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Your New Volunteer Newsletter

Welcome to the first edition of our brand-new monthly volunteer newsletter! Moving forward, you can look forward to seeing this update delivered straight to your inbox on the third Thursday of every month. Our goal with this publication is to create a reliable, go-to hub that keeps you fully up-to-date with all the latest council happenings, upcoming events, and important operational updates. Inside each issue, you will find essential resources, program reminders, and key information designed specifically to support your vital role within Girl Scouts of Central Illinois.

Above all, we want to express our deepest gratitude for everything you do. Our volunteers are the heart and soul of the Girl Scout movement, and quite simply, we could not carry out our mission without your dedication, energy, and unwavering support. Every troop meeting you lead, event you organize, and moment of encouragement you offer directly shapes the lives of our Girl Scouts and empowers them to lead with courage, confidence, and character. Thank you for being such an extraordinary part of our council family and for making a lasting difference in our communities every single day!

Moving forward we have created a Communications Hub webpage on website that will contain past newsletters and communications from GSCI.

If you need assistance or have questions, please contact Customer Care at 888-623-1237 or email customercare@girlscouts-gsci.org.

Check Out the New Communications Hub

Membership Moments

New Girl Scout Year!

As we kick off an exciting new Girl Scout year, thank you for your incredible dedication to guiding, inspiring, and empowering your troop! To ensure your Girl Scouts don't miss out on a single moment of adventure, leadership development, or lifelong friendship, we encourage you to renew their memberships today. Re-registering your troop members now guarantees their spot for upcoming troop meetings, outdoor camping trips, skill-building badge opportunities, and council events. Head over to your **myGS** account to easily renew your returning Girl Scouts and keep the momentum going for another unforgettable year of growing, learning, and making a difference together!

Any Girl Scout or volunteer in the troop that is participating in Fall Product or the Cookie Program need to be renewed.

To help us support your troop and ensure families in our community have up-to-date details, please take a few moments to complete the **2026–2027 Troop Information Form**. If you wish to update your troop information yourself, you can login to your **myGS** and make changes.

Thank you for all you do to make Girl Scouting a supportive and transformative experience for all girls!

[Click Here to Update Your Troop Meeting Information](#)

Program Corner

Journeys Have Officially Retired

As of October 1, 2026, Girl Scouts of the USA has phased out Journeys for older girls and replaced them with the new, highly flexible **Leadership**

Awards. These updated programs offer a more interest-based, personalized approach organized around **eight new themes** (such as Technology and Innovation, Outdoor Adventure, and Animals and Nature) instead of the legacy program pillars.

Girl Scouts can continue their leadership development by participating in the new Leadership Awards for Juniors through Ambassadors!

These new awards celebrate all the ways girls lead—theirself, their teams, and their communities. With flexible options, real-world skill-building, and no pressure to lead a certain way, these awards help Girl Scouts grow confidence, explore their leadership style, and make an impact on their own terms. Each award is represented by a beautiful new pin that captures the spirit of an awardee's leadership exploration path.

[Learn More About Leadership Awards](#)



It's Fall Product Time

The program kicked off October 1 and will run through November 2 this year. The sooner your troop's Girl Scouts send emails and texts; the more opportunities friends and family have to buy nuts and candy to help your troop reach their goals! Customers can also choose to order a magazine, candle, Tervis tumbler, BarkBox, or personalized product – all online for Direct Ship! All your favorite items are returning this year, along with expanded candle and personalized product storefronts.

Troops earn 15% troop profit per item sold, so don't miss this opportunity to build up your troop's bank account! A Junior level troop or older (or a multi-level troop with Juniors) can choose to opt-out of rewards to earn 3% additional troop profit – a total of 18% troop profit per item! Opting out of rewards means that Girl Scouts in your troop will not receive any earned physical items, including Nutty Bucks or Travel Dough, in exchange for 3% more troop profit per item. Opt-out troops will still receive any earned patches.

As a troop volunteer, you can earn your very own personalized patch! To earn your personalized patch, you must design your avatar, initiate the Parent-Adult Email Campaign (PAEC) prior to launch, and earn total troop sales of \$1,900 or more.

To set up your troop's account & begin the fun, visit

<https://gsnutsandmags.com/gscentralillinois> today!

Learn More About Fall Products



Pre-Order Caramel Chocolate Chip Cookie

Time is running out to place your pre-order for the Caramel Chocolate Chip Cookie for the 2027 Cookie Program!

ABC Bakers, our council baker, requires a pre-order for the gluten-free cookie variety, Caramel Chocolate Chip. We know it seems early, but do not miss the opportunity to order this delicious variety. ABC recommends that troops order 1% of last year's sales. (In other words, if you anticipate selling 100 cases throughout the program, your suggested pre-order would be 1 case.) **Click here** to view last year's sales on the "Troop Sales & Per Girl Averages" document. Orders are placed by the case (12 packages per case).

We are excited to offer a new allergen-friendly cookie, Sparkable, during the 2027 Cookie Program. Sparkable is free from the top 9 allergens and will be available *exclusively through online sales*. Although it is also gluten-free, its online-only availability means it will not compete with our existing gluten free Caramel Chocolate Chip cookie at booths and other in-person sales. **Therefore, we recommend that troops order the gluten-free Caramel Chocolate Chip cookie to have on-hand for booth and other in-person sales.**

To help ensure you have enough of this variety to meet customer demand, we recommend ordering approximately 1% of your troop's total cookie sales from last year in gluten-free Caramel Chocolate Chip.

To pre-order your troop's gluten-free cookies, **click here** to complete the Caramel Chocolate Chip Pre-Order Form. We will need the following information: troop number, leader name, email, phone number, and the number of cases your troop is ordering for the 2027 program. **Troops do not pay in advance.** Your troop will pay for the gluten-free pre-order cookies during the normal ACH process (1/3 of the total ordered will be due **March 9, 2027**)

The pre-order for the gluten-free Caramel Chocolate Chip cookie is due

October 21, 2026. There will not be an opportunity to reorder this variety during the program, so make sure your troop does not miss out.

NEW troops! If your troop is new and did not have cookie sales last season, please call or email us at 309-846-5923 or emiller@girlscouts-gsci.org, and we will be happy to help you estimate the right quantity to order.

If you have any questions, please contact Customer Care at (888) 623-1237 or customercare@girlscouts-gsci.org.

[Click Here to Place Your Pre-Order](#)



All Your Girl Scout Needs

Whether you are gearing up for the new program year or celebrating your troop's latest achievements, our Trefoil Boutiques are your ultimate one-stop shop for everything Girl Scouts! We carry a full selection of uniforms, badges, awards, leader guides, and fun patches to keep your troop fully equipped and ready for every adventure. If you are looking for something specific that isn't currently on our shelves, our store staff is always happy to special order any Girl Scout merchandise you need. Plus, don't forget to check out our exclusive line of Girl Scouts of Central Illinois (GSCI) branded apparel and gear—it's the perfect way to wear your council pride and show off the incredible work you do as a volunteer!

What for our new GSCI online shop coming Spring 2027! Stay tuned for more information!

[Learn More About the Trefoil Boutiques](#)



Lead Like a Girl Event - Decatur

You are invited to the debut of Lead Like a Girl, an inspiring fundraising event to celebrate and support Girl Scouting.

October 21, 2026
Country Club of Decatur
6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Enjoy Girl Scout Cookie-inspired desserts by area chefs, savory bites, a signature cocktail, a raffle from our friends at Flora Gems, and recognition of this year's Diamond Honoree Shelith Hansbro, Illinois Department of Corrections Confidential Assistant.

Most importantly, hear from local Girl Scouts and choose to invest in their power to lead with courage, confidence, and character.

There is no cost to attend, but an opportunity to support.

Register to Attend



www.getyourgirlpower.org

This email was sent to: mwilson@girlscouts-gsci.org

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