



January 8, 2021



Important Cookie Updates!

Cookie Booth Lottery, Lowe's East - Happening Now!

The Cookie Booth Lottery for Lowe's Evansville East is open on Smart Cookies through Saturday, January 9 at 11:00 PM CST. The random drawing will take place on Sunday, January 10 at 1:00 PM CST. Troops may request up to 4 dates but will only receive 1 if chosen. Winners will be notified by email from Smart Cookies.

After the lottery, the booth will become first come, first serve starting Sunday, January 10 at 3:00 PM CST.

If you have any questions in regards to scheduling a booth in a lottery, please see the ABC Smart Cookies video at https://youtu.be/aaaClqLs_8o

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.

- 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.

Cookie Orders

As you prepare to turn in your cookie orders, please remember that direct ship orders are automatically tied to the troop account and do not need to be counted for the troop's initial order. **Orders that are placed online that have chosen girl delivery (even if prepaid) need to be counted towards the initial order.** The troop account will not see these orders and the girls and parents need to make sure to relay these orders to their troop leader or cookie parent. Girls can see

these orders from their Smart Cookies account by going to Manage My Order and finding any customer with the status of "Ordered". These are cookies that have been ordered but not delivered. You may print the report and attach with your order card or manually enter each order onto the order card to turn into your leader. Please contact your troop leader if you have any questions.



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 take pre-orders: December 11-January 10
- Girls continue taking orders to reach higher goals! January 10-March 7
- Cookies arrive: February 8-12
- National Cookie Weekend: February 19-21, 2021

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](#)

Thank you, Fee Construction!



A big thank you to Fee Construction for sponsoring our COVID-19 Christmas tree! Their generous donation will provide COVID leader kits which include a contactless thermometer, gloves, kid masks, hand sanitizer, hand soap, disinfecting wipes, and a gift for troop leaders.

Donor Thank You: Barb Carver



Thanks to a generous donation from Barb Carver, Camp Koch's Lang's Lodge has a new roof! As you can see from the pictures, it was a much-needed repair. A huge shout out to camp ranger Frank Spangler for all of his hard work on this project!

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](#)

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](#)

GSSI's Virtual Troop Meetings Start January 2021

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 first virtual Zoom meeting is **Tuesday, January 12 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.

[LEARN MORE](#)

2021 Girl Scouts Essentials Guide

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.

[View the Guide](#)

Cookie Carts Still in Stock!



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 [January's Virtual Events](#) hosted by various Girl Scout Councils and GSUSA!

Here are a few of the offerings we recommend:

- [Around the World Series Monday, January 11- Africa](#)
- [Daisy How Robots Move Badge Series January 13-February 17 4-5 p.m. CST, \\$15](#)
- [Brownie Inventor Badge Event January 12 from 4-6 p.m. EST, cost \\$15](#)
- [Junior Detective Badge Workshop January 12 from 4-5 p.m. CST, cost \\$12](#)
- [Senior Science of Style Badge Series January 13-February 17 from 5:30-6 p.m. EST, cost \\$15](#)
- [Ambassador College Knowledge Badge Series January 13-February 17 from 7:30-8 p.m. EST, cost \\$15](#)
- [Winter Camping 101 for 6-12 grades, starting January 14 5-6:30 p.m. CST, cost \\$25](#)

Girl Scout Day of Dance with Children's Center for Dance Education

January 24, 2021 from 2:00-4:00 PM CST

Cost: \$9 per girl

[Registration and More Details Here](#)

Healthcare Heroes - Hosted by Girl Scouts of Western Ohio

Wednesday, January 27 from 6:30-8 p.m. 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](#)

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.

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, Outdoor, 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 for the upcoming new year, 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](#)

