



January 2026 Newsletter

Upcoming in January

- GSDSW Offices & Shops reopen - Monday, January 5, 2026
- Cookie Mega Drop - Saturday, January 17, 2026
- Cookie Program & Cookie booth sales begin - Sunday, January 18, 2026



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

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

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

Upcoming Cookie Dates

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

February

- Tuesday, February 3, 2026 - Troop/IRG Q & A - online
- Tuesday, February 10, 2026 - Cupboard/Booth Coordinator Q & A - online
- Tuesday, February 17, 2026 - Troop/IRG Q & A - online
- Thursday, February 19, 2026 - ACH #2 - 75% balance due as of Sunday, February 15, 2026
- Friday, February 20 - Sunday, February 22, 2026 - National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend/Bling Your Booth Weekend Theme: Brave. Fierce. Fun.
- Tuesday, February 24, 2026 - Cupboard/Booth Coordinator Q & A - online



Program

Click to view
program



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southern new mexico
& west texas



Program & Summer Camp Guide
Spring/Summer 2026

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!

**Summer Resident Camp
Registration is now open!**



Scan me



Goal Setting January 2026

Starting a new year is a great time to think about goals, because it feels like a fresh start and a chance to try something new. A goal is something you want to learn, do, or improve - and it can be small or big. A small goal might be reading one new book each month, practicing a new skill for 10 minutes a day, or not biting your fingernails. A big goal might be earning a new badge, learning to ride a bike, or completing a big project with your troop. To set a goal, think about what you want to do, why it matters to you, and how you'll take steps to make it happen. When you reach your goal - celebrate your hard work! Share your success, give yourself a cheer, or do something special to mark the moment. Every goal you set helps you grow stronger, braver, and more confident.

You can keep track of your goals by finding a simple way to remind yourself and notice your progress. You might write your goal down in a notebook, make a colorful chart, or use a checklist to mark each step as you complete it. Some girls like to draw pictures, use stickers, or color in a box each time they practice or work toward their goal. It also helps to check in once a week and ask yourself, "What did I work on?" and "What's my next step?" Watching your progress grow can be exciting and helps you stay motivated all the way to the finish line!

This month's challenge is to create one small goal and one large goal. You can do this with your troop or on your own - the choice is yours!

Remember to keep track of your progress while working on your goal. Take a photo of you working on your goal or how you are keeping track of it for your monthly challenge submission.

Deadline to submit your Goal Setting Monthly Challenge:
Sunday, January 31, 2026, at 5:00 PM MST.
Submit report at: https://bit.ly/GoalSetting_Jan2026
You will receive your patch in 3 - 4 weeks after the end of challenge.
If you have any questions, please email info@gdsnw.org.
www.gdsnw.org • info@gdsnw.org • 915-268-9433



Scan me

Monthly Challenge

The January Monthly Challenge
is about goal setting!
https://bit.ly/Jan2026_GoalSetting

**ACHIEVE
GOALS**

Program

Click to view
full flyer



January
9

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KNOWING OUR EMOTIONS

THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTAL HEALTH

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for an engaging program focused on mental wellness and personal growth. Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts will explore ways to care for themselves, navigate challenges, and support others through guided conversations and interactive activities. Come ready to reflect, connect, and build skills that matter - now and beyond.

Senior (Grades 9 - 10) & Ambassador (Grades 11 - 12)
Friday, January 9, 2026
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM MST
Eunice Public Library
1003 Avenue N., Eunice, NM 88231
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/MentalHealthEUN2026>
Registration deadline: Monday, December 29, 2025

What you will do:

- Learn practical self-care strategies
- Build skills for coping with difficult situations
- Practice supportive and respectful communication
- Explore ways to help yourself and support others

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

Eunice, NM

January
14

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BFF Bracelet Party

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for a hands-on, creativity-packed workshop where imagination meets friendship! Girl Scouts will take part in a fun, hands-on activity that encourages creativity, self-expression, and collaboration. Come for the crafting, earn a special patch, and head home wearing a bracelet that celebrates sisterhood and shines bright!

Daisy (Grades K - 1), Brownie (Grades 2 - 3), & Junior (Grades 4 - 5)
Wednesday, January 14, 2026
6:00 PM - 7:30 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/BFF-DBJEP2026>
Registration deadline: Monday, December 29, 2025

What you will do:

- Create your own beaded accessories
- Experiment with colors, patterns, and designs
- Express your personal style through hands-on crafting
- Connect with other Girl Scouts and celebrate friendship

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United Way

El Paso, TX

January
24

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BUDGET BOSSES

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for an interactive workshop where confidence, decision-making, and real-world skills take center stage. Girl Scouts will explore how their choices connect to their values while building practical money skills they can use now and later in life. With engaging activities and guidance from special guest speakers, girls will leave feeling empowered, informed, and ready to plan ahead.

Cadette (Grades 6 - 8), Senior (Grades 9 - 10), & Ambassador (Grades 11 - 12)
Saturday, January 24, 2026
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/BudgetCSAEP2026>
Registration deadline: Monday, January 12, 2026

What you will do:

- Explore how personal values influence spending choices
- Track expenses and practice making smart money decisions
- Learn how income, savings, and borrowing work
- Build a budget for real-life expenses

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United Way

El Paso, TX

January
24

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From Used to Unique

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for a hands-on, creativity-filled program where imagination and innovation take center stage. Daisies will learn how every day and reused materials can be transformed into something special while exploring creativity, kindness, and problem-solving. Through interactive activities, girls will design, give back, and turn ordinary items into unique treasures!

Daisy (Grades K - 1)
Saturday, January 24, 2026
2:00 PM - 3:30 PM MST
Hobbs Program Center
522 E. Broadway St., Hobbs, NM 88240
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/UsedUnique-DHB2026>
Registration deadline: Monday, January 12, 2025

What you will do:

- Help Yourself: Create a papier-mache piggy bank
- Help Others: Create a Happiness Box to give away
- Create a sock puppet of someone you love

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Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!

United Way

Hobbs, NM

Engagement



World Thinking Day 2026

Our Friendship

Sunday, February 22, 2026

Start Thinking, Start Changing!

Join your fellow Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from over 150 countries around the world to celebrate World Thinking Day! The best part is, you don't need to wait until February 22 to get started. Start learning about World Thinking Day and embracing perspectives outside your own.

Girl Scouts is celebrating 100 years of World Thinking Day in 2026 - what an exciting birthday! This year's special theme is Our Friendship. We invite you to join in as we explore our worldwide Girl Scout/Girl Guide community and celebrate the friendships that connect us all around the globe.

[D,B,J Guide](#)

[C,S,A Guide](#)

We're excited to share a special holiday message from our staff, volunteers, Girl Scouts, and families. We hope it brings a smile and a little extra cheer to your day.

Click to view our holiday video message!



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, January 13, 2026

Resource Development

Introducing our 2026 Woman of Distinction Honorees

These women have distinguished themselves through their leadership, extraordinary contributions to their community, and, most importantly, by exemplifying the Girl Scout mission as women of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Allison Hartzoge

Archway Support

Danielle Green

GSDSW Volunteer

Jana Jones

Troop Mitre

Linda Stephens

Endeavor Energy

Stephens-Greth Foundation

Rebecca Linehan

Stubbeman, McRae, Sealy, Laughlin and Browder, Inc.



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.