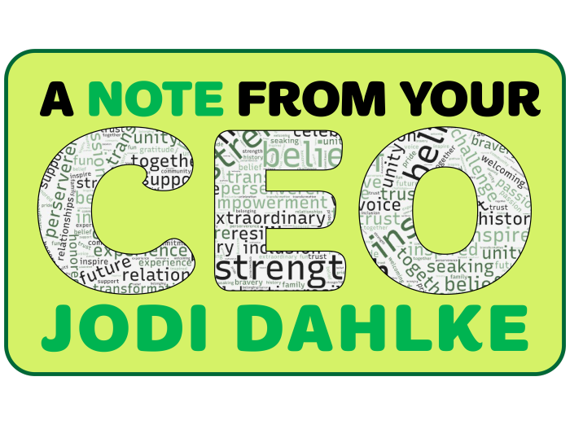
girl scouts of northern illinois

# Around GSNI News from the council

*November 2025*

*GSNI will be closed Thursday, November 27–Friday, November 28 in observance of Thanksgiving.*



Each November, I'm reminded to set aside time and give thanks for the many blessings in my life. I'm especially grateful for our Girl Scouts, their supportive families, and all of our amazing volunteers throughout northern Illinois. Our Girl Scouts inspire me and countless others 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 selflessly invest their time and talents into each generation of Girl Scouts. Thank you!

I'd like to send a 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!

UNITED for GROWTH
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Please remember that we have one United for Growth Town Hall remaining on November 22. If you haven't been able to attend one of our town halls, now is the time! Let us know if there is an invested community member who might like to attend. Contact customercare@girlscoutsni.org to add them to the list!

November is also a time of giving—a time where we can help people and causes important to us. For GSNI, this includes participating in GivingTuesday on December 2. I hope you will join us in sharing our GivingTuesday posts on social media, sending a #FuelHerDream video to stories@girlscoutsni.org, or 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

DEPENDABLE
Appreciate
Leadership
Considerate
Friendly
girl scouts of northern illinois
SUPPORT
VOLUNTEER
Achieve
SERVE
Responsible
Resourceful
Helpful

"My advice to other Girl Scout volunteers and parents is don't just ask your Girl Scout what she did or learned—have her show you. The girls get excited when they can share their knowledge and demonstrate their skills, and if you're able to get involved, do it! Even offering to help with a single troop meeting or activity will benefit both you and your Girl Scout. It doesn't have to be all or nothing." Hear more from Rheem Lock, our most recent Volunteer Spotlight Award recipient.

READ MORE

## Meet Your GSNI Delegates

Eleanor H.
Tracy Hooper

*By Tracy Hooper and Eleanor H.*

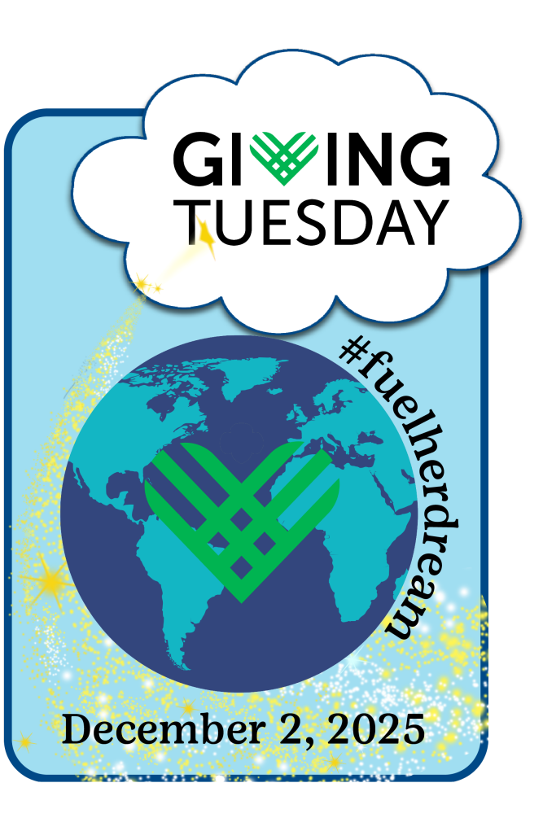
We, your Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois (GSNI) delegates, are proud to represent the voices of our members—Girl Scouts, volunteers, and families—across our entire council. As delegates, we will serve as a vital link between our local Girl Scouts and national leadership, helping ensure that every member's perspective is heard when decisions are made about the future 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. But 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 Delegates 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 Generosity 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.

Our theme is #FuelHerDream, a call to action to help members across northern Illinois discover their strength, unleash their potential, and follow their dreams through the power of Girl Scouting. You can help! Submit a video or photos of your Girl Scouts and share their dreams and aspirations for a chance to be featured on GSNI's social channels. Girl Scouts who participate and send in a #FuelHerDream video will receive an exclusive fun patch!

Video Guidelines

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

#FUELHERDREAM

## Support GSNI on GivingTuesday

GIVING TUESDAY
Support the Girl Scout dreamer in your life by donating to GSNI on Giving Tuesday, December 2, 2025 and fuel her dream!
#fuelherdream
Donate on December 2, 2025

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 #FuelHerDream videos or photos to stories@girlscoutsni.org and sharing our posts on social media. Anyone can also donate directly in-person at Resource Centers, online, or via phone call. To double the impact, we encourage each contributor to check if their employer will match their gift. We are grateful for gifts of any amount!

DONATE

## Retail Happenings!

girl scouts of northern illinois
OPENING

Reminder! Our Lake Zurich store now offers preorder and pickup by appointment only; it is not open for walk-in shopping. Customers may order through our online store and select pickup at our Lake Zurich location, or they may call 1-844-476-4463 or email customercare@girlscoutsni.org to place an order. Our Lake Zurich location will now feature a meeting space for troop meetings or events. 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 2026

GSNI
scholarships

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 during their high school years! These Girl Scouts have committed to furthering their education, demonstrated their understanding of the Girl Scout Promise and Law, and continue to live by those values. Their communities and GSNI benefit from their dedication, service, and leadership. Applications for GSNI Scholarships for the graduating class of 2026 are open now. Learn more and apply by visiting our scholarship page.

READ MORE

## Get Ready for Cookie Season

BRAVE.
FIERCE.
FUN!

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 MyGS 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 once cookie season starts. You can also reach out to customercare@girlscoutsni.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 Rally in Rallyhood. By Friday, November 21, the "415 2026 Troop Cookie Training" will be available on gsLearn, and resources will be updated on the website and Rallyhood!

GET READY

## Join GSNI's Belonging Team

YOU BELONG HERE.
gsni

At GSNI, belonging means everyone feels seen, valued, and included. Our Belonging Task Force 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
· Exceptional Children
· Hispanic Engagement
· 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 customercare@girlscoutsni.org. Ready to join? Complete our interest form!

JOIN US!

## Find Your Wild at Summer Camp 2026

Find Your Wild
girl scouts of northern illinois

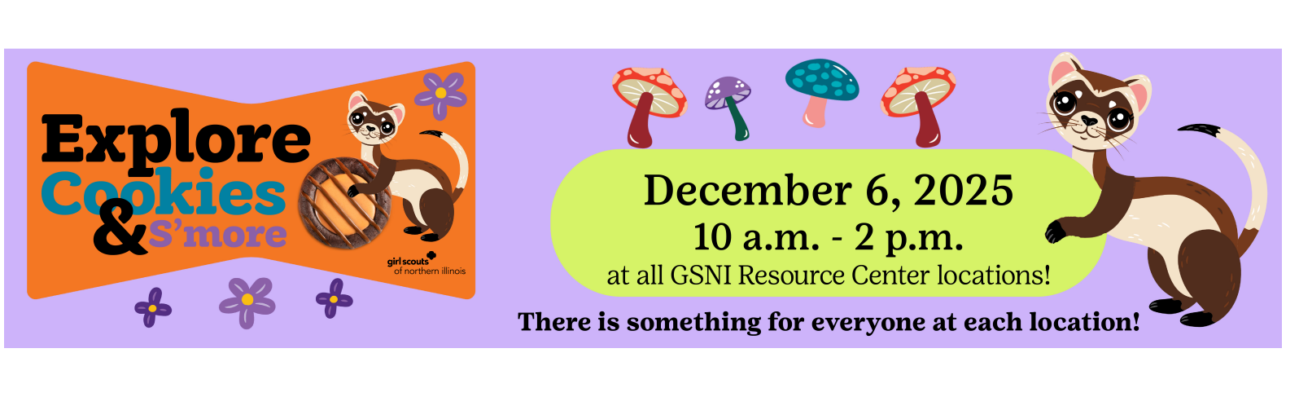
Get ready for an unforgettable summer full of adventure, friendship, and fun! GSNI's 2026 summer camp registration opens December 1, 2025. Join us for a Virtual Camp Open House on Wednesday, December 10, at 6 p.m. where we'll walk you through the camp registration process, highlight our camp theme "Find Your Wild," 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, tackles a special project, or takes on a challenge and finds a solution! Now's the time to thank the special volunteer in your life. GSNI's Volunteer Recognition Nominations are opening soon! Nominate a noteworthy volunteer for a Girl Scout Recognition Award using our easy, online forms. Nominations open on December 1, 2025. Selected nominees will be honored at our 2026 Annual Meeting on April 25, 2026.

## Explore Cookies & S'more


Explore Cookies & S'more
December 6, 2025
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
at all GSNI Resource Center locations!
There is something for everyone at each location!

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 Cookie—Exploremores! 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 touch and feel cookie rewards. Girl Scouts who visit all stations at the event will receive the Cookie Rally patch while supplies last. The Product Program Team will be on hand to answer all cookie questions!

GSNI's stores will be open at every location. Girl Scouts can bring their earned Cashew Cash and Cookie Dough e-codes to make purchases, or parents and 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 furry friends and accessories!

LEARN MORE

## Volunteer Connections

Volunteer
Connections

You're invited to Volunteer Connections—a live bi-monthly virtual meeting where GSNI volunteers hear updates from GSNI staff and network with other volunteers in similar roles. The goal of these meetings is to provide a platform for volunteers to consistently learn information from GSNI and feel more connected with GSNI departments and each other! GSNI presents department updates from 6:30–7:30 p.m. with volunteer networking offered from 7:30–8 p.m. Sign up today to be in the know on all things GSNI!

Save the date for:
Tuesday, December 16, 2025, 6:30-8 p.m.
Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 6:30-8 p.m.
Tuesday, April 28, 2026, 6:30-8 p.m.

Not able to make it? Each Volunteer Connections meeting will be recorded and posted on Rallyhood for future listening.

SIGN UP!

## Celebrate New Year's Eve with the Rockford IceHogs!

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 the BMO Center in Rockford. The event includes a pre-game skate, giving fans a chance to hit the ice before the action begins. Enjoy a fun time with your troop, friends, and family while supporting our local team. Bonus! A portion of each ticket sold benefits GSNI! Kick off the New Year with Girl Scout pride and plenty of hockey fun!

TICKETS & INFO

## Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie

GABBY'S DOLLHOUSE THE MOVIE

Girl Scouts of the USA and Gabby's Dollhouse: The Movie are teaming up 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 Gabby and her Gabby Cats, Girl Scouts will solve challenges and try fun activities. Once they complete the activity book, they'll unlock a limited-edition fun patch to celebrate their journey. Patches are available for $2 each at all GSNI Resource Centers while supplies last. Fun patches are unofficial and not to be worn on the front of the Girl Scout sash, vest, 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

Girl Scout Experience Box

Have you heard about the *free* Girl Scout Experience Box for the 2025–26 Girl Scout membership year? These programming boxes are for *new* Daisy (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 in 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 $45 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 requested their boxes.
- As a first year Brownie troop, add four new Brownies. Register as a multi-level troop and add four new Daisies and/or four new Brownies to receive either box or both. Cost for membership is $45 for youth and $30 for volunteers. Qualifying troops would have their first box shipped once they have requested their boxes.
- 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, seeing new sights, 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!

## Enhance Your Troop Year with Patch Programs

SPRING
FALL
SUMMER
WINTER
GET OUTDOORS CHALLENGE
GSNI

Patch programs are a fun and flexible way to round out your troop's year. These optional programs help Girl Scouts explore new topics, build skills, and deepen their experience beyond the traditional badge curriculum. Whether you're looking to fill a meeting with a meaningful activity, tie in a community service project, or celebrate special events, patch programs offer engaging opportunities that connect to Girl Scouts' interests and council initiatives. To explore available programs from GSNI and GSUSA, visit our Badges and Awards webpage. You'll find program guides, requirements, and downloadable resources to help you get started!

BADGES & AWARDS

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

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

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