

In the Know

Issue 23

August 2023



Your Year of

Friendship

In this edition

- Monthly Snapshot
- Fall Kickoff Registration
- On-Time Renewal
- Girl Scout Leadership Conference
- We're Hiring
- Michigan Girls Future Flight Challenge

Sponsored by:

meijer


gsmists

Celebrating Girl Scouts.

In mid-July, I had the opportunity to participate in the 2023 Girl Scout National Convention, which happens every three years. It was an incredible week in Orlando, Florida with 10,000 dedicated and enthusiastic Girl Scouts and the first in-person convention since 2017.

The first portion of the week was the National Council Session (NCS), which was a gathering of delegations from all councils around the country as well as our international sisters. Your GSMISTS delegates and alternates were excellent representatives who devoted many hours over the past nine months to prepare for their service. Seven proposed amendments were submitted for consideration. Three were defeated and four were approved. See the full report on page 4. The NCS was done using our system of governance, with girls playing an active part in the process. It was clear to see the leadership development in action. We can be proud of the tradition of our governance system and the forward thinking of our diverse delegates.

The second portion of the week was called Phenom. It was a vibrant and engaging event for all Girl Scouts interested in attending. There were musical performances, inspirational messages, and incredible activities at booths in the Hall of Experiences, hosted by proud partners like GM, NASA, and Clover. The 10,000+ Girl Scouts in attendance were delighted to meet and greet those from across the country to share swaps, patches, and stories. What was clear was that the Girl Scout experience is one that allows us to be different in our own way while also a part of something bigger and meaningful.

A new GSUSA Board Chair, Noorain Khan, was installed and we were thrilled to cheer her on as a fellow Girl Scout from west Michigan. Noorain is a Gold Award Girl Scout from our council who graduated from Forest Hills Central High School and has fond memories that include the Betsy Cutler House. The Girl Scout experience changed her life, and she shared her commitment to providing that same opportunity to all girls, in all communities.

It was a privilege to represent GSMISTS and an inspiration to see the power of the Girl Scout movement firsthand. Here at council, we look forward to this new membership year and all the girls who will be developing courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place.



Girl Scouts of the USA new National Board President, Noorain Khan.

In gratitude,

Vivian TerMaat
CEO at GSMISTS



Phenom
By Girl Scouts



56th National Council Session July 18–20, 2023 Action Taken

Over the last three days, National Council delegates debated seven proposals and took the following actions:

Proposal 7—Girl Scouts Gold Award Scholarship Fund

THAT the National Council hereby affirms the recommendation of the Movement Gold Award Scholarship Foundation Task Force to create a donor-restricted fund in support of Gold Award scholarships; and

THAT that in recognition of its importance, the existence of such fund shall be reflected in the Blue Book of Basic Documents in the Fundraising Policies section of the Blue Book (or any successor section of the Blue Book as may be appropriate from time to time).

- This proposal was approved as presented.

Proposal 6—Constitutional Amendment: Timing of Delegate Allotment

Each local council to which a charter has been issued and remains in force shall be entitled to the following delegates based on the number of girls under its jurisdiction who are members of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America as of September 30, **two years** of the year preceding the regular session of the National Council:

- a. two (2) delegates;
- b. one (1) additional delegate for up to 3,500 girls;
- c. one (1) additional delegate for every 3,500 girls thereafter.

- This proposal was approved as presented.

Proposal 3—Constitutional Amendment: Council Representation on the National Board

- This proposal was defeated.

Proposal 5—Constitutional Amendment: Formula for Delegates

- This proposal was defeated.

Proposal 1—Constitutional Amendment: Allowing the Possibility of Virtual Attendance for National Council Sessions and for Special Sessions of the National Council

- This proposal was divided.
- Sections 1 and 3 were approved as presented.
- Section 4 of the proposal was amended to limit the board’s discretion regarding virtual attendance at regular sessions of the National Council to emergency situations. The final wording for proposal 4 is:

Two hundred members of the National Council present in person shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business at sessions of the National Council, provided, however, that delegates are present from one or more local councils in a majority of the geographical areas of the country as defined in the Bylaws. At the sole discretion of the National Board, any special National Council session and in the event of an emergency any regular National Council Session may be held in whole or in part by means of the internet or other electronic communications technology pursuant to which the members of the National Council have the opportunity to read or hear the proceedings substantially concurrently with their occurrence, vote on matters submitted to the members, pose questions, and make comments. Attendance through such means shall constitute presence in person at such meeting for quorum and voting purposes. In the absence of a quorum, a majority of those present at the time and place set for a session may take an adjournment from time to time until a quorum shall be present.

Proposal 4—Constitutional Amendment: DEIRJ Language Proposal

- This proposal was approved as amended. The final wording of this proposal is:

DIVERSITY, PLURALISM AND ANTI-RACISM

Girl Scouts advance diversity, pluralism, and anti-racism and actively identify and oppose racism by removing systemic barriers to participation in our Movement and in the communities in which we live.

Proposal 2—Amend the Promise and Law

- This proposal was divided into two sections.
- Both sections were defeated.

Month of August

Hello August!

We've got an exciting lineup of events coming up—learn about fire safety and emergency preparedness or sew a cool tote bag. Grab your Girl Scout troop, unleash your inner adventurer, and make some unforgettable memories!

Patches to Earn in August



Love the
Outdoors
Challenge
[Learn more](#)



Programs
On Demand
[Learn more](#)

To Do List

- Register for the 2023 Girl Scout Leadership Conference (see page 12)
- Register for Fall Kickoff (see page 6)
- Save the Date - Girl Scouts Love State Parks 2023 September 9 - 10

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 Fall Kickoff
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 ITK Sent	31		



You're Invited!

2023 Annual
Fall Kickoff

Saturday, August 19
The Frauenthal Center

Join us as we prepare to launch a fantastic year of Girl Scouting!

Learn more about positions at the Service Unit level, which are teams made up of passionate adult volunteers who firmly believe in the Girl Scout mission and are seeking to make a significant difference in the lives of the girls.

You will have the opportunity to hear from subject matter experts on conflict resolution and mental health and how these topics impact our Girl Scouts, families, and volunteers. Our CEO, Vivian TerMaat, will be sharing an update on our council, the design for our future, and how you fit into that vision. A light breakfast and lunch will be provided for all registered attendees.

We look forward to our time together!

Date: Saturday, August 19

Time: Check-in 9:30 am - 10:00 am
Programming, Lunch, and Sessions
10:00 am - 2:25 pm

Location: The Frauenthal Center
425 W Western Ste 200
Muskegon, MI 49440

Troop Leaders!

Have you thought about leveling up and learning more about higher volunteer leadership opportunities with GSMISTS? If so, you are invited to join us at the GSMISTS Annual Kickoff Meeting!

REGISTER

Fall Product Program

Fall Product Season

September 29 - October 23



Upcoming Trainings

Fall Product Program

September 5, 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

This will be recorded and placed on GSMISTS website.



New Fall Product Items



Cheddar
Caramel Crunch



New Tins
x2



Thai Chili
Max



Tervis
Tumblers



Bark Box – Dog Treats & Toys
(non subscription)

Cookie Product Program

Cookie Updates

- Mascot: Axolotls
- Theme: Own your Magic
- Training: November TBA
- Cookie Pricing Increase to \$6.00 and Troop Proceeds increase to .90/.95 per package sold
- Attend the 2023 Fall Kickoff Product Program breakout session and learn more about the upcoming Product Program season
- Raspberry Rally delayed for the 2024 Season



Membership

On-Time Registration

Haven't renewed your membership for Membership Year 2024? It's not too late, renew at least 80% of your girl troop members, and all members of your troop are eligible to purchase this year's exclusive t-shirt and bucket hat! **Images shown below are to give you a general idea of how the product will look and are not 100% accurate.*



Volunteer Information

Save the Date November 10-12: OWLS Adult Resource Weekend – Betsy Cutler House | Muskegon

Spend the weekend with Girl Scout Leaders and Volunteers sharing, learning, and laughing. Keep your eyes on [GSMISTS Event Calendar](#) for more information. Registration opens on October 1.

Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED Blended Learning | Grand Rapids

This course will prepare you to recognize and care for a variety of first aid, breathing, and cardiac emergencies involving adults, children, and infants. This is a blended learning course including an online portion and an instructor-led classroom skill session. Upon successful completion of course Volunteers will receive a digital certificate for Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED valid for two years.

Sep 10

9:00 am - 1:00 pm

Red Cross Certification

\$45

[Register](#) - Registration closes Sep 3

Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED Blended Learning brought to you by:

FERRIS STATE
UNIVERSITY



MILLER
JOHNSON
Attorneys



UFP INDUSTRIES



Youth Mental Health First Aider Training | Virtual

GSMISTS is excited to partner with the National Council for Behavioral Mental Health to offer our volunteers Youth Mental Health First Aid. This training includes information on how to identify, understand, and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children and adolescents ages 12-18. This training involves pre-work which must be completed prior to the event date. The times listed are for the virtual, live instructor led portion of the training.

Aug 20

1:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Free

[Register](#) - Registration closes Aug 6

Calling Multi-level Troops!!!

We are gathering information on how multi-level troop's function.

Does your troop have multiple assistant troop leaders or troop helpers that implement the troop meeting plans for specific levels, essentially acting as a troop leader? If you do, please let your CMM know who if this fits your description. We are looking at ways that we can support this role.

New Leader Training Updates

We Beginning October 1, 2023 both new troop leaders and new assistant troop leaders will be required to take New Leader Training. This training is provided in GSMISTS on-line training platform; gsLearn. The new leaders receive an email that will provide directions for accessing gsLearn.

We're hiring!

Placement and Customer Care Specialist | Traverse City

Membership Recruitment Manager | Traverse City

Membership Recruitment Manager | Muskegon

New Troop Start-Up Specialist | Grand Rapids

[Learn more>>](#)

GSUSA is not releasing updates to [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#) and [Volunteer Essentials](#) for MY24. Click on the links to see the current versions of these resources.

GSMISTS Activity and Trip Planning Guide

Planning a Girl Scout activity or trip and don't know where to start? Check out [GSMISTS Activity and Trip Planning Guide](#). This resource contains information on:

- Activity/Trip Application Approval
- Trip Progression
- Required Forms
- Accident/Incident Reporting
- Activity Insurance
- Rental Cars
- Staying at AirBNB/VRBO Locations
- So Much More

GSMISTS Activity/Trip Application Form

GSMISTS must approve the following activities:

- Day trips lasting over 8 hours (including travel time)
- Any High Risk/High Adventure Activity requiring approval based on [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#)
- Any activity involving staying the night somewhere
- Extended travel (3 or more nights)
- International travel

Submit the [GSMISTS Activity/Trip Application Form](#) to begin the approval process. More information can be found in [GSMISTS Activity and Trip Planning Guide](#).

Girl Scout Activity Insurance

Any person participating in any Girl Scout activity or trip must be a registered member of GSMISTS or covered by appropriate Girl Scout activity insurance. A portion of the individual annual Girl Scout registration fee pays for Plan 1 Basic coverage (supplementary activity insurance) for Girl Scout members only.

Additional insurance coverage must be purchased for any approved, supervised Girl Scout activity that:

- involves non-Girl Scouts (Plan 2)
- includes trips lasting three nights or more (Plan 2, Plan 3E, or 3P)
- travel outside the United States (Plan 3PI)

An approved, supervised Girl Scout activity is an activity carried out by girls who are registered members of the Girl Scout Movement under the overall supervision of volunteers, in keeping with GSMISTS [Volunteer Policies & Procedures](#), [Volunteer Essentials](#), and [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#).

Purchase additional insurance [here](#) at least 4 weeks before insurance is needed.

Reach out to customercare@gsmists.org with any questions you have.

Programming

The new Girl Scout year is just around the corner and GSMISTS Event Calendar is filling up with great opportunities in September – November. Visit the calendar often as new experiences are listed weekly.

Coming Soon!

Michigan Girls Future Flight Challenge

Juniors and Cadettes from GSMISTS are invited to participate in the Michigan Girls Future Flight Challenge presented by the Women of Aerospace Industry Association of Michigan (WAIAM). Girl Scouts work as a team to come up with a solution to the challenge's question. There is the opportunity to win prizes and Girl Scout Juniors can earn their Business Jumpstart badge and Girl Scout Cadettes can earn their Business Creator badge. More information about the Michigan Girls Future Flight Challenge will be hitting GSMISTS social media and [Event Calendar](#) in August.

Community Camp Weekends | Greenville

D B J C S A

Community Camp Weekends are opportunities for Girl Scout troops and Juliettes to come together and share a weekend of sisterhood, camp activities, and relaxation in the outdoors with fellow GSMISTS members. No two community camp weekends will be the same – activities vary by what troops bring to share! Participating troops and cabins will be tasked with planning an activity to share with fellow campers to enjoy during the weekend.

Cadettes - Ambassadors

Sep 15 - Sep 17

\$20

[Register](#)

Gold Award Training | Virtual

S A

The GSMISTS Gold Award training is required before girls begin working on their Gold Award. This training will walk the girls through the process of working in Go Gold On-line, requirements and expectations for the Gold Award project and time to answer questions girls may have.

Seniors & Ambassadors

Aug 21

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Free

[Register](#) - Registration closes August 14

Stay up to date!

Stay up to date on all GSMISTS trainings by visiting our online [Event Calendar](#)

Fire Safety & Emergency Preparedness Day | Grand Rapids **DBJCSA**

Girl Scouts of all ages are invited to join the Grand Rapids Fire Department (GRFD) for a day of fire safety and emergency preparedness! Earn a patch as you learn from the women of the GRFD. Girl Scouts will work through several stations including CPR, making a first aid kit, and practicing elements of fire safety & smoke alarms.

All Girl Scouts

Sep 30

12:00 pm - 2:00 pm

\$6

[Register](#) - Registration closes September 17

All Girl Scouts

Sep 30

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

\$6

[Register](#) - Registration closes September 17

Sew Fun | Traverse City **CSA**

Have fun learning a new skill while making a cool tote bag that you sewed yourself. This class will be fun and you will learn the lifetime skill of machine sewing. Seniors will earn the Textile Artist Badge. Cadettes and Ambassadors will earn a sewing fun patch.

Cadettes - Ambassadors

Sep 16

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

\$25

[Register](#) - Registration closes September 9

Cadettes - Ambassadors

Oct 14

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

\$25

[Register](#) - Registration closes October 7



2023 Girl Scout Leadership Conference



Discover and Soar!
October 21 | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
Frederik Meijer Garden & Sculpture Park

The banner features a purple top section with the text '2023 Girl Scout Leadership Conference' and a green trefoil logo on a pink background. Below the logo is a photo of three Girl Scouts and a woman in a light blue uniform. The bottom section is pink with white text.



Girl Scout Leadership Conference | Grand Rapids

Join us at GSMISTS Girl Scout Leadership Conference. Girl Scouts in 5th-12th grades will engage in small group mentoring, make new friends, and earn a patch all while learning how to launch their future.

New for 2023!

- New Women Mentors Representing a variety of fields and industries.
- New Location Stay after the conference and enjoy the Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park.
- New Programming for Attending Girl Scout Volunteers Learn more about the opportunities available for Girl Scout Cadettes-Ambassadors, enjoy roundtable discussions with other Girl Scout volunteers and GSMISTS staff, and tap into your own leadership abilities.

5th grade Juniors - Ambassadors

Oct 21

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

[Register](#)

**Check
it out!**

Share Your Girl Scout Story

Whether it's a Girl Scout story, a Troop experience, a feel good story, highlighting a volunteer who has gone above and beyond, pictures surrounding Cookie Season, a Girl Scout event, participating in one of our many incredible programs, or any Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award projects!

[Share Your Girl Scout Story](#)

**Click here to
share your story!**

Shop Hours

Curbside pickup is available upon request, contact customer care@gsmists.org or 844-476-4787.

Grand Rapids

Monday: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

(closed 12:30 pm-1:30 pm)

Tuesday: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

(closed 12:30 pm-1:30 pm)

Wednesday: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

(closed 12:30 pm-1:30 pm)

Thursday: 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

(closed 12:30 pm-1:30 pm)

Friday: Shop Closed

Muskegon

Wednesday 8:30 am - 5:30 pm

(closed 12:30 pm-1:30 pm)

Traverse City

2nd and 4th Tuesday

9:00 am - 5:00 pm

(closed 12:00 pm-1:00 pm)

13 | gsmists.org

Shop

Back-to-Troop Sale!

During the month of August get 10% off your purchases and for any purchases \$200 and up, pick a duck for up to an additional 15% off!



**We're
going
green!**

Exciting News!

We're excited to announce that GSMISTS is taking a step towards sustainability by transitioning to reusable bags! Starting October 1, 2023 GSMISTS shops will charge 25 cents per plastic bag. You can bring your own bags or purchase a GSMISTS reusable bag.

Together, let's reduce plastic waste and protect the environment one bag at a time!



girl scouts 
of michigan
shore to shore

Our three Service Centers are not only shops, but also places to connect with GSMISTS staff members, hold meetings, and participate in events. Call one of our Customer Care Specialists with any questions.

Grand Rapids

3275 Walker Avenue NW
Grand Rapids, MI 49544
Telephone: 616.784.3341

Muskegon

1201 E. River Road
Muskegon, MI 49445
Telephone: 231.744.4774

Traverse City

1820 Oak Hollow Drive
Traverse City, MI 49686
Telephone: 231.947.7354