



Girl Scouts of Alaska GEMS

Frequently Asked Questions

Girl Scouts of Alaska GEMS Policy – Updated September 2023

GEMS are earned by girls who participate in the Girl Scout Fall Product or Cookie Programs. This year we are making some changes to simplify our system for families, streamline the process, and adjust to better fit our diverse options.

What happened to product credits, travel credits, and cookie dough?

Product credits, travel credits, and cookie dough are now GEMS. GEMS stands for Girl Experience Membership Shop. Product Credits from Fall Product 2022 and Cookies 2023, they have been converted to GEMS. They will expire on April 30, 2024. Cookie Dough gift cards & travel credits can still be used as normal through their expiration date. They will not be converted to GEMS.

How do Girl Scouts earn GEMS?

All Girl Scouts who participate in the Fall Product or Cookie Program earn GEMS. GEMS are earned in bands based on the dollar amount of items sold during the Fall Product Program and number of packages sold during the Cookie Program.

Fall Product Program	
Fall Product Sold	GEMS
\$1–\$199	20
\$200–\$349	35
\$350–\$474	50
\$475–\$549	70
\$550–\$749	100
\$750–\$1199	125
\$1200–\$1499	150
\$1500–\$1999	175
\$2000+	200

Cookie Program	
Packages	GEMS
1–24	5
25–49	10
50–99	25
100–249	70
250–399	125
400–549	200
550–749	250
750–999	350
1000–1499	500
1500–2023	625
2024–2999	850
3000+	1500

How many GEMS do I need?

Annual Girl Membership	50 GEMS
\$5 Camp Discount	5 GEMS
GSAK Events	5 – 20+ GEMS
\$50 in Travel Funds	125 GEMS
Young Adult Lifetime Membership	200 GEMS
\$5 GSAK Shop Gift Card	5 GEMS
Sharing GEMS	Any number of GEMS can be shared with

GSAK Girl Membership fee – Girl Memberships must be purchased before the GEMS expire but may be a membership for the next Girl Scout year. GEMS cannot be used for adult memberships.

GSAK Programs - Events will have an assigned GEMS value based on the cost of the event. GEMS may be used for most, but not all, events. Check the event listing for details. GEMS may only be used for events happening prior to the credit expiration date.

GSAK Camp - GEMS can be used for camp discounts in \$5 increments, up to the cost of your camp session. You must select GEMS on the registration form to have your discount applied. GEMS cannot be used towards your deposit, t-shirt, or bus fees.

Travel Funds - GEMS can be traded in for travel funds in \$50 increments. Those funds can be used for girl expenses on an approved trip. For information specific to travel, visit girlscoutsalaska.org/travel

Shop Gift Cards – GEMS can be traded in for GSAK shop gift cards in \$5 increments.

Sharing with other Girl Scouts – Girl Scouts can give their GEMS to a council fund that can be used by anyone who qualifies for financial assistance. If you need financial assistance, just check the financial aid box when you are registering for camp, an event, or completing a membership. We'll apply the GEMS you have and use GEMS from the council fund or apply traditional financial aid to make up the difference.

GEMS can only be used in the increments listed. This means, for example, a Girl Scout who has 157 GEMS could receive a \$155 discount at camp – she would **not** receive a \$157 discount at camp.

GEMS have no specific monetary value and cannot be redeemed for cash.

How do I select to use GEMS?

Membership	Select Program Credits on the payment screen
GSAK Events	Select GEMS on the registration form
Camp	Select GEMS on the registration form
Travel Funds	Complete the GEMS Trade-in Form
GSAK Shop Gift Card	Complete the GEMS Trade-in Form
Share with other Girl Scouts	Complete the GEMS Trade-in Form

Can I mix and match?

Yes, you can use your GEMS in any combination in the increments listed. For example, if you earn 100 GEMS, you can choose to save \$50 at camp and use 50 GEMS for your membership for next year; or save \$100 at camp; or get a \$10 shop gift card, attend several GSAK events, and share your remaining GEMS with another Girl Scout; or something else! GEMS allow girls to build a Girl Scout experience just for them.

How do I find out how many GEMS I have?

You can look up your GEMS at any time using this form: <https://bit.ly/gsakgems>

Requests to use GEMS are manually reviewed and applied to by GSAK staff, so updates to your account may be delayed while we process requests. During the Fall Product and Cookie programs, new GEMS will not be added until the programs are finalized in December and May.

When do my GEMS expire?

	GSAK Programs Sept 2023-April 2024	Camp 2024	GSAK Programs Sept 2024-April 2025	Camp 2025	Expiration Date
FPP 2022	Yes	No	No	No	April 30, 2024
Cookies 2023	Yes	No	No	No	April 30, 2024
Fall Product 2023	Yes (starting Dec 2023)	Yes	Yes	No	April 30, 2025
Cookies 2024	No (will not be calculated yet)	Yes	Yes	No	April 30, 2025

Product credits earned in the 2022 Fall Product Program and the 2023 Cookie Program will be converted to GEMS. They will expire on April 30, 2024 and may only be used for programs that are completed before April 30, 2024

GEMS Additional Information:

- Use of GEMS must be authorized by a parent/guardian as GEMS belong to girls, not troops.
- If you apply for financial assistance, GEMS will be applied first & the difference (if any) will be covered by financial assistance.
- Once GEMS have been used or traded-in they cannot be reused or refunded unless the program/camp has been cancelled by GSAK.
- GEMS are only good at Girl Scouts of Alaska
- Families with product sales or camp delinquencies may be ineligible to use GEMS. Please contact the council at customercare@girlscoutsalaska.org if you have an outstanding balance.

Questions?

Please contact us at customercare@girlscoutsalaska.org.