WHAT'S EARLY BIRD ALL ABOUT?

As spring arrives, we're thinking ahead to the next Girl Scout year and all the adventure in store. During Early Bird season, we offer Girl Scout members the opportunity to register for the upcoming membership year and get in on some great perks.

This year's Early Bird season is from May 1–June 30, 2020. Girl Scouts who register for the 2020–2021 Girl Scout year during this time frame will receive the 2021 Early Bird patch.

Extended to July 10!

WHY PARTICIPATE IN EARLY BIRD?

It's a great chance to plan ahead. Summer and fall can be a busy time for families. Check one thing off the to do list ahead of time by renewing your girls' memberships in the spring so you can hit the ground running when September comes!

HOW TO REGISTER DURING EARLY BIRD

Visit **GirlScoutsRV.org/Renew** between May 1–June 30, 2020.

EARLY BIRD BENEFITS

Every member who registers by June 30, 2020 will receive the eastern bluebird patch. These will be mailed directly to members in August. **Troop leaders** can receive a quarterly coupon for $10 off a $50 purchase or $20 off a $100 purchase at Girl Scouts River Valleys' shops or online at **gsrv.gs/gsrv-shop**.

TROOP BENEFITS

Even better, troops will be entered in drawings for one-of-a-kind benefits such as priority cookie booth selection, a free troop camp experience, and more. Learn more at **gsrv.gs/2021-early-bird**.

Grow your cookie proceeds. Early Birding is step one toward troops earning an additional $0.10 per package in 2021!

ABOUT THIS YEAR'S MASCOT: THE EASTERN BLUEBIRD

Eastern bluebirds love to sing, and often use songs to stay in touch with their other flock members (They'd do well at Girl Scout camp—do you think they could chirp out "Make New Friends?") Their songs and calls can have many meanings, from letting nestlings know that adults are returning with food to warning others that a predator is nearby. Some male birds will even sing softly while female birds lay eggs. Pretty cool, right?

Families and volunteers can download our Eastern Bluebird Activity Plan at **gsrv.gs/2021-eb-activityplan**, which is filled with eastern bluebird fun facts, games, and activities that girls can do to learn more about this native bird.

Frequently Asked Questions

How do troops renew?

We recommend troops using troop funds for registration (troops can use troop funds to register girl and adult members). Another option is to connect with family members and ask them to renew their girl's membership individually.

What about Lifetime members?

To qualify as an Early Bird, Lifetime members must renew their volunteer role(s) for the 2020–2021 membership year by June 30, 2020.

How do troops unlock the chance to win (entered into drawings) Early Bird benefits?

Troops need to meet these membership goals:

- **RENEWING TROOPS:** Register at least 1 troop leader and half of the number of 2019–2020 Girl Scout members in the troop (half is based on troop's girl memberships as of March 31, 2020) for the 2020–2021 membership year.

  Example: *Troop 12345 has 11 registered girls for the 2019–2020 membership year (as of March 31, 2020). Half of 11 is 5.5 (round number up). To reach their goal and to qualify for the chance to unlock Early Bird benefits, this troop needs to register at least 6 girls by June 30, 2020 and 1 troop leader. BOTH new and renewing girls count toward the goal of 6 registered girls.*

- **NEWLY FORMING TROOPS:** Register at least 1 troop leader and 3 girls for the 2020–2021 membership year.

  Example: *A brand new troop forms in May. To qualify for the chance to unlock Early Bird benefits, they must register at least 1 troop leader and 3 girls by June 30, 2020.*

  Note: *Applies to all troops forming during Early Bird: May 1–June 30, 2020.*

What if girls need financial support for the membership fee?

Girl Scouts River Valleys is committed to ensuring that all girls, regardless of financial means, can fully participate in our Girl Scout program.

Financial assistance request must be completed by a parent/guardian requesting assistance for their daughter/girl or by the adult requesting assistance for themselves as part of the online registration process.

What's new?

- Early Bird season will last two months.
- Troop leaders can receive a quarterly coupon for $10 off a $50 purchase or $20 off a $100 purchase at Girl Scouts River Valleys' shops or online at **gsrv.gs/gsrv-shop**.
- All Early Bird members will unlock a 20% discount on shop apparel during the month of September 2020. The discount can be redeemed at Girl Scouts River Valleys' shops or online at **gsrv.gs/gsrv-shop**.

What about new girls/members?

- They will eligible for Early Bird perks (Like the patch!) and will count toward troop's Early Bird goals.