



February 5, 2021



Important Cookie Updates!

NEW! 2021 Cookie Booth Guidelines Document

The new 2021 Cookie Booth Guidelines document contains complete information and safety guidelines for holding traditional, virtual, and drive-thru booths. View or download the guide [here](#).

Walmart Cookie Booth UPDATES

- Walmart Newburgh: We are working to finalize plans with this store. Information will be released as soon as we have confirmation.
- Walmart Evansville East: This store WILL NOT be a lottery, and troops may contact them directly.

Troops may contact other Walmarts in the local area, but must adhere to the following guidelines and rules.

Remember: ALL troop-secured booths must be entered into Smart Cookies

and approved by the council in order to ensure times are not double-booked.

- 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.

Note: Sam's Club and Schnucks WILL NOT allow booths this year, per directions from their corporate offices. Sam's corporate statement is below.

"During this unprecedented time, the health and safety of our associates, members and our local communities are our greatest concern. Out of an abundance of caution, we ask that clubs suspend hosting non-profit fundraising activities on individual club property, including the Girl Scouts, until further notice. We have also suspended all planned demos/sampling in our clubs and parking lots."

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. **Remember: ALL troop-secured booths must be entered into Smart Cookies and approved by the council in order to ensure times are not double-booked.** 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 is now available! 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.

Friday Cookies

Troops may place Friday Cookie orders on February 12th and 19th, and orders will only be accepted online this year. For complete information on ordering, picking up, and returning cookies, see the [2021 Cookie Program Calendar & Cookie Cupboard Quick Reference](#) or page 10 in [Cookies 101](#).

[Place Friday Cookie Orders Here](#)



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.
- [2021 Cookie Booth Guidelines](#)
- [2021 Cookie Program Calendar & Cookie Cupboard Quick Reference](#)
- [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.

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

Girl Scouts of Southwest Indiana Presents

Women of Distinction



Rising Star
Elisabet Sena-Martin
Education Consultant

Woman of Distinction
Lori Sutton
Berry Global, Inc

Advancing Women Company
Deaconess Health System

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/outings/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](#)



Volunteer Workshops with Mental Health America

In partnership with Mental Health America, GSSI will host two workshops for volunteers in early 2021.

Workshop 1: "Tackling Sensitive Issues with Grace" If you missed the live presentation on January 26, you can [view the recording 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](#)

We Want Your Input on Highest Awards 2021!

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are considering alternative recognition options for GSSI's 2021 Highest Awards Event, typically held in May at Evansville's Tropicana. The event recognizes Bronze, Silver, and Gold awardees, as well as the top cookie bosses. We'd love to hear your suggestion for recognizing these incredible individuals.

[TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

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 **February 9 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

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



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!

World Thinking Day 2021 - Come Together for Peace

February 22, 2021

[More Info](#)

Save the Date! National Girl Scout Week 2021

March 7-March 13

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.

View GSSI's current Program Guides:

[Daisies-Juniors](#)

[Cadettes-Ambassadors](#)



