



girl scouts 
of the sierra nevada

2025-2026

Program & Training Guide at-a-glance

Check out our activities calendar at gssn.org for more information and to register. New programs are added regularly.





Letter from the Chief Operating Officer

Dear Members & Friends of Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada,

As we embark on this new membership year, and the 90th birthday of GSSN, I find myself reflecting on all the reasons why I love working for Girl Scouts. I, like many of you reading this, started my Girl Scout journey as a Girl Scout mom and Troop Leader, which very quickly turned into an active Service Unit Leadership role. Our troop was a mega troop with forty-something girls! What made it all work was having a fantastic co-leader, and incredible parent involvement. My advice to you is don't be afraid to ask for help! Plan your year in advance and assign tasks to your girls and parents. Most of the year is already laid out for you.

In this guide, you will find volunteer training offerings, as well as activities and high adventure trips for girls that our council is planning to offer this year. I hope having this information in advance helps with your year planning. Be sure to check the activities calendar on our website regularly as we update it with specific dates, times, and locations as events are confirmed. New this year, we are launching GSSN on-the-go! We will be hitting up as many communities in our 96,000 square mile territory that we can, bringing our Sweet Science program to all of our Girl Scouts, troop support to our volunteers, and our mobile retail shop for all to enjoy. Our hope is that we reach volunteers, girls, and families that we don't get to see very often, make new friends, and reach potential new members.

I remember fondly, when I turned my troop over to work for GSSN, one of my girls said, "But you can't leave; being a troop leader is like the highest honor!" She was right! Our troop leaders and volunteers do hold the highest honor. And we are here to guide you and your troop every step of the way- giving you the Girl Scout experience you want to achieve.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Joanne Estes



GSSN on-the-go



Coming soon
to your area!



For Girls

Participate in our
Sweet Science Program!

For Volunteers

Receive support for your troop!

For Families

JOIN Girl Scouts for the first time!

For Everyone

Shop our exclusive GSSN Merch!
FREE! GSSN-on-the-go patch

2025

October 4 - Susanville

October 4 - Quincy

November 8 - Winnemucca

November 8 - Battle Mountain

December 13 - Fernley

December 13 - Fallon

2026

January 17 - Carson / Gardnerville

February 7 - Yerington

February 7 - Hawthorne

March 7 - Virginia City

March 7 - Dayton

May 2 - Bishop/Mammoth

June 6 - Chester

June 7 - Alturas

August 1 - Truckee

August 1 - Lake Tahoe

GSSN Fall Programs & Training



For Volunteers & Adults

October

Troop & Family Camp
Susanville & Quincy on-the-go
New Leader Orientation
Leader Training "Progression"
Alumna Mixer
Gold Award Committee Meeting
Oxbow Service Day

November

Winnemucca & Battle Mountain on-the-go
New Leader Orientation
Leader Training "Giving Back"
Gold Award Committee Meeting

December

Fernley & Fallon on-the-go
Cookie Training
New Leader Orientation
Gold Award Committee Meeting



For Girls

October

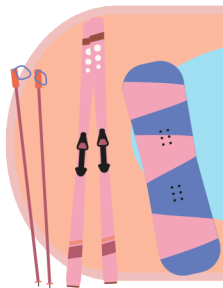
Fall Product Program
Sweet Science - Susanville & Quincy
Wilderness First Aid
Apple Hill Day Trip
Troop & Family Camp
Hispanic Heritage Celebration
Badgefest!
Mono Lake Day Trip
Juliette Gordon Low Birthday/Mystery Heist
Oxbow Service Day
Hides & Skulls w/ NDOW

November

Nevada Day Parade- Carson City
Owl Pellet Dissection Lab w/NDOW
Sweet Science- Winnemucca & Battle Mountain
Veteran's Day Parade
Native American Heritage Celebration
J+ Journey-in-a-day /Think Like a Programmer
Girl Planning Committee Meeting
Media Girls

December

Sweet Science- Fernley & Fallon
Sparks Christmas Parade
Silver & Gold Award Training
Fish Dissection Lab w/NDOW
Snow Play
Clay Art
Media Girls
Crafts & Hot Cocoa Party- Giving Back



GSSN Winter & Spring Programs & Training 2026



For Volunteers & Adults

January

New Leader Orientation
Cookie Trainings
Leader Training “WAGGGS”
Alumna Mixer
Gold Award Committee Meeting

February

Yerington & Hawthorne on-the-go
Cookie Trainings
Cookies & More Tasting Events
Gold Award Committee Meeting

March

Virginia City & Dayton on-the-go
Alumna Mixer
New Leader Orientation
Troop Trip & Travel Training
Gold Award Committee Meeting

April

Service Unit Mixer
Elko & Ely on-the-go
New Leader Orientation
Gold Award Committee Meeting

May

All that Glitters Ceremony
Outdoor Training Weekend
Carson City & Gardnerville on-the-go
Gold Award Committee Meeting

For Girls

January

Cookie Rally
Snowboarding Program
Badge Workshops
Media Girls
Silver & Gold Award Training

February

Sweet Science- Yerington & Hawthorne
World Thinking Day
Badge Workshops
Black History Celebration
Girl Planning Meeting

March

Sweet Science- Virginia City & Dayton
Badge Workshops
Countdown to Belize Meetings
Girl Scout Birthday
Snowshoe Programs

April

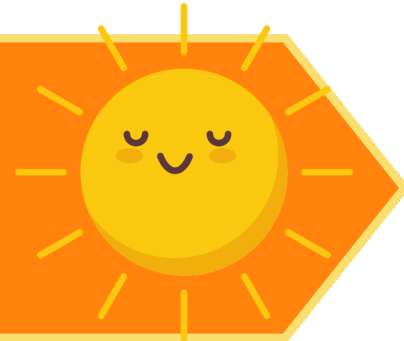
Sweet Science- Elko & Ely
Leader/Daughter Dinner
Earth Day Programs

May

All that Glitters Ceremony
Sweet Science- Carson City & Gardnerville
Skate Program
Treetop Adventure
AAPI Heritage Celebration
Bridging



GSSN Summer Programs & Training 2026



For Volunteers & Adults

June

Chester & Alturas on-the-go
Triumphant Luncheon
Whitewater Rafting

July

Wild Island Troop & Family Day
58th National Council Session &
Convention- Washington D.C.

August

Truckee & N. Shore Tahoe on-the-go
Back to School Nights- Fall Recruitment

September

Volunteer & Leader Learning Conference
Glamping for a Cause
New Leader Orientation
Fall Product Training
Back to School Nights &
Fall Recruitment
Gold Award Committee Meeting



For Girls

June

Sweet Science- Chester & Alturas
Girl Planning Meeting
Belize
Whitewater Rafting
Alpaca Ranch Tour
Rock Climbing
High Ropes Course
Horseback Riding
Silver & Gold Award Training

July

Wild Island Troop & Family Day
Mendocino Coast
Archery
Fly Fishing
Outdoor Art
Lake Day
Backpacking
58th National Council Session & Convention
- Washington D.C.

August

Lassen Volcanic National Park
Sweet Science- Truckee & N. Shore Tahoe

September

Girl Scouts Love State Parks
Silver & Gold Award Training
Fall Product Kickoff Event



International Travel



Scan to learn more



When: June 22, 2026-June 28, 2026
Who: Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors

This 7-day tour will take us through the tropical paradise of shimmering blue Caribbean coastline and lush jungle canopies of Belize. We will see native jungle animals up close on multiple nature hikes, whiz through the treetops on a zip-line, and snorkel in the crystal-clear waters of the Caribbean. Ancient ruins, cave tubing, and a riverboat cruise ensure this will be an adventure you will never forget!

When: June 29-July 9, 2027
Who: Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors

This 11-day tour will take us through Tokyo, Kamakura, Hakone, Odawara, Kyoto; Hiroshima, Himeji and Osaka. This trip features Japan's past and present, from the bustling streets of Tokyo to the ancient temples of Kyoto. Stroll through sacred shrines, see the Great Buddha in Kamakura, and catch a glimpse of majestic Mount Fuji. Engross yourself in the STEM-filled world of Akihabara. Feast on an authentic tempura dinner, and enjoy a special overnight stay at a traditional Japanese ryokan, an amazing cultural and learning experience for every girl.

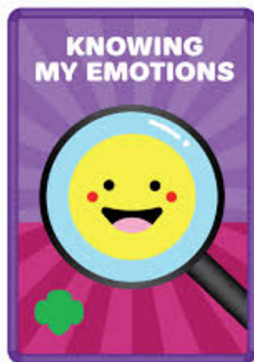


Even more fun for your troop!

FREE activity downloads available!

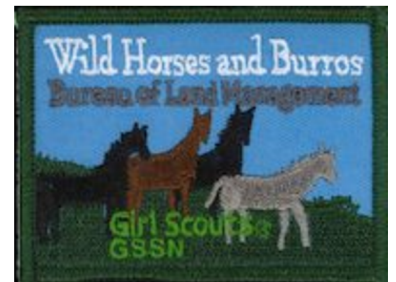


Explore by grade level
& find your activity
download by
scanning here!



Collect the new Juliette Gordon Low Quarter!
Available now through the US Mint!

GSSN Council's Own Patch Programs!



Scan here or visit our website for more information
& to order your patch & program guide.

58th National Council Session & National Girl Scout Convention

2025-2028
GSSN Council
Delegates



Kylee



Alyssandra



Vivian



Maisy
(alternate)

Join us and 10,000+ Girl Scouts at the 2026 Girl Scout Convention in Washington, DC, as we celebrate the spirit, individuality, and self-confidence that make Girl Scouts shine.

This special six-day gathering only happens once every three years. Convention kicks off with the 58th National Council Session (NCS) from July 20–22, where delegates from around the country and overseas gather to vote on and discuss issues important to our Movement, and elect leaders for the next triennium.

After NCS, from July 23–25, thousands more Girl Scouts, alum, & families stream into town for a multi-day event featuring interactive workshops, inspiring speakers, and once-in-a-lifetime adventures that spark forever friendships.



Reminder:
Add to
Calendar!



2026 Girl Scout Convention
July 20–25
Washington, DC

girlscouts.org/ncs
for more information



New! Leadership Award Menu



Girl Scout Journey's are retiring and will be phasing out in 2027.
More information on how to earn the new requirements can be found in the VTK.

	Previous Requirement	New Requirement Choose One!
Bronze Award	Complete 1 Journey	• True North Personal Leadership Award • Junior Aide • Take Action Award • Global Action Award • Junior Journey
Silver Award	Complete 1 Journey	• Earn the Bronze Award • True North Personal Leadership Award • Program Aide • Silver Torch • Take Action or Global Action Award • Cadette Journey
Gold Award	Earn the Silver Award & Complete 1 Journey or Complete 2 Journeys	• Earn the Silver Award • True North Personal Leadership Award • CIT or VIT • Gold Torch • Take Action or Global Action Award • Senior or Ambassador Journey



Girl Scout Bronze Award Training for Troop Leaders
is now available virtually on demand. View the recording here:



Girl Scout Silver Award FAQ's

- The silver award can be earned solo or in a small group
- Cadette's spend a minimum of 50 hours to complete their Silver Award
- GSSN offers Silver Award training opportunities for girls quarterly

Did you know?

A Girl Scout who earns a Gold Award:

- Expands her resume and distinguishes herself among other college applicants
- Enters the U.S. Armed Forces one rank higher
- May apply for scholarships that universities and colleges offer to Gold Award recipients
- May apply for the Crutchfield Healy Scholarship & GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship
- Over one million girls have earned their Gold Award or equivalent since 1916



How to Register for Programs

- Locate the program you want to register for on the GSSN calendar gssn.org/activities
- Log into your myGS account at mygs.girlscouts.org/my-account
- If you already have an account: Sign in using the email address we have on file. If you don't remember your password, click the "Forgot my password" link with instructions on how to reset your password.
- If you don't have an account: Click on Create an Account and follow the instructions.
- Note: You can pay for a program using your gsBucks or Juliette Funds. To use, please email Customer Care at girlscoutshelp@gssn.org and they will process the registration for you.
- Programs are subject to change per staff availability or girl interest.
- Be mindful of registration deadlines - these can be up to three weeks prior to the event. Some programs have minimum registration requirements that must be met for the program to run and may be subject to cancellation if not enough people register before the deadline.

Confirmation Notices

- Confirmations will be sent from the program lead to the email on file for the registered adult (parent/caregiver of the girl) with program details the week of the program. Please confirm we have the correct email on file when registering for programs.
- You can view all program registrations by logging in to your myGS account under the My Events tab. This will list all the programs you have registered for and the payment status.
- For virtual programs or webinars, you will receive the log-in information approximately 24 hours prior to the event.

Cancellations/Refunds

- Cancellations received after the registration deadline are not eligible for a refund or transfer of event fees.
- If GSSN cancels a program, a full refund will be made available.
- Please contact customer care at girlscoutshelp@gssn.org if you need to cancel a program registration.



Support for Troop Leaders

The Volunteer Toolkit (VTK)

The VTK gives troop leaders the program content and resources to manage their troop planning all year long! In the VTK, you can:

- Access journey, petal, and badge troop meeting plans
- View side-by-side activity guides
- View and edit your roster
- Share troop meeting activities with parents
- Record troop finances and girl meeting attendance
- Add events and troop activities
- Find tips and tools on virtual Girl Scout meetings and activities

gsLearn



Stay up to date with the latest council-wide or movement-wide trainings right in your myGS account!

Retail

- Visit girlscoutshop.com to order your essentials for the year.
- Contact shop@gssn.org to place your order through us and save on shipping.
- Visit us at one of our larger programs or at an on-the-go event.
- Have your Service Unit request a shop-on-the-go event and we will come to you! (minimum number of shoppers required & based on staff availability)

Troop Year Planner

Age-appropriate troop year plans are the best tool for first year troop leaders to get started with Girl Scouts without getting overwhelmed. The entire year is mapped out—just follow along to help your Girl Scouts complete badge activities, improve their communities, and explore the world around them.

access your myGS account
by scanning here →
or go to mygs.girlscouts.org





Girl Scout Traditions & Ceremonies

Traditions

Girl Scout Sign: Raising three fingers of the right hand with the thumb holding down the pinky. The three fingers represent the three parts of the Girl Scout Promise.

Motto: The Girl Scout motto is "Be prepared."

Slogan: The Girl Scout slogan is "Do a good turn daily."

Girl Scout Handshake: Girl Scouts can greet one another using the left handed handshake. This handshake is used by Girl Scouts & Girl Guides around the world.

Friendship Circle: Represents the unbroken chain of friendship among Girl Scouts & Girl Guides around the world.

Girl Scout Days

Juliette Gordon Low's birthday, October 31, marks the birth in 1860 of Girl Scouts of the USA founder.

World Thinking Day, February 22, is a day of international friendship and a time where Girl Scouts and Girl Guides learn about the lives of girls around the globe.

Girl Scouts' birthday, March 12, commemorates the day in 1912 when Juliette Gordon Low officially registered the organization's first 18 members in Savannah, Georgia.

Girl Scout Week is celebrated each March, starting with Girl Scout Sunday and ending with Girl Scout Sabbath.

Girl Scout Leader's Day, April 22, honors all the volunteers who work as leaders and mentors in partnership with girls. On this day, Girl Scouts, their families, and their communities find special ways to thank their Girl Scout volunteers.

Ceremonies

Opening ceremonies can kick off regular Girl Scout meetings and make them feel special!

Bridging marks a girl's move from one level of Girl Scouting to another.

Rededication ceremonies are an opportunity for Girl Scouts, their families, and volunteers to renew their commitment to the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

A **Fly-Up** is a bridging ceremony for Girl Scout Brownies bridging to Girl Scout Juniors.

An **Investiture** welcomes new members into the Girl Scout family for the first time.

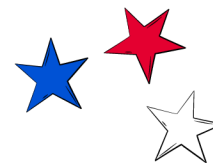
A **Court of Awards** ceremony honors Girl Scouts' accomplishments.

Flag ceremonies can be part of any activity that honors the American flag.

Uniforms

The iconic Girl Scout uniform unites generations of Girl Scouts and shows the world how much they have accomplished!

To view the official insignia and badge placement diagram scan here:



SWAPS stands for:

"Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere."

They are small tokens of friendship that Girl Scouts exchange with one another, and each SWAP uniquely reflects a fellow Girl Scout, their troop, or a memory of a special event. They're a great way to share stories and get to know Girl Scouts from across the country and the world.



Coming Soon!

Seasonal Program Boxes for Troops & Service Unit's

Back to Troop
Think Like a Programmer
Cookie Rally
Girl Scout Birthday
Earth Day
Bridging & Rededication



Body Appreciation Badges

The Body Appreciation badge line is designed to transform the way girls think about their bodies. It guides them to appreciate the functions and abilities of their bodies, which in turn boosts their confidence, self-esteem, and mental wellness. Girls also gain the knowledge and skills to respond to pressures from society, the media, peers, and more. The line includes badges for Daisy through Ambassador levels, with an age-appropriate progression of activities and themes. Available now in the VTK.

National Service Projects

Did you know that Girl Scouts has several
National Service Projects
for your troop to participate in?

Promote the Vote
Honoring Change Makers
Fighting Hunger
Citizen Science
Letter Writing

Learn more at girlscouts.org
or scan here:



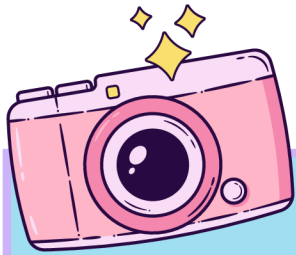
Girl Scout Stories Inspire!



Share your story here:

<https://gssn.formstack.com/forms/sharemystory>

Your Girl Scout story may be shared on GSSN social media, print, or blog posts.



We want to hear from you!
Share your favorite Girl Scout memories, experiences, and activities with us.
Help us shine a spotlight on stories of local Girl Scouts and volunteers.



SmugMug
the photo sharing app



Free, unlimited photo storage for all GSSN Members!

With Smug Mug you can:

- View and download photos of your Girl Scout at council events.
- Create private albums amongst your troop and service unit.

For General Members:

<https://girlscoutsofthesierranevada.smugmug.com>

General site access password: HonestandFair



For Service Unit Leaders and Troop Leaders

<https://girlscoutsofthesierranevada.smugmug.com>

Navigate to the bottom left of the page and click "Owner Login"

Admin Username: username: girlscoutssn@gmail.com Password: BleedGreen605

Contact girlscoutshelp@gssn.org to be emailed step-by-step instructions.

SmugMug is a privilege. By using the site, you agree to our media release policy (find it on GSSN.org -> forms and documents). It is your responsibility to ensure that each girl pictured in your uploads has a signed media release. You also agree to only download photos of your own child, unless you have permission from another child's guardian.

Council-Led Troops

FAQ's

Q: What is a council-led troop (CLT)?

A: A CLT is a Girl Scout troop that is led by council staff. We don't have enough volunteers to fill the need of the troop leader role, so we have stepped in to ensure that every girl that wants to can join Girl Scouts at GSSN. CLT's meet up to twice per month, September through May. They take the summer months off from regular troop meetings to have field trips or participate in other summer activities.

Q: Who pays for this?

A: Families pay a troop fee of \$150 in addition to the annual membership fee and council service fee of \$70. The \$150 covers the cost of uniforms, patches, staffing, and meeting supplies for the school year. This would be the equivalent to "troop dues" in a volunteer-led troop.

Q: How does the cookie program work for CLT's?

A: Girls in CLT's participate in the cookie program just as a girl in a Volunteer-Led Troop would. Cookie booths are staffed by our CLT staff or parent volunteers. CLT's use these funds to help offset costs of the program that exceed the \$150 troop fee in addition to going on summer field trips using their cookie proceeds. This past summer our older CLT girls went to Six Flags and our younger CLT girls had a day at Lake Tahoe.

Q: How is a CLT "girl-led"?

A: Girls in our CLT program take an end of year survey to decide what badges they want to work on the following year. Girls are given "kapers" or an assigned task at each meeting to ensure that every troop meeting is girl-led.

Q: What do girls do in a CLT?

A: Our CLT girls work on badges, patches, and higher awards just as a volunteer-led troop would. They have the opportunity to register and participate in any council hosted program on our calendar. Below is the CLT schedule for MY26:

October- Space Science Badges / Zinni & Tula Petals
December- Art & Design / Geri & Clover Petals
February- Manners Badges / Rosi & Vi Petals
April- Environmental Stewardship Badges
June/July - Cookie Sale Field Trips

November- Naturalist / Meri & Gloria Petals
January- Entrepreneur & Financial Literacy Badges
March- Mechanical Engineering Badges
May- Mental Wellness Patch Programs
September- Girl Scout Way

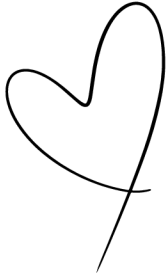
CLT Pro's

- A CLT does not have a troop bank account. This takes the financial responsibility off of the troop. Council manages the troop funds between the Finance & CLT Departments.
- CLT troop plans are set by our Girl Experience Team. This ensures that all girls are receiving an equitable and high quality Girl Scout experience.
- CLT staff are required to be background checked, fingerprinted, & take all required trainings ensuring that our troops are managed safely.

CLT Con's

- The year plan is set in advance and there is not much room for change.
- The troop leader may be a different staff member at some meetings depending on availability.
- Some curriculum is determined by grants and out of our control.
- CLT's receive half the cookie proceeds than a VLT does to cover the cost of staffing the CLT cookie program.
- A CLT will have fewer field trip opportunities than a volunteer-led troop due to funding.

Being a Troop Leader is just one way to volunteer with us.
Help us spread the word about all of the opportunities to volunteer at GSSN!



Program Assistant
Office Volunteer
Historical Closet
Cookie Cupboard
CPR/First Aid Instructor
Back to School Nights
Community Tabling Events
Color Guard Trainer
Photographer for Program Events
Media Liaison
Service Unit Leadership Roles
Council-Led Troop Helper
Service Unit Recruiter
New Troop Mentor
Product Sales Committee
Fundraising Committee
Gold Award Committee
Finance Committee
Property Committee
Council Delegate
Board of Directors

Do you have a special skill to share with others?
Lead a Girl Scout Club/Specialty Troop!

Trailblazers
Mariners
Robotics Team
Media Team

Volunteer Opportunities at GSSN for Girls
Earn credit towards the Service to Girl Scouting Bar!

Girl Planning Committee
Board of Directors- girl position
Girl Delegate
Assist with Programs
Mentor a Younger Troop





Important Dates to Remember

October

1- New Membership Year Begins
1-31 - Fall Product Program
19- Badgefest!
31- Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday

November

1- Volunteer Award Nominations Open
26-30 Thanksgiving Closure

December

12/22-1/2 Closed for Winter Holiday

January

10- Reno Cookie Rally
22 - Initial Cookie Orders Due
19- Closed for MLK Day

February

10-13 Cookie Mega Drop
14 - Cookie Booths Begin
16- President's Day Closure
22- World Thinking Day

March

8-14 Girl Scout Week
12- Girl Scout Birthday
15- Final Award Reports Due
15- Volunteer Award Nominations Due

April

Volunteer Appreciation Month
1 - Early Bird Renewal Begins
22 - Earth Day
22 - GS Leader Day

May

Mental Health Month
Bridging Month
2- All That Glitters & Volunteer Spotlight
25 - Memorial Day Closure
30 - Reno Bridging Event

June

8 - Girl Board Member Applications Open
15- Troop End of Year Financials Due
19- Juneteenth Closure
19 - Triumph

July

11- Troop & Family Day at Wild Island
20-24 GS National Convention

August

31- Girl Board Member Applications Due
Back to School-
Back to Troop!
Fall Recruitment Season Begins

September

7- Labor Day Closure
12-13 GS Love State Parks Weekend
15- SU EOY Financials Due
15 - Delegate Applications Open
19- Volunteer Conference
26- Fall Product Kickoff

Have a Great Girl Scout Year!

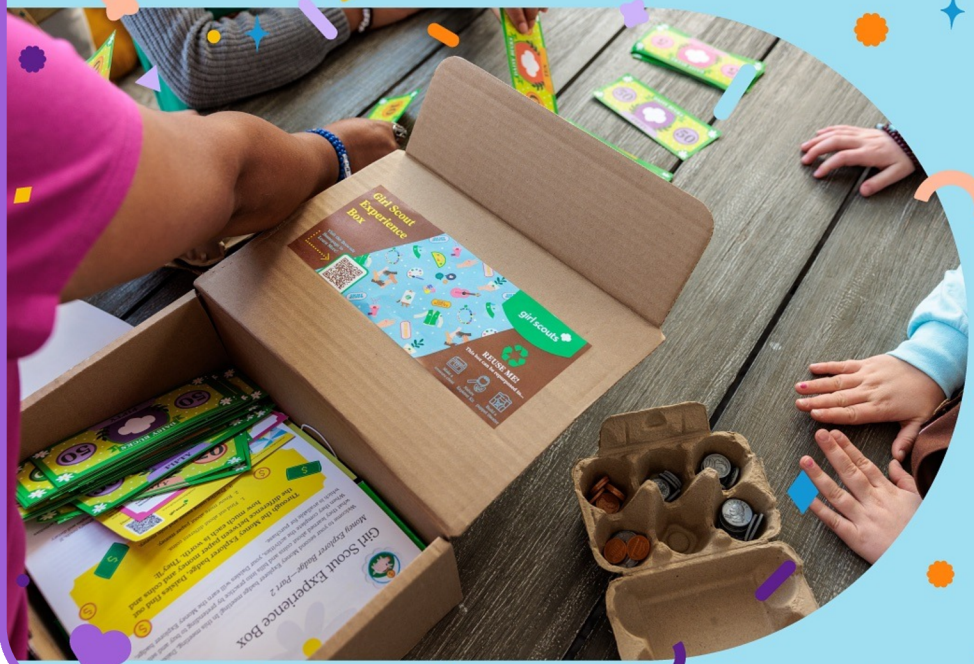
Lead Confidently with Monthly
Girl Scout Experience Boxes!

Everything you need to have fun
and fulfilling troop meetings—
delivered monthly.
New Daisy or Brownie leaders can
receive complimentary monthly
Girl Scout Experience Boxes
delivered right to their door.

Learn more here:

<https://bit.ly/3PMBRgm>

Lead Your Troop with Confidence



Renew your membership by logging into
your myGS account. Scan here

