girl scouts of northern illinois

Around Your Service

News for Families

November 2025

GSNI will be closed Thanksgiving, November 27-Friday, November 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.

A NOTE FROM YOUR CEO

JODI DAHLKE

Each November, I'm reminded to set aside time and give thanks for the people and places that I'm especially grateful for our Girl Scouts, their supportive families, and all of our amazing volunteers throughout Northern Illinois. Our Girl Scouts exemplify resilience and leadership with acts of service, ingenuity, creativity, and hope for the future. Our dedicated families show up every day for their Girl Scouts with encouragement and empowerment, and our volunteers generously invest their time and talents into each generation of Girl Scouts. Thank you!

I'd like to send special thank you to all the Girl Scouts, families, and volunteers who participated in GSNI's Fall Product Program this year. Thanks to you, Girl Scouts learned vital life skills and raised important funds to support troop adventures and projects!

Please remember that we have our United for Growth Town Hall remaining on November 12. If you haven't been able to attend one of our Town Halls, I'd like to let you know if there is an interested community member who might like to attend. Contact customerservice@girlscouts-ni.org to add them to the list!

November is also a time of giving—a time when we can truly ponder and concern important to us. The GSNI calendar includes participating in GivingTuesday and Veterans Day. Consider joining us in sharing our GivingTuesday posts on social media, sending a #FyeHelloHero card, or volunteering. Whether choosing to donate to help more young people connect to the benefits of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, I deeply appreciate all you do to support the Girl Scouts of today and tomorrow!

Yours in Girl Scouting,
Jodi

Volunteer Spotlight

"My primary role Girl Scout volunteer and parents is don't just ask your Girl Scout what she did at learned—learn for show you. The girls get excited when they can share their knowledge and demonstrate their learning. Girl Scouting is not just about, it's not about offering to hold with a single troop meeting or activity will benefit both you and your Girl Scout. It doesn't have to be big, it can be small, it can be Bloom Lunch, our most recent Volunteer Spotlight Award recipient.

READ MORE

Meet Your GSNI Delegates

By Tracy Hooper and Eleanor H.
We, your Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) delegates, are proud to represent the voices of our members—Girl Scouts, families, and volunteers across our entire council. As delegates, we will serve as a vital link between our local Girl Scouts and national leadership, helping ensure that every member's perspective is heard where it matters most—at the center of our Movement. We will listen, share ideas, and bring feedback from our communities to help shape the direction of Girl Scouting in northern Illinois and beyond.

We're excited and honored to represent you! Each of us brings a unique background and passion for empowering Girl Scouts and strengthening our council. Our together, we're just one small piece of a much larger, united GSNI community—made up of dedicated members like you. We invite you to learn more about us and discover how you can share your thoughts and ideas with us by visiting GSNI's National Council Delegate page.

Together, we can continue to grow, lead, and build a brighter future for Girl Scouts across northern Illinois.

LEARN MORE

Girl Scout Dreamers

We're gearing up to celebrate GivingTuesday, a Global Day of Giving that encourages individuals, communities, and organizations to come together and support causes they care about—like Girl Scouts! This year's event will be December 2, 2025.

On the theme is #FaceHerDream, a call to action to help members across northern Illinois discover their dreams, connect with others, and follow their dreams through the power of Girl Scouting. You can help: Submit a video or photo of your Girl Scouts and share their dreams and aspirations. Videos will be featured on GSNI's social channels. Girl Scouts who participate and send in a #FaceHerDream video will receive an exclusive fun patch!

Video Guidelines

- Introduce yourself! Tell us your first name, your level, and your Girl Scout troop number.
- Share your dream and start with "My dream is..."
- Keep videos under 30 seconds.
- Be mindful of any photos with your family's name (or other personal information) in the video.
- Email videos to GSNI at girlscouts@girlscouts-ni.org.

#FYEHELLOHERO

Support GSNI on GivingTuesday

Spread the word! GivingTuesday is December 2, 2025, and GSNI has the ambitious goal to raise $12,000 to help Girl Scouts in our communities. You can support GSNI by sending #FyeHelloHero videos to your friends and family, sharing our posts, and using our posts on social media. Anyone can also donate directly in person at Resource Centers, online, or via phone. Let's do this! Despite the impact, we encourage our contributor to check if their employer will match their gift. We are grateful for gifts of any amount!

DONATE

Retail Happenings!

Reminder! Our Lake Zurich store now offers pender and pickup by appointment only. It is not open for walk-in shopping. Customers can order through our online store and select pickup at our Lake Zurich location, or they may call 1-844-476-4483 or email customerservice@girlscouts-ni.org to place an order. Our Lake Zurich location will now feature a meeting space for troops and parents. Reach out to Customer Care to book the space!

Our stores will be hosting an Inventory Blowout Sale through November 17 on select in-store items only. Quantities may be limited.

GSNI is now offering online store discount promotions! For free shipping on orders of over $50, use code FREE50. This code is valid through December 31, 2025. If you're a lifetime member of Girl Scouts, contact Customer Care for a special Lifetime Membership Discount Code for 10% off all online orders.

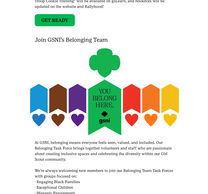
ONLINE STORE

Graduating Class of 2024

Each year through an application and interview process, GSNI awards educational scholarships to registered, graduating Girl Scouts who have been actively involved in Girl Scouting for at least 1 year. These Girl Scouts have consistently demonstrated their understanding of the Girl Scout Promise and Law; and have shown a desire to give back to their communities and GSNI benefit from their dedication, service, and leadership. Applications for GSNI Scholarships for the graduating class of 2024 are open now. Learn more and apply by visiting our scholarship page.

READ MORE

Get Ready for Cookie Season



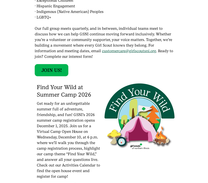
Is your Girl Scout's membership account ready for cookie season? To avoid delays in setting up your Girl Scout's digital Cookie account, please confirm the person listed as the Primary Caregiver with your Girl Scout's membership account is the person you want to receive the Digital Cookie invite email.

Visit your MyGirlScouts account. Click on My Household and then Edit Profile next to your name to view your current information and make changes. We recommend double-checking your preferred mailing address, phone numbers, and emails. Remember, your primary email should be the email you want to use for Digital Cookie. If you need assistance, reach out to Customer Care at customerservice@girlscouts-ni.org for any assistance in updating your information!

In September 2025, GSNI's Product Program Team presented early glimpses of the 2026 cookie program. The videos of these presentations are available on the GSNI Cookie Program Page in Rallyhood. By Friday, November 21, the "2026 Troop Cookie Training" will be available on goLearn, and resources will be updated on the website and Rallyhood!

GET READY

Join GSNI's Belonging Team



At GSNI, belonging means everyone feels seen, valued, and included. Our Belonging Team brings together volunteers and staff who are passionate about creating inclusive spaces and celebrating the diversity within our Girl Scout community.

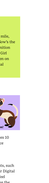
We're always welcoming new members to join our Belonging Team Task Forces with groups focused on:

- Engaging Black Families
- Engaging Latinx Families
- Engaged Women
- Indigenous (Native American) Peoples
- LGBTQ+

Our full group meets quarterly, and in between, individual teams meet to discuss how we can help GSNI continue moving forward inclusively. Whether you're a volunteer or community supporter, your voice matters. Together, we're building a movement where every Girl Scout knows they belong. For information and meeting dates, email customerservice@girlscouts-ni. Ready to join? Complete our interest form!

JOIN UP!

Find Your Wild at Summer Camp 2026



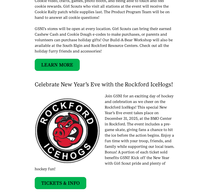
Get ready for an unforgettable summer full of adventure, friendship, and fun! GSNI's 2026 summer camp registration opens Wednesday, Oct. 29 at 9 a.m. Virtual Camp Open House on Wednesday December 10, at 6 p.m. where we'll walk you through the camp registration process, highlight camp options for 2026, and will and answer all your questions live. Check out our Activities Calendar to find the open house event and register for camp!

CALENDAR

2026 Volunteer Recognition

We all know a special Girl Scout volunteer—the one who goes the extra mile, shows up with a smile, and makes Girl Scouting feel like family. Now is the time to thank the special volunteer in your life. GSNI's Volunteer Recognition Nominations are opening soon! Nominate a noteworthy volunteer for a Gold Scout Recognition Award using our easy online form. Nominations open on December 1, 2025. Selected nominees will be honored at our 2026 Annual Meeting on April 25, 2026.

Explore Cookies & S'more



You're invited to Explore Cookies & S'more on Saturday, December 6, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. This open house-style event will be held at all GSNI Resource Centers including Lake Zurich, Oswego, Rockford, and South Elgin.

Everyone will be able to sample the delicious new Girl Scout Cookies—Explorameals! There will also be cookie program activities for Girl Scouts, such as practicing cookie booth skills at a mock cookie booth, recording their Digital Cookie video, crafts, games, photo booth, and being able to learn and feel confident in the cookie program. Plus, there will be a special surprise for the Cookie Rally patch while supplies last! The Product Program Team will be on hand to answer all cookie questions!

GSNI's sisters will be open at every location. Girl Scouts can bring their earned patches to trade with other Girl Scouts and their families and friends. Volunteers can purchase holiday gifts! Our Build-A-Bear Workshop will also be available at the South Elgin and Rockford Resource Centers. Check out all the holiday fairy friends and accessories!

LEARN MORE

Celebrate New Year's Eve with the Rockford Icehogs!

Join GSNI for an exciting day of hockey and celebration as we cheer on the Rockford Icehogs! This special New Year's Eve event takes place on December 31, 2025, at 7:05 p.m. at Coronado in Rockford. The event includes a pre-game skate, giving fans a chance to hit the ice before the action begins. Enjoy a Fan time with your troop, friends, and family on the rink before the game begins. Bonus! A portion of each ticket sales benefits GSNI Kids off the New Year with Girl Scout pride and plenty of

Hockey Fun!

TICKETS & INFO

Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie

Girl Scouts of the USA and Gabby's Dollhouse have joined forces to explore a world of imagination and friendship. Gabby and her cats are curious, creative, kind, and always ready to help a friend, just like Girl Scouts!

Girl Scouts can go on a creative adventure with Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie activity book! With 50 pages of fun, Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie activity book offers challenges and fun activities. Once they complete the activity book, they'll unlock a limited-edition patch to celebrate their journey. Patches are available for Kids at all GSNI Resource Centers while supplies last. Pre-patches are unofficial and not to be worn in the Point of the Girl Scout vest, hat, or tunic.

The activity book is available to all new Girl Scout members or currently active Girl Scouts. Children do not have to be Girl Scouts to participate. Get started: exploring a world of imagination and friendship today!

ACTIVITY BOOK

Girl Scout Experience Box

Have you heard about the Girl Scout Experience Box for the 2025-26 Girl Scout membership year? These programming boxes are for the new Troop Finder (Incoming kindergarten and/or first grade), Brownie (Incoming second and/or third grade), and Multi Level Girl Scout troops! If you are part of an existing multi-level troop, you may also add four new Girl Scouts to these grade levels to qualify for the Girl Scout Experience Box!

The program starts now for the 2026 Membership Year (October 1, 2025-September 30, 2026) and there are two ways to qualify for Girl Scout Experience Boxes:

- Register as a new Girl Scout troop at the Daisy, Brownie, or Multi Level. New Girl Scouts can join today for the year price of $40 per youth and $30 per adult with membership valid through September 30, 2026. Troops will have their first box shipped once they have registered the troop and completed the troop setup.
- As a first year Brownie troop, add four new Brownies, Brownies or a multi-level troop and add four new Daisies and/or four new Brownies to receive either box or both. Cost for membership is $40 for youth and $30 for volunteers. Qualifying troops would have their first box shipped once they completed the troop setup.
- For more information, please contact your Membership Engagement Specialist.

CONTACT US

Camp Dean Goats on Vacation

Our Camp Dean goats are on their winter vacation! The goats are enjoying time with different goat friends, eating new nights, and helping other locations eliminate invasive plant species. They will return to Camp Dean next summer to have fun in the sun with their favorite Girl Scout campers!

Did you know GSNI has a podcast? Listen to The Friendship Circle today!

girl scouts of northern illinois
"Make a difference! Don't be a bystander!"
www.girlscouts-ni.org
S/X=CustomDirectives:BCP/1200|C=S/X