

2023-2024 Girl Scout Fall Program Guide





Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try: To serve God* and my country, To help people at all times, And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, *and* to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout

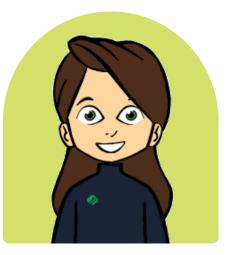
Girl Scout Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

2000 W. International Airport Rd., Suite C-1 Anchorage, AK 99502 www.girlscoutsalaska.org 907-248-2250 Hello Girl Scouts of Alaska!

Are you ready to try something new or improve a skill this year?

We're excited that your year of adventure starts here with the 2023-2024 Program Guide for Fall! This guide gives you the information you need to plan all your activities, including events, badges, cookie activities, and more! We're committed to providing



you with quality programming that develops your leadership skills, and focuses on the four pillars of the Girl Scouts Leadership Experience: Outdoors; Life Skills; Entrepreneurship, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

We've listened to your feedback and have a great line up of new events available to all girls. Want to chart the stars? Go horse back riding? Do a fun art project? Grab your Girl Scout troop and adults and invite your friends to fun events. You can register for in-person and virtual events at <u>girlscoutsalaska.org/events</u>.

As Girl Scouts of Alaska's new CEO, one of the things I'm most looking forward to is seeing Girl Scouts having fun while learning this year. Drop me a line at customercare@girlscoutsalaska.org to share your adventures!

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Jenni Pollard CEO

What's New

Become an animal advocate with the NEW Daisy Animal Observer and updated Junior Animal Habitats and Cadette Animal Helpers badges.

The new and updated animal badges give Girl Scouts a chance to learn more about the animals they love the most!



Take care of YOU with the Girl Scout Mental Wellness patch program

Girl Scouts' NEW Mental Wellness patches remind you you're not alone when it comes to facing your emotions and teach you self-care practices, such as exploring feelings and active listening. Get started with our FREE Mental Wellness activities for girls in grades 4 through 12.



New Maker Badges for Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors

How do you work to make the world a better place? Do you paint beautiful pictures? Do you craft new objects or invent things that can help people? Whatever you do, you're helping to shape our world. And with the 9 new Maker badges, Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors can discover even more!



What's New

Troop Year Plans

Guiding Girl Scouts is an adventure we are on together! Here's the map. Troop Year Plans are customizable, turnkey resources featuring a variety of our most popular activities! They'll help you lead your Girl Scouts no matter their level and guide them to thrive, find their voices, trailblaze, and adventure year after year. With print-friendly and online versions, they are a welcome companion to all your Girl Scouting adventures. Check them out <u>here</u>.



Annual Permission Form

We have simplified and combined several forms into one, easy to use, Annual Permission Form! This document should be completed for both girls and volunteers at your first troop meeting of the year. This form replaces the single/multi-use permission form, product program permission form, permission to treat form (except for international travel), and health history form. Parents/Guardians must complete both sides for their Girl Scout. Volunteers must complete only the health history portion. All forms should be kept with the troop leader and taken on any field trips or overnights. Check it out <u>here</u>.



Fall Product Program

OWN YOUR Magic

Five Key Business skills

Goal setting Decision making Money management People skills Business ethics

- Girls work on their five key skills through selling nuts and candies inperson and online. Girls also sell magazine subscriptions online. There are also two exciting new products this year—Tervis Tumblers and the exclusive Girl Scouts mini Bark Box!
- Girls earn fun patches and rewards for sales, including the 2023 theme patches, and the personalized patch with their own avatar!
- The troop earns troop proceeds to spend on activities, events, trips, or whatever else the troop needs. Troops earn 12% of the total sales as troop proceeds.
- The program can be run completely online for ease! Customers can purchase items through a girl's individual store front to be shipped directly to their home or delivered by the Girl Scout they know!
- Program begins September 15th, 2023 (or later!) and orders must be submitted by October 16th.
- Talk to your troop leader if you want to participate!
- Visit <u>https://www.girlscoutsalaska.org/en/</u> <u>cookies/fall-product.html</u> to learn more.



Introducing: GEMS

Product credits, cookie credits, travel credits, cookie dough, oh my!

Our systems were confusing, and we heard you, you need something easier.

Introducing: GEMS - a new, streamlined, and more flexible way to turn entrepreneurship into a Girl Scout experience built just for you!



Girl Scouts will earn GEMS by participating in the

Fall Product and the Girl Scout Cookie programs. They can be used for camp, travel, programs, membership, and council merchandise.

For full details visit girlscoutsalaska.org/gems





Have more fun learning, doing, and growing – check out our upcoming events! Visit <u>girlscoutsalaska.org/events</u> for full details and to register.

Event	Date and Time	Location	Grades
Stars of the AK Sky (Family Event)	10/4/23 5:00 pm—6:00 pm	Anchorage	K-12
Horseback Riding	10/7/23 2:45 pm—5:00 pm	Palmer	3-12
Archery Session 1	10/14/23 12:30 pm —1:30 pm	Wasilla	4-12
Archery Session 2	10/14/23 2:00 pm —3:00 pm	Wasilla	4-12
Stars of the AK Sky (Family Event)	10/25/23 5:00 pm —6:00 pm	Anchorage	K-12
Explore Girl Scouts (Family Event)	11/4/23 11:00 am—3:00 pm	Anchorage	K-12
Virtual Explore Girl Scouts	11/14/2023 6:00 pm—7:00 pm	Virtual	K-12
Paint Night	11/15/23 6:00 pm—8:00 pm	Soldotna	K-12
Meet Archimedes the Owl	11/29/23 6:00 pm—7:00 pm	Virtual	K-12
What's Shining in the Night?	12/2/23 4:00 pm—7:00 pm	Camp Singing Hills – Chugiak	K-12
Paint Night	12/7/23 6:00 pm—7:00 pm	Wasilla	K-12

Events subject to change. Pre-registration is required for all events unless otherwise noted.



Join us at the Outdoor Center at Kincaid Park on November 4th to explore all that Girl Scouting has to offer! Play games on guided hikes, invent something to make the world a better place in our engineering zone, learn about local animals, and much, much more! There will be giveaways and activities for the whole family. Families and future and current Girl Scouts are all welcome! Register at <u>girlscoutsalaska.org/events</u>

Event Policies

Who can attend?

GSAK events are open to all girls in the ages listed in the event description. Girls do not need to be members to attend, but there may be an additional cost for non-members. Any girl is welcome to join Girl Scouts to pay the member rate. Unless otherwise noted in event descriptions, tagalongs are not allowed at events due to liability issues and limited space at many venues. Tagalongs are any attendees (even if they don't plan to participate) who are not girls in the ages listed in the event description.

Getting registered

Unless otherwise noted, all events require registration prior to the event deadline. Registration deadlines can be found on individual event registration forms. Registration deadlines are in place so that we can best get information to our program partners and plan for supplies and space. Some events may fill quickly, so early registration is encouraged. Registrations are not complete until forms are filled out completely and all fees have been received. Fees may increase past the registration deadline, spots may not be available, or programs cancelled.

Financial assistance

There is limited financial aid for event fees. Families with delinquent accounts with GSAK may be ineligible to receive financial aid until the debt is paid.

Using GEMS

GEMS (our new product credits) can be used for some, but not all events. Check the event descriptions for details. If you do not have enough GEMS you will be invoiced for the total amount due. Troop leaders who are registering their troop members for an event must check with parents before using GEMS.

Refunds and cancellations

If your girl is unable to attend an event, refunds of fees (excluding deposit or donation if applicable) are given if:

- Cancellation is made in writing prior to the registration deadline
- For an event with no registration deadline, cancellation is made at least 2 business days prior to the event
- The girl has moved out of the council area.
- The girl has personal illness/injury confirmed by a physician
- Family emergency

All refund requests must be submitted to customercare@girlscoutsalaska.org. Substitutions are welcome, but please notify staff. Refunds will be made to the original form of payment for online registrations. For any other forms of payment, refunds will be made to the adult who filled out the registration form. Refunds will be made within 30 days of receiving approved written notice or cancellation of the event. No refunds will be issued for donations.

For full event policies, please visit girlscoutsalaska.org/events

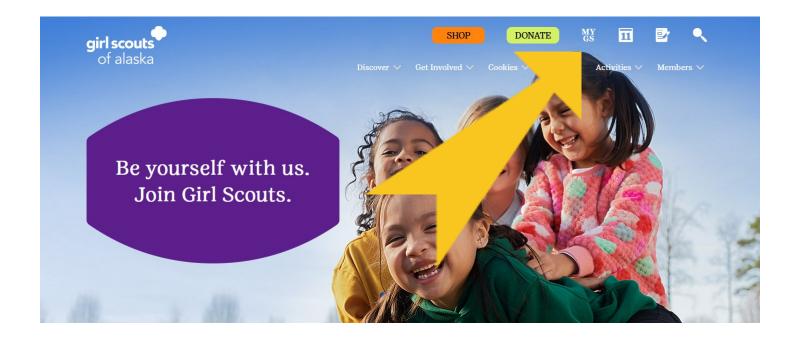
Volunteer Tools

Many of your must-have tools, like gsLearn and the Volunteer Toolkit, are accessible when you log in to \underline{MyGS} —always accessible via the icon on the upper right corner of our website—girlscoutsalaska.org

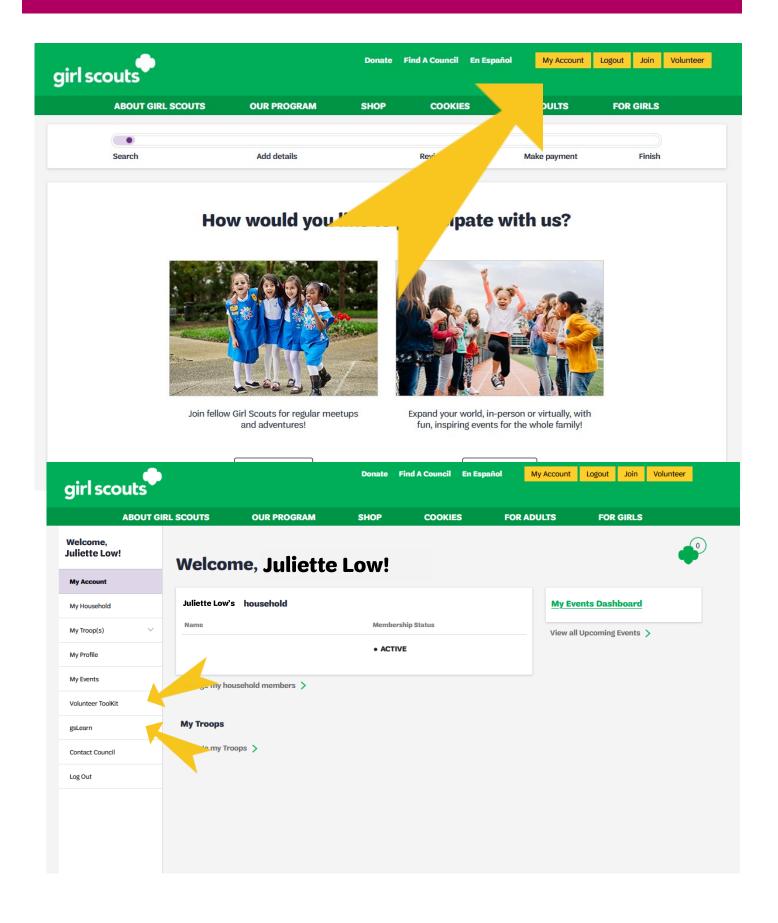


The Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) is a customizable planning tool where you can find suggested meeting plans for most badges, access activity guides and badge requirements, track your Girl Scouts' achievements, and so much more. It's the digital planning assistant that will help you power a fun-filled—and organized—Girl Scout year. You'll find the Volunteer Toolkit via the left menu bar of <u>MyGS</u> in My Account.

gsLearn is full of essential volunteer trainings and courses, like how to lead activities the Girl Scout way, safety procedures, and advice for guiding Girl Scouts at every grade level. You'll find gsLearn via the left menu bar of \underline{MyGS} in My Account.



Accessing Volunteer Tools



Highest Awards

Prove you've got what it takes to build a better today—and tomorrow. You shine brightest when you're making the world a better place. That's why you can earn three separate awards—the Girl Scouts Gold, Silver, and Bronze Awards—as you dream of a better tomorrow and take action in big ways today.

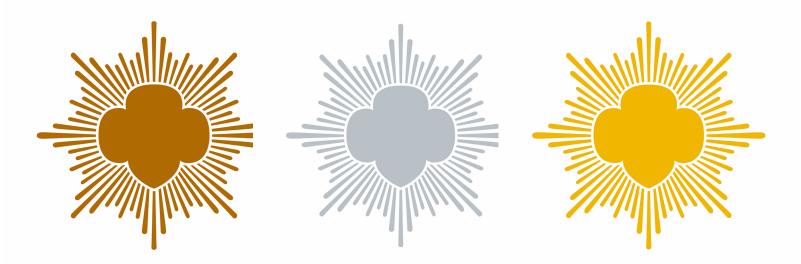
Juniors earn the Bronze Award by teaming up with other Girl Scouts to make a difference in their towns.

Cadettes earn the Silver Award by researching an issue, making a plan to address it, and then taking action to improve their communities.

Seniors and Ambassadors earn the Gold Award—the highest award in Girl Scouting—by developing and carrying out lasting solutions to issues in their neighborhoods and beyond.

Each year, more than 50,000 Girl Scouts from around the world earn the Gold, Silver, or Bronze Awards, investing more than one million hours into making the world a better place. Be a part of the next 50,000!

Get started <u>here</u>.



Cadette Girl Scouts! Be sure to check out the new Silver Award resources available on our website. The new guide, trainings, proposal, and final reports will walk you through the Silver Award process and help you shine even brighter as you make the world a better place.

Girl Scout Travel

Girl Scout travel is a lifelong journey that builds skills, memories, and friendships. Every Girl Scout, beginning with Daisies or Brownies, can take the first step on this journey with a group field trip followed by an overnight or weekend trip. Learn travel basics as you plan, budget, and pack.

Girl Scout Juniors and above can take three- or four-night regional trips. And once you're a Cadette, the world is truly your oyster! Using Girl Scout planning tools, you can make your dream trip a reality, whether it's exploring the California coast, discovering the Swiss Alps, or visiting any of the WAGGGS World Centers around the globe.

Whether you're traveling with your family, your troop, or on your own with a group, you've got Girl Scout resources and ideas to help every step of the way. Visit <u>girlscoutsalaska.org/</u><u>travel</u> to get started!

Girl Scout Destinations

Have you heard of Girl Scout Destinations? They're the ultimate adventure for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors—and the perfect way to meet new friends from across the U.S.A! Ever wanted to hike the Swiss Alps? Kayak through Greek islands? Practice photography in picturesque California or learn to ride a horse in the wide-open Georgia countryside? With more than 30 trips to choose from, you're sure to find one that sparks your interests and launches you into an unforgettable experience. <u>Apply today!</u>



Did you know the Girl Scout Product Program can help get you where you want to go?

Use troop proceeds, trade in GEMS, or opt out of cookie rewards to fund your trip!

Looking Ahead

Girl Scout cookie season is right around the corner!

January 12: Girl Scout Cookie Program begins, and Girl Scouts may begin taking cookie orders.

Late February: Cookies arrive

March 1 to 31: Cookie Booths

Be sure to designate a troop cookie manager and troop treasurer so you'll be ready to jump in when the cookie season starts.



Are you receiving our emails? If not, <u>opt in</u> today to stay up-to-date on all Girl Scouts of Alaska news!



The count down to summer camp is on! Keep an eye on <u>girlscoutsalaska.org/camps</u> for details.

