

Girl Scouts

girl scouts 
river valleys

SPRING/SUMMER
2017
PROGRAM GUIDE



Put those Cookie Credits to good use!
For field trips, camp, and more!
PG 6-7



Join us in loving our planet – on Earth Day, April 22
PG 12



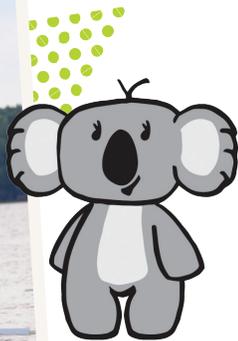
Get ready for your best summer yet – at Girl Scout Camp!
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Dear Girl Scouts,

Although we're still enjoying our beautiful Midwest winter (it is my favorite season!), I'd like to wish you a happy spring as we look forward to longer days filled with sunshine, outdoor adventures, and plenty of Girl Scouting yet to be had this year!

In spring, we cheer on our Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors as they learn new skills while earning badges and discover the world around them, connect with others, and take action in their communities to complete Journeys. We also root for our Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors who are working hard to complete their higher awards and wish safe travels to the many girls who are embarking on Destinations trips all over the world.

As we celebrate a historic 100th year of Girl Scouts selling cookies, we hope you are dreaming big of what you'll use those Cookie Credits for and having a blast this cookie season, which is indeed a milestone in our year. But, save room for all that is in store over the next six months like council-hosted events, field trips, troop meetings, and camp. We're betting your schedules are full, so we encourage you to carve out some time to slow down and reflect on how you've grown through Girl Scouting in the first half of our year. We'll also bet that you've learned a lot, made new friends, and filled your life "toolbox" with handy skills and experiences.

As much fun as there is in Girl Scouting, we also know how much of an important impact it has on girls and our world. When girls participate in Girl Scouts, they benefit in ways that you've perhaps already seen come alive this year: Girl Scouts develop a strong sense of self, positive values, and healthy relationships, and are more likely to seek challenges and solve community problems. Girls who benefit from these outcomes are happier and healthier, achieve more academically, and become strong, successful adults. So, when you're scrambling to get things ready for your next troop meeting or Girl Scout activity, or if you're unsure about which camp session to choose, remember that when girls are given the tools and opportunities to change the world, they do.

We hope your year has gone great so far, and that you've learned more than you could have imagined, overcome challenges, and tried your mightiest to make our world a better place.

Let's make the most of this Girl Scout year and finish strong #likeagirlscout.

Yours in Girl Scouting,



Tisha Bolger
CEO
Girl Scouts River Valleys



Tish and Girl Scouts at
Children & Youth Issues Briefing 2017



Mark Your Calendars

SPRING AND SUMMER GIRL SCOUT HAPPENINGS



March

Day camp and troop camp registration are open starting March 1

(get ready for your best summer yet!)
Find more about camp on pages 14, 15, 18.

April

Volunteer Appreciation Month: At Girl Scouts River Valleys, we will be showing appreciation for our fabulous volunteers all month long! Check out the article in this issue on how you can say “Thanks” to your Girl Scout volunteers.

Girl Scout Leaders’ Day honors all the volunteers who dedicate their time and talents as leaders and mentors in partnership with girls. On this day, **April 22**, girls, their families, and communities find special ways to thank their Girl Scout volunteers.



Earth Day, April 22: You may have heard (or read in this issue!) that we’re planning BIG things for this Earth Day, like a council-wide day of service. Join us in loving our planet!



This year’s anniversary (100th year of Girl Scouts selling cookies!) **cookie sale wraps up on March 26.**

The **Girl Scout Birthday, March 12**, is the day in 1912 when Juliette Gordon Low officially registered the organization’s first 18 girl members in Savannah, Georgia. Girl Scout Week goes from Sunday-Saturday, and always includes March 12. This year, we’re celebrating Girl Scouting’s 105th birthday from **March 12-18.**



May

Early Bird Registration, May 1-July 16: Early Bird is an annual season when we start to wrap up the current Girl Scout year and prep for next year by offering members early membership renewal (which comes with perks, like an adorable bird patch!).

End of Year Ceremony: Many troops celebrate the end of their year with a celebration with friends and family. Troops who are bridging often hold a bridging ceremony. Troops can hold these ceremonies in the spring or summer – depending on how often/when they meet. See page 8 for more on Bridging.

Save the date for Invest in Girls. Change the World. Women of Distinction fundraising event on May 11, 2017 at 5:30 pm in Minneapolis. Join our communities’ leading women and change-makers for an evening dedicated to building support for girls and their futures.

June

Summer camp begins! Resident camp registration is now open. Sign-up for a session or two soon (they fill up fast!) and get ready to find fun, friends, adventure, and best of all, yourself!
Camp.GirlScoutsRV.org



June is **National Get Outdoors Month**. Use the Girls’ Choice Outdoor Badges to explore the natural world!



Higher Award Ceremonies: Girls who earned their Silver and Gold Awards, along with their families and supporters, celebrate their remarkable achievements in making our world a better place on June 4 in southern Minnesota and on June 11 in the Twin Cities.



See Us in Person

Stop by to chat with staff, pick up resources, or shop at our retail stores.

Saint Paul Service Center

400 Robert St S
St. Paul, MN 55107

Brooklyn Center Service Center

5601 Brooklyn Blvd
Brooklyn Center, MN 55429

Rochester Service Center

90 14th St SW #500
Rochester, MN 55902

Burnsville Satellite Shop

Wood Park Office Building
1000 E 146th St Suite 119
Burnsville, MN 55337

Chanhassen Satellite Shop

Klein Bank Building
600 W 78th St Suite 10D
Chanhassen, MN 55317

Mankato Satellite Shop

1751 North Victory Dr, Suite 400
Mankato, MN 56001

Check out our Mobile Shop: a cost-efficient and nimble way to serve more communities.

The mobile shop makes stops in Marshall, Redwood Falls, Northfield, Hutchinson, Windom, Owatonna, and Winona, and offers program-related and council-branded merchandise, along with an assortment of fun gift items.

CALL US AT: 800-845-0787

EMAIL US AT: girlscouts@girlscoutsrv.org

FIND MORE AT: GirlScoutsRV.org

July

Camp season

is in full swing:

We hope you'll be finding adventure, trying new activities, honing your outdoor skills and more at one of our beautiful camps!

July is a perfect time of year for going on field trips.

Check out our field trips page at Volunteers.GirlScoutsRV.org/Activity-Directory/ to get your idea juices flowing. There are tons of badges you can earn by taking a field trip, and we all know that hands-on, experiential learning is a key piece of being a Girl Scout.

“Girl Scouts has been a great way for my daughter to make friends, experience fun activities, and find her voice and confidence. She feels like she is part of something special and important.”

—GIRL SCOUTS RIVER VALLEYS PARENT

August

Open your troop up to new Girl Scout sisters

and welcome them to your troop with an investiture ceremony. This is a fun way to invite your new members into your troop, or it can be an opportunity for your troop to rededicate themselves to Girl Scouting.

September

Renew your membership

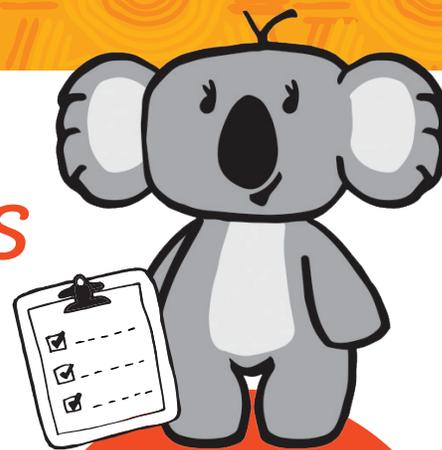
for the upcoming year! The official membership year begins October 1.



“Girl Scouts has been an excellent way for my girls to make friends, learn many life lessons and be able to experience many things. (And spend time with mom!)”

—GIRL SCOUTS RIVER VALLEYS PARENT

2016 Snacks + Magazines Snapshot



The 2016 Snacks + Magazines sale was a great success for our girls with a two percent increase in sales year-over-year!

This October, hundreds of troops joined in the fun to sell goodies to their friends and families during the Fall Product (Snacks + Magazines) sale.

Girls had the opportunity to practice their business skills and earn Fall FUNds which can help pay for camp, Higher Awards, and other Girl Scout activities (even items at the shop!).

If you didn't get the chance to participate this year, that's totally fine! Pencil it in your calendar for next fall and join in on the fun!

GIRLS SELLING

3,351

SNACKS SOLD (UNITS)

83,062

TROOP PROCEEDS EARNED

\$101,602

**MAGAZINE
SUBSCRIPTIONS SOLD**

6,180

FALL FUNDS EARNED

\$7,565

USING YOUR Cookie Credits

Girls can use Cookie Credits (and Fall FUNds) in so many ways. Since each girl earns her own, it's up to her to decide how to spend them. We can't wait to see all the fun you'll have, the adventures you'll take, and good you'll do for your communities with your Cookie Credits!

These paper credits are sent to your local service unit in late April, then distributed to girls through their troop. Here's a quick rundown of how to redeem them:

CAMP: Mail them in with your camp registration. To save your spot in a particular camp session, register for camp with the \$50 deposit, and mail the Cookie Credits later.

DESTINATIONS, TROOP TRIPS, AND HIGHER AWARDS: Send in receipts and credits for reimbursement.

MEMBERSHIP: Mail in the credits with your registration form.

PROGRAM EVENTS: Mail in the credits with an event registration form.

SHOPPING: Bring the credits along on your next visit to a Girl Scout Shop and to the trading post at camp.

SERVICE UNIT ENCAMPMENTS: Turn credits in to your service unit according to their instructions.



You have approximately a year to use Fall FUNds after you've earned them—funds expire on September 15 the year after the Fall Product season in which they were earned.

You have approximately a year and a half to use Cookie Credits after you've earned them—credits expire on September 15 the year after the Cookie Program season in which they were earned.



How Girls Use Cookie Credits

Last year, our troops earned more than \$2.8 million in troop proceeds and girls earned more than \$108,000 in Cookie Credits! Here are some ways troops and girls used their proceeds and Cookie Credits. Take some notes and set your sights high for what you can do with yours!



First Cookie Sale



Troop 57505 of River Falls used some of their cookie money for a mini-adventure at the Sagata Troop House. The girls went on a nature walk, roasted marshmallows, made sit-upons, and cooked dinner over a campfire. They even saw a hot air balloon fly right over their heads! The girls are still talking about it and cannot wait until their next adventure.



Sampling a Bit of Everything

Troop 18051 of Waconia used their cookie money to pay for their 2017 memberships, purchase new Junior uniforms, stay overnight at SeaLife, and camp at Lakamaga where the girls enjoyed geocaching, arts and crafts, and of course, lots of swimming. From their leader, Stefanie: “The activities were a lot of fun, our cabin was just right for our group, and we loved the camp counselors who did a great job keeping the girls excited. They loved the campfire and s’mores most of all.”

This coming year, they plan on earning the Horseback Riding Badge and the Junior Cookie CEO Badge, and probably some more swimming!



Finding Her Voice

Cookies isn't just about what troops can do with their proceeds, it's about how girls grow during the program. Take **Leila from Woodbury**, whose mother Kelly shared: “I was so proud to watch my 10-year-old ‘find her voice.’ She came out of her shy shell and found a big voice to sell [cookies] to adults. She recently harnessed her new skill and was placed in a speaking role in her school play. It's fun to watch Girl Scouts help her grow!”





Most troops or service units hold a bridging ceremony in the spring or summer when girls complete the bridging requirements as they graduate from one program level to the next.

Last June, Girl Scout Troop 16564, a multi-level troop in Minneapolis, held a bridging ceremony at a local park. Their informal family event included a flag ceremony, songs, and refreshments. They reserved a portable bridge from the council and made a special program handout for the event that listed the names of the girls who were bridging. Girls received their new uniforms after crossing the bridge and everyone sang “Make New Friends.” It was a fun and simple way to recognize the girls who had completed one program level and were ready to move on to the next!

A spring or summer bridging ceremony is a great way for families to get involved with troop activities. How can you help your troop leader host a ceremony this year?

- Pick up supplies
- Make or purchase refreshments
- Create invitations
- Sew the troop numbers and basic insignia on the new uniforms
- Assist with set-up or clean-up

Reach out to your troop leader and ask how you can help at this year’s bridging ceremony!

GIRL SCOUT LINGO

Bridging: Girls graduate from one grade level to another (Daisy to Brownie, Brownie to Junior, etc.) in a bridging ceremony. When girls complete the steps outlined in the Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting, they earn a rainbow bridging award.

Fly Up: When Brownies move on to Juniors, it’s called “flying up.” This is how they earn their Brownie wings. Girls who fly up from Brownies can wear their wings on their vest/sash at every future program grade level.

Insignia: Girl Scout official emblem, buttons, badges, pins, and other official forms of recognition which may be worn on the uniform by registered members.



Dear Girl Scout Shop,

I just signed my daughter up for camp for the first time. She is so excited, but I'm a little nervous about her being away from home for four days. I want to make sure she knows I'm thinking about her and that I'm hoping she's having fun. I went to camp as a young Girl Scout and remember how special it was to hear from my parents while I was away. Back then, they sent snail mail letters, but I see you have camp-themed care packages for girls now – how fun! Can you tell me more about them?

Signed,
Girl Scout Mom

girl scouts
river valleys 

HI GIRL SCOUT MOM,

We are so excited your daughter is going to camp! She's going to have a blast trying new things and making new friends. A care package is a great way to let her know you are thinking about her. We offer two different care packages filled with awesome souvenirs and fun things to use at camp. Most importantly, you can include a message from home to let her know that everyone is anxiously waiting to hear about her adventures at camp. Care packages are usually left on the camper's bed so she has a surprise from home waiting for her (be sure to order early so her care package can be delivered early in the camp session).

You can also let her know you're thinking of her while she is at camp by sending her e-notes through our online portal, Bunk1, and be sure to send her with some note-cards and stamps so she can write you back! Parents also often leave a little spending money for their girls at the trading post when they drop them off. The trading post is stocked full of camp apparel, fun patches, water bottles, stuffed animals, and many more keepsakes to help her remember her time at camp.

You are both going to do great!
Girl Scout Shop



Nanigans the squirrel comes in the Adventurer and Voyager packages!

Purchase the Explorer package for \$15, the Adventurer package for \$25, or both for \$35 (Voyager package). Add on the 2017 camp t-shirt for only \$9!

Order a care package by May 31

and mention promo code CPEB17 to add a free mini tin of Crazy Aaron's Thinking Putty to her care package!

Camp.GirlScoutsRV.org/Camp-Care-Packages/



Spring/Summer Council Events

Council events are a great way to learn from the experts and meet new friends, and we have plenty to choose from to help you love your planet, go on outdoor adventures, get pro-tips on earning higher awards, and score some know-how in technology, engineering, business, bugs, babysitting, and more! Go online and register for a council-sponsored event in your area and start your Journey or badge-earning alongside girls from all across River Valleys!

For a complete list of River Valleys' council events and to sign up, visit our website at GirlScoutsRV.org/Events/ or give us a call at 800-845-0787. Be sure to check the online event listing as we are adding new events throughout the year and dates, times, and locations are subject to change.

Potter Badge Day

B

3/12/17, 1:00 PM-4:30 PM

Kinnickinnic Clayworks, River Falls, WI
Join your Girl Scout sisters for a day of throwing, glazing, pinching, carving, sculpting, wedging, and scoring as you earn your Brownie Potter Badge!

Bugs Badge Day

B

3/18/17, 9:00 AM-12:15 PM

Minnesota Zoo, Apple Valley, MN
Flutter like a butterfly, buzz like a bee, and march like ants all while exploring the wonderful world of bugs! Led by bug experts, girls will befriend some bugs from around the world, investigate what keeps bugs so busy, create a bug craft to take home, and discover life in a cocoon. Learn about "good" bugs and "bad" bugs and how you can help bugs that are in trouble, and meet some animals that eat bugs for breakfast. Girls will receive a Bugs Badge and a \$3 off coupon for the IMAX!



Babysitter Badge

C

3/18/17, 9:30 AM-3:30 PM
Edith Mayo Program Center, Rochester, MN

4/29/17, 9:30 AM-3:30 PM
Floyd Roberts Jr. Pavilion, Mankato, MN

Come learn from an expert and gain the skills to help you become the best babysitter on the block! Practice bottle feeding, spoon feeding, and diaper changes. Learn how to keep yourself and children safe, manage challenging behavior, and go home with the skill needed to start a babysitting business! Includes workbook, basic First Aid, babysitting certificate upon completion, and the Babysitter Badge.

Website Designer Badge Day

S A

3/25/17, 9:00 AM-10:30 AM
5/13/17, 9:00 AM-10:30 AM

Microsoft Store - Mall of America, Bloomington, MN

View the world from the seat of a blogger or web designer, and you'll find the story in everything. Build yourself a safe place online where you can show readers what moves you and share stories with friends. Become a blogger and complete the steps for the Website Designer Badge!

Silver Award Workshop: Dream It, Achieve It!

C

3/25/17, 1:00 PM-3:00 PM

Girl Scouts River Valleys Brooklyn Center Service Center

If you can dream it, you can achieve it! Discover what it takes to earn your Silver Award, the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. Brainstorm with other girls and start planning how you'll make the world a better place.

Woodworker

C



4/1/17, 1:30 PM-4:30 PM

North Central State Regional Council of Carpenters, St. Paul, MN

Pick up your hammer and saw, Cadettes, it's time to get building! Alongside professional women carpenters from the North Central States Regional Council of Carpenters, girls will try their hands at basic woodworking techniques, test their skill with a virtual welder, engage their engineering mind with scaffolding, and build their own keepsake box or bike/accessory rack to take home!

Daisy Between Earth and Sky Journey Day

D

4/1/17, 9:30 AM-12:00 PM
Oak View Middle School, Andover, MN

4/22/17, 9:30 AM-12:00 PM
Sibley Park Pavilion, Mankato, MN

5/13/17, 9:30 AM-12:00 PM OR 1:30 PM-4:00 PM
Minnesota Landscape Arboretum, Chaska, MN

Flower friends take to the road, living the Girl Scout Law with new friends and old. Learn about the plants and insects that keep your own backyard healthy and make a seed bomb to spread the word. Play new games, practice your skills, and share your feelings with your Daisy sisters—all while learning to love your planet!

Make a day of it! The arboretum has over 1,200 acres of gardens, woodlands, bog, prairie, and trails to explore. Come early or plan to stay after the event and explore the world between earth and sky. Bring a picnic, or grab lunch at the café.



Brownie Wonders of Water Journey Day

B

4/22/17, 1:30 PM-4:00 PM

Sibley Park Pavillion, Mankato, MN

Water does so much for you! Can you return the favor? Follow the journey that a drop of water takes around our planet and learn why it's important to conserve this precious resource. Make a raincloud in a jar, practice being a water advocate, and walk in the shoes of those who collect water around the world. Wow yourself and everyone else as you love water, save water, and share what you learn!

Gold Award Overnight Retreat

S A

4/28/17, 7:00 PM-4/29/17 4:00 PM

Andover Community Center, Andover, MN

Ready to take your skills to the next level with the highest award in Girl Scouts? We're ready to help you succeed! Get the inside scoop on what it takes to earn your Gold Award from staff and expert volunteers, and bond with fellow Girl Scout sisters who are on the same journey as you.

Spring Events at Our Camps:

Cake-a-maga

D B J C S A

3/18/2017, 8:00 AM-12:00 PM

Scandia Community Center, Scandia, MN

Learn about maple syruping and enjoy an all-you-can-eat pancake and sausage breakfast. Identify a maple tree without its leaves, see the tapping equipment, and compare different types of syrup. Troops, families, and community members are welcome. This is an open house format, so you can move at your own pace whenever you arrive. Self-guided tours of camp and summer camp program information will be available.



Blazing Bows

B J

Check our website event listing for times as they vary by date and location:

4/22/2017	Camp Lakamaga
4/23/2017	Camp Lakamaga
5/13/2017	Camp Singing Hills
5/14/2017	Camp Singing Hills
5/20/2017	Camp Elk River
5/21/2017	Camp Elk River

Learn how to string a bow, shoot arrows using different types of bows, and stay safe in the sport of archery. Once you have the basics down, have fun shooting at the targets to see how many points you can score!

Aiming Archers

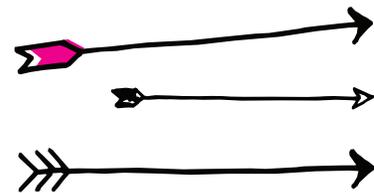
C S A

4/22/17, 9:00 AM-11:30 AM	Camp Lakamaga, Marine on St. Croix, MN
5/14/17, 3:00 PM-5:30 PM	Camp Singing Hills, Waterville, MN
5/20/17, 3:00 PM-5:30 PM	Camp Elk River, Zimmerman, MN

Picture this: You nock (or place) an arrow onto a bow, hook your fingers around the string, draw it back, eye your target, and release! Bull's-eye! Archery is an exciting sport that takes strength, focus, good form, and practice. Get ready to challenge yourself as you build your archery skills and learn how to shoot on a range. Girls will receive the Cadette Archery Badge at the end of the session.

“Girl Scouts does a WONDERFUL job of welcoming all girls, no one is turned away. I love that Girl Scouts invites girls to explore their talents - the focus is not on ability, but rather on trying new things.”

—GIRL SCOUTS RIVER VALLEYS PARENT



C Cadettes: Grades 6-8 S Seniors: Grades 9-10 A Ambassadors: Grades 11-12

EARN THIS PATCH!



LOVE YOUR PLANET THIS EARTH DAY

with Girl Scouts River Valleys!

Join your Girl Scout sisters across River Valleys for a council-wide Earth Day celebration and day of service! This April 22, Girl Scouts from Austin to Zimmerman will be stepping up for the environment in their communities and showing the world that Girl Scouts are committed to making the world (and planet!) a better place.

Service Units, troops, families, and Juliettes – it doesn't matter what your Earth Day service project looks like, just that you're out there doing it! Clean up a park, plant some native flowers, host a used-clothing drive, raise awareness about an environmental issue, or get creative with an idea of your own! Just be sure to wear your vest with pride, take lots of pictures, and alert the press (download a Press Release form from our website) so you can educate and inspire your wider community. All participating girls will get an **exclusive Earth Day 2017 patch** – volunteers can go online after the event and fill in the form to let us know how their girls loved their planet on Earth Day.

So, come on, let's turn the entire Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys green this Earth Day and make sure everyone knows that Girl Scouts love our planet!

PRO TIP!

Doing an It's Your Planet – Love It! Journey this year? Plan your troop's Take Action project for Earth Day to increase your impact!



Volunteer Appreciation

There are so many enthusiastic volunteers who make Girl Scouting possible – from troop leaders, to cookie managers, to service unit team members. We're sure there are many volunteers who have shaped your Girl Scout experience! That's why each year in April, we take a whole month to appreciate all they do for us. This April, consider thanking those volunteers who are special to you.



CHECK OUT THESE THREE EASY WAYS TO THANK YOUR FAVORITE GIRL SCOUT VOLUNTEER:



SEND A THANK YOU NOTE OR CARD.

Isn't it lovely to receive a handwritten note in person or in the mail? This small gesture is a simple and personal way to share how much you appreciate the work that they do.



GIVE A GIFT.

Whether store bought or handmade, a small token of appreciation is always fun to give and receive! Check out our Pinterest page for a few crafty volunteer appreciation ideas or stop by one of our retail shops.



NOMINATE THEM FOR A GIRL SCOUT AWARD.

We all know that girls can earn badges and awards, but did you know that adult volunteers can earn awards too? Awards such as the Appreciation Pin and the Thanks Badge help recognize those volunteers who go above and beyond. Learn more about these awards at Volunteers.GirlScoutsRV.org/Adult-Awards-and-Recognition/.



Who Doesn't Love a Good Parade?



Q + A with a Girl Scout parade expert

IMAGINE THIS, it's a warm sunny day on Main Street, you hear the beat of a marching band, smell fresh popcorn, see kids smiling and wiggling in anticipation...you must be at a parade! Parades are a quintessential summer activity and the perfect opportunity for Girl Scouts to get outside, connect with their community, and encourage others to join in all the fun Girl Scouts has to offer.

Last summer was the debut of the Girl Scouts on the Go van, which accompanied Girl Scouts in 14 parades! Our van is ready to shake off the snow and ride alongside girls in local parades this summer. Here's what our van driver, Tana, shared to help us get in the mind-set for the upcoming parade season.

What do Girl Scouts do in parades?

Get creative! In addition to creating and riding on floats, girls dress up in costumes, sport their uniforms on roller blades, and carry banners and flags (you can check these out from your local service center). Last year girls even made a Girl Scout trolley for a parade! Girls use parades to let their communities know they would love to see more girls join their troops.

Why are parades so much fun?

Girls love to show that Girl Scouts is a part of the community – and the crowd loves to see it! They shout out that they were Girl Scouts, that the van looks awesome, and how they can't wait for cookies. The key is to just have fun! Smile and wave, be proud to be a Girl Scout, and don't forget to give out freebies (popsicles are sure to make everyone smile!). Parades also let girls from all age groups and different troops connect with one another to share their Girl Scout spirit.

Do you have a favorite parade memory?

I loved all the parades, but there was one where the older girls took it upon themselves to teach the younger ones songs they learned at camp while waiting for the parade to begin. I love those moments.



Are you ready for a summer parade? All you need is your uniform and a smile! Be sure to share your photos with us – email them to girlscouts@girlscoutsrv.org



Council Summer DAY CAMPS

Our summer day camps have a little something for everyone - whether you want to learn to weld, code a robot, or swim your heart out - you'll find something that fits your interests and your calendar.

Day camps give you a chance to try something different, face new challenges, and meet other girls who share your passion. Explore your options and find your fit at day camp! Day camp registration opens March 1, 2017 at Camp.GirlScoutsRV.org.

Swim Team

Dates: June 5-July 28, 2017

Grades: K-12

Fee: \$90

Location: Southwestern Minnesota

Dive into a summer of fun as you meet new friends and strengthen your swimming skills. Learn from experienced coaches as you practice new strokes and improve the ones you already know. Put your new skills to the test in swim meets where you can compete with girls your own age and cheer on your teammates from the sidelines. Practice is twice a week and girls participate in six swim meets during this eight-week season.

Create. Code.

Connect. Robotics.

Dates: July 17-July 21, 2017,

8:30 am-3:00 pm

Fall 2017 Grades: 4-12

Fee: Member \$275, Non-member \$310

Location: St. James Lutheran Church, Burnsville, MN

BEEP-BEEP-BOOP-BEEP! [Translation: You're going to LOVE robotics camp!] Take your LEGO construction skills to the next level by adding sensors, gears, levers, and pulleys to create and code a robot. We'll help you build with confidence and try new challenges. We add in extra fun with field trips, swimming, and tie dye!

Rosie's Girls Workshop

Date: 9 am-5 pm July 25, 2017

Fall 2017 Grades: 6-8

Fee: \$45

Location: Dunwoody College of Technology, Minneapolis, MN

In partnership with Dunwoody College of Technology, Girl Scouts River Valleys is offering a unique educational experience inspired by Rosie the Riveter designed to build strong, confident girls through hands-on learning. At this day-long workshop, you will practice problem solving, experiment with technology, develop leadership and communication skills, and take positive risks by trying new things. Led by female Dunwoody instructors, you'll explore a range of educational and career options in a girl-centered environment and work with a variety of materials—including wood and metal—as well as learn about sustainable design and renewable energy. You will also help design and give voice to future Rosie's Girls programming.



Looking for resident camp sessions (a.k.a sleep away or overnight camp)? Peruse our sessions online at Camp.GirlScoutsRV.org and register today!

Visit Camp.GirlScoutsRV.org for all camp details, including health forms, pick-up and drop-off times, what to pack, and more.

Accessibility: Girls of all abilities - including those with disabilities and health concerns - are welcome and encouraged to register for day camp. Prior to registering, we recommend you contact us at 800-845-0787 so we can make sure we are able to provide accommodations and adequate support for her day camp experience. Our staff can also help you choose the camps that are the best fit for your girl.

Dietary Restrictions and Allergies: Please contact us with any dietary restrictions or allergies at least one month before camp via girlscouts@girlscoutsrv.org.





Volunteer-Led

DAY CAMP



Volunteer-led day camps are put together by Girl Scouts, for Girl Scouts!

These camps are hosted by River Valleys volunteers and are a great way to learn new skills, meet other Girl Scouts in the area, and most importantly – have a rip-roaring good time! While hosted by service units, these camps are open to all Girl Scout sisters. Here are just a few of our volunteers' fantastic day camps. Registration forms, financial assistance forms, deposits, and payments for volunteer-led day camps should be turned in directly to the volunteer-led day camp organizer.



For registration information and to see more volunteer-led day camps available online, visit:
Camp.GirlScoutsRV.org/Volunteer-Led-Day-Camp/.



Back to Basics Day Camp

Dates: June 19-21
Location: Lake Marion Campground, Brownton, MN
Service Unit: McLeod South

Hone your skills in classic Girl Scout activities like tying knots, signaling with semaphore flags, communicating with morse code, sewing, reading trail signs, and cooking over the fire. We'll also sing songs, play games, and make new friends!

GIRL Power

Dates: June 19-21
Location: Bunker Hills Regional Park, Andover, MN
Service Unit: Northwoods

This camp is all about GIRL power! You'll learn about STEM careers through hands-on activities and have a blast with your girls (friends new and old!) with some classic summer camp pastimes like swimming, crafting, learning new songs, and more!

Jester's Day Camp

Dates: June 19-23
Location: Camp Lakamaga, Marine on St. Croix, MN
Service Unit: Pine Tree Ridge

Spend the week outdoors cooking lunch over the fire, making crafts, doing some "Mad Science," shooting on the archery range, swimming, and more!

Otter's Day Camp: Around the World

Dates: July 10-14
Location: Camp Sacajawea, Apple Valley, MN
Service Unit: Eagan

Get a taste of cultures around the world through games, crafts, food, and other activities. Plus, explore the outdoors through scavenger hunts, cooking over the fire, tent camping, and more.

Fairy Tale Adventures

Dates: July 24-28
Location: Camp Lakamaga, Marine on St. Croix, MN
Service Unit: Beaver Lake

Discover your inner powers through your favorite fairy tale characters. Put on a skit with props, make hats, and enjoy other classic summer camp activities like swimming, boating, archery, and cooking outside on the open fire.

Burnsville Savage: Amazing Race

Dates: July 31-August 3
Location: Camp Sacajawea, Apple Valley, MN
Service Unit: Burnsville/Savage

Join us for outdoor cooking, crafts, and games all centered around this year's exhilarating theme of Amazing Race!

Two Rivers Day Camp

Dates: July 31-August 4
Location: Camp Elk River, Zimmerman, MN
Service Unit: Rivers Bend and Rum River

Create your own potions, go on a traveling adventure, and search for magical beasts at this wizarding world of day camp. We will also craft, swim, and cook out over a campfire.

Building a Better World with

Higher Awards



After a chilly winter, spring brings new energy for girls as they plan, lead, and execute their higher award projects (and the best part, earn their award!).

Higher Awards: The Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards represent the highest honors a Girl Scout can earn and are a Girl Scout's chance to show active leadership by completing a sustainable Take Action project with her community! Girls find a community issue they care about, brainstorm a creative way to address the root cause of that issue, work to plan and execute all steps of the project, and create lasting change.

Like anything girl-led in Girl Scouts, higher awards are a progression. Take Action projects from the Journeys give girls the experience to work their way towards the highest award in Girl Scouting: the Girl Scout Gold Award. As a girl progresses in earning awards, from Bronze to Silver, then Silver to Gold, she leads more of the process, ultimately leading her whole team through her Gold Award project. Her troop leaders, family, and other volunteers support her as cheerleaders, community connections, and sometimes chauffeurs.

All three awards give girls the chance to do big things while working on an issue that's captured their interest in a big way. Higher awards give girls opportunities to work with the community (to help keep the project sustained), make a positive impact, and develop confidence and leadership skills.

Whether you want to plant a community garden at your school and inspire others to eat healthily for your Bronze, advocate for animal rights for your Silver, or build a career network that encourages girls to become scientists and engineers for your Gold, you'll inspire others (and yourself!).



WE WANT TO SEE YOU BUILDING A BETTER WORLD THROUGH HIGHER AWARDS! SHARE YOUR PROJECT STORY AND PHOTOS ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE.



Our shops carry higher awards items you can pick up as mementos or give as gifts.

The Progression of **HIGHER AWARDS**



**Awarded to
Girl Scout Juniors**

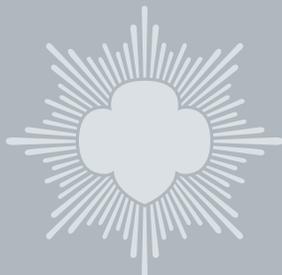
Bronze Award

PREREQUISITE: Has completed a Journey at the Junior level

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS: Girls work together as a troop/group (or individually as a Juliette) to find a root cause in the community, plan a project to address that issue, and execute their project.

EARNING THE BRONZE AWARD is an impactful introduction to community service and gets girls thinking “big picture” when it comes to solving problems and caring for others and our world.

TIME COMMITMENT: 20 hours/girl



**Awarded to
Girl Scout Cadettes**

Silver Award

PREREQUISITE: Has completed a Journey at the Cadette level

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS: Girls work together in groups of no more than four (or individually as a Juliette) to find a root cause of an issue in the community, plan a project to address that issue, and execute their project.

EARNING THE SILVER AWARD takes community service and problem solving to the next level as girls practice teamwork, networking, and project planning and develop leadership and connections in their community.

TIME COMMITMENT: 50 hours/girl



**Awarded to
Girl Scout Seniors
and Ambassadors**

Gold Award

PREREQUISITE: Has completed two Journeys at the Senior/Ambassador level (or only one if she earned her Silver Award)

PROJECT REQUIREMENTS: Girls work individually to find a root cause of an issue in the community (local, national, or international), plan a project to address that issue, and execute the project.

EARNING THE GOLD AWARD sustainably makes our world a better place and is a major accomplishment not only within Girl Scouts, but is also recognized among community and business leaders (and bodes well on college and military applications, and resumes!).

TIME COMMITMENT: 80 hours/girl

Looking for ways to support your girl(s) through higher awards?

Read more at our In the Loop blog at Volunteers.GirlScoutsRV.org/Helping-Girls-With-Highest-Awards and learn more at Volunteers.GirlScoutsRV.org/Highest-Awards.

Camp #LikeaGirlScout

Calling all G.I.R.L.s!

Discover your inner Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, and Leader at Girl Scout Camp

Who's excited for Girl Scout Camp season? We are! And hope you are too. Whether this is your first or tenth summer at camp, there's something for everybody. We've got exciting new activities and sessions cooked up, and all the oldies (yet goodies!) too. Choose from classic summer camp activities like canoeing, kayaking, archery, arts and crafts, camping, log rolling, horseback riding, and more. Pick your favorite sessions and register at Camp.GirlScoutsRV.org.

Our camp staff can't wait to kick off the camp season and are traveling from around the world, the United States, and from our own Girl Scout council to bring you the best summer camp around. Backed by more than 100 years of experience and run by expert staff, our camps provide an all-girl environment, ideal for girls to try new things safely and confidently, knowing their Girl Scout sisters and camp counselors have their back.

PREPARING FOR YOUR BEST SUMMER YET AT CAMP

It's completely normal for parents to wonder how their girl will do at camp, or worry if she's having a good time, making friends, and being safe. Our camp staff are trained to help girls feel comfortable at camp. To start, staff learn all the girls' names and play games to help cabin mates get to know one other. Girls and staff work together to plan their week on the first night, so they know what to expect and look forward to. Staff take extra care and time to ensure girls are happy and settled in at camp.

1 Decide if you're ready for camp. If you've been to camp before, then don't sweat it – we're sure you could even teach us a thing or two! First time going to camp? Read up on Girl Readiness at camp at girlscoutsrv.org/girl-readiness/ to ensure you are prepared to have a spectacular time at Girl Scout Camp.

2 Choose your favorites. Girls and parents should sit down together and choose favorite sessions from the camp catalogue (find it at Camp.GirlScoutsRV.org). Consider what works best in your schedule, length of the camp, and what activities are at the top of your list. First-time campers and parents can have a blast together at camp at one of our Adult + Me camps. Four-day camps with a friend can also be a good starting point. For most fourth graders and older, the six-day camps are a great fit because girls have more time to become acclimated and comfortable with camp.

3 Register for camp at Camp.GirlScoutsRV.org/Register.

Girls can even request to camp with a buddy!

4 Review all the fun activities to look forward to and make a list of what to pack. Pro tip: Print the packing list on our website at Camp.GirlScoutsRV.org/Packing-Lists to cover your bases.

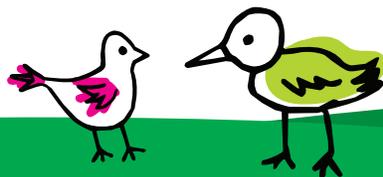
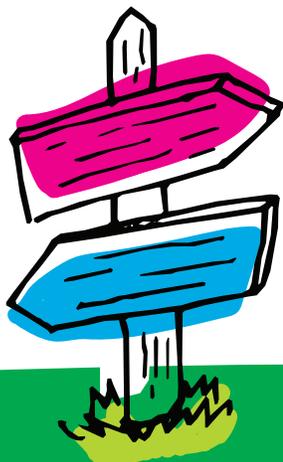
5 Get comfortable spending time away from home: Do some practice runs by packing a suitcase and sleeping bag and staying a night at a friend's or relative's house. If you're nervous about homesickness or being apart, discuss where there may still be nerves and read up on health, safety, and common concerns at Camp.GirlScoutsRV.org/Health-Safety-and-Common-Concerns.

Our camp website is full of resources and can answer your FAQ's. Read more on the camp experience, our food philosophy, how to contact your camper at camp, and all you'll need to know to have a great summer at Girl Scout Camp!

Visit Camp.GirlScoutsRV.org or give us a call at 800-847-0787.

"I was anxious about her first time away without me, but the staff is so fun and friendly she had the best time! She loved the waterfront and came home more independent and a more enthusiastic swimmer."

—GIRL SCOUT PARENT



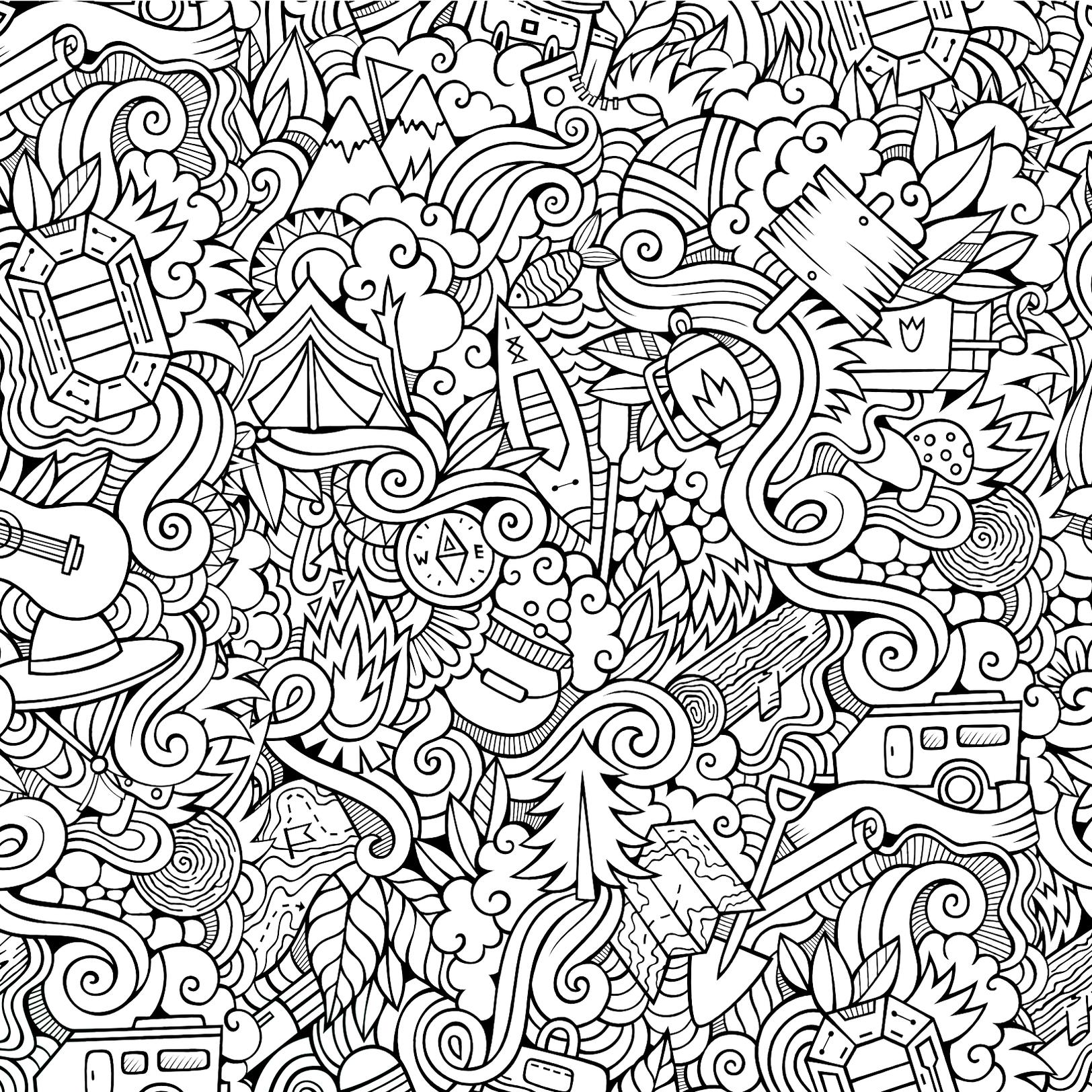
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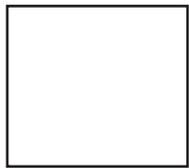
Get out those markers and jazz up this camp-themed design!

S'MORE GIRL SCOUT LINGO

Kaper Chart: A chart that divides the jobs within the troop/group. The chart typically rotates or can easily be changed so that everyone experiences each job and has the opportunity for leadership. Kaper charts are often used at troop meetings or camp.

Buddy System: Girl Scouts always use this safety practice of pairing by twos (a "truddy" is pairing by threes). This system is often useful on field trips and outings.





**Girl Scouts of Minnesota
and Wisconsin River Valleys**
400 Robert Street South
St. Paul, MN 55107



THE GIRL SCOUT 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.

**Members may substitute for the word God in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.*

THE GIRL SCOUT LAW

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.