



# March 2026 Newsletter

## Upcoming in March

- Girl Scout Week - Sunday, March 8 - Saturday, March 14, 2026
- Girl Scout Birthday - Thursday, March 12, 2026

 <b>It's Girl Scout Week!</b>	<b>MARCH 8</b> <b>Spirit Sunday</b> Do something kind in the spirit of Girl Scouts.	<b>MARCH 9</b> <b>Affirmation Monday</b> Share a positive message with a friend.
<b>MARCH 10</b> <b>Troop Tuesday</b> Appreciate your awesome troop besties.	<b>MARCH 11</b> <b>Wisdom Wednesday</b> Share a Girl Scout pro tip or life hack.	<b>MARCH 12</b> <b>National Girl Scout Day</b> Post a photo in your Girl Scout gear and tag @girlscouts!
<b>MARCH 13</b> <b>Flashback Friday</b> Look back and share your Girl Scout memories.	<b>MARCH 14</b> <b>Service Saturday</b> Serve your community as a sisterhood.	

@girlscouts

## Exterior Renovations at Midland Office

Exterior renovations at the Midland Program Center are underway! Beginning April 13, parking lot renovations will take place for approximately 2–3 weeks.

During this time (April 13 – May 1), there will be no troop meetings, rentals, or events at Midland Program Center, and staff will be working from the Odessa office.

The shop will operate out of Odessa only, following these hours:

- Tuesdays: 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Thursdays: 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM and 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM
- Saturdays: 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

# 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



## Upcoming Cookie Dates

### March

- Monday, March 9, 2026 - Girl moves/removes resume
- Monday, March 9, 2026 - Rewards due to ABC
- Thursday, March 12, 2026 - ACH final clean-up - 100% due

If extending Cookie season:

- Monday, March 9, 2026 - All cookie sales become troop-only proceeds
- Wednesday, March 11, 2026 - Troop/IRG rewards due in Smart Cookie
- Sunday, March 15, 2026 - Last day for cookie sales/booths
- Thursday, March 19, 2026 - Delinquency reports due to [info@gsdsw.org](mailto:info@gsdsw.org)
- Thursday, March 19, 2026 - Girl moves/removals resume
- Thursday, March 19, 2026 - Final ACH clean-up - 100% due

### April

- Mid-April - Rewards arrive to Service Unit Cookie Chairs and Point of Contacts

 **BRAVE. FIERCE. FUN!**  **BRAVE. FIERCE. FUN!**  **BRAVE. FIERCE. FUN!**  **BRAVE. FIERCE. FUN!** 

# Product



## Notes about the 2026 Cookie Recognitions

### Recognitions with “OR”

Some cookie recognitions have an item OR Desert Dollars. That means the Girl Scout needs to choose which recognition she would like. This decision is entered into Smart Cookies by the troop. Please discuss with the Girl Scout which option she would like.

### 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



girlscouts  
of the desert southwest  
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!



**Register for camp before Wednesday, April 1, 2026, and your camper will receive \$15 Trading Post credit\* to be used while she is at camp.**



# CAMP



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



Scan me

# Program

## HOWL

*at the Moon*



COME HOWL WITH US IN THE  
LINCOLN NATIONAL FOREST  
IN THE MOUNTAINS OF NEW MEXICO!



### *Make New Friends*

Join Girl Scouts from around our council to forge new friendships, explore new activities, have new adventures, but most of all celebrate being a Girl Scout!



### *Have an Adventure*

For the younger girls there will be hiking, Ga-ga ball, star gazing, challenge courses, mini-golf. For the older girls there's hiking, zip line, rock wall climbing, high ropes, challenge courses, volleyball/basketball, and much more!



### *Participation & Adult Requirements*

All participants must be registered Girl Scouts in good standing. This is not a family event - only troop leaders or one parent per girl may attend. All adults (18+) must be registered Girl Scouts with a cleared background check by the registration deadline. Troops must meet required ratios.

**BOOK NOW**

Friday, May 1 - Sunday, May 3, 2026  
Bonita Park, Angus, NM (just north of Ruidoso)  
\$200 per person includes lodging, meals, activities,  
custom t-shirt, and patch.

Registration deadline: Wed., April 1, 2026, 5:00 PM MDT  
Registration: <https://bit.ly/Howl2026>  
Questions? Email [info@gsdsw.org](mailto:info@gsdsw.org)

To use Desert Dollars - contact [info@gsdsw.org](mailto:info@gsdsw.org)



# Program

Wed.  
March  
18

Click to view  
full flyer



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of the desert southwest  
southern new mexico  
& west texas

## Bug Buddies

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for a hands-on, exploration-powered workshop designed just for Brownies. Girls will meet at the park with magnifying glasses in hand to search for insects in their natural habitats - a fun mix of science, discovery, and creativity. Brownies will investigate the insect world while working toward earning their Bugs Badge.

**Brownie (Grades 2 - 3)**  
Wednesday, March 18, 2026  
1:00 PM - 2:30 PM MDT  
Sue Young Park  
9730 Diana Dr., El Paso, TX 79924  
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls  
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/BugBuddiesBEP2026>  
Registration deadline: Monday, March 9, 2026

**What you will do:**

- Observe insects up close and learn fun facts about them
- Discover how insects help the environment
- Go on an insect hunt in the park
- Create a butterfly or insect craft to take home

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!



El Paso, TX

Sat.  
April  
11



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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/ExploreTreesCNC2026>  
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!  
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Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!



Carlsbad, NM

Wed.  
April  
22



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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  
Hobbs Program Center  
4324 N. Grimes St., Hobbs, NM 88240  
Cost: \$25 Min/Max: 5/20 girls  
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/FlowerHB2026>  
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!  
Meet new friends, learn what Girl Scouts is about, and join the fun.  
Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!



El Paso, TX

# Engagement

## Upcoming Volunteer Opportunities

### El Paso, TX

- Girl Scouts Birthday Bash - Saturday, March 28, 2026
- La Nube Spring Block Party - Saturday, March 14, 2026
- El Paso Science Festival - Saturday, April 18 & Sunday, April 19, 2026

Contact [cjimenez@gdsdw.org](mailto:cjimenez@gdsdw.org) or [cvelasquez@gdsdw.org](mailto:cvelasquez@gdsdw.org) for more information



### Hobbs, NM

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

Contact [chenthorn@gdsdw.org](mailto:chenthorn@gdsdw.org) or [cvelasquez@gdsdw.org](mailto:cvelasquez@gdsdw.org) for more information

### Calling all volunteers!

GSDSW is collecting short video testimonials from volunteers all over council who are willing to share about their GSDSW journey and why they chose to volunteer. Your story can make a meaningful difference and help others see how rewarding it is to be part of the Girl Scout community.

Let us know you are interested in this project by emailing [info@gdsdw.org](mailto:info@gdsdw.org), and we will follow up with topic questions for you to answer about your experience! We'd love to include your voice!

Thank you for all you do to support our girls and our mission.



**PEAK**  
PEAK EDUCATION

## WILDERNESS FIRST AID

INCLUDES 2-YEAR CERTIFICATION

**April 25-26, 2026**

**EL PASO**  
GSDSW 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, March 10, 2026

# Resource Development



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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

## Seeking Auction Item Donations for 2026 Women of Distinction!

Do you have an item, service, or unique experience you'd like to donate to support this year's Women of Distinction event?

We are currently gathering contributions for both our silent and live auctions.

If you're interested in contributing or would like more information, please contact [funddevelopment@gsdsw.org](mailto:funddevelopment@gsdsw.org)

## 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



Give Grandly!  
Give Local!

# Council Properties

## Council Property Building Rental / Usage

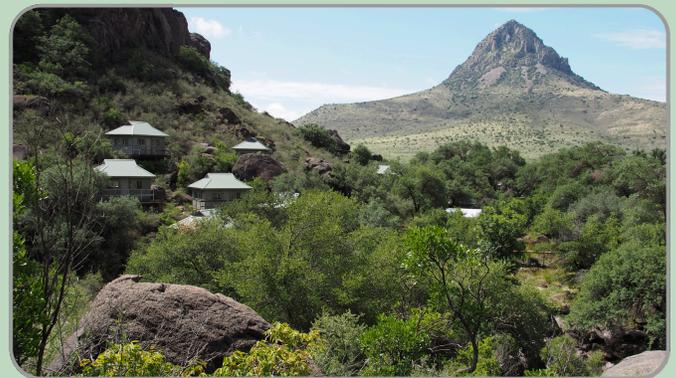
### Reminder: Council Property Use Form Required

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

### Resource Development Specialist

- Midland

### Program Specialist

- Midland

Interested candidates should email [careers@gdsw.org](mailto:careers@gdsw.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.