

# In the Know

Issue 24

September 2023



## Your Year of

## Friendship

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- Girl Scout Leadership Conference Registration
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- Fire Safety & Emergency Preparedness Day
- We're Hiring
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**meijer**



**gsmists**

# New school year, new Girl Scouts, new opportunities.



September marks the beginning of another school year and with that, the launch of new Girl Scout troops. Each new troop is comprised of girls new to the Girl Scout experience and all the opportunities it affords them to learn, grow, serve, and connect.

Our recent Membership Year 2024 Kickoff, held in the historic Frauenthal Center, was another sign of the new season beginning. It was a fantastic opportunity for volunteers to connect with council staff and spend time learning and growing together to benefit the 5,200+ Girl Scouts in our region. Lieutenant Commander Elizabeth Gillis, a Grand Rapids native and Gold Award Girl Scout Alum, shared the incredible impact her troop leaders had on her life. They helped her develop the courage and confidence she needed to go out into the world and accomplish all she's done while continuing to live by and up to the Girl Scout Promise and Law. Her presentation was a powerful reminder of the indelible impact volunteers have on those they serve. We are deeply grateful for the almost 3,000 volunteers who make the time in their busy lives to advance the mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

This new year follows two consecutive years of membership growth, which council has not seen since 2014. We plan to continue that trend by making the Girl Scout Leadership Experience available to girls in every community who are interested. Our growth has made it necessary and possible for us to create three new strategic staff positions that will keep this momentum going. These positions are: a Social Media Coordinator, Program Coordinator focused on Camp Anna Behrens and Betsy Cutler House, and an additional Community Membership Manager in the lakeshore region.

The GSMISTS Board of Directors affirmed this growth plan at the August meeting, sharing their commitment to developing council to its full potential by positively impacting the lives of Girl Scouts.

The momentum that has been created is real and continues to grow. This is a direct result of our joint efforts. We look forward to continuing to advance the Girl Scout values of self-expression, community, inclusion, integrity, and discovery in all we do to provide opportunities for those who join today, and become leaders of tomorrow.

In gratitude,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Vivian TerMaat".

Vivian TerMaat  
CEO at GSMISTS





# MY24 Kickoff



## NEW Volunteer Resource Library

The Volunteer Resource Library will be updated throughout the year so check back often!

It will include:

- Kickoff Slides
- Recruitment Flyers
- Social Media Graphics
- And more!

**EXPLORE**



# Fund Development

## Money Earning and Fund-Raising Quick Reference

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- **What is Money Earning and Fund-Raising?**
  - Money earning activities are age-appropriate, voluntary activities involving goods or services executed by **girls** to supplement monies raised through the Girl Scout Product Programs
  - Fund-Raising involves **adults** asking businesses, organizations, or individuals for money or in-kind contributions to support troop or service unit activities.
- **Can my Troop participate in money earning or fund-raising?**
  - Troops must have participated in **both** the Girl Scout Cookie Program and Fall Product Program in order to money earn or fund raise. It is encouraged, not required, for 100% of troop members to have participated.
- **Troop Leaders/Girls must not participate in money earning activities during:**
  - Fall Product Program (mid-September-October)
  - GS Cookie Program (January-March)
  - Returnable bottle/can drives are the only money earning activity allowed during Fall Product and Cookie Program seasons.
- **Money Earning Parameters:**
  - Troops must follow GSMISTS *Volunteer Policies & Procedures*, *Volunteer Essentials*, and *Safety Activity Checkpoints* to ensure girl safety, including appropriate girl-to-adult ratios of approved Girl scout volunteers. See GSMISTS.org
  - Parents/guardians must give written permission to participate.
  - Funds from money earning activities must be spent during the membership year they are earned. If funds are being earned/raised for an activity in the future year, it must be pre-approved by GSMISTS.
- **Pre-approved money earning activities that do not require additional approval:**
  - Offer services such as washing windows, raking leaves, or shoveling snow
  - Create and sell a book about your GS adventures, a comic book about how to build a robot, a cookbook, etc.
  - Collect pop cans and other returnables
  - Hold a car wash
  - Provide a community meal such as a spaghetti dinner or pancake breakfast
  - Offer tutoring services
  - Host a party for younger children focusing on activities the girls learned in Girl Scouts such as building a robot, hiking, fishing, etc. The event could also include other activities such as clowning or magic tricks
  - Lead Girl Scout games or do face painting at a community event
  - Hold yard sales and/or garage sales
  - Collect cell phones for refurbishment
  - Babysit during special Girl Scout events or community activities
  - Collect used ink cartridges and return for money
  - Offer gift-wrapping services during the holidays
  - Make and sell baked goods
  - Create handmade crafts to sell, such as homemade cards at craft shows or special events

- **Money Earning activities must NOT:**
  - Have girls ask for donations
  - Involves games of chance such as raffles, drawings, or silent auctions
  - Endorse “commercial products” (e.g., Tupperware, Thirty-One, etc.)
  - Girl Scouts are not allowed to solicit money on behalf of another organization (such as Relay for Life, March of Dimes, etc.)
- **Money Earning Activities NOT on the pre-approved list require:**
  - Completing a [Money Earning and Fund-Raising Pre-Approval Application](#)
  - Application must be completed and submitted at least four weeks before beginning (or publicizing) a money earning activity to GSMISTS Fund Development department.
- **Fund Raising Parameters:**
  - Girls are **not** allowed to fund raise unless they are working on their Girl Scout Gold Award.
  - Volunteers may **not** apply for grant funding of any kind.
  - Crowdfunding sites such as Go Fund Me or social media platforms as Facebook, are **not** allowed.
- **Before Contacting a Potential Troop or Service Unit Sponsor:**
  - Contact GSMISTS Fund Development Department to avoid duplication of efforts.
  - If asking for multiple donations or asking for donations over \$500, complete and submit the [Money Earning and Fund-Raising Pre-Approval Application](#) to GSMISTS Fund Development department.
- **Financial Contributions**
  - Businesses and organizations may donate up to \$500 per year to individual troops or service units. Sums over \$500 are typically pre-approved only for extended troop travel.
  - Donations from up to (4) businesses or organizations may be secured per fiscal year unless pre-approved by council.
  - All donation checks must be made payable to: ***Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore*** and mailed to: Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore, 3275 Walker Ave NW, Grand Rapids, MI 49544 along with the [Donations Agreement – Money](#) form.
  - Financial contributions must be spent in the fiscal year in which they were received, unless pre-approved by GSMISTS.
- **In-Kind Contributions**

In-kind donations are goods or services other than cash

  - For in-kind contributions valued in excess of \$250, complete and submit the [Donation Agreement – In-Kind](#) form to GSMISTS to ensure IRS compliance.
- **Fund Development Contacts**
  - Director of Fund Development                      Administrative Support Specialist  
Cindy Johnson    Marge Nolle  
(616) 888-3827    (616) 888-3831  
[cjohnson@gsmists.org](mailto:cjohnson@gsmists.org)    [mnoles@gsmists.org](mailto:mnoles@gsmists.org)
  - Fund Development Department Email: [funddevelopment@gsmists.org](mailto:funddevelopment@gsmists.org)

# Month of September

**Hello September!**

As the leaves begin to change so does our exciting lineup of events and programs. From outdoor adventures to skill-building workshops, get ready for another month filled with adventure, discovery, and friendship!

## Patches to Earn in September



**Multicultural Community Celebrations**  
[Learn more](#)



**Programs On Demand**  
[Learn more](#)

## To Do List

- ☐ Attend Fall Product Program Training
- ☐ Register Troop for the Girl Scout Leadership Conference
- ☐ Complete Love the State Parks Patch Request
- ☐ Complete Love the Outdoors Challenge Patch Request

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 Michigan Girls Future Flight Challenge Registration Opens	2
3	4	5 Fall Product Program Training	6	7	8	9 Love State Parks Weekend
10 Love State Parks Weekend	11 GSLC Early Registration Pricing Ends	12	13 Patch Request Deadline <a href="#">State Parks</a> <a href="#">Love the Outdoors</a>	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27 ITK Sent	28	29	30





# 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!**

# Product Program

## Fall Product Season

September 29 - October 23

- Proceeds **increased** to 15% on all items sold
- Parent permission forms must be submitted for each Girl Scout to participate in 2023/2024 Product Program

[Print Version](#)

[Online Version](#)



## 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  
Mix



Tervis  
Tumblers



Bark Box - Dog Treats & Toys  
(non subscription)

## Cookie Updates

- Mascot: Axolotls
- Theme: Own your Magic
- Training: November TBA
- Cookie pricing increased to \$6.00 and Troop Proceeds increased to .90/.95 per package sold
- Raspberry Rally on hiatus for the 2024 Season
- If interested in the Product Program Kickoff slides, email Sally Ellis [sellis@gsmists.org](mailto:sellis@gsmists.org)





# Membership

## On-Time Registration

Haven't renewed 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 to the right give a general estimation of how the product will look and are not 100% accurate.*



## Welcome to the Membership Team!



### Erin Vargo

Community Membership  
Manager - Muskegon

Favorite Cookie:  
Peanut Butter Patties

"I am excited to meet all of the volunteers I will be working with and I am excited to encourage girls to build the skills needed to follow their dreams."



### Erin Sloan-Turner

Community Membership  
Manager - Grand Rapids

Favorite Cookie:  
Thin Mints

"I am excited to meet people and am thrilled to support girls and families grow through their Girl Scout experience."

## We're Hiring!

We are looking for dynamic, collaborative, and goal oriented individuals who are passionate about Girl Scouts and making the world a better place.

[Apply here today](#)

# Volunteer Information

## 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.

## 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. We are looking at ways that we can better support this role.

# Girl Scouts Love State Parks September 9-10

Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend is back! Returning for a 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 9-10 can request a free patch.**

Download the [State Parks Passport](#) for activity ideas for your visit.



### Patch Details

Patch Requests must be received by Sep 13

**DBJCSA**

**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.

Interlochen State Park

Sep 9

9:00 am - 11:00 am

[Register](#)

Ludington State Park

Sep 9

2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

[Register](#)

Traverse City State Park

Sep 9

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

[Register](#)

**\*\*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.**





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 the [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 GSUSA's 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

# Volunteer Trainings

## 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.*

## 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 - 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.*



## 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.*

# 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.

## 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.

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

## 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.

[Register](#) - Registration opens September 1

Join teams across the state at the virtual kickoff on October 7 from 10:00 am to 11:00 am

# 2023 Girl Scout Leadership Conference



## Discover and Soar!

October 21 | 10:00 am - 2:00 pm

Frederik Meijer Garden & Sculpture Park

## Early registration pricing ends September 11!

### 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 Keynote Speaker** | A notable GS Alum who has piloted over 50 different types of aircraft, is a published author, and professor at the US Naval Academy.
- **New Women Mentors** | Representing a variety of fields and industries.
- **New Location** | Stay after the conference and enjoy 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](#)

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

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# STEM Workshops with Challenge Island | Grand Rapids

**D B J C**

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

## 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

## 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

## 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





## Girl Scout Workshops with Heritage Woodworks

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 precut 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

## Sew Fun! | Traverse City

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 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 on September 9 or when event capacity has been reached.

Cadettes - Ambassadors

Oct 14

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

\$25

[Register](#)

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

## 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 and their Adults

Sep 21

7:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Free

[Register](#)

Registration closes on September 18.

## 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.*

## 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!

All Ages

Townsend Park

Oct 7

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

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

All Ages

Millennium Park

Oct 14

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

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

All Ages

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. Any earned patches must be purchased separately.

Pre-registration is required. To register, please contact [park.volunteers@kentcountymi.gov](mailto:park.volunteers@kentcountymi.gov)

## Junior Outdoor Journey Day | Greenville

**J**

Calling all Junior troops! Join us at Camp Anna Behrens 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 are 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)

### Stay up to date!

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

## 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.*

## General Programming

### Mackinac Island Scout Service Program – Girl Scout Honor Troop 147

Mackinac Island Scout Service Program – Girl Scout Honor Troop 147 is a group of 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grade Girl Scouts selected for their commitment to service and the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Troop 147 is looking for new members!

[Apply Today](#)

### 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

### 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](#)

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

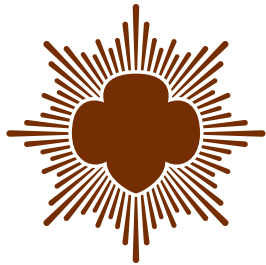
Girl Scout Destinations are the ultimate adventure for individual Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts! Through Destinations, Girl Scouts have the opportunity to travel nationally and internationally.

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).

# 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 Gold 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.

## Gold Award Training | Virtual

**SA**

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 24

4:30 pm - 6:00 pm

Free

[Register](#)

*Registration closes on September 17 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.

Adults

Oct 26

6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Free

[Register](#)

*Registration closes on October 19 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



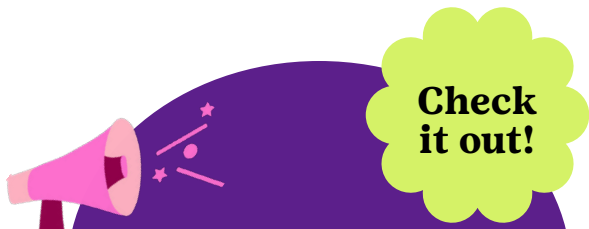
**Makayla  
Socall**  
Shedding a Light  
on Healthy Eating  
Through Gardening



**Jocelyn  
Tolliver**  
Addressing  
(dis)ABILITY



**Laurel  
Tolliver**  
S(he)TEM



## 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 [customercare@gsmists.org](mailto:customercare@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



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 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!





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