



# The Trooper

*January 2024*



Heads up: Routine system  
maintenance coming soon!



## **GSUSA System Maintenance - February 2-5**

Access to myGS (including the Volunteer Toolkit and gsLearn) will be unavailable due to routine system maintenance.

Starting on Friday, February 2, GSUSA will perform routine system maintenance to myGS, including the Volunteer Toolkit and gsLearn. Access to these tools will be unavailable during this time. Everything should be back up and running by Monday, February 5.

We know that it is a busy time of year for Girl Scouts, which is why GSUSA wants to make sure our system is in tip-top shape! Routine system maintenance is necessary for keeping things running smoothly for our caregivers, volunteers, and staff. Make sure you have everything you might need in advance of this downtime, so you are not inconvenienced!

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## **Camp Job Applications Are Now Open!**

Looking for a fantastic summer job opportunity? Look no further! The Girl Scouts of Utah is hiring for numerous camp positions. If you, or someone you know, is seeking an exciting summer opportunity, explore our website for a list of open positions. Whether it involves leading outdoor adventures, facilitating fun activities, or creating unforgettable experiences for campers, we have a range of roles waiting for passionate individuals like you. Join us in creating an unforgettable summer for both campers and staff. Visit [our website](#) and apply for your next adventure-packed volunteer position! And do not forget to share this opportunity with anyone who might be interested.

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# Troop Program & Outdoor Program Opportunities

## Girl Scouts Give Back Day

Girl Scouts of Utah aims to help Girl Scouts serve their community through service projects. With [10 council coordinated opportunities](#) from Logan to St. George, Girl Scouts Give Back Day is a fantastic opportunity for your Girl Scout family or troop to show support of the community.

**ACTION:** Hurry!! Registration closes on January 31.

## Troop Camping registration open February 20-26

Enjoy the beauty of Camp Cloud Rim or Trefoil Ranch this summer with your troop. Troop Camping at our Summer camp properties is a way for Girl Scouts and their troop leaders to enjoy the camp experience together with the support of camp staff. Paddle a canoe on the lake, learn a new outdoor skill, or climb at the new Trefoil Ranch ropes course. Activities offered at troop camping can be chosen to create high-adventure activities or designed to help troops become more comfortable outdoors. Troop Camping fills quickly each year and girl to adult ratios apply.

Troop Camping is one of our most popular outdoor programs. To ensure that GSU staff has enough time to place and design individual schedules for troops, we have a limited registration window.

**LET'S GO CAMPING!**

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## World Thinking Day - February 22

Get ready to mark your calendars! World Thinking Day, celebrated since 1926 on February 22, is just around the corner. This special holiday was created to bring Girl Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide together to honor international friendships and engage in activities addressing global issues. You and your troop have several options to participate – attend the [events](#) Girl Scouts of Utah is promoting, celebrate as a troop, or have individual Girl Scouts complete activities from the GSUSA and World Association of Girl Guides & Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) [activity packs](#). This year's theme, "Our World, Our Thriving Future:

the environment and global poverty," aligns with the ongoing focus on the environment. For further insight, volunteers can take a short gsLearn course on World Thinking Day. Search for GSUSA World Thinking Day 101 in your gsLearn content library. While encouraging global exploration, we emphasize cultural respect, discouraging stereotypes, and promoting direct knowledge or connections. Let us make this World Thinking Day a meaningful and globally connected experience!

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## **Cadette Girl Scout Opportunity**

### **Program Aide Training – April 12 & 13**

Required for Cadettes who plan to complete the Program Aide. Cadettes can receive their Program Aide award by earning one LIA (Leadership in Action) award, completing council-designed leadership course training, and working directly with younger girls in a group or troop setting.

**[Register now!](#)**

*This training is the second part of the three requirements to receive the Program Aide award; girls need to have completed their Leader in Action (LIA) before taking this training.*

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## **Tips for Troop Leaders**

### **Goal Setting Is the Most Powerful Lesson She Will Learn: Here's How to Guide Her**

Your troop knows how to dream big, which is wonderful! But when your Girl Scouts decide to go on safari to see lions up close—using this year's cookie program earnings—it might be time to have a conversation about setting realistic goals.

Goal setting is one of the most powerful lessons your troop will learn through Girl Scouts, and it all starts with you! With your guidance, they will understand what it means to push their limits, cope with setbacks, and unleash their inner go-getter.

Although girls practice goal setting firsthand by earning badges and selling cookies, you also need to draw their attention, especially younger girls, to how they *set* goals. By approaching goals with intention, they will recognize that

they have the tools needed to turn their dreams into reality.

So where do you start? Check out this [Volunteer Expert](#) who shared her tips for leading these important conversations.

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## Cookie Program Resources

From downloads to guidelines, doorhangers to business cards and beyond—[try these handy resources](#). Check out some of the fun activities and materials for Girl Scouts from our partners at ABC Bakers.

For Girl Scout cookie resources, including order cards, rewards information, and social media guidelines and tips, visit [For Cookie Sellers](#).

For an allergen guide, cookie lineup, ABC Bakers door hanger, and other printable cookie resources, visit the [ABC Bakers Flickr](#).

Additional cookie programmatic resources are available from GSUSA. This includes information for entrepreneurship pins and badges, family meeting guides, Cookie Booth essentials, where cookie money goes, etc. Visit [GSUSA's Cookie Resources](#).

### Cookie Open Office Hours

Looking for a place to follow up on questions? Struggling with Smart Cookie? Just want to be on top of the latest information? Join us for virtual Cookie Open Office Hours starting in January through the cookie program. These meetings are available from noon to 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. They will be recorded. Dates and topics of the next few meetings:

January 24: Initial Orders, Rewards order, Booth scheduling, Smart Cookie demo

February 7: Troop Secured Booth Agreements, Entering Troop Secured Booths in Smart Cookie

February 21: Warehouse Pickup and delivery, Cupboard planned orders, Digital Cookie troop site

**ACTION:** All meetings will use the same Zoom link; check your Smart Cookie email for the link. Meetings will be recorded and uploaded to the website under [Volunteer Cookie Resources/Training Dates & Information](#).

## **Bling Your Booth**

Decorate your booth and win prizes! Highlight a service project, feature a fun cookie theme, or showcase your troop's adventures in your Cookie Booth while highlighting your cookie goal. A GSUSA study found that more than 50% of customers are more likely to increase their purchase if they know it supports Girl Scout goals and adventures.

## **Cookie Goals: Rallying Troop Families for Cookie Season**

Cookie season is here, and you are feeling proud of your Girl Scout troop for rocking their goal-setting conversation and committing to a cookie goal that will fuel their weekend camping trip this summer. A successful way to reach the goals your girls set is by bringing your troop's families and caregivers into the cookie season.

That should not sound difficult—after all, most troop families want to be supportive. The cookie program should be a team effort, and adult support plays a major part. But what happens when you have parents who see the cookie program as just another task on their lengthy to-do list rather than an entrepreneurial experience for their cookie boss?

If you are looking for ways to motivate any apprehensive parents in your troop, here are some recommended strategies:

- **If you have not already, hold a cookie-specific meeting for parents and caregivers.** Even if you discussed the cookie program at your first parent meeting, be available to reconnect with troop adults. Your troop caregivers will likely have more questions about what is expected of them and their girls. You can also let caregivers know at the meeting that you are looking for some extra support.
- **Share your troop's goal and how they will get there.** Open the conversation by outlining the goal or experience the girls are working toward and talk about the girls' decision-making process and that you are proud of their ability to work as a team. Once you have shared your troop's vision, let the adults know what the goal means for their girl.
- **Outline the immediate and long-term benefits of the cookie program.** Caregivers love to hear how the sale works—the girls set their own goals! Once parents hear how hands-on the sale is for their daughters and how they will learn how to make change and speak to customers and work as a team, they are much more willing to participate in the program.

- **Have a “but wait, there’s more!” moment with the adults.** Let them know they can see the cookie program’s impact long before their budding entrepreneur opens her first business or goes for her MBA. Their Girl Scout will learn to manage money and allocate their after-school job savings wisely, for instance, and hone the relationship-building skills they need to lead classmates in a group project.

The skills Girl Scouts learn from the cookie program set them up for success in school, extracurriculars, and beyond; helping parents and caregivers understand the big picture goes a long way in building the support you need.

### **Cookie Program Dates to Remember:**

- February 4 – Initial Order taking ends
- February 16-18 – National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend
- March 2 – Service Unit warehouse pickup day
- March 7 – Cookie Cupboards open (*subject to change*)
- March 15-30 – Cookie Booths
- March 30 – Cookie Program ends
- April 2 – Money due to TPMs

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## **Upcoming Training for Volunteers**

Whether you are a seasoned Girl Scout Leader or new to the world of what girls can do, one particularly important aspect of your role is training!

**Camping, Trips, and Travel Training** – Mandatory before you plan a trip or travel experience or go camping with your troop.

- *Planning Trips with Girl Scouts* is available on gsLearn. Learn about the policies, safety requirements, and travel progression.
- *Camping 101* is your practical outdoor skills and camping with Girl Scouts safety and policies, as well as camping progression. Currently available in April and May.
- *Extended Overnight Trips* (two+ nights), if attending for the first time, you must attend virtually in February or September. This training has a renewal requirement every two years – renewal is available on gsLearn.
- *Planning International Trips* is required by all adults and girls who will be traveling. Highly recommended 18 months before your planned trip. This

training will be held virtually in February and September and is required prior to every international trip.

Training is offered via gsLearn (accessible from myGS), as well as in-person and virtually. Search for upcoming training opportunities on the [Activities Calendar](#) or log in to [myGS](#). For assistance, [contact Customer Care](#).

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## Service Unit Extra

### **Council Sponsored Events Training a.k.a. CSE Knowledge Follow Up**

The WHAT, WHY, and HOW of planning and implementing a council sponsored event in your Service Unit. This is a blended learning, requiring online and virtual components. Required every 3 years.

Register now for the [Feb. 28 virtual training](#) with Alyssa & Natalia. Be sure to complete the online portion of the training before attending.

### **Welcome to the Membership Team**

Jacki Ortiz is our newest Membership Support Specialist. Originally hailing from Los Angeles, she is thrilled to support Utah girls of all ages on their Girl Scouts journey! Jacki will be supporting South Davis, Hunter Valley, Jordan, Aspen, and Rosecrest service units.

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## Quick Links

- Join GSU's team - [nd and apply to job openings.](#)
- Receive ongoing communications from GSU - [GSU's Facebook](#)
- Stay up-to-date on trainings and events from GSU - [GSU Programs Facebook](#)
- Salt Lake City and American Fork shop info - [Retail](#)



Have a question? Don't be shy!  
[Contact us](#) for more information.