

Troop Scoop

May 2024



GEMS

GEMS earned through the 2024 Girl Scout Cookie Program are now available for girls to use. Find more information on GEMS [here](#).

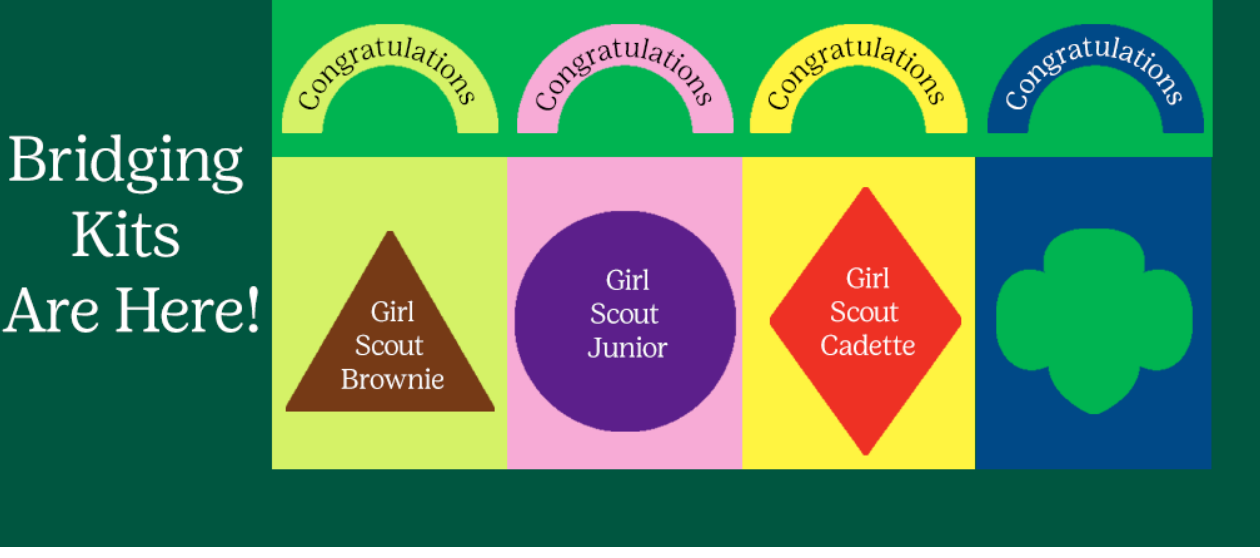
Bridging Season

Embrace the journey of bridging season! It's that special time in the Girl Scout calendar when our girls transition from one level to the next, marking significant milestones in their Girl Scout journey. Bridging isn't just about moving from one colored vest to another; it's a symbolic passage, a moment where girls reflect on their growth, accomplishments, and the friendships they've made along the way. Whether they're transitioning from Daisies to Brownies, Brownies to Juniors, or advancing within their current level, each step signifies a deeper commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

As troop leaders, you have the privilege of witnessing the transformation of your girls as they navigate through the various levels of Girl Scouts. You see their confidence bloom, their leadership skills sharpen, and their sense of community deepen.

As we celebrate bridging season, let's pause to acknowledge the significance of this moment. Let's applaud the determination, resilience, and spirit of adventure that our girls embody. And let's reaffirm our commitment to supporting them every step of the way, as they bridge to new heights and embrace the endless possibilities that lie ahead.

If you're planning your troop's first bridging ceremony and need tips, check out this [guide](#) from GSUSA or send us an email at customercare@girlscoutsalaska.org for help. Bridging kits are available in the council shop.



Plans for Next Year and Troop Participation Survey Open Now

As we gear up for another exciting year of Girl Scout adventures, we want to hear from you! What are your troop's plans for the upcoming year? Are you continuing your journey, welcoming new members or grade levels, tweaking your meeting time or location, or perhaps shifting your focus to explore new interests? Share your troop's aspirations and ideas with us. Don't forget to complete the 2025 Troop Participation Survey, conveniently located in your gsLearn account. This survey helps us gather the most up-to-date information about your troop's plans for the new membership year and helps keep our membership database squeaky clean!

Early Bird Winners

A heartfelt congratulations and a big round of applause to all our amazing troop leaders and Girl Scout families! Thanks to your dedication and enthusiasm, we're thrilled to announce that over 600 girls and 300 adults renewed their membership during Early Bird in the month of April!



Leader Training Weekend - August 10 & 11

Don't miss out on our exciting NEW Troop Leader Training Weekend at Camp Togowoods this summer! Elevate your leadership skills, connect with fellow leaders, and get ready for an unforgettable adventure at camp! Register now for an empowering weekend of learning and fun!

[REGISTER](#)

Volunteer Leader Training Weekend!

August 10 & 11

Camp Togowoods



A Farewell Message From Christy W., Volunteer Engagement Specialist

"It's been just over two years since I joined GSAK as a Volunteer Engagement Specialist. I knew I'd enjoy supporting Alaska's girls and sharing my own childhood experiences as a Girl Scout. When I was hired to support volunteers, specifically adult Girl Scouts, in whatever way I could, I had no idea at the time how much I would love this work. Whether it was assisting seasoned volunteers bring their troops back to in-person meetings post-COVID, encouraging new troop leaders to embrace girl-led programming, or oh so many eBudde and Digital Cookie calls and texts, it's been my honor to be a part of your commitment to Girl Scouts.

Recently, I was offered the opportunity to embark on a new path with another organization in the Alaska non-profit sector. It wasn't an easy decision, but the past two years have shown me that sometimes the most amazing growth and inspiration comes from unexpected places. You all taught me that through your dedication, resilience, and love for your troops and Service Units.

It isn't so much that I'm "leaving" as I'm changing lanes from Volunteer Engagement Specialist to volunteer. I look forward to lending my skills and experience to strengthening our troops, our council, and most importantly our girls, as of you. It seems the most natural of progressions.

The most important note I want to leave you with is that you (we) are in great hands. The GSAK Membership Team is ready to support you in your continued success. There have been some teary moments this past week. Change is challenging, rewarding, and full of promise. I look forward to continuing our work as Girl Scouts, together."

If you or someone you know is interested in making an impact in the lives of volunteers and girls, [check out our open positions](#).

Shop Hours in May

Heads up! Our shop will be closed on Wednesdays in May, though we will be available via phone and email to take orders for pick up or mailing. You can always reach us at customercare@girlscoutsalaska.org or by calling 907-248-2250

May Shop Hours						
The council shop will be closed Wednesdays in May. Contact us through customercare@girlscoutsalaska.org or call 907-248-2250 for help.						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			Shop Closed	Shop Open 9-5	Shop Open 9-5	Shop Closed
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Troop Shout Out: Troop 210, Kenai

Troop 210 from Kenai began their Silver Award Bucket Tree Project during the pandemic. They sought to lessen human made wildfires by creating buckets of supplies for dousing wildfires. Their project won the 2024 Caring for the Kenai Award and has been nominated for the 2024 EPA President's Environmental Youth Award.

Their project made a difference for the local community. During a walk in a wooded area of Soldotna in May, a local hiker stumbled upon an abandoned campsite with a burning campfire. But amidst the worry, she discovered Troop 210's bucket trees because tall and ready to use! Because of those buckets she was able to swiftly douse the flames, averting potential disaster. Troop 210's foresight and dedication not only protected the land but also exemplified the power of community and proactive stewardship.



Congratulations Troop 210!

Heads Up! New ASD Fee Schedule

Beginning July 1, 2024, rental fees for Anchorage School District community spaces will increase. You can find more information including the updated fee chart [here](#).

[Council Website](#)

[Membership Portal](#)

[GSAK Volunteer Page](#)

[Volunteer Forms and Documents](#)

[Annual Permission Form](#)



Have a question? Don't be shy!
[Contact us](#) for more information.

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