

# April 2026 Newsletter

## Upcoming in April

- Women of Distinction in Midland - Saturday, April 11, 2026
- Girl Scouts at Urban Air in Odessa - Sunday, April 12, 2026
- Girl Scout Day at Chihuahuas Stadium in El Paso - Sunday, April 12, 2026
- Lego Derby in Roswell - Saturday, April 18, 2026
- Volunteer Appreciation Week - Sunday, April 19 - Saturday, April 25, 2026
- Girl Scout Leader Day - Wednesday, April 22, 2026

We  our volunteers!



## Happy Volunteer Appreciation Month!

Our GSDSW volunteers go above and beyond with their passion and commitment! Send an eCard to shine a light on others to celebrate their dedication!

[Send an eCard here!](#)

THANK  
you

# Girl Scout Registration

## Early Bird starting April 1

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

### Individual Reward

- Every Girl Scout renewed by Tuesday, June 30, 2026, will receive a FREE Early Bird patch to proudly showcase her commitment to another year of adventure!
- Every individual will receive a \$5 off certificate for a \$10 minimum pretax purchase! These will be mailed to each household.

### Troop Rewards – Be an Early Bird Troop!

- Fall Product Program – Earn an additional \$0.10 per nut/candy item sold!
- Cookie Program – Earn an additional \$0.05 per package sold.

### Service Unit Rewards – Be an Early Bird Service Unit!

- Service Units that meet the criteria listed in the 2026 Early Bird Packet will earn a \$100 gift certificate to the council shop.



[View 2026 Early Bird Packet Here](#)

## Extended Year

For the 2027 membership year (October 1, 2026 – September 30, 2027), Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) has set the annual national membership dues at:

\$65 for girl members  
\$30 for adult members

### Extended Year Membership (April 1 – July 31, 2026)

New members who join during this window can opt into the Extended Year Membership, which covers both the remainder of the current year and the full following membership year.

The standard dues for this option are:

\$91 for girls  
\$42 for adults



# Girl Scout Movement

## 2026 Girl Scout Convention

July 20 - 25, 2026

Are you ready to connect with 10,000+ Girl Scouts from across the globe at the 2026 Girl Scout Convention, happening July 20 - 25, 2026, at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C.?

The event kicks off with the 57th National Council Session, July 20 - 22, 2026, where delegates gather to vote on important issues and elect national leaders. Then, from July 23 - 25, 2026, the full convention opens with interactive workshops, inspiring speakers, and unforgettable adventures welcoming Girl Scouts, alums, families, and friends!

Hosted by Girl Scouts Nation's Capital, this once-every-three-years celebration is your chance to experience the power, purpose, and pride of being a Girl Scout.

Girls Make History.

Join us in Washington, DC!  
July 23-25, 2026



Join us as we celebrate all the ways that Girls Make History. Girl Scouts have transformed—and continue to transform—our country. We planted victory gardens during World War II and marched for civil rights. We launch new businesses and advocate for the issues we care about. We dream big. We spark change. We lead the way! There's no better time and place to celebrate the incredible impact of Girl Scouts than on the 250th anniversary of the U.S. in our nation's capital.

At the **Girl Scouts Unite** event, you'll:

- experience interactive workshops, inspiring speakers, and live performances
- meet girls who are taking action in their communities
- learn about trailblazers and barrier-breakers from past generations
- venture into the city for events and exhibits commemorating the 250th anniversary of the U.S.

Together, we'll make friends, make memories, and make a difference. It's a weekend you'll remember forever.

In the days leading up to the **Girl Scouts Unite** event (July 20-22), our 58th National Council Session will meet to discuss key issues, vote on proposals, and elect leaders. It's democracy in action, as girl delegates vote alongside adults and have a direct voice in shaping the future of Girl Scouts.

We'll see you July 23-25 with more than 10,000 Girl Scout community members and supporters. When Girl Scouts unite, anything is possible!

[Download PDF flyer](#)

[View Girl Scouts  
Unite Website](#)

Scan the QR code to see unforgettable moments from 2023.



# Product

## Notes about the 2026 Cookie Recognitions



### Recognitions with a class component

Some cookie recognitions include a class component due to IRS tax rules. Prizes are considered taxable income if given to individuals, but when tied to a group educational experience, this doesn't apply. That's why Girl Scouts must attend, keep their camera on, and participate to receive the recognition.

A Zoom registration link will be emailed within two weeks of the class date.

### Experiences and travel recognitions

Some cookie recognitions are an experience, such as Howl at the Moon, or are a travel trip, like the GSUSA National Convention. Each girl who earns these recognitions is to bring an accompanying adult. This adult needs to be a currently registered Girl Scout member and have a clean background check. This is for liability insurance purposes.

The Girl Scout will receive an email asking if she is going to participate in the recognition. There will be a response deadline. Please check your email spam folder!

- The 500 Club includes participation in the Lego Derby and then an outside overnight campout at the Roswell Program Center.
- Howl at the Moon is the biannual GSDSW council gathering. The weekend is spent at Bonita Park Camp, north of Ruidoso, NM.
- El Paso Theatre will be an overnight at an El Paso downtown hotel (even if you are local!) and a matinee showing of Beauty and the Beast at the Plaza Theatre.
- The GSUSA National Convention is an event that is held every three years and brings 10,000+ Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from around the world to celebrate being Girl Scouts. The top six girls who sell more than 6000+ packages will receive this recognition trip. If at any time you need to know if you are in the top six, please feel free to email [info@gsdsw.org](mailto:info@gsdsw.org), and we will be happy to tell you.
- Weekend in Paris is a chance to get a stamp in your passport! We will be staying downtown in Paris and will visit the Eiffel Tower, the Louvre, and more! Eat a crepe by the Seine River while gazing at Notre Dame! A current passport is required for both the Girl Scout and the accompanying adult.
- Note: Experiences and travel include (where applicable) airfare, hotel, entrance fees, and meals during the trip. Incidentals, such as souvenirs and snacks, are at the discretion of the Girl Scout and accompanying adult.

# Program

Click to  
view  
program



## Summer Resident Camp at Camp Mitre Peak



There are nine NEW programs this coming summer for new and returning campers! From third grade to twelfth grade, there is something for every Girl Scout!

[Register for  
Summer Resident Camp here!](#)



Scan me

### April Showers - April 2026

"April showers bring May flowers" - and sometimes, they bring rainbows, too. Rainbows have long been symbols of hope and new beginnings. After a storm, when the clouds begin to clear, a rainbow reminds us that something bright can follow something challenging. That message fits beautifully with the Girl Scout spirit — resilience, positivity, and finding light even after a rainy day.

Rainbows aren't just meaningful — they're science! A rainbow forms when sunlight passes through water droplets in the air. The light refracts (bends), reflects inside the droplet, and then separates into different colors (dispersion). What looks like plain white light is actually made up of all the colors of the rainbow.

Rainbow Challenge - You need to make a rainbow. Below are some ideas or do some research and experimentation and create a rainbow on your own.

#### Light & Water Experiment (STEM Focus)

- Fill a clear glass with water and place it in sunlight.
- Hold white paper on the opposite side to catch the light.
- Adjust the angle to create a mini rainbow.
- Discuss: What happens when light bends through water?

#### Prism Exploration

- Use a small prism in sunlight to split white light into a spectrum.
- Observe how the colors always appear in the same order.
- Talk about refraction and reflection.
- No prism? Try a CD or DVD — the surface can reflect light into rainbow patterns.

#### Recycled Rainbow Mosaic

- Use scrap paper, magazines, or small recycled items to build a rainbow.
- Connect the idea of sustainability with creative reuse.

#### After the activity, reflect together:

- What did you learn about light?
- Which color do you connect with most — and why?
- How does our troop shine when we create together?

Through art, teamwork, and science, a rainbow becomes more than colors in the sky — it's creativity, curiosity, and connection all in one.

Deadline to submit your April Showers Report: Tuesday, March 31, 2026 @ 5:00 PM MDT

Submit report at: [https://bit.ly/AprilShowers\\_Apr2026](https://bit.ly/AprilShowers_Apr2026)

You will receive your patch in 3 - 4 weeks after the end of challenge.

If you have any questions, please email [info@gdsdw.org](mailto:info@gdsdw.org).

[www.gdsdw.org](http://www.gdsdw.org) • [info@gdsdw.org](mailto:info@gdsdw.org) • 915-566-9433



## Monthly Challenge

The April Monthly Challenge  
is about April Showers!  
[https://bit.ly/AprilShowers\\_Apr2026](https://bit.ly/AprilShowers_Apr2026)



# Program

Click to view full flyer



Sat.  
April  
11

**girlscouts**  
of the desert southwest  
southern new mexico  
& west texas

## Exploring Trees

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for an engaging, nature-inspired experience created for Cadettes. During this program, girls will explore the world of trees through discovery, creativity, and outdoor learning to strengthen curiosity, environmental awareness, and personal leadership along the way. As they deepen their understanding of the nature around them, they'll also take meaningful steps toward earning their Trees badge.

**Cadettes (Grades 6 - 8)**  
Saturday, April 11, 2026  
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM MDT  
Friendship Park  
E. Riverside Dr., Carlsbad, NM 88220  
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls  
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/ExploreTreesCNMC2026>  
Registration deadline: Monday, March 30, 2026

**What you will do:**

- Have fun imagining and designing your very own tree house
- Identify a variety of trees and learn about what makes each one unique
- Create a pressed-leaf catalog to showcase and catalog the trees you discover
- Build curiosity and environmental awareness through hands-on exploration

Not a Girl Scout?  
No problem - scan the QR code or sign up at the event!  
Meet new friends, learn what Girl Scouts is about, and join the fun.  
Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!

Carlsbad, NM

Wed.  
April  
22

**girlscouts**  
of the desert southwest  
southern new mexico  
& west texas

## Flower Where You're Planted

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for a hands-on workshop where Juniors explore the beauty of plants and the important role they play in our world. Through guided activities, girls will uncover fascinating details about local plants, learn what helps them grow, and nurture a new plant of their own to take home.

**Juniors (Grades 4 - 5)**  
Wednesday, April 22, 2026  
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM MDT  
Del Norte Park  
4324 N. Grimes St., Hobbs, NM 88240  
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls  
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/FlowerHB12026>  
Registration deadline: Monday, April 13, 2026

**What you will do:**

- Become Plant Detectives as you explore the plants that grow in our area
- Learn how plants grow by discovering the key elements they need to thrive
- Plant your own seeds to take home and continue your plant-growing journey

Not a Girl Scout?  
No problem - scan the QR code or sign up at the event!  
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Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!

El Paso, TX

Sat.  
May  
9

**girlscouts**  
of the desert southwest  
southern new mexico  
& west texas

## Making Art with Mixed Media

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for an outdoor experience that celebrates how art shares a message - one that can be meaningful, spark solutions, and make a difference. During this program, Brownies will explore how makers turn ideas into expressive art and thoughtful design projects, discovering the power of creativity and the impact it can have along the way.

**Brownies (Grades 2 - 3)**  
Saturday, May 9, 2026  
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM MDT  
City Park  
1001 E. Clinton St., Hobbs, NM 88240  
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls  
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/MakeArtHBB2026>  
Registration deadline: Monday, April 27, 2026

**What you will do:**

- Explore art and design by learning from a guest speaker
- Learn about composition by exploring patterns and symmetry
- Make portraits based on a subject

Not a Girl Scout?  
No problem - scan the QR code or sign up at the event!  
Meet new friends, learn what Girl Scouts is about, and join the fun.  
Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!

Hobbs, NM

Sat.  
May  
15

**girlscouts**  
of the desert southwest  
southern new mexico  
& west texas

## Girl Scout Game Night

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for a fun-filled gathering where girls dive into a variety of outdoor games and group challenges designed for all ages. Through playful activities, they'll team up with others, build new friendships, and enjoy classic favorites in a relaxed, welcoming environment while earning a fun patch.

**All Girl Scout Levels**  
Friday, May 15, 2026  
5:00 PM - 6:30 PM MDT  
Chaparral Park  
1005 S. Commercial St., Lovington, NM 88260  
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls  
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/GSgameNight15V2026>  
Registration deadline: Monday, May 4, 2026

**What you will do:**

- Enjoy a variety of outdoor games and group challenges perfect for all ages
- Connect with other troops as you play classic favorites and make new friends
- Come prepared with a water bottle, close-toed shoes, comfy clothes, and your Girl Scout spirit!

Not a Girl Scout?  
No problem - scan the QR code or sign up at the event!  
Meet new friends, learn what Girl Scouts is about, and join the fun.  
Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!

Lovington, NM

# Engagement

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

### El Paso, TX

- El Paso Science Festival - Saturday, April 18 & Sunday, April 19, 2026
- Open House - Saturday, June 27, 2026

### Hobbs, NM

- Open House - Saturday, June 20, 2026

### Midland, TX

- Open House - Saturday, June 13, 2026
- Back to School Open House - Saturday, September 12, 2026

### Odessa, TX

- Girl Scout Birthday Bash - Thursday, March 12, 2026

Contact [info@gdsdw.org](mailto:info@gdsdw.org) for more information



### Introducing Girl Scouts Sprouts Program!

This is a completely free program for any Pre-K girl who is going to be in Kindergarten by September. Each location hosts one free event a month that families can register for and attend. Participating means free monthly local events, fun challenges, and a Program Passport to track her progress - all designed to help her build confidence and grow into a Girl Scouts member, all at no cost to you.

**Locations: El Paso | Hobbs | Midland | Odessa**

**WILDERNESS FIRST AID**  
INCLUDES 2-YEAR CERTIFICATION

**April 25-26, 2026**

**EL PASO**  
GDSW PROGRAM CENTER  
9700 GIRL SCOUT WAY

Fully in-person  
**2-day** course offers a personalized experience, with plenty of hands-on skills training  
\$150 earlybird rate thru 3/15

Recognize, assess, and treat common outdoor injuries and illnesses  
Be prepared for wildlife encounters, dangerous weather & more

**INSTRUCTOR: HEATHER FULLERTON, MD**  
WILDERNESS FIRST AID INSTRUCTOR  
Sports Medicine • Wilderness Medicine

**USE QR CODE TO REGISTER**

### Important Troop Forms

- [Bank Account Request](#)
- [Emergency Procedures](#)
- [Health History](#)
- [Opportunity Fund Application](#)
- [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#)
- [Trip and High-Risk Activity Form](#)
- [Troop Disbandment Checklist](#)
- [Troop Disband Form](#)
- [Volunteer Essentials](#)

### Service Unit Roundtable

Tuesday, April 14, 2026

# Resource Development



girlscouts  
of the desert southwest  
southern new mexico  
& west texas

**Saturday, April 11, 2026**  
34th Annual  
*Women of Distinction*  
Honoring Five Amazing Women in the Permian Basin



Allison  
Hartzoge



Danielle  
Green



Jana  
Jones



Linda  
Stephens



Rebecca  
Linehan

## Save the Date for: Southern New Mexico Giving Day

- Online giving period:
  - Monday, April 13 - Friday, April 24, 2026
- Silver City Give Grandly event:
  - Saturday, April 18, 2026, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM MT
  - Gough Park, 1201 N. Pope St., Silver City, NM 88061



Give Grandly!  
Give Local!

Give to GSDSW for  
Southern New Mexico  
Giving Day 2026



# Council Properties

## Council Property Building Rental / Usage

### Reminder: Council Property Use Form Required

Planning to use a council property or building for troop meetings, programs, trainings, service unit meetings, or other gatherings? You must submit the Troop/SU Meeting Property Rental Application each program year, even if you submitted one last year.

If your previous form included dates that have already passed, a new request is required for any upcoming use. This helps us keep accurate, up-to-date scheduling and ensures proper support for all users.

Want to use or rent Camp Mitre Peak or any of our program centers for troop or service unit meetings, or special events? Submit your request here:

- [Camp Mitre Peak Rental Application](#)
- [Troop/SU Meeting Property Rental Application](#)
- [GSDSW Members and Troop Mitre Council Property Rental Application](#)



Camp Mitre Peak, Fort Davis, TX  
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

## Retail Shops

### Council Shop Hours\*

#### El Paso

Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM  
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM MT  
(Closed for lunch 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)  
1st Saturday of each month  
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM MT

#### Las Cruces

At the monthly Service Unit event  
Pre-orders will also be delivered.

#### Midland

Tuesdays 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT  
Thursdays 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM & 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT  
1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CT

#### Odessa

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

For locations, [click here](#).

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.

## Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest Career Opportunities

### Engagement Specialist

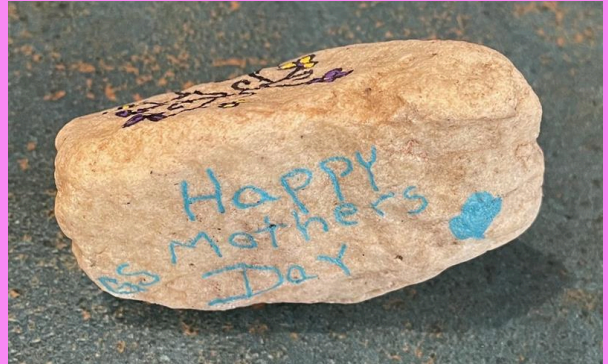
- El Paso
  - Las Cruces
  - Roswell
  - Silver City
- Interested candidates should email [careers@gstdsw.org](mailto:careers@gstdsw.org) with resumes and a cover letter.*

### Resource Development Specialist

- Midland

### Program Specialist

- Midland



## Join the fun at our monthly Painted Rock Scavenger Hunt!

El Paso and Midland stores host on the first Saturday of each month, and Odessa on the second Saturday. Search inside or just outside the shop for a hand-painted, holiday-themed rock. Be the first to find it and get \$5 off a same-day purchase of \$30 or more (before tax).

Happy hunting!

If your service unit is organizing an event and you would like to have the GSDSW Mobile Store present, please complete and submit [this request form](#) at least one month before the event.