The Trefoil Times

A publication of Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan



Fall into the new Girl Scout Year with us!

Welcome back, Girl Scout! We hope you had the summer of a lifetime and are having a great time getting back into the swing of things with school, troop meetings, and the Fall Product Program. Throughout this edition of *The Trefoil Times*, you will find upcoming programs throughout the council, cookie sneak peeks and more! Go ahead and grab your favorite Fall Product Program treat, and let's *fall* in together.

Join us for a night at the



Back by popular demand: EmpowHER Night at the Kalamazoo Wings, sponsored by Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan! Save the date for Saturday, March 7. Join us before the game for an incredible panel with women in leadership, plus fun activities to get you excited to cheer on the K-Wings. Buy your tickets today! *Please note:* Spaces are limited for the pre-game program, and are purchased separately from game tickets.



Sneak peek
of everything
inside this edition

Upcoming programs you
won't want to miss!

Pro-tips for the best
Cookie Season EVER!

Troop & volunteer shout outs.

Important dates to remember.

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!

Cookie Season Begins Soon!

It's more than a cookie.

While you are finishing your Fall Product Program strong, we know you are looking forward to an amazing Cookie Season! The Cookie Program is essential to a Girl Scout's experience. Together with the Fall Product Program, the Cookie Program helps you gain five critical life skills: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics. No other fundraiser puts girls in the lead like the Girl Scout **Product Programs!**















December

- 12/1 Entering troop-sponsored booths opens
- 12/15 Digital Cookie (DOC) opens

this is a girl's online storefront

January

- 1/5 Paper order card sales begin
- 1/6 Troop sites open on DOC
- 1/14 Council-sponsored booth sign up opens at 7:00 PM
 - Cet your 3 promised 1/20 - Troop Initial Orders due

February

- 2/7-2/12 Delivery week!
- 2/6-2/8 Special Super Bowl Booths
- 2/13 Booths begin



Volunteer Resources



Meet our Newest Cookie!

The Exploremore!

his rocky road ice cream-inspired sandwich cookie—filled with the delicious flavors of chocolate, marshmallow, and toasted almond-flavored crème—reflect the spirit of exploration at the heart of every Girl Scout. From a curious kindergartener, amazed by jellyfish at the local aquarium, to a middle schooler finding the courage to go on her first overnight trip with her troop, Girl Scouts know the road to discovery starts with exploration.

Top 5 Tips to Start your Cookie Season STRONG!

Girl Scouts, Cookie Season is here, and you're going to rock it! Here are some tips to help you start off on the right foot!

- Set a goal that excites you! What do you wish to experience because of your Cookie Program? What incentives do you want to earn? Set a goal that challenges and inspires you!
- **Develop your plan.** What steps will you take to hit your goal? Make a list of your possible customers and how you will connect with them. Brainstorm how many Cookie Booths you might want to host.
- **3 Ask for help!** You may need help from your caregiver(s) to achieve your goal. Maybe they can help you record a video for your Digital Cookie site, or post content to their social media page.
- **Practice your pitch!** Stand in front of the mirror and practice what you will say to your customers. Be sure to mention what your goal is and what you'll get to experience when you crush that goal!
- 5 Set up your online store! Digital Cookie is the online platform that lets you take your Cookie Program virtual, reaching customers all over the country through shipped ordering options! Girl Scouts who use Digital Cookie tend to set and achieve higher goals. Digital Cookie will open December 15!





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Join us on Saturday, January 10,

2026 to kick off your cookie season strong! Girls will get to do activities that bring the 5 Skills to life, while adults can get any help they might need to support their Cookie CEO! Registration coming soon.

Where have Cookies taken you?

We know that Girl Scout Cookies make incredible adventures and experiences possible. We want to spotlight what Girl Scout Cookies have done for you! Send us your photos and stories to marketing@gshom.org to be spotlighted on our social media and in other content!



Save the date for trainings!

1st & 2nd year volunteers:

November 24 December 4 December 9 January 7

3rd+ year volunteers:

December 2 December 10

gsLearn training available for all volunteers:

December 5



December

Dec

4 Saginaw

Q Jackson

16 Ann Arbor

18 Kalamazoo

Science of Happiness

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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Dec.

Flavors of the World

Have fun in this hands-on program for Girl Scouts to explore global cuisine, traditions, stories, while encouraging curiosity, teamwork and more!

Dec

Badgefest! Cybersecurity *Plymouth*

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

Badgefest! Code for Good *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!

Dec Kids in a Candy Store with Cash!

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.

Badgefest: Shopping Spree!

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!

January

Jan Kids in a Candy Store with Cash! 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.

Jan Barr Engineering's Building Blocks *Ann Arbor*

Build up your engineering knowledge with Barr Engineering! You'll learn the basics of structural design and get to put them to the test by building your own marshmallow structures with a team of your Girl Scout sisters!

Jan

Badgefest: Shopping Spree!

Get to know your dollars and cents! 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 \$15 cash for a shopping spree at our Girl Scout store!

First Aid Fanatics Jan

Kalamazoo

Do you know how to use everything in a first aid kit? Could you help out in a medical emergency? Come to this state-of-the-art simulation center at WMU Homer Stryker M.D. School of Medicine for hands-on learning experiences with medical students and professionals.

Play Across the Planet Jan

Have fun at this lively program where Girl Scouts explore global cultures through games, songs, dances, and playful challenges. They'll discover how kids around the world connect through movement, imagination, and the joy of play.

Jan

STEMapalooza Saginaw

Meet with SVSU students from various STEM fields, including biology, chemistry, and more! She will discover the different careers available to her and learn about the daily activities of professionals in STEM through several interactive activity stations.

Jan Period Positivity

Ann Arbor

Learn about period poverty worldwide, maintaining menstrual hygiene, and participate in a hands-on demonstration to assemble one of FloFund's essential hygiene kits. Together, we can empower those in need and create a positive change in our communities!

Jan

STEMapalooza Pioneers

Meet with SVSU students from various STEM fields, including biology, chemistry, and more! She will discover the different careers available to her and learn about the daily activities of professionals in STEM through several interactive activity stations.

Jan

14 Saginaw

21 Lansing

22 Jackson **7** Ann Arbor

9 Kalamazoo

We will cover all of your wizarding basics from mixing and taste-testing potions to designing your own magic wand. Create your spellbook, conceal its magical secrets with invisible ink, and more! This "class" is a must for any aspiring wizard!



This is just a taste of all our program offerings!





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February

Feh

5 Lansing

12 Ann Arbor

17 Jackson **24** Saginaw

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See, Hear, 10 Kalamazoo Taste, Touch, Sm

> Explore your senses with different activities to use all five! Guess what you're touching in the mystery box, taste test jellybean flavors, see if you can follow a smell using just your nose, and more! Experience different ways to navigate the world through your senses by practicing reading Braille and reading lips. By the end, you'll feel like a certified sense scientist!

Feb Kids in a Candy Store with Cash!

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.

Eco Erosion with Feb Barr Engineering Ann Arbor

Discover how erosion and soil types interact with rainfall and affect the environment. Chat with Environmental Engineers from Barr Engineering about erosion control and explore how aquifers impact your daily life.

Program Aide Training Camp Linden

Build leadership skills, boost confidence, and prepare for high school, college, and beyond. Learn how to mentor younger girls and share your passions. After training, you'll be ready to volunteer as a Program Aide at events throughout the year.

Badgefest: Code for Good! *Plymouth* Feb

Think you can build a digital world with code? Join The Coder School of Plymouth for a crash course in algorithms, game design, and coding. Create your own computer game and explore how women are making waves in STEM!

Feb Badgefest: Cybersecurity

Can you protect your data? People use computers in all areas of their lives, from learning to entertainment and more. Cybersecurity is all about keeping all that information safe. Learn about networks, hacking, and cybercrime in this cybersecurity badgefest!

Feb Working for Wildlife with Barr Engineering Ann Arbor

How can you work for wildlife? Explore environmental careers and the challenges they face. Then take on a role—like engineer, developer, or government agent—in a mock town hall to debate issues and find common ground.

Voices on the Airwaves

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.

Come to Camp! Troop Camping Trips



Just because summer is over doesn't mean camp is too!

Girl Scouts spend time in the great outdoors all year round: rain or shine, snow or heat! We can't wait to see you at camp for a troop camping trip or a program this winter. Families Come out to one of our upcoming outdoor Welcome! programs, and rent a cabin to make a weekend of it!





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January 17 Camp O'the Hills

Winter **Adventure Day**

January 31 Camp O'the Hills



February 14 Camp O'the Hills



World Thinking Day 100th Anniversary

February 21 • Kalamazoo

Celebrate 100 years of global sisterhood with World Thinking Day! This special event honors a century of connection and leadership among Girl Scouts and Girl Guides. Girls will explore global cultures, reflect on what it means to be part of a worldwide community, and take part in fun, meaningful activities that inspire local and global action.

February 28 - March 1

Camp Linden Lock-In

Are you ready to lock in? Stay up until 2:00AM exploring Camp Linden... at night. You'll try out archery, take a night hike, enjoy karaoke with friends, roast a s'more over the campfire, and end your night with a cozy

A midnight snack and a continental breakfast will be provided. Participants will also receive a fun patch.

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Adult Ed Corner

February 28

Youth Mental Health First Aid Training

Youth Mental Health First Aid (YMHFA) designed to teach adults how to identify, understand, and respond to an adolescent (ages 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or substance use challenge or crisis.

We are now offering the Outdoor Skills 'Opt Out' form for folks who complete the online pre-work and feel confident in their camping skills and wish to opt out of in person Outdoor Skills training, now available on gsLearn!

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



Did you know we launched a new Heat Press Service in all our retail stores over the summer? This service is perfect for you if you are new or if you and your troop recently bridged and received new vests.

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.

All of our Retail Shops and Camp Trading Posts are bursting with super cool Girl Scout swag!

Stop by to gear up for an awesome Girl Scout year!



We're so excited to share that Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan is launching our very own Build-A-Bear Shop! Located in our

new Ann Arbor Regional Center, our Build-A-Bear shop will open in early December.

Make a trip to our shop to make your very own Girl Scout Build-A-Bear!







Our mission in motion!

See what our Girl Scouts are up to!







Our girls made it to the Farthest North Council all the way in Alaska!



Multiple troops from the Ann Arbor region had a blast at the Howell City Encampment!



Troop 30659 camped at Wacousta together for a weekend!

Wolunteer Shout-out: Megan Fiero Megan Fiero is the Service Unit Product Manager (SUPM) for Service Unit 533 in Birch Run & Frankenmuth. Everyone who knows Megan knows that her

knows Megan knows that her positivity and passion are contagious! In her role as SUPM, Megan supports the Girl Scout Product Programs in her service unit by providing support to both girls and volunteers. Megan's inspiring leadership throughout the pandemic kept the Service Unit strong during a difficult time period. Megan is known as someone who brings the joy, makes everything fun, helps any way she can, and shares creative ideas that make a big impact. Her Girl Scout green heart shines through in everything she does. GSHOM is beyond grateful for Megan's service and leadership!

Volunteers, we love you!

You're Invited to our

2026 Town Hall Webinar



Scan here to register and join us on **Wednesday, January 21** at 6:00 PM as we review the 2024-2025 Membership Year and discuss exciting updates to come!

Save the date! Summer Camp registration opens January 30th!

Keep an eye out for the camp guide coming to your mailbox in the new year!

THE GREAT



MISSION: LEADERSHIP

January 2026

Stay tuned for registration details, keynote announcements, and the full agenda. You won't want to miss this opportunity to elevate your leadership and empower your organization for the future.

Mark your calendar, more details coming soon!



601 W Maple St Kalamazoo, MI 49008

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Trefoil Times 601 W Maple St Kalamazoo, MI 49008

Pay it forward!

This Holiday Season, share the gift of Girl Scouts by supporting the Sister to Sister Fund.



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

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Adult Awards Nominations



Do you know an incredible Girl Scout volunteer who deserves to be recognized for all the hard work they contribute to making Girl Scouting the life-changing experience that it is? Nominate them for an Adult

Award! **Nominations are due January 15th.**

More information available on our website.



Dates to Remember

November 27-28

Thanksgiving Regional Centers closed

December 6

Retail Shops Open Kalamazoo, Saginaw, Lansing, and Ann Arbor

Dec 20 - Jan 5

Regional Centers & Retail Shops closed for the holidays

January 10

Cookie Kick-Off

January 19

Martin L. King Jr. Day Regional Centers closed

January 21

Town Hall Webinar

January 25

Mission: Leadership (See p. 7)
Ann Arbor Regional
Center

The Trefoil Times



March 4, 2026 • Radisson Plaza Hotel at Kalamazoo Center

You are the main ingredient in our recipe to give girls in our communities the opportunity to be Girl Scouts!

Local area chefs will put their culinary talents to the test—as they use Girl Scout Cookies to create never-before-seen (or eaten) creations—for you to sample. Your small bites will make a big impact.

Together, we can bring the benefits of Girl Scouting to all girls!

Get your tickets and learn about sponsorship opportunities today!