

November 2023 Troop Scoop

What's in this month's issue:

- Council Holiday Closure
- Product Program
- Cookie Dates
- Ceremony of Honors
- Adult trainings
- Big Change in Engagement
- Careers
- Property Update
- And so much more!



November is a month of gratitude and we are **THANKFUL** for all of our amazing volunteers! We would like to thank all of you for another year of Girl Scouting. Without you, our girls would not be able to participate in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. **THANK YOU** from the bottom of our hearts!

Council Holiday Closure Thanksgiving

Wednesday, Nov. 22 -
Sunday, Nov. 26, 2023



Product Program



Need to Know Dates

- Saturday, Oct. 21, 2023, to Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023 - Boothing Period.
- Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023 - Online direct ship & magazine sales end.
- Sunday, Nov. 5, 2023 - Fall Product Program season ends.
- Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023, at 6:00 PM MST - Digital Camera Reward Class
- Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023, at 10:00 AM MST - Digital Camera Reward Class
- Additional product is available at council for troops to request, please email info@gsdsw.org if interested.

2024 Looking Ahead at Cookies

- Interested in helping troops during the Cookie Program?
- Want to make your own schedule?
- Enjoy counting?

We are looking for Council Cookie Cupboard helpers in El Paso, Midland, and Odessa. If interested, email info@gsdsw.org for more information.



Giant Ocelot drawing will be on
GSDSW FB Live

Thursday, Nov. 16th, 2023 at
5:30 PM MST/ 6:30 PM CST

Looking Ahead at Cookies

- 2024 Cookie Dates:
 - Thursday, Nov. 2, 2023 - Service Unit Chair training live in gsLearn.
 - Thursday, Nov. 9, 2023 - Troop/IRG training live in gsLearn.
 - Tuesday, Nov. 28, 2023 - Last day for girl moves/removes.
 - First Week of December - Volunteer access to Smart Cookies.
 - Monday, Dec. 11, 2023 - Troop initial cookie order and initial order rewards order due in Smart Cookies.
 - Thursday, Dec. 14, 2023 - Reward Opt-Out forms due to info@gsdsw.org.

Program

Ceremony of Honors

Midland Program Center, 901 W. Dengar, Midland, TX;
Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, from 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

St. Mark's United Methodist Church, 5050 Love Rd, El Paso, TX;
Saturday, Dec. 2, 2023, from 9:00 AM - 11:00 AM MST

Registration deadline is Wednesday, Nov. 22, 2023, 5:00 PM MST

MD registration link - https://bit.ly/COH_MD12_23

EP registration link - https://bit.ly/COH_EP12_23

November Monthly Challenge



Gold Award Candidate
Training

Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023
5:00 PM MST

<https://bit.ly/GoldTrainingDec2023>

Registration deadline is
Monday, Nov. 27, 2023
5:00 PM MST

Virtual Troop
schedule is on
our website.
Check it out!

Yule Stories
Around the World
will be live on our
[GSDSW Facebook page](#)
Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2023
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MST

Outdoor Training

This training is required every three years.

Troop funds can be used to cover the cost of training.

Min 5 / Max 20 Deadline is 5:00 PM MST on day indicated.

El Paso

Saturday, Nov. 18, 2023

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM MST

Girl Scout Program Center

9700 Girl Scout Way, El Paso, TX 79924

Registration begins Oct. 2, 2023

Registration closes Nov. 6, 2023

<https://bit.ly/OutTrainEP2023>



Las Cruces

Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM MST

Las Cruces Program Center

225 E. Idaho, Ste. 9, Las Cruces, NM 88005

Registration begins Nov. 2, 2023

Registration closes Dec. 25, 2023

https://bit.ly/OutTrainLC1_24

Carlsbad

Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM MST

Carlsbad Program Center

409 S Alameda, Carlsbad, NM 88220

Registration begins Oct. 19, 2023

Registration closes Nov. 27, 2023

https://bit.ly/OutTrainCB12_23



Engagement

Announcing a Big Change!

As of October 1, 2023, Girl Scouts Activity Accident Insurance Plan 2 is no longer in effect. What does this mean? This means that troops no longer need to purchase additional insurance to cover tagalongs or for trips that are three nights or longer.

Plan 3P and 3PI remain optional for sickness plus accident coverage and international trips.

Please note that this change does not affect the adult-to-girl ratios, that must always be met, or the council troop trip approval process. All troops participating in an overnight activity must still submit Troop Trip & High-Risk Activity Form for council approval first. All adults participating in an overnight trip must be Girl Scout Volunteers: Girl Scout members with an approved background check on file.

Troop Trip & High-Risk Activity Form, as well as training, to be updated soon.

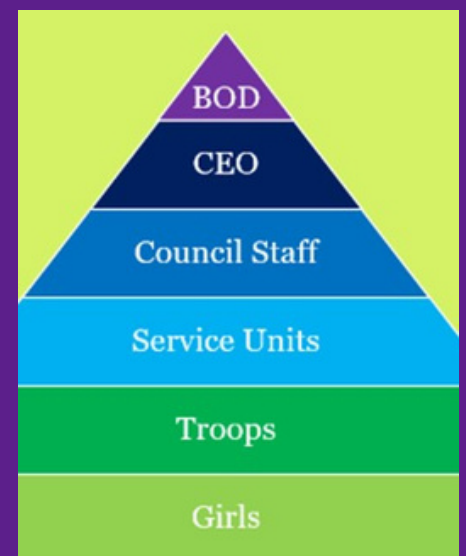
Important Troop Forms

- [Bank Account Request](#)
- [Emergency Procedures](#)
- [Extra Insurance Enrollment Form](#)
- [Health History](#)
- [Key Dates Calendar](#)
- [Opportunity Fund Application](#)
- [Renew your membership!](#)
- [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#)
- [Trip and High-Risk Activity Form](#)
- [Troop Disbandment Checklist](#)
- [Troop Disband Form](#)
- [Volunteer Essentials](#)

Learning Moment - What are Service Units?

- Service Unit is the name for the geographic subdivisions of a council.
- A Service Unit Team consists of Girl Scout volunteers who work in close partnership with Council to manage their area.
- The Team serve as an intermediary between Council and Troops.
- Service Unit Positions include Manager, Treasurer, Communications, Registrar, Event Coordinator, Recruiter, Trainer, and Product Program positions to name a few.
- What Service Units Do:
 - Volunteer in a variety of roles.
 - Keep positive, relevant and consistent communication.
 - Host events for girls to make friends and learn new skills.
 - Coordinate Fall Product and Cookie Programs.
 - Ensure Girl Scouts has a visible community presence.

Are you a parent or volunteer who would like to join your Service Unit Team? Email us at info@gsdsw.org to learn more.



Engagement



Tip of the month

A long-time Girl Scout tradition, the Quiet Sign is a great way to get your girls attention. When you want to quiet your troop, stop talking and raise your hand high with an open palm. As girls see your sign, they should also stop talking and raise their hand. Each finger represents a letter in the word QUIET. When the "hand goes up, the mouth goes shut." It's a great way to silence your group without shouting. Whether it's a room full of girls or at events with 200 plus adult participants, the Quiet Sign works like magic!

Troop/Service Unit Financial Reports



- If your Troop Financial Report is not turned in by November 30th, your troop will not participate in the council's Cookie Program.
- "Failure to submit the required financial report will result in a financial audit and possible release from volunteer position with council." –GSDSW Volunteer Policy Manual 5.2.2

Free Invite-A-Friend Patch



We love it when our girls share Girl Scouting with others! Every Girl Scout that invites her friend to join receives a patch along with her friend. Email us at info@gsdsw.org with the names of both girls to receive free Yin Yang patches.



Veterans Day is a US federal holiday honoring military veterans who served our country. It is observed on November 11th annually. Here are some ways you and your Girl Scouts can recognize this special day.

- Participate, in Girl Scout uniform, in local parades or ceremonies
- Participate in the placing of flags at a local veterans cemetery
- Visit a veteran in your community, capture their story and share it with others
- Get together and write cards to mail veterans overseas and in VA hospitals

Key ★
Dates

Renew Your Membership

Minimum of five (5) girls and two (2) unrelated adults in leader and coleader roles to keep your troop in compliance.

Older Girl Scout troops (Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors) may have three girls only, if they are from at least two different families, and with council approval.

Council Properties

Council Property Building Rental / Usage

All property / building rentals and usage must follow the process below:

- Submit request to info@gsdsw.org.
- Complete the rental agreement and submit it to info@gsdsw.org.
- Once approved and placed on our property calendar you will receive an email with further instructions.
- No rental / usage of GSDSW properties / buildings are approved without going through the complete process.
- If you are found to be using GSDSW property / buildings without council approval all future rentals / usage will be denied.



- If you rent or use any of GSDSW's buildings, you are responsible for checking all areas to ensure they are clean.
- Be sure you are wiping tables down to remove crayon/glue/etc., sweeping or vacuuming, and make sure trash is put in the trash cans and clean recyclables are put in the recycling bins.
- Please make sure that there is no trash in the recycling bins.
- Painting and messy projects should be done over tile or outside. Do not do these projects on carpet or on chairs with fabric covers.
- Please check the restrooms to be sure toilets are flushed before you leave. It has been found that the toilets are not being flushed or are being stuffed with toilet paper.
- If after your rental or usage it is found that a cleaning crew or plumber needs to be brought in, you will be financially responsible and future usage will be denied.

If you are interested in using or renting Camp Mitre Peak or any of our program centers for troop/service unit meetings or an event, contact us at info@gsdsw.org.

Alamogordo, NM
Camp Mitre Peak
Carlsbad, NM
Deming, NM
El Paso, TX
Fort Stockton, TX
Hobbs, NM

Las Cruces, NM
Midland, TX
Odessa, TX
Roswell, NM
Silver City, NM
White Spur Hut, El Paso, TX

Around the Council

Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest Career Opportunities

Placement Specialist - Odessa

Fund Development Specialist - El Paso

Director of Engagement - El Paso

Customer Engagement Specialist

Odessa

Roswell

Silver City

Seasonal Membership Growth Specialist

El Paso

Midland

Odessa

Interested candidates, please click on the
career/location or send your resume to
info@gsdsw.org.

Retail Shops

Council Shop Hours*

El Paso

Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM MST

2:00 PM - 6:00 PM MST

(Closed for lunch 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)

1st Saturday - 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM MST

Las Cruces

By Appointment Only

Midland

Tuesday and Thursday 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM CST

1st & 3rd Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CST

Odessa

Wednesday and Friday 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM CST

2nd & 4th Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CST

Shop orders will be placed on the second
Thursday of each month for special orders and
items not in stock.

*Subject to change due to unforeseen
circumstances.

