

# Shore Shout Out

Summer-Fall Edition

August 2023



Your Year of

Friendship

New membership year starts October 1!

## In this edition

- Council Highlight: Girl Scout National Convention
- Product Program Updates
- On-Time Registration
- New Membership Year
- Volunteer Training
- Programs and Events
- and so much more!

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## 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 3. 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.

In gratitude,



Vivian TerMaat  
CEO at GSMISTS



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



## **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.



# 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 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
- Raspberry Rally on hiatus 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.*



## We're hiring!

**Grand Rapids**  
Community Membership Manager  
New Troop Start-Up Specialist

**Traverse City**  
Community Membership Manager

[Join GSMISTS>>](#)



# Your Year of Friendship

- ✓ Hike to the highest point in your town.
- ✓ Learn a new outdoor skill.
- ✓ Take on challenges with confidence.

Each day as a Girl Scout brings thrills and out-of-this-world experiences. Don't miss your chance to make new friends and be part of a journey you'll never forget! Find your squad and get ready for amazing adventures.

Be a Girl Scout

**New  
membership  
year (MY24)  
starts  
October 1!**





The nine new Maker badges— three for Daisies, three for Brownies, and three for Juniors—are inspired by, and expand on, the popular Artist and Craft badges our members know and love. Each level has three badges: Art and Design, Craft and Tinker, and Create and Innovate.

### Art and Design

In the Art and Design badges, Girl Scouts examine different styles and elements of art and design. They explore how art and design can be found everywhere, from paintings on walls to the label and design of a water bottle. Girl Scouts complete projects through mediums of their choice, one of which they share with the troop—or more broadly.

### Craft and Tinker

In the Craft and Tinker badges, Girl Scouts focus on building objects to solve problems. They explore how objects are crafted with different purposes and users in mind. Girl Scouts look into such concepts as form, fit, and function and practice using tools. They then tinker with one of their projects to make it even better.

### Create and Innovate

In the Create and Innovate badges, Girl Scouts explore prototyping, the design thinking process, and how products and objects are created, improved, and even sold. They'll look at user-centered design and making to solve problems for others as they complete a variety of projects, one of which they innovate and share with others.



### Animal Observer

In this NEW badge, Daisies use their senses of sight, hearing, smell, and touch to observe and learn about animals. They'll look at wild and domesticated animals, experiment with camouflage, play animal games, and even learn a little bit about how scientists take field notes.

### Animal Habitats

In this updated badge, Juniors learn about where and how animals live. They'll find out about animal habitats and shelters—and even build their own animal shelter! They'll also learn how and why many animal habitats are endangered and find out what they can do to help.

### Animal Helpers

In this updated badge, Cadettes find out how animals help people—and discover how they can help animals in return. They'll learn about the human-animal connection and how it has changed over millions of years, then read about search-and-rescue animals and emotional and physical support animals. They'll also learn how they can give back by helping the creatures that help us.



Three new patches have been designed for Girl Scouts girls in 4th to 12th grade, to expand on popular mental wellness activities available, to benefit from participating in outdoor activities that provide an opportunity to be active, engage with nature, and boost their mental wellness.

Knowing My Emotions (Juniors), Finding My Voice (Cadettes), and Showing Up For Me and You (Seniors and Ambassadors) are meant to be facilitated in intimate settings with in troops or through council-facilitated events where participants can safely explore their feelings and seek support or resources to enhance their well-being. These programs provide activities around mental wellness, behavioral issues, and healthy habits. They progress as participants grow to teach them age-appropriate, positive approaches to self-care. Remember to utilize GSMISTS [Sensitive Issues Permission Form](#) for sensitive conversations.

These patch programs are made possible by HCA Healthcare Foundation and have been developed in collaboration with the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), leaders in the space of mental wellness.

Detailed choice activities, meeting tools, and additional resources and materials can be found within the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK).

It is recommended that volunteers complete the GSUSA The Mental Wellness Patch Program: Why It Matters and How to Implement It gsLearn module before working on the new Mental Health patches with their troop. In this course, volunteers will learn best practices for holding a Mental Wellness Patch Program to give your Girl Scouts the tools and support they need to better understand and care for their mental health. The course is approximately 20 minutes long. The first two parts of the course review mental wellness concepts and provide an overview of the program as a whole. Part three provides specific tracks for each program level. It is highly recommended that you complete the GSUSA Mental Wellness 101 and GSUSA Delivering Inclusive Program courses before starting this one. Doing both offers you a chance to get the most out of the Mental Wellness Patch Program and helps you learn how to promote a healthy environment where Girl Scouts can thrive and grow.

The GSUSA The Mental Wellness Patch Program: Why It Matters and How to Implement It training can be found on your gsLearn dashboard.

## Daisy Bilingual Entrepreneur Program

Five Daisy Entrepreneurship badges are now available in English and Spanish as a bilingual version. The badges included are Cookie Goal Setter, Money Explorer, My First Cookie Business, My Money Choices, and Toy Business Designer. You can find the badge booklet in the [Girl Scout Shop](#). In addition, the bilingual version of the Daisy Cookie Family Entrepreneur pin activities is now available for free download on [gs.org](#).

These bilingual resources were made possible by the FINRA Investor Education Foundation.

## Troop Year Plans

Troop Year Plans are a turnkey resource for troop leaders, providing a fully planned year of Girl Scout programming for each level and year of Girl Scouts. The Troop Year Plans create a consistent national experience across councils and highlight our most popular programs. They lay out a well-balanced path that gives Girl Scouts a wide variety of programs to experience throughout their year. Check out the [Troop Year Plans](#).

## Badges Being Retired By GSUSA

The following badges are being retired in August 2023. They are available in GSMISTS shops while supplies last.

- Brownie Inventor
- Brownie Painting
- Brownie Potter
- Junior Drawing
- Junior Jeweler
- Junior Product Designer
- Cadette Entrepreneur
- Senior Social Innovator

## Programs on Demand – New Girl Scout Year, New Opportunities

The new Girl Scout membership year is just around the corner and our Program Partners' offerings are updating! Check out our Programs on Demand page for the latest offerings and changes to you-schedule-it opportunities.

[Explore Programs on Demand](#)





# Volunteer Information

## **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.

## **Safety Activity Checkpoints and Volunteer Essentials**

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 Volunteer Policies and Procedures**

GSMISTS Volunteer Policies and Procedures is reviewed annually. Make sure to review the MY24 GSMISTS Volunteer Policies and Procedures Change Document to see what updates have been made.

## **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](#) at least 4 weeks before insurance is needed.

Reach out to [customercare@gsmists.org](mailto:customercare@gsmists.org) with any questions you have.



**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!**





# Adult Training

## New Leader Training Updates

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 online training platform; gsLearn. The new leaders receive an email that will provide directions for accessing gsLearn.

## OWLS Adult Resource Weekend - November 10-12 | Muskegon

Join other Girl Scout volunteers for a day of hands-on and engaging training at Betsy Cutler House. New and veteran volunteers will come together to share their experiences, ask questions, and share ideas. Sessions include 1st Aid/CPR, Troop Camping Skills, and so much more. New Leader Summit is a new addition to the OWLS weekend line up! New leaders will participate in their own track of learning while still experiencing the sisterhood of OWLS! Registration and overnight lodging information will be posted in mid-September on our [Event Calendar](#).

## Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED Blended Learning | Multiple Locations

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 Grand Rapids \$45 [Register](#)

*Registration closes on September 3 or when event capacity has been reached.*

Oct 1 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Red Cross Certification Grand Rapids \$45 [Register](#)

*Registration closes on September 24 or when event capacity has been reached.*

Oct 14 9:00 am - 1:00 pm American Heart Association Certification Traverse City \$58 [Register](#)

*Registration closes on October 2 or when event capacity has been reached.*

## 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.

Dec 3 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm Free [Register](#)

*Registration closes on November 20 or when event capacity has been reached.*

## Silver Award Leader Training | Virtual

Is your troop ready to start their Silver Award? Not sure where to start? This training, designed for troop leaders, will provide you with all you need to know to guide your Girl Scouts on their Silver Award journey.

Oct 26 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free [Register](#)

*Registration closes on October 19 or when event capacity has been reached.*

## Daisy Leader Training | Virtual

This training is perfect for Daisy leaders, soon to be Daisy leaders or those thinking about being a Daisy leader! Explore the world of a Daisy leader. Explore the world of a Daisy leader - learn about programing options, developmental characteristics, how to promote appropriate girl-led planning, behavior management, and more!

Sep 14 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free [Register](#)

*Registration closes on September 7 or when event capacity has been reached.*

Oct 9 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free [Register](#)

*Registration closes on October 2 or when event capacity has been reached.*

Nov 15 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free [Register](#)

*Registration closes on November 8 or when event capacity has been reached.*

## Brownie Leader Training | Virtual

This training is perfect for Brownie leaders, soon to be Brownies leaders or those thinking about being a Brownie leader! Explore the world of a Brownie leader - learn about programing options, developmental characteristics, how to promote appropriate girl-led planning, behavior management, and more!

Sep 21 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free [Register](#)

*Registration closes on September 14 or when event capacity has been reached.*

Oct 16 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free [Register](#)

*Registration closes on October 9 or when event capacity has been reached.*

Nov 16 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm Free [Register](#)

*Registration closes on November 9 or when event capacity has been reached.*

## Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Leader Training | Virtual

This training is perfect for Cadette, Senior or Ambassador leaders, soon to be Cadette, Senior or Ambassador leaders or those thinking about being a Cadette, Senior or Ambassador leader! Explore the world of a Cadette, Senior or Ambassador leader - learn about programming options, developmental characteristics, how to promote appropriate girl-led planning, behavior management, and more!

Nov 9

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Free

[Register](#)

*Registration closes on November 2 or when event capacity has been reached.*

## gsLearn Trainings and Opportunities

Check out trainings on your gsLearn Dashboard! Access gsLearn through your MY GS account.

- **The Mental Wellness Patch Program: Why It Matters and How to Implement It**

In this course, volunteers will learn best practices for holding a Mental Wellness Patch Program to give your Girl Scouts the tools and support they need to better understand and care for their mental health. The course is approximately 20 minutes long. The first two parts of the course review mental wellness concepts and provide an overview of the program as a whole. Part three provides specific tracks for each program level. It is highly recommended that you complete the GSUSA Mental Wellness 101 and GSUSA Delivering Inclusive Program courses before starting this one. Doing both offers you a chance to get the most out of the Mental Wellness Patch Program and helps you learn how to promote a healthy environment where Girl Scouts can thrive and grow.

- **Mental Wellness 101**

This course for volunteers provides information about facilitating mental wellness programming, supporting girls' psychological wellbeing, and appropriately addressing mental wellness challenges. We will share on GSMISTS social media outlets when the course is available.

- **Delivering Inclusive Program**

Being inclusive really matters. During this 20-minute course, you will practice using inclusive and equitable language to support girls.

- **Resilient. Ready. Strong. Patch Program**

The Girl Scouts: Resilient. Ready. Strong. patch will build girls' inner strength, so they are ready for anything! This 15-minute course for troop leaders and adult volunteers will review activities that work for all grade levels, as well as provide reflective questions for discussion with girls, and links to additional resources.

- **Badge Specific Trainings**

There are 5-minute trainings on numerous badges from Daisies to Ambassadors. Each training gives tips on how to facilitate the badge with your Girl Scout troop. Check your dashboard for available trainings.

# New Program Partner

## The Stitch Studio | Grand Rapids

The Stitch Studio in Grand Rapids offers Programs on Demand. Schedule a fiber arts program that fits into your troop's schedule! Choose from sewing, knitting, or embroidery. [Learn More](#)





# Outdoors

## Girl Scouts Love State Parks 2023 – September 8-10

**D B J C S A**

Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend is back! Returning for its 5th year, Girl Scouts’ nationwide celebration of our state parks and public lands invites girls of all ages to get outdoors, go explore, and enjoy nature with a trip to your favorite park.

GSMISTS Girl Scouts who visit ANY Michigan State Park the weekend of September 8-10 can [request a free patch](#). Download the [State Parks Passport](#) for activity ideas for your visit.

Want to join the fun with fellow Girl Scouts? Join GSMISTS Staff and Service Unit Volunteers for in-person activities at a northern Michigan state park! Discover new outdoor skills by trying orienteering, practicing knot tying, and more.

<b>Interlochen State Park</b>	<b>Sep 9</b>	<b>9:00 am - 11:00 am</b>	<b><a href="#">Register</a></b>	<b>Patch Details</b> Patch Requests must be received by Sep 13
<b>Ludington State Park</b>	<b>Sep 9</b>	<b>2:00 pm - 4:00 pm</b>	<b><a href="#">Register</a></b>	
<b>Traverse City State Park</b>	<b>Sep 9</b>	<b>1:00 pm - 3:00 pm</b>	<b><a href="#">Register</a></b>	

*Please note, Michigan State Parks require a Recreation Passport for entry. Vehicles must have this sticker for any state park visit. These can be purchased ahead of time or in person at your local park.*

## Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge – Ends September 10

**D B J C S A**

Complete the Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge by September 10 and get your FREE patch ordered. Share your summer fun by tagging #GSMISTSoutdoors and have the chance to be featured on GSMISTS social media! [Start the Challenge Today](#) | [Order Patch](#)

**Patch Details**  
Patch Requests must be received by Sep 13

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

## Community Camp Weekends | Greenville

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](#)

*Registration closes on September 1 or when event capacity has been reached.*

## Junior Outdoor Journey Day | Greenville

J

Calling all Junior troops! Join us at Camp Anna Behrens (CAB) for the Outdoor Journey in a Day. Participants will be led through earning their Camper, Eco Camper, and Animal Habitat badges, that make up the Outdoor Journey. Troops will complete steps for earning these three badges in one day, and we will set you up for success to complete your Take Action Project and overnight camp trip on your own. Cabins for overnight camping after the workshop is available on a first come, first served basis. Groups staying overnight must have an adult who has completed Troop Camping Skills training.

Juniors

Oct 28

9:00 am - 7:30 pm

\$30

Registration opens September 1

For more information, please contact [gstroop4504@gmail.com](mailto:gstroop4504@gmail.com)

## Tree Promise Planting Days with Kent County Parks | Greater Grand Rapids

D B J C S A

Fall is the perfect time for tree planting in Michigan. Kent County Parks (KCP) is returning for our 3rd year in celebrating the Girl Scout Tree Promise! Together with KCP volunteers and community members, Girl Scouts of all ages are invited to spend a day of stewardship planting, protecting, and honoring trees at local county parks. Trees are provided!

Townsend Park

Oct 7

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Registration closes on September 30 or when event capacity has been reached.*

Millennium Park

Oct 14

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Registration closes on October 7 or when event capacity has been reached.*

Luton Park

Oct 21

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

*Registration closes on October 14 or when event capacity has been reached.*

Events are free. Pre-registration is required.

To register, please contact [park.volunteers@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:park.volunteers@kentcountymi.gov)

### Patch Details

Earned patches must be purchased separately.



## Michigan Girls Future Flight Challenge

J C

Juniors and Cadettes are invited to participate in the Michigan Girls Future Flight Challenge presented by the Women of Aerospace Industry Association of Michigan (WAIAM). Girl Scouts will work as a team to come up with solutions to this year's challenge. Teams can compete to win prizes, and Girl Scouts can earn the Junior Business Jumpstart badge or the Cadette Business Creator badge.

Juniors and Cadettes

Oct 7

10:00 am - 11:00 am

Free

[Register](#)

Register to attend the Virtual Kick Off and dive into this year's challenge! Registration Begins September 1

## Discover Chemistry! with Aquinas College | Grand Rapids

D B J

Earn the Home Scientist badge alongside students and faculty from the Aquinas College chemistry department. Girl Scouts will dive into water chemistry with hands-on experiments, lab stations, and more to complete all five steps of the badge! Brownies will earn and receive the Home Scientist badge; Daisies and Juniors will receive a science fun patch.

Daisies - Juniors

Nov 18

1:00 pm - 4:30 pm

\$10

[Register](#)

*Registration closes on November 5 or when event capacity has been reached.*

## Stay up to date!

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

# STEM Workshops with Challenge Island | Grand Rapids

Join Challenge Island for a badge earning, hands-on workshop to kickoff the new Girl Scout year. From engineering and innovation to entrepreneurship, there are workshops to discover a new subject that interests YOU!

Cost and time frame vary by program. Earned badges included and received at program.

[Learn more and register here.](#)

## Daisy Programs

Daisy Toy Designer

Sep 14

6:00 pm - 7:15 pm

Daisy Mechanical Engineering Roller Coaster Design

Oct 14

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Daisy Board Game Design

Nov 11

10:00 am - 11:15 am

Daisy Toy Designer

Dec 16

10:00 am - 11:15 am

## Brownie Programs

Brownie Budding Entrepreneur

Sep 12

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

Brownie Inventor

Oct 21

10:00 am - 11:30 am

Brownie Home Scientist

Oct 21

12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

Brownie Triple Mechanical Engineering

Nov 4

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Brownie Triple Automotive Engineering

Nov 4

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Brownie Making Games

Dec 9

10:00 am - 11:30 am

## Junior Programs

Junior Business Jumpstart

Sep 19

6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Junior Get Moving Journey

Oct 14

12:15 pm - 3:15 pm

Junior Product Designer

Nov 15

6:00 pm - 7:30 pm

## Cadette/Senior/Ambassador Programs

Cadette Entrepreneur

Sep 21

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Cadette Think Like an Engineer

Sep 30

9:00 am - 12:00 pm

Senior/Ambassador Think Like an Engineer

Sep 30

1:00 pm - 4:00 pm

Cadette Comic Artist

Oct 3

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Cadette Think Like an Engineer

Dec 9

12:30 pm - 3:30 pm



## Life Skills

### Fire Safety & Emergency Preparedness Day | Grand Rapids D B J C S A

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. Cost includes patch, snack, and program supplies.

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*

### Machine Sewing Workshops with The Common Thread Studio | Grand Rapids B J C

Introduce your Girl Scouts to the lifelong skill of sewing! The Common Thread Studio offers Girl Scouts the opportunity to acquire an independent skill while learning together in community. Girl Scouts will learn machine sewing while also creating homemade pins and/or pom poms to decorate their newly made tote bags.

Brownies - Cadettes   Oct 7   10:00 am - 12:30 pm   \$45   [Register](#)

*Registration closes on October 1 or when event capacity has been reached.*

Brownies - Cadettes   Nov 11   10:00 am - 12:30 pm   \$45   [Register](#)

*Registration closes on November 1 or when event capacity has been reached.*

### Sew Fun! | Traverse City J C S A

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 complete steps toward Textile Artist Badge.

Juniors - Ambassadors   Sep 16   10:00 am - 12:00 pm   \$25   [Register](#)

*Registration closes on September 9 or when event capacity has been reached.*

Juniors - Ambassadors   Oct 14   10:00 am - 12:00 pm   \$25   [Register](#)

*Registration closes on October 7 or when event capacity has been reached.*



## Girl Scout Leadership Conference | Grand Rapids

Girl Scouts in grades 5-12 are invited to join GSMISTS for the 2nd annual Girl Scout Leadership Conference. More than 300 Girl Scouts from across Michigan will come together and participate in small group mentoring and Q&A sessions to earn the Discover and Soar limited edition patch.

This program focuses on Girl Scouts meeting and collaborating with new girls from across our council, as well as learning from women in leadership who make a difference and serve as important mentors to young people in our community.

During the conference, Girl Scouts will learn about the leadership journey of Keynote Speaker Dr. Barbara Bell, Captain U.S. Navy (Ret). Dr. Bell is a Girl Scout alum and part of AstraFemina, an organization that is Inspiring Today's Girls to be Tomorrow's STEM Stars.

New for 2023 Girl Scout Leadership Conference:

- New women mentors representing a variety of fields and industries!
- New location - stay after the conference and enjoy Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park!
- New adult program opportunities 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 amplify your own leadership abilities.

5th Grade Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

Oct 21

10:00 am - 2:00 pm

[Register by September 11](#) for \$10 Girl Scout & Adult Cost. Price increases to \$15 per Girl Scout & Adult September 12-October 3.

***Registration closes on October 3 or when event capacity has been reached.***

Troops who are traveling a distance are welcome to stay at the Betsy Cutler House in Muskegon.

[For more information click here.](#)

## Cadette Kick Start! | Muskegon

C

Jump into Cadettes with an overnight experience exclusively for 6th grade Girl Scouts. New to Girl Scouts or new to Cadettes? This weekend is for you! GSMISTS staff and volunteers welcome Girl Scouts to make new friends, camp overnight, and earn their first Cadette badge. Choose activity sessions that interest you, including but not limited to woodburning, fiber arts, Girl Scout traditions, and more! Cadettes will also discover the Silver Award and set leadership goals to work toward as they discover Girl Scouting in middle school. This program is a drop off event. Girl Scout parents or volunteers who are interested in supporting the program as activity facilitators or overnight chaperones can receive discounted registration for their Girl Scout. Email [girlsexperience@gsmists.org](mailto:girlsexperience@gsmists.org) to learn more.

6th Grade Cadettes

Nov 4-5

\$40

[Register](#)

*Registration closes on October 22 or when event capacity has been reached.*

## Scout Day at the Grand Rapids Art Museum | Muskegon

D B J

Join GRAM for a day of fun just for Scouts! Girl Scouts and Cub Scouts are invited to take part in several activity stations throughout the Museum. Enjoy three floors of art exhibitions, games in the galleries, interactive elements, and art-making projects in GRAM Studio. GRAM staff and volunteers will lead all activities and provide all materials.

Daisies - Juniors

Nov 4

9:45 am - 12:00 pm

\$7

Daisies - Juniors

Nov 4

1:15 pm - 3:30 pm

\$7

Pre-registration is required. To register, please contact Kristen at [khoeker@artmuseumgr.org](mailto:khoeker@artmuseumgr.org)

Unable to attend this date? GRAM offers Girl Scout programs on demand! Schedule a program for your troop that fits your schedule. [Learn More](#)

## She Builds | Grand Rapids

D B J

Come join the PWB (Professional Women In Building) chapter of Greater Grand Rapids for an afternoon spent learning about building a home! Girl Scouts will receive a custom patch and work through hands-on activities during this 2-hour workshop. Learn about structural engineering with Giant Jenga, design your own floor plan to discover spatial planning, and try your hand at building basics by constructing your own bird house to take home. Cost includes all supplies, snack, and earned patch.

Daisies - Juniors

Nov 18

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

\$5

[Register](#)

*Registration closes on November 5 or when event capacity has been reached.*

## Girl Scout Workshops with Heritage Woodworks

**D B J C**

### Junior Birdhouse Build

This patch event is a hands-on way to earn a patch and build an outdoor birdhouse in one afternoon. Girl Scouts will use hand tools to assemble, nail, and glue their own birdhouse from pre-cut pieces. Girl Scouts will learn how to use a hand drill and a small electric drill, how to start a nail in wood, and how to nail pieces together.

Multiple dates available. [Visit website to learn more and to register.](#)

Sep 9

Oct 7

Nov 4

Dec 2

Jan 13

### Cadette Toolbox Build

The Toolbox Build event is a fun, educational, and hands-on way to earn a badge and build a handy toolbox – all in one afternoon. Each Girl Scout Cadette will leave the event with the Woodworker Badge and a toolbox that could double as a magazine rack or garden tool caddy. Girl Scouts will use hand tools to assemble, nail, and glue pre-sawn components to build the toolbox.

Multiple dates available. [Visit website to learn more and to register.](#)

Sep 23

Oct 28

Nov 18

Dec 16

Jan 27

## Mackinac Island Honor Guard – Girl Scout Troop 147

The Mackinac Island Honor Guard – Girl Scout Troop 147 is a group of 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade girls selected for their commitment to service and the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Troop 147 is looking for new members! Watch GSMISTS social media for more information and application deadlines.

## National and International Travel Adventures – 2024/2025 Destinations

Girl Scout Destinations are the ultimate adventure for individual Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts! Through Destinations, Girl Scouts have the opportunity to travel nationally and internationally.

2024 and select 2025 [Destination opportunities](#) will be released throughout the fall. GSMISTS has a limited amount of financial aid to support girls accepted on Destination trips. If you have questions about the Destinations program, please contact [customercare@gsmists.org](mailto:customercare@gsmists.org).

## Learn About Girl Scout Destinations Workshop | Virtual

**C S A**

Are you a Girl Scout who wants to travel? Are you ready for the next adventure? Girl Scout Destinations are the ultimate adventure for girls ages 11 and older! With different trips every year, there's something amazing for everyone. Pack your bags for a life-changing experience and make friends from all over the world as you travel with Girl Scouts from different states. During this workshop, participants will hear from girls who have traveled on trips recently, take a look at the trips being offered in 2024 and 2025, and learn more about the application process.

Cadettes - Ambassadors

Sep 21

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Free

[Register](#)

***Registration closes on September 18.***





# Fun and Service

## September 11<sup>th</sup> Toolkit

September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2001, happened over 20 years ago. Our Girl Scouts today were not yet born. Some of their parents were young children. GSMISTS has created a toolkit to support Girl Scout leaders who want to work with their troop to remember and honor this day. [Learn More](#)

## Multicultural Community Celebrations

Celebrate the cultural richness of the diverse communities that make up the United States. We're stronger together. By acknowledging the diversity, heritage, and contributions of our multicultural communities, Girl Scouts can find new ways to make the world a better place for everyone. Now, Girl Scouts of all levels, your friends, and your leaders have plenty of activities to choose from to earn each segment of this fun patch. Whether they choose to do one or all of them, you'll discover interesting new things about your neighbors—and yourself.

Hispanic Heritage Month

Sep 15 - Oct 15

[Patch Activities](#)

Native American Heritage Month

November

[Patch Activities](#)

## October is Dental Hygiene Month

The Delta Dental Foundation offers Girl Scouts the opportunity to participate in their Smile Squad patch program and earn a FREE patch. [More Information](#)

## October is National Book Month

Girl Scouts can earn a FREE patch by learning about books by completing the Kent District Library's patch program. [More Information](#)

## Stay up to date!

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

## International Day of the Girl | October 11

Every year on October 11, the global community comes together to celebrate [International Day of the Girl](#). It's the day when you can recognize the power of girls everywhere—and highlight, discuss, and take action to advance the rights of, and opportunities for, girls across the globe. Every girl has the power to realize her potential. But it's important to amplify girls' voices and advocate for their inclusion in change making spaces. By supporting and investing in girls, you can make the world a better place. Celebrate International Day of the Girl to not only to support a platform where girls can speak out, but also to share girls' achievements, triumphs, and contributions as we build towards a brighter and more equitable future for girls everywhere.

## International Observe the Moon Night | October 21

[International Observe the Moon Night](#) is a time to come together with fellow Moon enthusiasts and curious people worldwide. Everyone on Earth is invited to learn about lunar science and exploration, take part in celestial observations, and honor cultural and personal connections to the Moon. Check out our Space Science badges and see how participating in International Observe the Moon Night can get you closer to earning one. All the badge requirements are in the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK). Access the VTK through your myGS account.

## Democracy and Civic Engagement Badges

Election Day and Veterans Day are both in November so it's a great month to explore our Democracy and Civic Engagement badges. All the badge requirements are in the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK), Access the VTK through your myGS account. Girl Scouts can also complete the [Michigan 2020 Women's Right to Vote Centennial](#) patch program.



## Entrepreneurship

November is Entrepreneurship Month and Women's Entrepreneurship Day is celebrated on November 19. Check out our Financial Literacy badges for hands-on, age-appropriate activities that provide the opportunity to think about Financial Literacy from an Outdoor, STEM, Life Skills, Entrepreneurial, and Global lens. Check out all the badges in the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK). Access the VTK through your myGS account



# Highest Awards

Is your Girl Scout's troop ready to work on their Bronze Award or their Silver Award? Or do you know a Senior or Ambassador who is ready to go for their Gild Award? Not sure where to start? Information on all awards is on the GSMISTS website.

## Bronze Award



**LEARN MORE**

## Silver Award



**LEARN MORE**

## Gold Award



**LEARN MORE**

GSMISTS offers virtual training for the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. The Bronze Award training is geared for girls, with troop leaders encouraged to attend. The Silver Award has a troop leader specific training and a girl specific training. The Gold Award training is required for all Seniors and Ambassadors who are interested in becoming Gold Award Girl Scouts.

Training opportunities are shared on our [Event Calendar](#). Check back often as additional opportunities are added to the calendar weekly.

## Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Award Final Reports Due September 30

September 30 is the last day Girl Scout Juniors who are bridging to Girl Scout Cadettes can complete their Bronze Award and the last day Girl Scout Cadettes who are bridging to Girl Scout Seniors can complete their Silver Award. Make sure to turn in your [final report](#) so GSMISTS can recognize your accomplishments at our Girl Recognition Ceremony on May 5, 2024.

The GSMISTS Gold Award training is required before girls begin working on their Gold Award. This training goes through the requirements and expectations for the Gold Award project, walks through the process of working in GoGold, and includes time for questions to be answered.

Seniors and Ambassadors

Sep 17

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Free

[Register](#)

*Registration closes on September 10 or when event capacity has been reached.*

## Meet our Gold Award Girl Scouts

\$10,000 scholarship winner!



### Emma Wahlberg

Wetland Fringe  
Enhancement Project

“When I approached my Township about this they directed me to a local wetland fringe that needed to be saved. I was able to bring this area back to life, as well as, ensure that it can filter water as it flows into the wetlands nearby. I also created a website where I shared with my community what I was doing and taught them what a wetland fringe is and why it's important.”

This year Girl Scouts of the USA awarded 110 Gold Award Girl Scouts from across our Movement a scholarship. Emma is a proud GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship recipient. She is one of 110 recipients awarded a \$10,000 scholarship.

Emma crafted her Gold Award by championing to protect a natural wetland in the Michigan communities. She worked hard to identify a leading cause of water pollution, research resolutions, and empowered others through education and communication. Emma demonstrated what it takes to create a rain garden, the benefits of the gardens, as well as a how-to guide so others can build their own gardens.



**Caydence  
Pawlowski**  
Musical Sensory  
Garden



**Molly  
Potts**  
Load 'Em Up  
With Ease



**Makayla  
Socall**  
Shedding a Light  
on Healthy Eating  
Through Gardening



**Jocelyn  
Tolliver**  
Addressing  
(dis)ABILITY



**Laurel  
Tolliver**  
S(he)TEM

## Shop Hours

Curbside pickup is available upon request, contact [customer care@gsmists.org](mailto: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)



## 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 which will be used for financial aid. 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