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girl scouts of northern illinois

Around GSNI

News from the council

July 2024

GSNI Resource Centers and the Build-A-Bear Workshop located inside our South Elgin location will be closed through July 19, 2024, for inventory. Need to purchase Girl Scout merchandise? Shop online at www.girlscoutsni.org/shop or email customercare@girlscoutsni.org for assistance. Our team will respond at their earliest opportunity. Be sure to visit our website for all Resource Center Summer Hours.

A Note *from* Kari

Happy Summer, GSNI! The sun is shining; camp is in full swing, and we are preparing for membership year 2025 with our new staff structure!

As we plan for the new membership and fiscal year as well as reflect on 2024, we recognize the need to address economic challenges, increase fiscal responsibility, and continue providing quality programming and member resources while prioritizing, sustaining, and protecting GSNI support, services, properties, and programs for decades to come!

Looking to the future, this prioritization may cause a reduction or elimination in staffing or services or cause a staff role to be combined when a staff position goes unfilled. Additionally, GSNI, like all non-profits and companies, must comply with new Department of Labor regulations that have caused many of our staff members to reorganize their workloads to reduce the total number of hours worked in a week. The staff and leadership of GSNI appreciate the understanding, flexibility, and self-sufficiency of our exceptional volunteers as we navigate our future of sustainability and continue to support the Girl Scout Mission.

This is also our year of Girl Scout Cookie contract renewal! After a thorough review of contract options with both bakers, we are excited to announce our continued partnership with Little Brownie Baker. Due to the rising costs of materials, production, and overall inflation, GSNI will join many councils across the nation in an updated price of $6 per cookie package. Revised troop cookie proceeds information can also be found here.

Hope you are having a great summer!

Yours in Girl Scouting,
Kari L. Rockwell

Volunteer Spotlight

"Girl Scouts gives me a chance to spend more time with my daughter and granddaughter, too. It has been meaningful getting to build lifelong friendships with others and calling these people sisters, even though we're not related. Also, it's been great being able to share this amazing program not only with my daughters and granddaughters but with the ladies of the Aurora community." Hear more from Dara Nelson, our most recent Volunteer Spotlight Award recipient.

HEAR MORE

New Opportunity!

Great news! If you are interested in working for GSNI but currently hold a troop role, such as troop leader, you are now able to apply for any open GSNI position. In other words, you may work for GSNI and still volunteer for the council in certain roles. Our Board of Directors recently approved this change to our policies: *GSNI employees may volunteer within GSNI or any other Girl Scout council and serve as troop volunteers but cannot serve in any troop or service unit product program specific volunteer roles, or any Service Unit Team roles.*

Check out GSNI's job portal for open positions. We are currently looking to fill several Membership Engagement Specialist roles within the council!

APPLY NOW

Early Bird Registration Ends July 31

GSNI's Thin Mint Sprint is a fantastic event to keep troops engaged during the summer and as a fun back-to-troop fall event! Participants can fundraise for their troops (and a refund for their registration fee) making the event beneficial for everyone. Supporters can join us on Saturday, September 14, at Lions Park in Fox River Grove or plan a virtual event. The 20th Annual Thin Mint Sprint is open to all to walk or run either 5K or 1 mile and celebrate with an after-party.

Take advantage of early bird registration and save! It's just $35 per person through July 31, which includes a t-shirt, patch, medal, swag, and (of course) a delicious box of Girl Scout Thin Mints®. Don't miss out on this exciting opportunity to have fun while supporting your troop!

REGISTER NOW!

10th Annual STEW

Are you ready for STEW 2024? Help us celebrate 10 years of STEW (aka Special Teaching Enrichment Workshops). Join us at Camp Dean from Friday, September 20 – Sunday, September 22, for this exciting time of hands-on outdoor (and indoor!) learning for Girl Scout volunteers by Girl Scout volunteers. Sign up for a variety of workshops designed to energize Girl Scout troops, service units, and groups. Sessions focus on categories such as arts and crafts, STEM, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, camping, outdoor cooking, and more! There is a weekend option and a Saturday-only option for registration. Receive $5 off if you register by Monday, July 15. Registration ends Friday, September 6.

SIGN UP!

Volunteer Toolkit to Archive 2024

Volunteer Toolkit will archive all Membership 2024 Year Plans on July 15. Troop leaders should download and save any information from their 2024 attendance, achievements, and year plan before July 15. The Finance Tab will be unavailable after July 15 for 2024 Troop Financial submittals. Any troop leaders and Troop Bank Signers who have not submitted financials and want to still submit through Volunteer Toolkit should do so before July 14. Email questions to customercare@girlscoutsni.org with the subject line: Volunteer Toolkit Archive Question.

2024 Fall Product Program

Don't miss being a part of the 2024 Fall Product Program where Girl Scouts in your troop can use their entrepreneur skills to *Embrace Possibility* featuring the Asian elephant as the mascot. The Fall Product Program is a great way for troops to earn proceeds to fund activities and service projects and (new!) earn additional troop proceeds for the 2025 Girl Scout Cookie Program.

New items this year include Vanilla Honey Roasted Pecans, the third tin in the Girl Scout Memory Tin series, holiday tin with two options (Deluxe Pecan Clusters or Chocolate Covered Pretzels), expanded Girl Scout exclusive BarkBox options, and personalized stationery and frames!

LEARN MORE

Troop Travel Request Forms

To assist troop leaders and GSNI staff in efficiency, organization, and receiving the most up-to-date information on travel regulations, we are now providing our Troop Trip Travel and International Intent to Travel forms through Microsoft Forms! You can find them here:
· Troop Trip Travel - for domestic trips, field trips, and sleepovers at venues
· International Trip Intent to Travel Form - for all trips outside of the U.S., including cruises
For a summary of training and deadline requirements for field trips and domestic travel, please refer to this form.

Have a question? Don't be shy!
Contact us for more information.

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353 Randall Rd South Elgin , IL 60177