



girl scouts
of the desert southwest
southern new mexico
& west texas



December 2025 Newsletter

Upcoming in December

- Ceremony of Honors in El Paso & Midland, TX - Saturday, December 13, 2025
- GSDSW Offices Closed: Staff Training - Tuesday, December 16 - Wednesday, December 17, 2025
- GSDSW Offices Closed: Winter Break - Monday, December 22 - Sunday, January 4, 2026



Ceremony of Honors 2025 Saturday, December 13, 2025

Please join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our girls and volunteers at our annual Ceremony of Honors.

RSVP by Tuesday, December 9, 2025

El Paso location

9:00 AM - 11:00 AM MST

St Mark's Church

5005 Love Rd.

El Paso, TX 79922

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/COH2025EP>



Midland location

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM CST

Midland Girl Scout Program Center

901 W. Dengar Ave.

Midland, TX 79705

RSVP: <https://tinyurl.com/COH2025MD>

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

A sneak peek at Cookie Recognitions for 2026

250+
Pkgs



Plush Ferret Backpack

3500+
Pkgs



CHOICE

CEO Campout Aug 14-16, 2026
OR \$100 Desert Dollars

2250+
Pkgs



CHOICE

Ice Cream Maker & Class
Apr 27 or 29, 2026
OR \$50 Desert Dollars

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Direct Ship Contest



From Monday, January 5, 2026 (8:00 AM MST)
to Monday, January 12, 2026 (5:00 PM MST)



*The council reserves the right to
substitute the prize item with a
comparable alternative if needed.

**Be entered into a drawing
to win a Squishmallow!***

How to enter:
Sell at least 1 direct ship order of
12 packages or more during the
contest duration.

Tip: This is a great time to ask all your family and
friends outside your area to support your cookie goals.
Be sure to use all your media resources!

Top Cookie Recognition



*A weekend in
Paris, France!*

Product

Important Upcoming Cookie Dates

Initial cookie orders are due in Smart Cookies on
Monday, December 15, 2025, by 5:00 PM MST



December

- Monday, December 1, 2025 - Troop/girl uploads in Smart Cookies
- Tuesday, December 2, 2025 - Make-up Troop Cookie Coordinator Training (virtual)
- Wednesday, December 3, 2025 - Make-up Troop Cookie Coordinator Training (virtual)
- Tuesday, December 9, 2025 - Cupboard/Booth Coordinator Training (virtual)
- Monday, December 15, 2025 - Troop initial cookie order & initial rewards order due in Smart Cookies
- Tuesday, December 16, 2025 - Troop/IRG Q&A - online
- Wednesday, December 17, 2025 - Troop banking information due in Smart Cookies
- Tuesday, December 23, 2025 - Cupboard/Booth Coordinator Q&A - online

January

- Monday, January 5, 2026 – Digital Cookie start day - Direct Ship Program
- Tuesday, January 6, 2026 – Opt-Out forms due to council
- Tuesday, January 6, 2026 – Troop/IRG Q&A - online
- Saturday, January 10, 2026 – Booth selection begins
- Tuesday, January 13, 2026 – Cupboard/Booth Coordinator Q&A - online
- Saturday, January 17, 2026 – Mega Drop - El Paso/Odessa
- Sunday, January 18, 2026 – First Day of Cookie Program and boothing begins
- Tuesday, January 20, 2026 – Troop/Q&A - online
- Tuesday, January 27, 2026 – Cupboard/Booth Coordinator Q&A - online
- Thursday, January 29, 2026 – ACH # 1. 50% balance due as of Sunday, January 25, 2026



Program

Outdoor Training

In-Person Training
Sunday, January 11, 2026
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM CST

Odessa Program Center
5217 N. Dixie
Odessa, TX 79762

Registration deadline:
Monday, December 22, 2025, at 5:00 PM CST
<https://bit.ly/OutTrainOD2026>

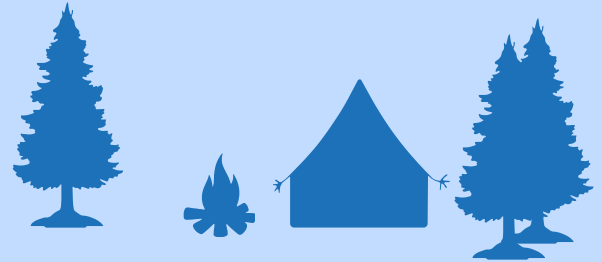
Cost - \$45.00 (troop funds can be used for the cost of this training)

This training is good for three years.

Online Recertification

If you have taken the GSDSW in-person outdoor training and have taken your Girl Scouts camping, either as a troop or with a service unit campout at least once every year for the past three years, you can take the recertification in gsLearn.

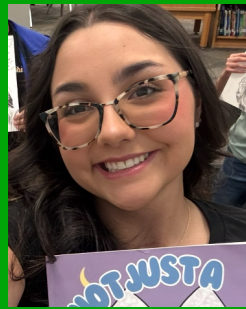
In gsLearn, search for:
582-Outdoor Training Recertification.



Congratulations to our 2025 Gold Award recipients!



Valentina Carrillo



Toni Marie Gonzalez



Frances Gunn



Cassandra Switzer

Monthly Challenge

The December Monthly Challenge is about yummy gingerbread!
https://bit.ly/Dec25_Gingerbread



Gingerbread Man
December 2025



As the end of the year approaches, there are a plethora of holidays that people around the world celebrate. Each one has its own traditions and ceremonies and iconic symbols. One of the more popular symbols of the wintertime holidays is the gingerbread house and gingerbread man.

The Gingerbread Man is a classic American folktale first published in 1875. It tells the story of a gingerbread cookie who magically comes to life and dashes out of the oven before anyone can take a bite! As he races through the countryside, he meets an ever-growing group of people and animals who all want to catch him, but he's just too fast.

Along the way he shouts his famous rhyme:
"Run, run, as fast as you can!
You can't catch me—I'm the Gingerbread Man!"

In the end, a clever fox tricks him into coming close, and the Gingerbread Man is eaten - reminding readers that not everyone who smiles is a friend.

Eating gingerbread is a tasty treat and those warm spices of the cookie make the winter a little less chilly. Especially dunking in a glass of milk or a cup of tea.

Your challenge is to read the Gingerbread Man story (can be found online or at your local library) and make either a gingerbread house or a gingerbread man, complete with decorations. There are many easy recipes online and baking and decorating with family and friends is a gift of the season.

Deadline to submit your Gingerbread Man Monthly Challenge:
Wednesday, December 31, 2025, at 5:00 PM MST.
Submit report at: https://bit.ly/Gingerbread_Dec25 or scan the QR code.
You will receive your patch in 3 - 4 weeks after the end of challenge.
If you have any questions, please email info@gsdsw.org.
www.gsdsw.org • info@gsdsw.org • 915-566-9433



Program

Click to view
full flyer

December

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Festive Flavor Brownie Badge Workshop

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for a festive adventure! Brownies will sharpen their skills while making holiday treats and working toward their Snacks badge!

Brownie (grades 2 - 3)
Saturday, December 6, 2025
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM MST
Hobbs Girl Scout Program Center
522 E. Broadway St., Hobbs, NM 88240
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/FestiveHBB2025>
Registration deadline: Monday, December 1, 2025

What you will do:

- Make three different kinds of snacks
- Savory Snack: Make your own mini pizza bites
- Sweet Snack: Make cookies your way
- Energy Snack: Mix up a festive holiday trail mix

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!

Scan here to become a Girl Scout!

United Way

Hobbs, NM



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Senior Serenade

Get ready to go caroling with your Girl Scout sisters!
We're bringing holiday cheer to the residents of Madison Medical Resort with songs, smiles, and lots of festive fun.
You'll spread joy, make new friends, and earn your Nursing Home Caroling Fun Patch along the way!

Brownies - Ambassadors
Saturday, December 6, 2025
3:00 PM - 4:00 PM CST
Madison Medical Resort
5001 Office Park Dr., Odessa, TX 79762
Cost: \$2 Min/Max: 10/20 participants
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/SSerenadeDD2025>
Registration deadline: Monday, December 1, 2025

Don't forget to wear your holiday best!
Festive headbands, fun hats, or anything cheerful and bright!
Let's make this season sparkle with kindness and music.

Please note: This is not a drop-off event. Adults must attend with their Girl Scout.

United Way

Odessa, TX



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Holiday Cookie Decorating Workshop

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for a hands-on, sugar-sprinkled blast where creativity meets cookies! Girl Scouts will design, decorate, and show off their own festive treats - think frosting, sprinkles, and holiday magic. Come for the sweets, stay for the excitement, earn a fun patch, and leave with a plate full of masterpieces.

Daisies - Ambassadors
Saturday, December 6, 2025
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM MST
El Paso Program Center
9700 Girl Scout Way, El Paso TX 79924
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/HolidayCookiesEP2025>
Registration deadline: Monday, December 1, 2025

What you will do:

- Decorate your own festive cookies with frosting and sprinkles
- Sip warm, cozy cocoa while you create
- Jam out to cheerful holiday tunes

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United Way

El Paso, TX

December

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CADETTE COMICS AND COCOA

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for a fun-filled program night where we will explore the exciting world of comics! Cadettes will unlock the secrets of storytelling and design their very own comic strips to bring their ideas to life. Come for the laughs, stay for the inspiration, and leave with a masterpiece.

Cadettes (Grades 6 - 8)
Thursday, December 11, 2025
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM CST
Odessa Program Center
5217 N. Dixie Blvd., Odessa, TX 79762
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/ComicsCocoaODC2025>
Registration deadline: Friday, December 5, 2025

What you will do:

- Create your own comic strip
- Learn the skill of combining art and storytelling
- Sip on warm, cozy cocoa while you work

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United Way

Odessa, TX

December

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Santa's Workshop Builders

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for a hands-on adventure into the world of builders and designers! Daisies and Brownies will dive into real creative tools, spark big imagination, and craft their very own handmade holiday ornaments. It's cheerful, it's crafty, and it's the perfect chance for little creators to shine.

Daisies (Grades K - 1) & Brownies (Grades 2 - 3)
Saturday, December 20, 2025
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM MST
El Paso Program Center
9700 Girl Scout Way, El Paso TX 79924
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/SantaBuildersDBEP>
Registration deadline: Friday, December 5, 2025

What you will do:

- Design and decorate your own handmade holiday ornaments
- Learn about real crafting tools
- Meet Santa Claus and show off your creations

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United Way

El Paso, TX



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Orna-Make it! DIY Your Own Ornament

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for a creative holiday workshop open for Daisies to Ambassadors! Girl Scouts will roll up their sleeves, jump into hands-on crafting, and make their own holiday ornaments to take home.

Daisies - Ambassadors
Monday, December 22, 2025
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM MST
Lovington Public Library
115 Main St., Lovington, NM 88260
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/OrnaMakeitVT2025>
Registration deadline: Monday, December 8, 2025

What you will do:

- Choose two ornament projects from three festive options: a mini paper-plate wreath, a decorated globe ornament, or a clothespin ornament
- Get creative with colorful and sparkly crafting materials
- Create and take home your own handmade holiday pieces

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Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!

United Way

Lovington, NM

Summer Resident Camp
Registration opens
Wednesday, November 26, 2025!



Scan me

Engagement

Big Congratulations to Troop 65904!

Troop 65904 just made a real-world impact worth celebrating. Thanks to their Silver Award project, creating Menstruation Stations at Wiggs Middle School, EPISD secondary schools are now set to install free period-product dispensers this month.

This change didn't happen by accident. It happened because these Girl Scouts saw a need, took action, and kept pushing. Their advocacy helped bring district leaders to the table, and now thousands of students will benefit.

Huge shoutout to Troop 65904 for proving what Girl Scouts can do when they lead with purpose. Absolute rock stars!



BRAVO!



Important Troop Forms

Service Unit Roundtable

Tuesday, December 9, 2025

- [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](#)

Resource Development



CityBank Community Rewards Voting

VOTE HERE EVERY HOUR

- Vote now until Friday, Dec. 5, 2025
- One vote per hour per email address
- Top 5 in each category (in no particular order) are updated daily
- Open to everyone, not just City Bank customers
- Must be 18 years or older to vote



Help us earn up to \$4,000 to support life-changing Girl Scout programming across our council!

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
- Midland
- Odessa
- Silver City

Resource Development Specialist

- Midland

Retail and Support Manager

- El Paso

Interested candidates should email careers@gsdsw.org with resumes and a cover letter.



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.