

2026 Early Bird Packet

For Individuals, Troops, and Service Units

Thank you for your unwavering dedication to your girls, your Service Unit, our council, and the entire Girl Scout Movement. Your time, passion, and commitment help build girls of courage, confidence, and character—and we truly couldn't do this work without you. Congratulations on another incredible year! From serving your community to taking on new challenges, discovering passions, and building lifelong friendships, you've made a powerful impact. And the journey doesn't stop here—there's still so much ahead.

Renew today and keep the momentum going.

This 2026 Early Bird Packet is your exclusive invitation to become an Early Bird Troop or Early Bird Service Unit and unlock special perks. Inside, you'll find everything you need to get a head start on another unforgettable Girl Scout year.

What is Early Bird?

The Girl Scout membership year runs from October 1 through September 30. Beginning April 1, troop leaders and families can renew memberships for the upcoming year. Early Bird renewal gives you the opportunity to secure your spot, plan ahead, and start the next year strong. Early renewals also help Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest plan programs, camps, staffing, and resources with confidence—ensuring we're fully prepared to support girls and volunteers from day one.

Why Be an Early Bird?

- **Jumpstart the Fun!** Lock in another year of unforgettable Girl Scout experiences.
- **Troop Leaders Stay Ahead!** Know who's returning, welcome new members, and plan your year before school begins.
- **Parents, Check It Off Early!** Secure your Girl Scout's spot now and avoid last-minute back-to-school stress.
- **Be Fall Product Program Ready!** Early renewals position your troop for a strong start to the first major program of the year.
- **Service Units Plan with Confidence!** Higher early renewal numbers mean stronger events, better programming, and clearer projections.
- **Earn Honor Troop** recognition—renewing early is a key requirement! For full details, check out the **Honor Troop Application** on our website at www.gdsw.org under **Forms and Documents**.
- **Exclusive Early Bird Perks!** Special rewards are available only to those who renew during the Early Bird period.
- **Bragging Rights Included!** Show your troop's dedication to the Girl Scout Movement.

Don't miss out—renew today and keep the momentum going!

Early Bird Perks

2026 Early Bird Rewards

Individual Reward

Every Girl Scout renewed by **June 30, 2026**, will receive a **FREE Early Bird patch** to proudly showcase her commitment to another year of adventure!

Every household will receive a \$5 off certificate valid on a minimum \$10 pre-tax purchase at the council shop.

Troop Rewards – Become an Early Bird Troop!

To qualify as an Early Bird Troop and unlock these rewards, your troop must be in good standing and meet the following criteria:

- ✓ Renew at least 70% of the girls listed on your troop roster as of March 31.
- ✓ Renew at least two registered and approved volunteers, each with an active Girl Scout membership, an eligible background check, and an assigned leader role.
- ✓ Submit complete troop financials to the council by **June 30, 2026**, including:
 - Summary Financial Report
 - Troop Ledger
 - All bank statements
 - All legible receipts

Visit our website for detailed Troop Finance guidelines and templates.

Early Bird Troop Rewards

- **Fall Product Program:** Earn an additional \$0.10 per nut/candy item sold.
 - **Cookie Program:** Earn an additional \$0.05 per package sold.
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How to Claim Your Troop Rewards

- ✓ Submit your Early Bird Troop Application by **June 30, 2026**, to unlock these exclusive benefits.

Note: Individually Registered Girls (IRGs) do not need to submit an application to receive their Early Bird patch reward.

Service Unit Rewards – Become an Early Bird Service Unit!

Service Units that meet the following criteria will earn a **\$100 gift certificate to the council shop**:

- ✓ At least 70% of troops within the Service Unit must achieve Early Bird Troop status.
 - ✓ Service Unit must be in good standing, with financials submitted by **June 30, 2026**.
 - ✓ Gift certificate must be redeemed by September 30, 2027.
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Get ready for another incredible Girl Scout year—renew early and enjoy the rewards!

How to Renew Your Troop Registrations

Renewing your troop is fast and easy! If you have questions, contact **Customer Care at info@gsdsw.org**.

1. **Login** to your MyGS account from www.gsdsw.org and click **My Account**.
2. Select **My Troop** on the left-hand side and click **Renew troop members** under your troop.
3. **Update member status:**
 - Select all girls and adults **NOT returning** and click **Save Return Status**.
 - Check the box next to each member you **will be registering**, or use **Select All**.
 - *Tip:* You can hide members not returning to make selection easier.
4. Click **Renew** at the top of the screen after selecting all members.
5. **Verify and update** each member's details. (*Some fields can only be updated by Council—email info@gsdsw.org for updates.*)
6. Select the **correct membership year** and choose the **payment type** (usually credit card). Repeat for each member.
7. Click **Next Participant** to update the next member until all are updated.
8. Click **Review Cart** to see all pending memberships.
9. Check the box to **accept the Promise and Law**, then click **Add Payment Details**.
10. **Submit payment** and print a receipt for troop records.
11. Click **Manage My Account** to verify memberships updated (this may take a few minutes).

Be sure to submit your [Early Bird Application](#) by June 30, 2026, to qualify as an Early Bird Troop!

Renew early to secure your spot and put your troop on the path to Honor Troop status for 2026!

For questions or assistance, please email info@gsdsw.org.