

The Trefoil Times

A publication of Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan



Backpacks on, Badges Ahead!

Summer is officially winding down, and we are busy preparing for the new membership year that is quickly approaching! Throughout this edition of *The Trefoil Times*, you will find information on how to start the new Girl Scout year strong and how to enjoy the last few days of summer with us.

Troop Leaders, let's get prepared for another great year of Girl Scouting! By following the Back to Troop checklist, your troop is sure to be set up for success. Please complete the checklist by September 30, 2025 to ensure your troop is ready for the new year on October 1.



Get the
checklist!

Sneak peek
of everything
inside this edition:

Fall Product Program
Tips.

Discover, Dream, Do!

What Girl Scouts
are up to.

Events and programs you
won't want to miss.

And more!

Email
marketing@gshom.org
to let us know what
you'd like to see in
future editions or for
your troop to be
spotlighted!

August 2025 • Issue 6

Renewal Time!



When you stick with Girl Scouts, you're not just giving her something to do, you're giving her **someone to BE!** Girls become creative problem-solvers, confident leaders, and clever entrepreneurs, and nothing can stop these world-changers from shaping what tomorrow will become. And Girl Scouts will be here to support her strengths and help her grow no matter what life throws her way!

Remember, on-time renewal ends on September 30 before our new Girl Scout year begins on October 1! Go to our website to renew before then so she doesn't miss out on a second and she can secure her spot in her troop again this year. Plus, everyone will even receive an on-time fun patch!

Scan to renew



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Fall Product Program Starts Soon!

Our Fall Product Program gives our Girl Scouts the chance to start their entrepreneurial experience at the beginning of the Girl Scout year!

The Fall Product Program provides troops with a way to fund their Girl Scout experience at the very beginning of the Girl Scout year, and it also helps girls practice their business skills before cookie season begins.



Dates to know:

September 9:
Product Manager Training begins

September 29:
Girl Program begins


November 12:
Delivery Days begins

November 16:
Girl Rewards due

ACH



Volunteer Resources



To participate in the Fall Product Program, troops **MUST**:

- ☐ Have at least two fully appointed leaders registered with the troop.
- ☐ Have a bank account and current ACH information on file.
- ☐ Have each girl's caregiver sign the Product Program Parent Permission Form.
- ☐ Complete the electronic Troop Product Manager Agreement.
- ☐ Attend a live virtual or gsLearn training.



Troop Organizer Spotlight

As a Service Unit's Troop Organizer, you are a key player in bringing the Girl Scout experience to life for girls and adults in your community.

Your expertise, interests, skills, and life experiences are essential to the leadership experience which inspires girls to reach their personal best. You will coordinate with a designated school within the Service Unit (SU) and set up, market, and attend recruitment events with the goal of starting new troops. You will promote Girl Scouting and be a wealth of knowledge for community partners.

Interested in being a Troop Organizer? Reach out to Hep Desk (helpdesk@gshom.org or 1-800-497-2688).

Have you
heard of our
**Sister
to Sister
Fund?**



Sister to Sister provides financial assistance to members throughout our council. We want every girl to have access to Girl Scouting, so we never turn away a girl due to financial barriers. If you would like to pay it forward to ensure that all girls continue to receive the benefits and fun of Girl Scouting, you can do so by visiting donate.gshom.org/GSHOMS2S

Scan here
to donate



Volunteer Shout-out:

Kelley Hissong



Kelley has been a troop leader for many years in the Irish Hills area.

Her ability to make every girl a part of a community with access to enriching and empowering opportunities has not gone unnoticed. Kelley has spearheaded events for World Thinking Day and the Pinewood Derby. She serves as an outdoor skills trainer, providing knowledge to all ages in her community, and is part of the planning of engaging programs at camp, fostering teamwork and resilience among girls of all ages. Outside of her troop, she is an advocate for girls and Girl Scouting in her community. She is passionate, dedicated, and a hard worker.

Save the Date to

DISCOVER.

DREAM.

DO!

*Saturday,
Sept. 20th*

10:00 AM - 1:00 PM

• Ann Arbor • Lansing
• Jackson • Saginaw
• Kalamazoo

We're thrilled to unveil a brand-new event that brings together the best parts of two beloved gatherings. On Saturday, September 20, 2025, all are invited to join us at any Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Regional Center for **Girl Scouts: Discover, Dream, Do!**

We've combined our annual Volunteer Kick-Off and our Fall Product Kick-Off event into one dynamic, engaging day! This newly reimagined event is free and open-house style, designed for current Girl Scouts, families, volunteers, and anyone curious about what it means to be part of our Girl Scout community.

Earn a special patch when you pre-register!

Girls and adults will:

- Get to know our new Fall Product Program mascot, the Goal-Getting Grizzly Bear.
- Sample brand-new products (while supplies last).
- Explore badge-boosting activities.
- Set goals for the season.
- You'll also get a sneak peek at Fall Product Program rewards and learn how to join the **DOUBLE MINT Club!**

Many activities connect with Financial Literacy badges, and as part of our community service mission. We encourage attendees to bring a canned food item to donate.



**Scan to
Register**





Upcoming Programs

September

Sep 19-20 Do-Dad's Work Weekend *adults*
Camp Merrie Woode

We are looking for a few strong men to join us as we tackle some projects at Camp Merrie Woode. This free volunteer opportunity will begin with an optional Friday night dinner and gathering where we network and try out the new blacksmith area at camp (yeah - dads can play too!).

The real fun will begin on Saturday with another optional camp breakfast. Work will start at 8:30 AM sharp, then we'll break for lunch and some thank-you's. We'll finish up our project by 4:00 PM so we can clean up our tools and be home by dinner.

Bring your tools and your fun and help our camp ranger team make an impact at camp!

Note: If you would like to help cover the cost of meals, supplies or give to the general fund, please choose the donation option.

Sep 27 Unbridled Communication *dbjcsa*
Howell

Girl Scouts will explore how horses communicate. Through fun and interactive activities, you'll learn how to "speak horse" by reading their body language, expressions, and behaviors.



October

Oct 5 Kids in a Candy Store with Cash! *dbj*
Saline

Can you use math to figure out the price of your candy before you get to the register? Let's find out! Get a behind-the-scenes look at a candy shop and use your budgeting skills to build your order.

Oct 7 October Juliette Meeting *dbjcsa*
Virtual

Girls will have the opportunity to meet with other Juliettes from our council. Learn about council-sponsored events, earning badges, and how to participate in the Girl Scout product programs.

Oct 11 Fall Family Adventure Day *dbjcsaf*
Camp O'the Hills

Gather the whole family for an unforgettable day of outdoor fun! Try your hand at archery, slingshots, crate climbing, slacklining, boating, and more. It's the perfect way to enjoy the great outdoors together. Plus, lunch will be provided.

Oct 12 Badgefest! Cybersecurity *bjcsa*
Plymouth

Learn about networks, hacking, and cybercrime. Girls will earn the Cybersecurity Basics, Cybersecurity Safeguards, and Cybersecurity Investigator Badges.

Oct 12 Badgefest! Code for Good *bjcsa*
Plymouth

Learn about algorithms and how machines know what to do. Then, take this knowledge and design and code your own computer game! Talk about women in STEM and the steps to join their ranks!

Oct 15 Women in STEM: Saving Lives with Charles River *csa*
Mattawan

Join us at the world's largest non-clinical research site for an exploration of local STEM careers. Followed by a laboratory tour, hands-on STEM activities, and a pizza dinner.

Oct 18 Spooky Spectacular *dbjcsa*
Camp Merrie Woode

You'll be able to tour a "haunted lodge," participate in camp activities, get your face painted, make Halloween crafts, and enter a costume contest with other troops and families. Take home a spooky snack bag to keep the fun going!

Oct 18 Michigan Mammal Masks *dbjc*
With The Ann Arbor Parks Department

Be prepared for a short hike on a dirt trail. Dress for the weather with comfortable shoes. Water and restrooms available.

Oct 20 Scent Scientists with Kalamazoo Candle Company *jcsa*

Experiment with different scents as you try your hand at making a candle, soap, body spray, and even a sand castle. Learn about the history of candlemaking, and take home your creation.

Oct 22 Spooky Science *dbjcsa*
All Regional Centers

Wear your costume and get ready for a hauntingly good time! Use your engineering skills to build a candy pumpkin tower, create your own Frankenstein collage from magazine clippings, and send ghost rockets soaring through the night sky!



Oct 25 Harvest Festival *dbjcsa*
Camp Linden

Trick or treat through the forest, decorate pumpkins, check out our spooky carnival, try your hand at our favorite camp activities, chuck apples into the lake with our giant slingshots, and show off your Halloween look in our costume contest!

Oct 25 Badgefest: Shopping Spree! *db*
Saginaw

Learn about coins and paper cash and practice exchanging money. Learn how to budget and plan for a trip with your troop, then put your new skills to the test with a shopping spree at our Girl Scout store!

Oct 25 Voices on the Airwaves *csa*
Kalamazoo - Session A

Have you ever wished you could create your own podcast? Whether it's silly stories or an in-depth investigation, this is your chance to share your interests over the airwaves! Learn how to craft an engaging story from the mentors on the GSHOM marketing team and find your own voice and performance style.

November

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Nov 4 November Juliette Meeting *dbjcsa* *Virtual*

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Nov 8 Top Chef - Simple Meals *j* *Michigan State University Food Lab*

Learn how to use different cooking equipment during a kitchen scavenger hunt. Prepare a nutritious breakfast, lunch, dinner, or dessert dish.

Nov 8 Top Chef - New Cuisines *csa* *Michigan State University Food Lab*

Learn about different cooking equipment and make a dish from another country, another region of the United States, and another time period.

Nov 9 Kids in a Candy Store with Cash! *dbj* *Saline*

Can you use math to figure out the price of your candy before you get to the register? Let's find out! Get a behind-the-scenes look at a candy shop and use your budgeting skills to build your order.

Nov 12 Women in STEM: Saving Lives with Charles River *dbj* *Mattawan*

Join us at the world's largest non-clinical research site for an exploration of local STEM careers. Followed by a laboratory tour, hands-on STEM activities, and a pizza dinner.

Nov 12 Make New Friendsgiving *fdb* *All Regional Centers*

Prepare and share a meal with new friends and celebrate friendships. Join in the fun by helping to prepare the meal, decorating the party space, and designing your very own party planning journal!

Nov 13 Badgefest: Shopping Spree! *db* *Jackson*

Learn about coins and paper cash and practice exchanging money. Learn how to budget and plan for a trip with your troop, then put your new skills to the test with a shopping spree at our Girl Scout store!

December

Dec 3 Science of Happiness *csa* *Camp Wacousta*

Whether it's a walk in the woods or a day at the mall, everyone needs a self-care routine to recharge. Explore ways to relax, reflect, and find yourself in this crafty mental wellness workshop. Use tools like painting, gratitude journaling, and vision board collages to ground yourself and promote positivity.

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Oct 9 *Kalamazoo*

Oct 14 *Lansing*

Nov 4 *Jackson*

Nov 6 *Saginaw*

Nov 13 *Ann Arbor*

Girl Scout Swiftie Celebration

Hey hey Swifties! It's time to celebrate Girl Scout sisterhood Swiftie style! Design and create friendship bracelets to celebrate your connections or start new ones. Make your own miniature mirrorball and DIY microphone to use while we sing and dance to our favorite songs!




Hey, hey, Girl Scouts!
The best part
of Girl Scouts?
**We want YOU
to take the lead!**

Use this page to start
planning your Girl
Scout year!

Fill your bingo card
with things you
want to do this
Girl Scout year and
discuss it with you
troop.

How many bingos
are you going to
make?

DISCOVER, DREAM, DO!		DO AN ACTIVITY OUTDOORS		FALL PRODUCT PROGRAM
	DO SOMETHING FOR OTHERS			
	COOKIE KICK-OFF		MAKE A SCIENCE EXPERIMENT	
		COOKIE SEASON		
GO ON A TRIP				SUMMER CAMP



Earn badges and
highest awards.



Be involved in
community service and
Take Action projects.



Participate in
Girl Scout traditions.



Participate in the
Product Program.



Spend time in the
great outdoors and
at Girl Scout camp.



Host regular meetings
with your troop.



Offer travel, field
trips and events.



Use this checklist to
ensure you have the best
Girl Scout experience
and to become an
Honor Troop!

Write on the lines
what do you think
your troop should
do to to complete
each element.

Mark each one
when completed.

NEW!

Heat Press Services

Brand new to all our retail stores, we now offer heat pressing services! This is the perfect opportunity for any new members or if you bridged this year.

For just \$10, we will heat press your new uniform with the council ID, flag, troop numbers, and troop crest!

*Any additional patches are \$1 each.



Flag Ceremony at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

Over the 4th of July weekend, Troop 40889 had the honor of participating in laying the wreath at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery in D.C. This is just a piece of their Bronze Award project in which Ashlie Pulford (Leader) and Autumn, Monte, Els, Abriella, Lily, and Delanie have worked to become the first official, trained Girl Scout Color Guard in the state of Michigan (noted by the Correctional Peace Officers Foundation). The six girls in the troop are also working to implement a training program that they've started with other troops in Chelsea.



Our mission in motion!

See what our Girl Scouts are up to!



Troop 40920
Father's Day Fishing



Troop 50543
Exploring Vernal Pools
at Chippewa Nature Center



Troop 60138
Adventure Mining in the UP



Service Unit 804
Mother's Day Tea Party



Service Unit with various
troops at Midland Blooms



Troop 40889
Color Guard Flag Ceremony
at Lansing Lugnuts Game

Girl Spotlight

Zailey's Gold Award Project



Zailey's Gold Award project stemmed from her passion for improving the Larkin Park Path from Acorn Lane to Larkin Charter Township Park. When making observations for community needs, she found that these areas were not in the best condition for mobile accessibility for everyone to use.

Once Zailey had decided how to take action, she made a project plan and presentation to share with the Larkin Township Board. In partnership with the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy, she was given access to the wetlands and rebuilt an existing bridge.

Through determination, Zailey ensured that the township board would continue to maintain the path and create a sustainable park path for everyone. Congratulations on earning your Gold Award, Zailey!

Scan to see
how she did it!



Zailey is the GSHOM recipient of a \$5,000 scholarship from GSUSA as she embarks on her next journey after high school. Congratulations, Zailey!

Adult Education Corner

Whether you're preparing to lead a camping trip, respond to emergencies, or support youth mental health, these trainings are designed to equip you with the skills and confidence you need to support your troop and give your girls the best year yet.

Outdoors Skills

This class will prepare you to take your troop on a camping trip. There will be pre-work assigned on gsLearn that must be completed before the class. You will be mostly outdoors, so come prepared for the weather with appropriate clothing and shoes! Bring a mess kit, as you will cook and eat lunch during class.

New this year, starting October 1st!

Outdoor Skills 'Opt Out' form for folks who complete the online pre-work and feel confident in their camping skills and are choosing to opt out of in person Outdoor Skills training.

**Must complete Outdoor Skills pre-work on gsLearn to access the opt out form.*



First Aid/CPR/AED Training

This course will teach you how to recognize and respond appropriately to cardiac, breathing, and first aid emergencies. You'll learn skills necessary to provide immediate care to a suddenly injured or ill person until more advanced medical personnel arrive and take over. Those who successfully complete this course will receive

Did you know that any registered adult in the troop can be the designated Outdoor Skills certified or First Aider person for your troop? The Outdoor Skills person and the First Aider must be different people (in case of emergency).

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

This course is designed to assist youth experiencing a mental health or substance-use related crisis. In this course, you will learn risk factors and warning signs for mental health and addiction concerns, strategies for how to help someone in both crisis and non-crisis situations, and where to turn for help.

Important Note: This blended learning class will require 2 hours of necessary pre-work that must be completed before you attend the class.



girl scouts
heart of michigan

601 W Maple St
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to
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Follow us on



The Trefoil Times is a
quarterly publication by Girl
Scouts Heart of Michigan.

Save the Date:

Fall Open House!

Saturday, Oct 4th

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Camp Linden
Camp Merrie Woode
Camp O'the Hills

*Free
event!*



Dates to Remember

September 1

Labor Day
Regional Centers closed

September 20

Discover, Dream, Do!

September 29

Fall Product Program
begins!

September 30

On time renewal ends

October 1

New Girl Scout year
starts!

October 31

Juliette Gordon Low's
Birthday / Founder's
Day

November 27-28

Thanksgiving
Regional Centers closed



The Trefoil Times

August 2025 • Issue 6

Your support powers Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan!

Help us grow our community
and spread the word about the
incredible benefits and
programming of Girl Scouting. Post your proud
Girl Scout photos on your social media and tag us
to inspire the next generation of leaders!

f Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan
d **@gshom**

**Scan to get some
caption suggestions**



**Did you know that Girl Scouts
Heart of Michigan has a Member
Advisory Committee (MAC)?**



This committee is made up of volunteers who gather feedback
from other members, and pass along that
feedback to the Executive Staff and Board of
Trustees. Members are welcome to submit
feedback to the MAC via a form
on our website.

