

girlscouts
of montana
and wyoming



Monthly Newsletter

December, 2025





Contact Us

Phone: 406-252-0488

Email: customercare@gsmw.org

Mail: 2303 Grand Ave | Billings, MT 59102

Stay Connected

Sign up for text reminders/updates
and follow us on social media!



@GSMWcouncil



@girlscoutsmtwy



@girlscoutsmtwy

Hey there, it's Girl Scouts!

Opt-in to receive text updates
that matter most to you.

[Click here to get started!](#)





Table of Contents

- 4-5) Silver Award of the Year
- 6-7) Product Program
- 8) Add a Girl
- 9) Volunteer Recognitions
- 10) Meeting in a Minute
- 11) Winter Challenge & ZooMontana Virtual Adventure
- 12) Explore STEM Virtually & Giving
- 13) New Girl Scout Partnerships
- 14) Free YMHFA Manuals
- 15) EF Tours for Leaders & Merch
- 16) WAGGGS World Centres
- 17) Alumna Spotlight
- 18) Council Crew: Kally
- 19) Holiday Giving



Do you want the chance to be featured in the next edition of the Membership Newsletter? Tell us about your unforgettable adventures, inspiring acts of volunteerism, conquered challenges and more [here!](#)



Silver Award of the Year

Congratulations, Eleanor!

Her Silver Award project, “Freaky Fungus Among Us—Protecting Bats from White-Nose Syndrome,” has been named GSMW’s Silver Award of the Year.

Eleanor researched white-nose syndrome, a deadly fungal disease harming hibernating bats, and took action. Working with Montana FWP bat biologist Shannon Hilty, she designed blueprints for bat boxes and, with support from the Montana State Library, shared them with 82 public libraries statewide.

She also built two bat boxes now installed at the Montana Law Enforcement Academy—already home to bats, a process that usually takes years! To boost long-term impact, Eleanor partnered with experts to host community programs, including a “Bat Party” at the Lewis and Clark Library, and will join a bat census this summer to measure her project’s success.

Eleanor’s dedication to wildlife conservation is inspiring and a powerful example of youth-led change.

Congratulations to Eleanor on her remarkable achievement!







2025-2026 Product Program

Fall Product Program

Congratulations on a successful 2025 Fall Product Program. You and your girls were “Brave. Fierce. FUN!” and achieved great successes!

Take the Fall Product Program Survey

We want to hear from you! How did you find your experience with the Fall Product Program? Help us plan for future programs by completing our survey. Questions? Email customer-care@gsmw.org.

If your Girl Scout(s) participated in the Fall Product Program, please take [this survey](#).

If your Girl Scout(s) did NOT participate in the Fall Product Program, complete [this survey](#).



Product Deliveries

All deliveries to customers should be completed, and money should have been turned in by caregivers to the Troop by December 8th. If you have caregivers who have not turned in all the money due to the Troop, please go online and complete an [Outstanding Balance Form by December 9th](#).

Automatic Clearing House (ACH) Sweep

You will receive the ACH email on December 11th and the ACH Sweep will be processed on December 16th. Please email gsmwaccounting@gsmw.org with any questions, or if you need assistance with verifying bank account information.

Rewards

Fall Rewards should be arriving mid to late December. Your Service Unit Product Managers will notify you when to pick up rewards for the Girl Scouts in your troop!

Mark Your Calendars

Mark your calendars and join us on Facebook LIVE for our end of season Fall Product Program Top Entrepreneurs announcement on January 9, 2026.





2026 Cookie Program
January 30 - April 12

Getting Prepared

Get ready for the upcoming Cookie Program by clicking on and registering for the trainings listed to the right. Ensure your troop is represented by having at least one adult member attend a regional Cookie Kickoff, whether in person or virtually, this is essential in keeping you informed, and starting your cookie season off right.

Additional training videos and resources will be available on our website to help assist you with the program including the Cookie Technology Webinar, Volunteer Cookie Guide, Caregiver Involvement Form, Cookie Meeting Agenda, and more!

Training Schedule

Learn more about the trainings you need to attend and RSVP by selecting the links attached to the date/time below.

Service Unit Training	Date/Time
Service Unit Training	January 7 at 6:30 PM

Troop Training	Date/Time
New Troop Cookie Training	January 8 at 7:30 PM
Cookie Kickoffs	January 13 - 17
Cookie Technology Webinar	January 27 at 7:00

[Cookie Kickoffs: RSVP by 1/9/26 to reserve exclusive SWAG!](#)

Juliette Training	Date/Time
Juliette Cookie Training	January 8 at 6:00 PM

Juliette Mentors: Please read through your mailed packet before this meeting.

Caregiver Training	Date/Time
Caregiver Cookie Training	January 28 at 6:30 PM



Add a Girl

Girls are excited to make new friends in Girl Scouts.

You can help by welcoming a new to Girl Scouts girl into your troop during GSMW's Add a Girl campaign this Fall!

When you Add a Girl between now and January 31st, collect rewards! Keep track of girls added to your troop to self-report during February with rewards delivered mid-March.

And every girl in your troop will receive a special patch!

Your Troop Reward	+2 Girls	+3 Girls	+4 Girls
Add a Girl patch for girls and required leaders			
Meeting in a Minute Box selection for 6 girls			
\$20 GSMW Store Credit			
Meeting in a Minute Box selection for 12 girls			
Grand Prize Entry <i>Additional entry for every new troop girl after +4</i>			

Only one meeting in a minute box per troop. At the +2 & +3, troops will get one box for 6 girls. At the +4 level, troops get one box for 12 girls. Questions? Reach out to customercare@gsmw.org or 406-252-0488.

Each grand prize entry qualifies you for a chance to WIN



OR



OR





Volunteer Recognitions

What are Volunteer Recognitions?

Our volunteers are amazing, and we love celebrating everything you do! Volunteer Recognitions is a wonderful opportunity for caregivers, girls and fellow volunteers to show their appreciation to those outstanding individuals who go above and beyond.

What Do I Need to Consider?

Caregivers and girls can recognize their awesome troop leaders and nominate them for the Outstanding Volunteer Award.

Troop Volunteers, have someone who consistently goes the extra mile? Maybe it's the person who makes the Cookie Program go smoothly or brings awesome activities to the troop meeting. You can nominate them for the Volunteer of Excellence.

Don't forget your Service Unit Managers, Product Managers and Day Camp Directors; they can be nominated for the Appreciation Pin.

Learn More

Find out more about Volunteer Recognitions, the nomination and endorsement requirements with the Adult Award Criteria or reach out to your Member Experience Manager. Nominations are open and the deadline to submit is January 30, 2026.

[Award Criteria](#)

[Nominate a Volunteer](#)

[Learn More](#)





What is

Meeting

in a Minute?

Take the guesswork out of preparing for your next troop meeting. There are always new and exciting themes, so you can spend less time planning and more time mentoring your girls!



NEW! Body Appreciation

Empower girls of all ages to define beauty on their own terms, practice wellness habits, and express confidence through self-awareness, style, and self-care. Boost confidence, develop healthy habits, and celebrate our unique bodies



Cadette Robotics

Cadettes will gain an understanding of robots, physics, and programming while earning their Programming Robots Badge



Robot Design

Daisy, Brownie, and Juniors will gain an understanding of problem solving like an engineer while earning their Robots 1: Designing Robots badge.



Art and Design

Daisy, Brownie, and Juniors will discover their artistic talent while earning their Art and Design badge.



Summer Fun

Unleash your Girl Scouts' creativity with this nature-themed box, where they'll craft stunning art using treasures they discover outdoors!



Turtle-y Awesome

Daisy, Brownie, and Juniors will dive into the incredible journey of sea turtles and discover how they navigate the ocean using magnetism.



Funshine Sunshine

This box is designed for all ages! Get ready to soak up the sun and explore the magic of solar-powered fun!



Discover all of the Meeting in a Minute Boxes and Order Here!



Winter Outdoor Challenge

The GSMW Winter Outdoor Challenge is back again! Girls, families, or troops can complete these activities with a goal of reaching 100 points. You can submit the finished sheet online and earn a free fun patch from GSMW. Download our activity sheet with fun activities to see what's possible right outside your own front door!

[Take the Challenge](#)



ZooMontana Virtual Adventure

Step into the magic of the animal kingdom during Animal Encounters with ZooMontana Virtual Adventure on January 22, 2026. Girl Scouts in grades K through 8 will meet amazing animal ambassadors and learn how each creature survives and thrives in the wild. ZooMontana's friendly educators will share fascinating stories, answer questions, and offer a peek into what it is like to work with animals every day. This special program is open exclusively to Girl Scouts from Montana and Wyoming and includes a fun patch for every participant. Sign up today to reserve your spot for this unforgettable virtual

[Reserve Your Spot](#)



**TAKE A WALK
ON THE WILD SIDE**

Explore STEM Virtually This Winter

Winter break and the colder months are the perfect time for Girl Scouts to dive into exciting virtual adventures. At STEM the Gap Academy, a woman led organization, girls are empowered through classes taught by real life woman scientists. Every program helps Girl Scouts of all ages earn badges or patches while exploring Cybersecurity, Coding, Chess, STEM Career Exploration, and Artificial Intelligence in fun and meaningful ways. Registration for these virtual programs is available through STEM the Gap Academy, whether you're signing up one Girl Scout or your entire troop.



[Join the Fun](#)

End of Year Giving

As the year comes to a close, there's no better time to make a lasting impact on girls across Montana and Wyoming. Your early end-of-year gift helps Girl Scouts start strong in 2026—funding programs that build courage, confidence, and character in every girl. From STEM adventures to outdoor exploration and community service, your generosity fuels the experiences that shape tomorrow's leaders.

Give today and help us finish the year strong while setting the stage for even greater opportunities ahead!



[Give Now](#)



New Girl Scout Partnerships

Girl Scouts and Google

Girl Scouts and Google are partnering together to help girls build a healthy relationship with technology and to equip parents, caregivers, volunteers, and educators with the tools they need to support girls' digital wellbeing. Through the [Be Internet Awesome Family Challenge](#), girls and their families learn to use technology more intentionally, both on their own and together. The five themed activities teach families to be smart, safe, kind, and brave online. After completing the challenge, girls can unlock the [Google Be Internet Awesome fun patch](#).

Girl Scouts and the US Army Corps of Engineers

Girl Scouts of the USA and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) refreshed a decades-long partnership with a new Memorandum of Understanding.

This renewed partnership gives troops easier access to nearby lakes, rivers, trails, and campsites managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Troops can enjoy outdoor activities like hiking, boating,

fishing, and camping, and many locations offer ranger-led programs that support badgework and service projects. USACE staff can also provide water-safety education and hands-on STEM demonstrations to bring engineering to life for girls. If your troop includes 4th graders, they can use the Every Kid in the Outdoors Pass for free entry to participating sites.

This partnership makes it simple to plan safe, meaningful, and educational outdoor adventures for your troop. Learn more about the USACE [resources here](#).



Youth Mental Health

First Aid Manual

Thank You Shifting Gears—Get Yourself a FREE Manual!

Thanks to a generous grant by Shifting Gears on Brain Health, we have Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) manuals available for FREE!

The YMHFA manual is a resource for the public to provide initial help to someone developing a mental health problem or experiencing a crisis, teaching them the ALGEE Action Plan: Approach, Listen nonjudgmentally, Give reassurance and information, Encourage professional help, and Encourage self-help and other support strategies. The manual covers various mental health issues like depression, anxiety, and substance use disorders, as well as crisis situations such as panic attacks, trauma reactions, psychosis, and suicidal thoughts. The goal is to provide practical skills to assist someone until professional help can be received.

If you are interested in receiving your free YMHFA manual, please [complete the interest form here](#). We'll mail it to you for free!

New Merchandise Order Form

Placing your shop order has gotten easier! Our new user-friendly Merchandise Order Form will help you plan your shop order, no matter the age level. Complete the form here to submit your order to Carol.

[Order Now](#)



EF Tours as a Girl Scout Leader

Become an EF Tour trained Girl Scout leader! Take part in an international training trip, learn how to confidently lead Girl Scout travel, and once you're approved as an EF Tour Guide, your own trip is free. Watch this short video for more information!

[Watch Video](#)





WAGGGS

World Centres

Ready for a Global Adventure?!

Begin planning now for an unforgettable journey to one of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts World Centres.

As the world's largest voluntary movement for girls and young women, WAGGGS connects more than ten million members across more than one hundred fifty countries. With centres across the globe, each offers its own inspiring setting.

Discover the mountains of Our Chalet in Switzerland, the serene Achimota Forest that surrounds Kusafiri in Ghana, the vibrant energy of Pax Lodge in London, the warm community of Sangam in India, and the colorful culture of Nuestra Cabaña in Mexico. A World Centre trip gives troops a chance to explore new places, build leadership skills, and form meaningful global friendships. Begin your conversations early, set a timeline and budget, and [explore all five centres here](#).



Girl Scout

Almuna Spotlight

Teresa Wicks

What is your favorite memory?

I became a Brownie in 1962 in 2nd grade, and my favorite memory of Girl Scouts is going to camp just north of Billings, not far from where the airport is located now. That was so much fun; doing crafts, having campfires, eating S'mores that we made ourselves, making new friends and learning about the outdoors close to home.

If you could give a Girl Scout some advice, what would it be?

Some advice I would give a young Girl Scout today is to trust your instincts, listen to your heart, and remember that even mistakes can be powerful teachers for us to learn from.

Can you tell us more about your Girl Scout journey into adulthood?

I was extremely fortunate to attend college from 1973-1977, where I obtained my bachelor's degree in nursing. My family was very low-income, so getting this education was a real hand-up in the world for me. One of my previous troop leaders had been a nurse and she was some of my inspiration to become a nurse. In 2004, I completed a master's degree in nursing, which allowed me to teach nursing for 20 years at Montana State University Mark and Robyn Jones College of Nursing. I really loved working with young people who had a passion for becoming a nurse.

[Read Teresa's Full Story](#)



Council Crew

Kally

As the Member Experience Manager for the Headquarters and Eastern Montana region, Kally supports and grows Girl Scout membership throughout her region by connecting girls, families, and volunteers to the

opportunities and benefits of Girl Scouting. She plans and hosts events, recruitment activities, and training to ensure leaders feel confident and supported. She also builds relationships with schools, community organizations, and local partners to expand our reach and create new opportunities. Kally's goal is to ensure every girl's Girl Scout journey is fun, enriching, and empowering.

Kally has been with GSMW for a year and a half and said that her favorite part about working for Girl Scouts is "making connections with leaders, families, and community members." Having been born and raised in Eastern Montana, she is excited to have recently added Eastern Montana to the region she serves. Kally is a former teacher (K-8), graduated from Rocky Mountain College, and loves to read, garden, and spend time with her husband, three kids, and two dogs.





Get Ready for Holiday Giving!

\$10-15

Girl Scouts of Montana and Wyoming Tee



\$10 | Add Customization for an Additional \$5

Customization options include: Troop Number, Name, Troop Leader, Co-Leader, Volunteer, Troop Parent, and Girl Program Level (Daisy, Brownie, Junior, etc.)

Not Waiting Zip-Up Hoodie

\$39-49



Stem Tee

\$15



GSMW Tote Bags

\$10



Tie-Dye Kit

\$6



\$8.50

Collapsible Water Bottle



\$15

Stuffed Animals



Ornaments

\$6/pc



Now on sale! - \$6/ea. or \$16 for 3

Trucker Hat

\$22

