

Volunteer News

August–September, 2023

Welcome to a New Girl Scout Year

Thank you for your continued commitment to Girl Scouts. We offer the world's best leadership experience for girls. Where else do girls have the opportunity to run their own business to finance their dreams, push their personal boundaries on the high ropes course, grow as leaders by teaching skills to younger troops, stretch their comfort zones through travel, or advocate for sustainable change by earning Girl Scouts' highest achievement, the Gold Award? There is no better value and no better program than Girl Scouts. Girls are provided with a safe space to try new things, develop a range of skills, take on leadership roles, and have fun. Working with over 600 troops across the state, we see how the Girl Scout experience helps girls grow in confidence, preparing them for a lifetime of success. We know families have many options when it comes to how girls spend their time—thank you for choosing Girl Scouts. Let's have a great Girl Scout year!

Love,
The Troop Support Team



Planning a Well-Rounded Girl Scout Year!

We know that the most successful and happiest troops and IGMs in Girl Scouts experience a wide variety of activities throughout the year.

THIS INCLUDES:

- Field trips
- Overnight camping
- Badges and/or Journeys
- Outdoors
- Take Action or community service projects
- Council-sponsored events
- STEM
- Cookie and/or Nuts and Candy sale

Be sure you're talking with your girls about what they want to do this year! Make it a goal to include each of these types of activities. If you don't feel comfortable facilitating a specific activity, this is a great way to get additional parents to volunteer with the troop. Call your Troop Support Specialist if you need help planning!

Check List for a New Girl Scout Year



Here is a quick checklist of things to make sure your Girl Scout year starts off right!

1. Host a **Parent Meeting**. Have a clear ask of what you need from them this year.
2. Share the **list of badges** that girls in your program level can earn and share it with your troop.
3. Review your roster to ensure everyone is registered and all volunteers have active background checks.
4. Create a **troop code of conduct** for everyone to agree on and sign.
5. Go through the **Annual Program Book** and see what events catch your eye!



New Year, New Theme—Girl-Led: The Year of Friendship and Fun!

We're excited to announce **Girl-Led: The Year of Friendship and Fun!** as the new program theme for 2023-2024. Girls have been forging lasting friendships through Girl Scouting for over 112 years. This next year, we'll be celebrating activities that are girl-led, super fun, and build life-long friendships.

As we began planning the year, we invited girls to submit unique program ideas and we were wowed by their suggestions. The new Annual Program Book is filled with fun events, camps, and trips, many of which were inspired by those ideas. Gather your friends, sign up early, and get ready to have a great year!

Watch for the new **2023-2024 Annual Program Books**, in the mail in late July. Inside you'll find lots of exciting programs to help plan your year including many focusing on the **Girl-Led: The Year of Friendship and Fun!** theme.



World Cleanup Day 2023

What would happen if every person picked up at least one piece of litter on the same day? On September 16*, organizations and individuals around the globe will join forces for World Cleanup Day. Now imagine if EVERY Girl Scout across Nebraska participated in World Cleanup Day. What an impact that would make!

**Or another date in September.*

Please help us make a BIG impact, globally and locally, by encouraging your girls (and families) to participate! It's easy to do and girls can earn a free patch too!

STEP 1 - Pledge to participate.

STEP 2 - Visit a local park, lake, or any public area and clean up litter.

STEP 3 - Go online to **report your effort and request a free patch!**

Last year, 15 million people from 190 countries volunteered over 30 million hours on World Cleanup Day, and 60,000 tons of waste was collected! Imagine what our impact will be this year!



Mark Your Calendar for [glamp!]

August 26-27, 2023

[glamp!] is an event for women of all backgrounds and interests to come together in support of vital outdoor programs for Girl Scouts. Hang out with new and old friends while enjoying a "staycation" at Camp Catron in Nebraska City.

Lounge by the pool, go for a hike, zip through the oaks, get a massage,

or take a nap. It's your day, you decide. Have fun and help raise critical funds to **keep camp affordable for all Girl Scouts.**

Visit our website to purchase tickets.





2023 Fall Product Program

Now is the time to *Own Your Magic* with the 2023 Fall Product Program. It's easy to participate in, helps girls learn skills that last forever, and is a great way to earn funds for your troop!

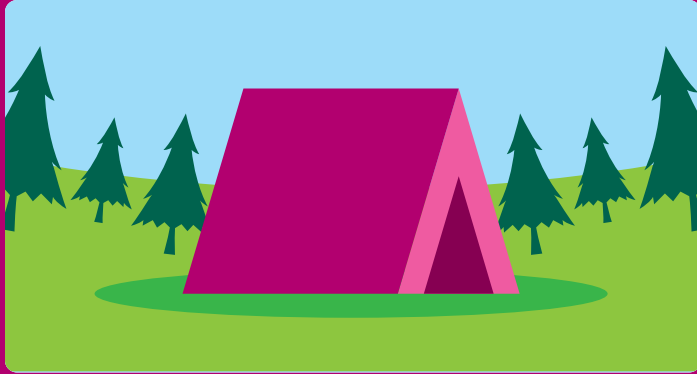
PRODUCT PROGRAM INFORMATION

- Troops and Girl Scouts who participate in BOTH the 2023 Fall Product Program and 2024 Cookie Program can earn bonuses for the troop and patches for the girls.
- Girls can participate with their troop or as an individual.
- Girls are encouraged to send 18+ emails with online sales details to friends and family. They'll also earn the 2023 Online Sales Patch.
- **NEW PRODUCT!** Honey Jalapeño Peanut Mix and Sweet Cinnamon Almonds.
- This year's mascot is Olivia the Ocelot!

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Late August – September** – Fall Product Program Training
- **September 22, 2023** – Order Card & Online Sales Begin
- **October 16, 2023** – In Person Order Card Sales End
- **October 23, 2023** – Online Girl Delivery Sales End
- **November 6, 2023** – Online Direct Ship Sales End; deadline 11:59 p.m. (MT)

Watch for more details to come! To get started, **submit your *Product Program Intent Form* today!**



Lakeview Volunteer Retreat

Join us on September 16 from 9 a.m.–5 p.m. in North Platte!

We invite you to our Volunteer Retreat Day, a special event created to show appreciation for our hardworking adult volunteers. Relax in the serene outdoors at Lakeview Cabin. Connect with new and old friends while taking part in outdoor adventures and learning sessions at an adults-only getaway. The retreat will supply opportunities for networking, horseback riding, and more! Participants may choose to extend the fun and stay overnight.

Register online!



Growing Girl Scouts Together

Are you looking to expand Girl Scouts' presence in your community? We're here to help! Whether it's setting up a booth at your local Back-to-School event, hosting a Bring-a-Friend meeting with your troop, encouraging a coworker to join in as a volunteer, or inviting girls from your neighborhood to start a troop, our staff want to offer support. We know that one of Girl Scouting's greatest strengths is the life-long connections it creates across generations and within our communities. More girls, more volunteers, more friendship—let's keep growing! Reach out to your Troop Support Specialist today to learn how to share Girl Scouting.

Juliette's Boutique

SATURDAY SHOPPING DAYS

- August 2610 a.m.-2 p.m.Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney
- September 30.....10 a.m.-2 p.m.Omaha, Lincoln, Kearney

MY GIRL SCOUT KITS AT JULIETTE'S BOUTIQUE

The My Girl Scout Kit is great for new and bridging Girl Scouts! Select from many options in the Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting. Purchase \$60 or more from one grade level and receive a FREE drawstring bag! Limit of 15 free bags per transaction. Bridging Kits are great for Girl Scouts flying up to the next level! Each kit comes with a special pencil and bridging fun patch along with a Spirit of Nebraska Bridging Certificate, Membership Star, Disc for Membership Star, and Bridging Arc. Kits for Junior Girl Scouts include Brownie Wings.



UPDATED ADULT VEST

The updated Adult Vest includes bigger pockets, unisex styling, functional closure and branding on front and back. Vests are available for purchase at all Juliette Boutiques.



Girl Scouts Give Back Passport Redemption

Don't forget to redeem your 2022-2023 *Girl Scouts Give Back* passport! After attending any five council-sponsored programs, **girls** earn a decal and a \$25 program credit. In keeping with the *Girl Scouts Give Back* theme, \$5 will be added to the GSSN Program Financial Aid Fund so all girls

have the opportunity to attend programs! **Co-leaders** earn a \$25 program credit after collecting nine stamps.

Be sure to check out the 2022-2023 Annual Program Book for the new *Girl Scouts Give Back* Passport incentive program!

Troop Banking Best Practices

Troop funds exist for the benefit of all troop members. Unless the troop is saving toward a long-term goal, all funds should be spent in the year that they are earned. It is important to note that the funds belong to the troop as a whole and they should be spent as such. Troop money should not be spent to support an individual, but rather benefit the entire troop.

- Each troop should collaborate in preparation of an annual budget at the start of the program year. Girls should be included in this process, in an age-appropriate manner, to enhance their financial literacy skills.
- All money received from parents or cookie customers should be deposited as soon as possible and should never be held in a personal checking account.
- It is critical that all authorized signers are in communication with each other before spending funds to prevent overdrafts on the account.

- Cash withdrawals should only be made if absolutely necessary. Such situations include cash for cookie booth change or tips for taxis or hotel services.
- Keep receipts for all troop expenses and give receipts to all parents paying for any troop dues, activities, or fall product/cookies.
- As you check your personal bank accounts regularly to spot any mischarges or fraud, you should also be doing the same with your troop bank account. Doing a quick spot check each month on expenses can save a lot of time when it comes time to complete your Troop Finance Report.
- It is highly recommended that volunteers follow this process - one primary volunteer uses the debit card, writes checks, and makes deposits and the second volunteer reconciles the bank statement.

