

Kick-Off 2024-25



The Sessions:

Creating a Sense of Belonging

Learn how to create a sense of belonging in your service unit. Discover activities that help girls and volunteers feel welcomed, known, included, supported, and connected.

Empower & Engage: Unleashing the Potential of CSA Girl Scouts

Discuss effective strategies and best practices for engaging Girl Scout Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador (CSA) leaders and girls. Gain the tools and insights needed to foster a vibrant, inclusive, and empowering environment for older Girl Scouts.

Welcoming New Leaders: Engaging & Empowering New Girl Scout Volunteers

Get inspired during this supportive and practical session! Service units will become equipped to support new troop leaders and volunteers by providing the knowledge, tools, and confidence needed to create a positive and impactful experience for themselves and the girls they lead.

Building and Growing a Strong Service Unit Team

Discover strategies and best practices for building and growing a strong service team. In this training, gain the tools and insights needed to create a cohesive, effective, and supportive team that enhances the Girl Scout experience for girls and adults alike.

Girl Scout Foundations

Mission

To build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.



Promise

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

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE)

Our research-based model describes what girls do in Girl Scouts, who they do it with, and how they benefit.

Variety of Activities	Supportive Relationships	Three Girl Scout Processes	Five GSLE Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Program Community Service Field Trips & Events Outdoor Experiences Girl Scout Cookie and Fall Product Program 	<p>This means Girl Scout leaders...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Care about each girl Enable possibility thinking Are inclusive Provide a safe space <p>... and that girls have positive relationships with their Girl Scout peers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girl-led Cooperative Learning Learning by Doing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strong Sense of Self Positive Values Challenge Seeking Healthy Relationships Community Problem Solving



Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion

Vision Statement

We best achieve our mission when girls from all backgrounds feel like they belong in Girl Scouts.

Therefore, Girl Scouts of Western Ohio is committed to ensuring that every girl—each and every one—has the opportunity to be her best self in Girl Scouts.



- We actively ensure that our girl membership, adult volunteers, board, and paid staff reflect the demographics of the communities we call home.
- We proactively partner with each community to understand their unique assets and needs in order to give every girl access to the GSLE (Girl Scout Leadership Experience).
- Every staff member, volunteer, and supporter plays a role to fulfill this vision.
- We continuously measure ourselves against these goals, and when we fall short, we work to live up to these statements.

Girl Scout Programming

The Girl Scout programs you know and love are getting a refresh! These updated badges and awards give Girl Scouts more hands-on choices, and volunteers are receiving access to new resources to help facilitate troop activities. **Explore more at gswo.org/activities!**

New!

First Aid Badges

Updated in collaboration with the American Red Cross!
For Brownies through Ambassadors.



Badges for Girl Scout Seniors

New on the Volunteer Toolkit!



Behind the Ballot



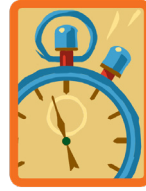
Business Startup



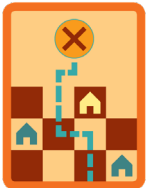
Car Care



Collage Artist



Cross Training



Game Visionary



Locavore



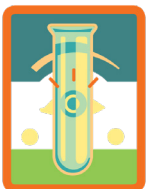
Novelist



Paddling



Room Makeover



Science of Style



Senior Girl Scout Way



Sky

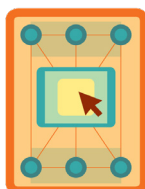


Textile Artist



Troupe Performer

Voice for Animals



Website Designer

Badges for Girl Scout Ambassadors

New on the Volunteer Toolkit!



Ambassador Girl Scout Way



Photographer



Public Policy



Ultimate Recreation Challenge

World Thinking Day

The 2025 theme is
Our Story: Reflecting the symbolism
and values of our Movement



Required Adult Trainings

Training Name	Description	Who	Frequency	Where	Length (approx.)
Troop Start-up	Troop Start-up training will provide new leaders with the information needed to get your troop started or to take over a troop. Learn what girls do, how to guide your troop through their first meetings, troops safety, product program overview, troop finances and how to use the Volunteer Toolkit as a planning tool for your whole year.	For all new troop leaders	Once in your first 15 days as a new troop leader.	gsLearn, live virtual 1:1, or ask your CDM or service unit team	2 hours
Youth Protection	Youth Protection training will help volunteers understand their responsibilities as mandated reporters and learn how to identify and report suspected abuse.	All volunteers	Once in your first 15 days as a new volunteer, or before meeting with girls for returning volunteers.	gsLearn	15 minutes
Financing the Fun	Learn the requirements for opening troop/ service unit checking account, policies and procedures for using and tracking troop finances. (This is part of troop start-up training, it only needs to be taken once).	All troop assistants or service unit volunteers on bank account, prior to becoming an authorized signer	Once if you are new to troop or service unit bank account	gsLearn	15 minutes
Be a Sister to Every Girl Scout: Promoting Belonging	Create a sense of belonging in your troop by learning about the principles of belonging, grade level support, and how the Girl Scout Experience ties it all together.	All volunteers	Once or as often as needed.	gsLearn or in-person at service unit level	1 hour
Safety Beyond the Troop Meeting	This training prepares you to take your girls outside of your regular troop meeting space/location. You will review GSWO Troop Trip Approval process, how to prepare your girls for travel, additional insurance coverage possibly needed, safety, and transporting girls.	All volunteers	Once prior to meeting outside of your regular meeting space/ location.	gsLearn	1 hour
CPR/First Aid	CPR/First Aid is an in-person training for at least one volunteer per troop. The certification can be tracked in gsLearn.	One volunteer per troop	Every 2 years	In person (tracked in gsLearn)	3 or more hours
Lodge Camp Training	This training is designed to prepare volunteers to use GSWO facilities, whether for meetings less than 3 hours, for the day, or overnight. PREREQ: Complete Safety Beyond the Troop Meeting training.	One volunteer per troop/group	Once prior to using a council property	gsLearn, in person, or ask your CDM or service unit team	1 hour
Troop Camp Training	Participants develop camping skills to be used and taught to girls, ensuring a positive, fun, and safe outdoor experience. PREREQ: Safety Beyond the Troop Meeting and Lodge Camp Training.	One volunteer per troop/group	Once prior to camping at a council property tent unit or camping anywhere else.	In person (tracked in gsLearn)	6 hours

* Some trainings are required only once as long as you maintain your skills and don't have a gap in membership. Requirements are subject to change.

All troops must have two leaders who have completed Youth Protection Training within 30 days of starting their troop. Any volunteer who has not completed Youth Protection Training may not be responsible for girls, including to meet ratio at meetings or troop activities.



Travel Progression

Individual Travel

Individual Girl Scouts can sign up for independent travel and meet new Girl Scout friends through council-offered travel opportunities or GSUSA's Destinations program.

Recommended for: Senior, Ambassador

Minimum age: Cadette (with Extended Trip experience in Girl Scouting)

International Trip

Travel the world! These life-changing trips usually take two to three years to save for, plan, and prepare.

Recommended for: Senior, Ambassador

Minimum age: Cadette (with Extended Trip experience in Girl Scouting)

Extended Trip

Travel the country! Extended trips last four or more nights OR take place more than a six-hour drive from home.

Recommended for: Cadette, Senior, Ambassador

Minimum age: Junior (with Short Trip experience in Girl Scouting)

Short Trip

Spend two to three nights in your region, up to a six-hour drive away from home. Girl Scouts plan budget and schedule.

Recommended for: Junior, Cadette

Minimum age: Brownie (with Overnight experience in Girl Scouting)

Overnight

Help Girl Scouts plan their first single overnight—maybe at a council event, camp, or nearby attraction.

Recommended for: Brownie, Junior

Minimum age: Daisy (with Day Trip experience in Girl Scouting)

Day Trip

Plan an all-day trip. Try a council event or local attraction.

Recommended for: Daisy, Brownie, Junior

Minimum age: Daisy

Local Field Trip

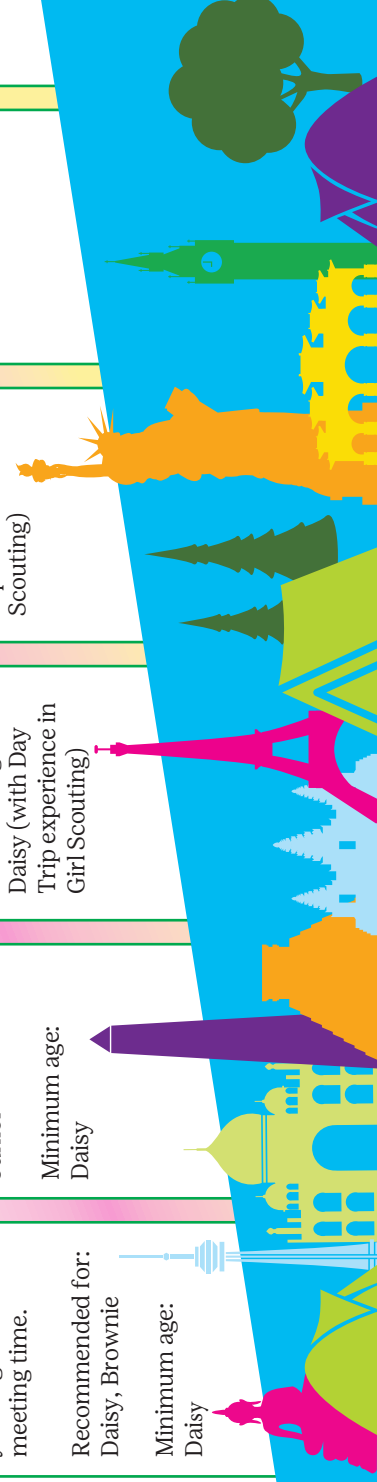
Visit a nearby spot, possibly during your regular meeting time.

Recommended for: Daisy, Brownie










Minimum age: Daisy

When moving up to the next step, consider each Girl Scout's independence, ability to work well in groups, flexibility, and experience with cultures other than their own.

Through progression, Girl Scouts build skills to become lifelong travelers and global citizens. Girl Scouts take the lead in planning a new adventure at every level.



Volunteer Awards

Award	Award Purpose	Award Requirements
 Green Badge of Courage	<p>Recognizes a volunteer who has performed a courageous act or met a challenge in a creative way within their role as a Girl Scout volunteer. <i>Candidate: A volunteer who continued service to Girl Scouts that has overcome a personal challenge or major personal obstacle.</i></p>	<p>Required – 2 Endorsement Forms Optional – Additional Documentation</p>
 Service Team Star	<p>Recognizes a volunteer who is or has been a service unit team member or appointed administrative volunteer who has gone above and beyond their appointed role and has helped a service unit achieve one of their core responsibilities: recruit and retain members, direct support to leaders & girls, educating community about Girl Scouting, act as a communication center for Girl Scout volunteers, provide activities that reflect the Girl Scout Leadership Experience or providing on-going coaching and education to volunteers. <i>Potential Candidate: Any service team member going above and beyond their role.</i></p>	<p>Required – 2 Endorsement Forms Optional – Additional Documentation</p>
 Volunteer of Excellence	<p>For outstanding service while partnering directly with girls to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through the use of Girl Scout Journeys, the Girls Guide to Girl Scouting, The Volunteer Toolkit or any other GSUSA resource. <i>Potential Candidates: Troop Leader, Troop Assistant, day camp volunteer, service team member and many more.</i></p>	<p>Required – 2 Endorsement Forms Optional – Additional Documentation</p>
 Appreciation Pin	<p>Recognizes a volunteer for outstanding service to one service unit or geographic area. <i>Potential Candidates: Day camp volunteer, Troop Leader or series facilitator who has gone above and beyond their role.</i></p>	<p>Required – 2 Endorsement Forms Optional – Additional Documentation</p>
 Honor Pin	<p>Recognizes a volunteer for outstanding service to two or more service units or geographic areas. <i>Potential Candidates: Learning facilitator, volunteer serving on council or regional task group, board member who has gone above and beyond their role.</i></p>	<p>Required – 3 Endorsement Forms Optional – Additional Documentation</p>
 Thanks Badge	<p>Recognizes a volunteer for outstanding service that has benefited the entire council or Girl Scout Movement. <i>Potential Candidates: Council task group chair, board member, a volunteer who increased program opportunities for girls, council learning facilitator who developed new resources.</i></p>	<p>Required – 4 Endorsement Forms Optional – Additional Documentation</p>
 Thanks Badge II	<p>Recognizes a volunteer for outstanding service that has benefited the entire council or Girl Scout Movement who has already received the Thanks Badge. <i>Potential Candidates: Council task group chair, board member, a volunteer who increased program opportunities for girls, council trainer who developed new resources.</i></p>	<p>Required – 4 Endorsement Forms Optional – Additional Documentation</p>
 Membership Year Pin	<p>This pin indicates the total number of years as a registered member of Girl Scouts, including girl and adult years. The pin comes in 5-year increments: 5, 10, 15, etc.</p>	<p>Volunteer completes Membership Year Pin Request Form</p>
 Years of Service Pin	<p>Recognizes a registered adult member for the numbers of active service as a volunteer. The council will purchase pins for 20 years and above. The pin comes in 5-year increments: 20, 25, 30, etc.</p>	<p>Volunteer completes Volunteer Years of Service Pin Request Form</p>

Pink indicates Girl Scouts of Western Ohio awards; Green indicates GSUSA awards.

Service Team Calendar

Save the date for 2024-25 Roundtables and service unit tasks.
Register at gswo.org/roundtable

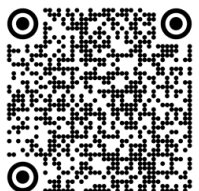
Month	Task/Topic	Dates <i>*All Roundtables are 6:30 - 8 p.m.</i>
August	Sign Service Unit Commitment Form	Due by August 1
September	Service Team Roundtable Kick-Off: Outdoor Cooking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lima - Sept. 23 Toledo - Sept. 24 Dayton - Sept. 24 Cincinnati - Sept. 26
October	Girl Scout Visibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toledo - Oct. 22 Dayton - Oct. 22 Cincinnati - Oct. 24 Lima - Oct. 28
November	State of the Movement	TBD (Virtual, Councilwide)
November	Cookie Coordinator Trainings	Week of November 18 Regional dates TBD
December	Holiday Party & Potluck	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lima - Dec. 16 Toledo - Dec. 17 Dayton - Dec. 17 Cincinnati - Dec. 19
December/ January	Mid-Year Check-Ins	CDM will connect in person with individual service team members or the entire service team to review: Annual Plan/Service Unit Assessment/Service Unit Statistics.
January	Empowering Youth Through Expert Guidance: A Dynamic Panel of Experienced Youth Workers	Tuesday, January 28 (Virtual, Councilwide)
February	2024 Program Impact — Your Voice Matters	Tuesday, February 25 (Virtual, Councilwide)
March	No Meetings	
April	Project Best Year Ever! (Annual Planning)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Toledo - Apr. 22 Dayton - Apr. 22 Lima - Apr. 28 Cincinnati - Apr. 28
May/June	End of Year Check-In	CDM will connect in person with individual service team members or the entire service team to review: Annual Plan/Service Unit Assessment/Service Unit Statistics.

Volunteer Learning Calendar

Save the date for 2024-25 volunteer training events.
Register at gswo.org/events

Event	Date	Time	Location
GSWO Trainer Annual Curriculum Training	8.27.2024	12:00-1:30 p.m.	Zoom
GSWO Trainer Annual Curriculum Training	8.28.2024	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Zoom
Learn to Lead- Your First Troop Meeting	9.12.2024	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Zoom
Learn to Lead- Troop Management	9.26.2024	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Zoom
CPR/First Aid Instructor Training	9.28.2024	10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Toledo Girl Scout Center
North Adult Conference: Camp like a Cowgirl	10.4- 10.6.2024	7:30 p.m.—12:00 p.m.	Camp Libbey
Youth Mental Health First Aid	10.7.2024 & 10.8.2024	6:00-8:30 p.m.	Zoom
CPR/First Aid Training	10.10.2024	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Zoom
CPR/First Aid Instructor Training	10.26.2024	10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	Dayton Girl Scout Center
New Leader Fair	11.2.2024	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	All Regional Offices
New Leader Fair—West Cincinnati	11.9.2024	3:00-5:00 p.m.	Harrison Branch Library
In-Person Trainer Meet-up	11.8-11.9.2024	7:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Camp Woodhaven
CPR/First Aid Training	11.13.2024	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Zoom
Learn to Lead- Family Engagement	11.19.2024	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Zoom
Being a Sister to Every Girl Scout: Promoting Belonging	1.8.2025	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Zoom
CPR/First Aid Training	1.21.2025	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Zoom
New Leader Fair	1.25.2025	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	All Regional Offices
Learn to Lead- Program Processes	2.3.2025	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Zoom
Safety Beyond the Troop Meeting	3.10.2025	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Zoom
South Adult Conference: Cosmic Connections	3.28-3.29.2025	7:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.	Camp Stonybrook
CPR/First Aid Training	4.1.2025	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Zoom
Virtual Trainer Meet-up	4.8.2025	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Zoom
Learn to Lead - Troop Finances	5.1.2025	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Zoom
Pass it On, Look Ahead: Bridging Award	5.13.2025	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Zoom
Youth Mental Health First Aid	5.19-5.20.2025	6:00-8:30 p.m.	Zoom
CPR/First Aid Training	7.14.2025	6:00-7:30 p.m.	Zoom

The Girl Scout motto is be prepared, and this includes you — our volunteers! **The Be Prepared Podcast** is here to support you with a variety of resources on the topics you care about. Tune in the third Thursday of every month! Scan the code or visit gswo.org/beprepared.



Resources

Service Unit Resources

New Leader Onboarding Process for SU

A breakdown of the process of onboarding a new leader in the service unit.

Service Unit Meeting Guide

A comprehensive guide on how to run a service unit meeting.

Fast Fundamentals

Short, 15-30 minute trainings that can be held at the SU level.

Volunteer Appreciation Packet

Learn about the different volunteer awards and how to nominate/endorse a volunteer for those awards.

Service Unit Event Planning Guide

A comprehensive guide on how to run an event with your service unit.

Service Unit Monthly Overviews

These overviews provide the most important information on what service units should be working on/sharing during that month.

Service Unit Position Trainings

GSWO has created trainings for each position on the service unit team. Each position is required to have this training before starting their role.

Service Unit Forms

- **SU Allocation Form:** Service Teams can receive money to help them run their service unit. Filling out this form allows council to determine the financial state of the service unit.
- **SU Postage Reimbursement Form:** Service units can be reimbursed for the money spent on postage by submitting this form.
- **SU Annual Plan:** A document service unit teams use to help plan out their year. Includes: SU Priorities, SU Roster, Calendar, and Dashboard.

Rallyhood

Roundtable Rally

Connect with other service team volunteers and get access to Roundtable resources on Rallyhood! Plus, be the first to view the monthly Service Team Newsletter and get the latest updates.

Join the Rally at gsw.org/roundtable



**All your
Girl Scout news
in one place!**

Learn more about Rallyhood and create an account today! Visit gsw.org/rallyhood

Resources

Leader Resources

Volunteer Toolkit (VTK)

The VTK is your official source for delivering easy, fun troop meetings year-round! This fully customizable digital planning tool provides you with Girl Scout program content, award requirements, and other resources so you can keep your Girl Scout year running smoothly.

Troop Leader Blueprint

Found at gsw.org, gives new leaders tips and resources for safe in-person and virtual meetings, as well as badges, Journeys, and activities for every grade level.

GSWO Resources

gsLearn

gsLearn is Girl Scouts' online learning platform, which houses a variety of learning modules that can be completed at your own pace, meaning you can start and stop at your convenience.

GSWO Blog

A great place to find new ideas for troop/service unit activities, success stories, and new resources. This blog is designed to help leaders and SU volunteers bring the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to life in their area. Visit gsw.org/blog.org!

GSWO's YouTube Channel

Find trainings, badge activities, songs, and more! Follow us at youtube.com/girlscoutswoh.

Resource Centers

A library of books, guides, activity kits, flags and more for troops to checkout for a ceremony, troop meeting or other activities are found at each Girl Scout Center. Learn more and reserve resources at gsw.org/resourcecenter.



Service Unit Spotlight gsw.org/spotlight

You're doing amazing things in your service unit. We want to know more about them and share them with others! Send us a short story with pictures for a chance to be featured on our website and monthly newsletter!



Volunteer of the Month gsw.org/awards

Volunteer of the Month is an easy way to recognize a volunteer for their time and dedication with Girl Scouts. Each month, one volunteer from every region in western Ohio will be selected to receive:

- A signed certificate from our CEO, Aimée Sproles
- \$25 gift certificate to our council shops
- Social media recognition

Notes

[illegible]

Reflections

Three things I learned today:

1

2

3

Two things I will take back to my service unit:

1

2

One thing that resonated with me personally:

1



More Magic

2024
2025

More Fun



girl scouts 
of western ohio

888.350.5090 | gsw.org
customercare@gsw.org



In Partnership With:

