



January 22, 2021



Important Cookie Updates!

GNC Cookie Booth Lottery Open Now!

A lottery is now open for GNC in Eastland Mall; it will run until Saturday, January 23 at 5:00 PM CST. The drawing will take place on Saturday, January 23 at 7:00 PM CST.

First come, first serve sign-ups will be available starting Sunday, January 24 at 1:00 PM CST and run until Tuesday, January 26 at 5:00 PM CST.

Walmart & Sam's Club Cookie Booths

GSUSA and Walmart have finalized negotiations for cookie booths during the 2021 Cookie Program.

GSSI is securing booths and setting up lotteries for these following locations:

- Walmart Evansville West
- Walmart Evansville East

- Walmart Evansville North (First Ave)
- Walmart Newburgh
- Sam's Club

Please do not contact the above locations directly. Troops may contact other Walmarts in the local area, but must adhere to the following guidelines and rules.

Note: Please do not contact your local Walmart until after January 25.

- Per GSSI's contract with Walmart, the following dates have been agreed upon: February 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 19, 20, 21, 23, 24, 26, 27, 28. (Valentine's Day weekend has been blacked out.)
- We are only allowed 14 days per store and only three consecutive days at a time.
- Troops will receive a form to take to their local Walmart with guidelines that GSUSA and Walmart have confirmed. This will be sent to Service Unit Cookie Chairs in each area.

Troop-Secured Cookie Booths

In addition to the GSSI-secured cookie booths above, troops are encouraged to contact local businesses to inquire about cookie booths. All troop-secured cookie booths must be entered into Smart Cookies for approval. To ensure council approval, please add your booth information to Smart Cookies as soon as possible. Reminder: If your cookie booth is not in Smart Cookies, troops will not be able to use the credit card platform at the cookie booth that ABC provides and the booth will not be shown on the Cookie Finder app/website. GSSI has created the Cookie Booth Request Letter to provide specific COVID guidelines that troops and volunteers will follow. [Download Here](#)

Virtual Cookie Booths

The virtual cookie booth link will be available on February 1, 2021. Please remember to set a pick-up date from the virtual booth after your troop has received their cookies. Virtual Cookie Booths need to be entered into Smart Cookies but do not need to be approved by council.

Gluten Free Cookies

If your troop has gluten free orders but did not do the pre-order in the fall, please let your Service Unit Cookie Chair know as soon as possible so we can get your troop on the extras list in attempt to try to fill all orders. We will try to fulfill each order that has been already taken but cannot guarantee them as we will only receive a limited amount at the Council Cookie Cupboard.



Keep Selling to Reach Higher Goals!

Don't forget that even though initial orders have been turned in, girls can continue taking orders to reach even higher goals! Need a new order card? [Download here!](#)

National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend Walkabout



National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend is February 19-21! We invite girls to celebrate by spreading joy in their communities with a cookie walkabout. This is a great opportunity to visit customers you might have missed in January or revisit customers who need to restock. Who can resist when a Girl Scout is at their door with their favorite cookies in hand?

[LEARN MORE](#)



New Cookie Resources Now Available

- [Cookies 101](#): An in-depth guide for leaders and volunteers covering all aspects of the Cookie Program.
- [Girl & Family At-a-Glance](#): A quick reference guide for girls and their families including what's new, cookie program basics, important dates, and more.
- [Virtual Cookie Booth Guide](#): Information regarding the new Virtual Cookie Booth option.
- [GSSI Smart Cookies Zoom Training](#): Presented by Reggie, our council rep from ABC Bakers (Recorded 12/16/2020)

- [Cookie Marketing Tools for Troops](#): ABC Bakers and GSUSA have created a variety of printable and digital assets that girls can use to promote their cookie business.
- [Cookie Bingo](#): A printable file for a fun troop activity!

Mark Your Calendars for these Cookie Dates

- Girls continue taking orders to reach higher goals! January 10-March 7
- Cookies arrive: February 8-12
- National Cookie Weekend: February 19-21, 2021



After 41 years of service, Donna Hodge is retiring! Her last day will be January 29th.

Donna started with the council in 1979, but was a Girl Scout long before then. She joined as a Brownie in the second grade and was active through her freshman year of high school, and then went on to be a troop leader, a cookie chairperson, and a day camp volunteer. As a staff member, she has held a variety of positions - you name it, Donna's probably done it!

From Troop Support Manager Alyssa Miller: "Donna has always gone above and beyond to help both leaders and girls, as a volunteer and staff member. Her

patience, dedication, and level-headedness when dealing with issues made her perfect for troop support. She has experienced so many changes in the Girl Scout movement and our local council that she has provided a needed perspective during hard times. Few changes and ideas are new to her, just new opportunities for a tried-and-true method to be utilized again. Her consistency has provided stability for long-term volunteers and has helped keep cherished Girl Scout traditions alive through the generations."

From Donna:

Thank you to all the Girl Scouts sending me good vibes for retirement. I am excited for this next phase of my life and looking forward to spending more time with my family and some traveling once COVID settles down.

I have really enjoyed my job because of all the good volunteers and supportive staff.

Thank you for everything you have done for Girl Scouts in your decades of service, Donna. We will miss you!

Girl Scouts of Southwest Indiana Presents

Women of Distinction

Rising Star
Elisabet Sena-Martin
Independent Consultant

Woman of Distinction
Lori Sutton
Berry Global, Inc

Advancing Women Company
Deaconess Health Systems

Save the date: April 9, 2021

More details coming soon! For sponsorship opportunities, contact mfee@girlscouts-gssi.org.

COVID-19 Guidance & Reminders

COVID-19 is an extremely contagious virus that spreads easily in the community. As a Girl Scout volunteer, please take all reasonable precautions to limit potential exposure for yourself, your girls, and their families. Please keep up-to-date with real-time local and national safety directives and continue to survey your families

for their comfort level with respect to troop meetings/outing/activities. This is the perfect time to showcase Girl Scouts' longtime commitment to safety and our sincere value of health and community service.

NOTE: GSSI's [Back to Troop COVID Recommendations and Guidance](#) has been updated as of 12.9.2020 with safety suggestions from GSUSA on the following:

- Backyard Meetings
- Cookie Booths

[READ MORE](#)



Exciting news: GSSI's Troop Leader Blueprint now has even more resources to help you and your troop thrive! You'll find brand-new programming—including Journeys!—for every grade level, alongside our tried-and-true tips and resources for safe in-person and virtual meetings. Continue being the support your girls need right now; we've got the rest.

[SEE WHAT'S NEW](#)

Get Ready for Member Awards!

In an organization where leadership and excellence is customary, special recognition is a must for those who go above and beyond! Do you know of a teen, adult volunteer, or staff member who deserves a little extra appreciation? There are several ways to go about doing this:

- Pat on the Back: Submit a "thank you" by emailing support@girlscoutsgssi.org, and a note will be published in On My Honor.
- GSSI Awards: Nominations for council awards are due April 30. Awards are presented at service unit meetings in May.
- GSUSA Awards: Nominations for national awards are due **February 15** and are presented at the GSSI Annual Meeting in April.

For more information on each award and to submit a nomination, visit the links below.

GSSI AWARDS

GSUSA AWARDS



Upcoming Volunteer Workshops

In partnership with Mental Health America, GSSI will host two workshops for volunteers in early 2021. Registration for the first workshop is now open!

Workshop 1: "Tackling Sensitive Issues with Grace" on Tuesday, January 26, 6:00-7:00 PM CST. This workshop will be hosted on Zoom and recorded for those who cannot attend the live session. [Register Here](#)

Workshop 2: "QPR, Questions, Persuade, Refer" on Thursday, April 8, 6:00-7:00 PM CST [more info](#)

National Service Project: Cupid Crew Valentine's Day Cards



Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity for you and your troop to reach out and show others that you care—especially those who may be alone on a day that's all about connection!

This year, Girl Scouts is teaming up with [Wish of a Lifetime from AARP](#) for **Cupid Crew 2021**, a volunteer-driven effort to create cards and safely send some love to tens of thousands of older adults who are socially isolated.

Your troop can help spread the joy by writing Valentine's Day cards as a part of the Cupid Crew National Service Project. Check out the [Girl Scout national service projects](#) page for instructions on how your troop can get involved.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Democracy badge booklets:

Gain a better understanding of how government works.



Girl Scouts use their determination to lead every day in the fight for a clean environment, racial and gender equality, safety issues, local concerns, and so much more.

With our newly released Democracy badges, Girl Scouts from Daisies to Ambassadors will be prepared to lead positive change in their school, town, state, and country! To encourage understanding and participation in our democracy, these badge booklets are available to download free until February 4, 2021.

[DOWNLOAD FREE](#)

Introducing GSSI's Monthly Mailer Subscription

We know it has been a tough year for everyone, and Girl Scouts is one of the only activities in a girl's life that can continue virtually. Right now their sisterhood is more important than ever! To help girls continue the fun of Girl Scouting, GSSI has created our new Monthly Mailer subscription program. By joining this fun program, girls will receive a different kit in the mail each month containing:

1. A badge and the requirements for at-home, hands-on activities complete with YouTube demonstrations
2. A fun patch activity with a YouTube demonstration
3. A SWAP to make and share
4. A mystery Girl Scout item

Join the fun! Find out more and subscribe now at the link below.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Join Us for GSSI's Virtual Troop Meetings

Girl Scouts of Southwest Indiana would like to invite girls in grades K-5 to participate in our Virtual Girl Scout Troop! This opportunity is for individually registered girl members, girls whose troops have paused during the winter months, and girls in active troops who are excited to meet new friends!

Staff-led meetings will be held through Zoom the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month from 6:30-7:30PM CST. (Meeting time subject to change based on needs of participants.)

The next virtual Zoom meeting is **Tuesday, January 26 from 6:30-7:30pm CST**. Register to join us with the link below! *A link will be emailed to you to join the virtual troop meetings after registration.*

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Take Action for the Environment with Alcoa

Thanks to a generous grant from Alcoa Foundation, GSSI will offer mini grants for take action and highest award projects that focus on environmental sustainability and/or environmental education throughout the 2020-2021 membership year. Troops, service unit events, service unit camps, and/or individuals (registered members grades K-12) must submit a mini grant proposal form to be considered. If awarded, project will receive \$75.00 towards project expenses.

[APPLY NOW](#)

Last Chance for 2021 Troop Tees!

NEW

2021 Troop Tees!



Did you miss the first deadline for troop tee orders? Good news! We will be placing another order next week. Order forms and payment are due to the council shop by Monday, January 25. Order yours now!

[ORDER](#)

2021 Girl Scouts Essentials Guide - Updated!

The 2021 Girl Scouts Essentials Guide has everything she'll need for an amazing year of Girl Scouting, including program materials, uniform and official apparel, badges, awards, and pins. It also includes uniform diagrams to guide you on where to place insignia.

The guide has had the following updates:

- Daisy, Brownie, and Junior Girl's Guide have been replaced with new handbooks in My Girl Scout Kit
- Basic Insignia has been added to each grade level in Program Materials

[View the Guide](#)

Cookie Carts Still in Stock!

The new Girl Scout Cookie cart is a must-have for cookie delivery season!



Make your cookie deliveries a snap with the Girl Scout Cookie cart! Each cart holds up to 30 packages, has pockets inside and out, wipes clean, and folds down for easy storage. Each cart is \$40 and supplies are limited, so stop by the Council Shop or call to order yours now! *(Note: Due to limited stock, carts cannot be held without payment.)*



Upcoming Events & Program Opportunities

Girl Scouts at Home Virtual Programming

No matter where you are, every girl can have more fun learning, doing, and growing! Check out [Virtual Events](#) hosted by various Girl Scout Councils and GSUSA!

Healthcare Heroes - Hosted by Girl Scouts of Western Ohio

Wednesday, January 27 from 6:30-8:00 PM EST

This event, sponsored by Ethicon, will feature female go-getters in the healthcare industry who have been making positive strides during challenging times. A core focus of the event will be around career pathways related to STEM (Science Technology, Engineering, and Math), in addition to covering a range of current subjects related to medicine, public sector and public health, and, when possible, the ongoing response to the worldwide coronavirus pandemic.

[Register HERE at no cost](#)

World Thinking Day 2021 - Come Together for Peace

February 22, 2021

[More Info](#)

Girl Scout Night with Newburgh Tumbling

Friday, March 5th 6:30-8:30 PM CST

Join Newburgh Tumbling for a fun opportunity for girls to learn the sport of gymnastics and tumbling with an Olympic theme. For all grade levels.

Cost: \$12/girl

Contact Sarah Beegle to register at sbeegle.troop242@gmail.com by February 15

Zoom a Zoo with Mesker Park Zoo

Join Mesker Park Zoo for live virtual experiences with zoo animals and staff using Zoom or other video conferencing application. Gather your troop to experience a dynamic, interactive discussion, and meet our special animal guests. For all grade levels.

Cost: \$50-\$150 per program

This is an anytime program; contact the zoo education department at education@meskerparkzoo.com or (812) 435-0809 to schedule.

Sift Yoga Virtual Programs

Sift Yoga is offering Girl Scouts a special 45-minute virtual yoga class that can be done as a troop or from home. For all grade levels.

Cost: \$10/girl; minimum of 6 girls

Contact Carrie Rice to schedule at siftyoga@gmail.com

Girl Scout Program at DIY Studio

DIY Studio in Evansville is now offering Girl Scouts of all levels the chance to create their own, one-of-a-kind wooden art! In-studio fees are only \$15 per girl and include all supplies. Take-home kits are also available for only \$10 per kit, but do not include paint and glue. DIY Studio is located at 1304 S. Green River Rd in Evansville. To get started, contact Stacey Merkel at merkelstacey@hotmail.com or call 812-431-4006.

Girl Scout Programs at Angel Mounds

Angel Mounds offers Girl Scout badge programs for all ages including Art in the Outdoors, Troop Camping, Citizen, Naturalist, and Crafts! Check them out in GSSI's program guides. Cost is \$5 per Girl Scout ! Call or email Elizabeth Bostelman to schedule your troop at 812-853-3956 or ebostelman@indianamuseum.org.

2021 Community Partners and Program Requests

Do you have a program you would like to see in our program guide or a business that would be a good community partner? Fill out our [community partner online request](#) or the [program online request](#) to share your ideas for 2021!

View GSSI's current Program Guides:

[Daisies-Juniors](#)

[Cadettes-Ambassadors](#)

