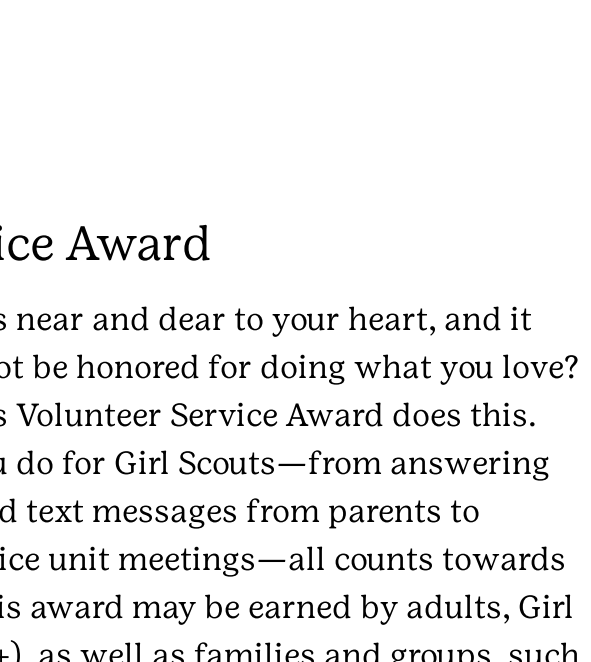


It's Cookie Booth season! The first week of February 9–15 is for troop booths only. These cookie booths are setup by troops and [entered into eBuddy](#) for council approval. Council booths are reserved by GSNI, and troops [signup through eBuddy](#). Please follow [Cookie Booth etiquette](#). Remember, if your troop cancels a booth for any reason, remove it in eBuddy so another troop may use the slot, and so customers do not go to an empty location.

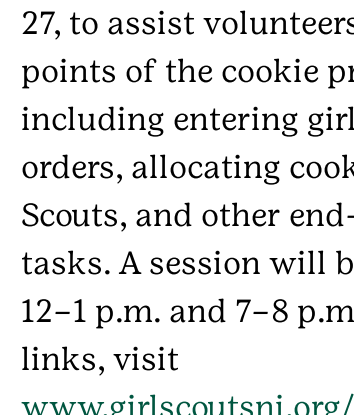
When cookie booths start, it means Cookie Cupboards are open! Troops could begin [entering cupboard orders](#) in eBuddy on January 29, with cupboards opening on February 8. See [Rallyhood](#) for a complete list of volunteer and [council cupboards](#). If you haven't already, setup your [Troop Link](#)! This can be used to take credit cards as payment at cookie booths. Starting February 16, these will also be available for customers to search on [Cookie Finder](#) and place a shipped order.

## 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.



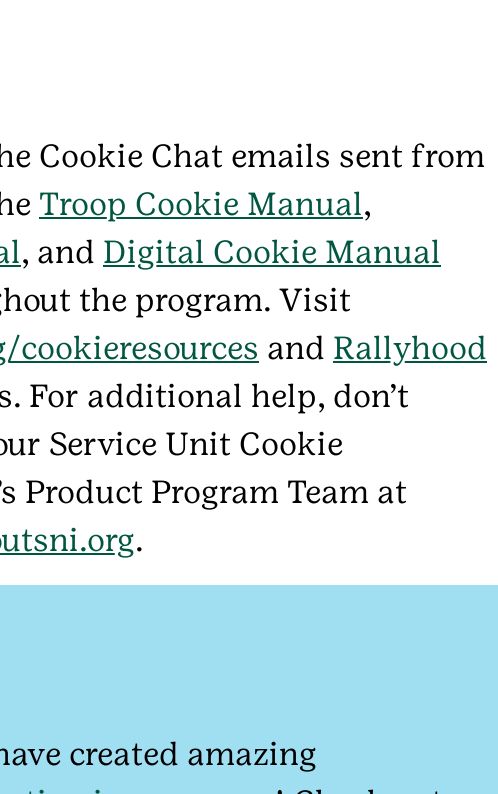
## President's Volunteer Service Award



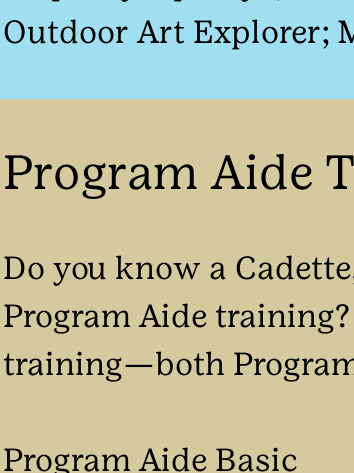
Volunteering is near and dear to your heart, and it shows! Why not be honored for doing what you love? The President's Volunteer Service Award does this. Everything you do for Girl Scouts—from answering phone calls and text messages from parents to attending service unit meetings—all counts towards your 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](#).

## GSNI Cookie Training

GSNI is holding a Virtual MicroTraining on Tuesday, February 27, to assist volunteers with key points of the cookie program, including entering girl delivery orders, allocating cookies to Girl Scouts, and other end-of-season tasks. A session will be held at both 12–1 p.m. and 7–8 p.m. For meeting links, visit [www.girlscoutsni.org/cookieresources](#) or [Rallyhood](#).



## Use Cookie Resources



Watch for and read the Cookie Chat emails sent from eBuddy and read the [Troop Cookie Manual](#), [eBuddy and Review](#), and [Digital Cookie Manual](#) for assistance throughout the program. Visit [www.girlscoutsni.org/cookieresources](#) and [Rallyhood](#) for updated resources. For additional help, don't hesitate to contact your Service Unit Cookie Coordinator or GSNI's Product Program Team at [cookies4you@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:cookies4you@girlscoutsni.org).

## 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.

## 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.

## 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 &amp; 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. 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](#).

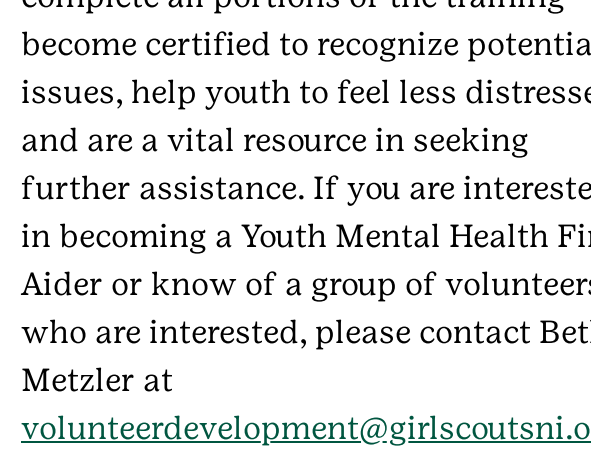
[READ MORE](#)

## 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 [customer-care@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:customer-care@girlscoutsni.org).



## Service Unit Announcement: Volunteer Led Camps



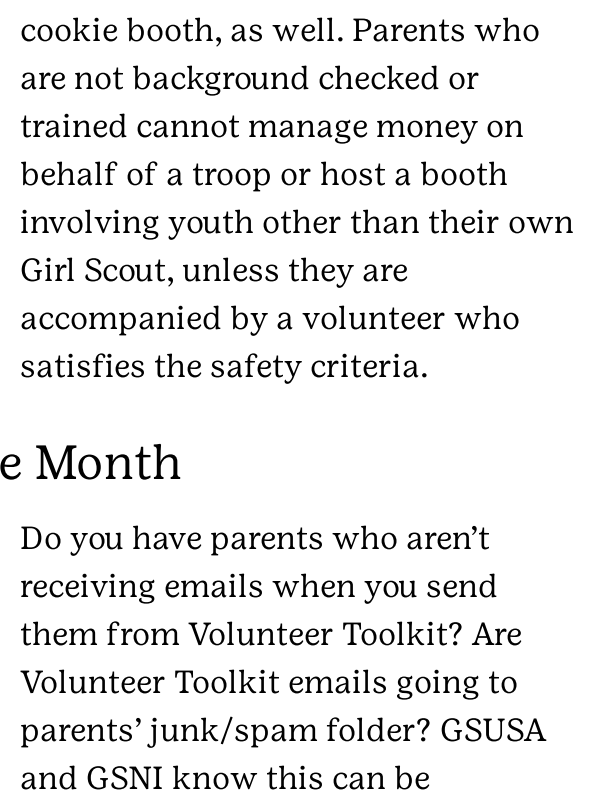
All service units with a Camp Committee led by a registered and trained leader have received an email on January 13 with an online intent form to notify GSNI if having a camp this coming summer. If your service unit has not held a camp for a while, has held a camp but is experiencing a change in leadership, or would like to explore starting a camp for your service unit or area, please fill out the intent form and reach out to Beth Metzler at 815-815-8543 or [bmetzler@girlscoutsni.org](mailto:bmetzler@girlscoutsni.org).

## Service Unit Congratulations!

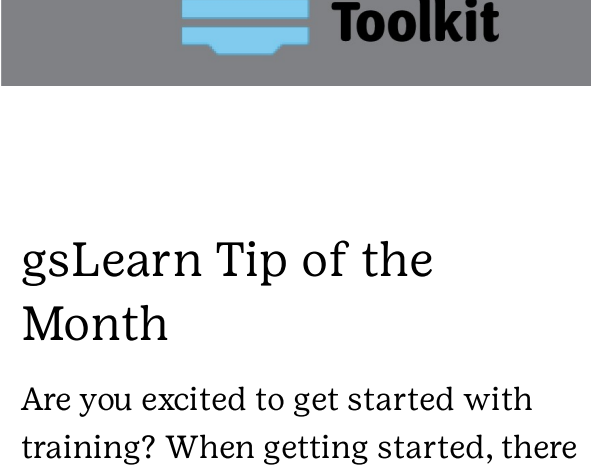
GSNI is celebrating our service units that have achieved new membership growth for the 2024 membership year. [Read more here](#).

## Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

GSNI's first Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHA) 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 potential 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).

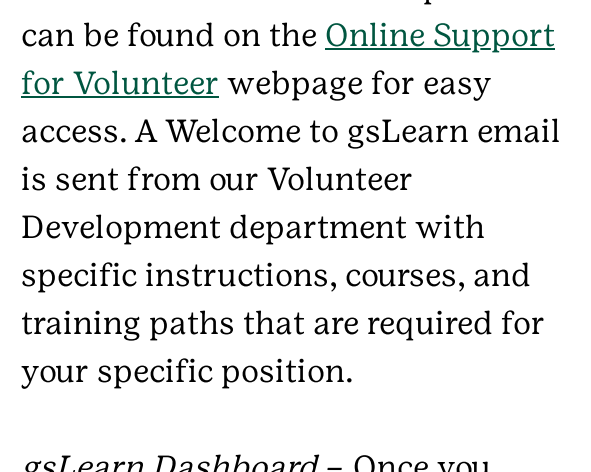


## New Volunteer Corner



It is important for all Troop Volunteers to be registered, background checked, and trained! This maintains safety, allowing adults to be left alone with the Girl Scouts and to count for safety ratios. This applies to actively helping at a cookie booth, as well. Parents who are not background checked or trained cannot manage money on behalf of a troop or host a booth involving youth other than their own Girl Scout, unless they are accompanied by a volunteer who satisfies the safety criteria.

## Volunteer Toolkit Tip of the Month



Do you have parents who aren't receiving emails when you send them from Volunteer Toolkit? Are Volunteer Toolkit emails going to parents' junk/spam folder? GSUSA and GSNI know this can be frustrating! To ensure parents and caregivers receive emails from Volunteer Toolkit, instruct them to add [email@girlscouts.org](mailto:email.girlscouts.org) to the safe or whitelist on their email platform. After this is done, most parents receive all emails from the Volunteer Toolkit.

## gsLearn Tip of the Month

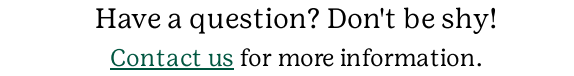
Are you excited to get started with training? When getting started, there are two locations in gsLearn to find your required training. Refer to the following documents and locations in gsLearn to ensure you are completing your required training before exploring other Girl Scout courses:

*Review your Volunteer Role's Volunteer Check List or your Welcome to gsLearn Email* - Volunteer role lists for troop roles can be found on the [Online Support for Volunteer](#) webpage for easy access. A Welcome to gsLearn email is sent from our Volunteer Development department with specific instructions, courses, and training paths that are required for your specific position.

*gsLearn Dashboard* - Once you receive your Welcome to gsLearn email, you'll find all required training courses and training paths on your gsLearn Dashboard. Focus on these trainings before moving on to other courses available in gsLearn.

*gsLearn Content Library* - If you log into gsLearn before receiving your Welcome to gsLearn email, you can use your volunteer role check list to find the required training courses and training paths in the Content Library.

Don't forget to register for your [New Volunteer Orientation](#) on our website before jumping into training!



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.