

The Trefoil Times

A publication of Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan



Backpacks and Vests: Full!

Welcome to the August edition of *The Trefoil Times*!

We just had the most incredible summer spent kayaking at camp, donating cookies through our Hometown Heroes program, and hosting bridging ceremonies, we are excited to fall into the new season.

Throughout this edition of *The Trefoil Times*, you'll find information about how you can begin the upcoming Girl Scout year strong!



Sneak peek of everything inside this edition

Fall Product Program information

Important dates to save in your calendar

Troop & volunteer shout outs

Must-have Girl Scout fashion items

Events and programs you won't want to miss

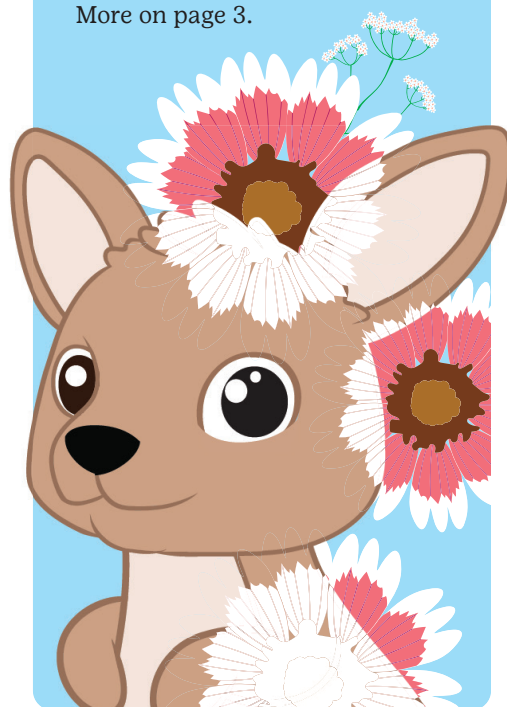
And more!

The Fall Product Program is starting soon!

Are you ready to explore?

The 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 helps girls practice their business skills before cookie season begins.

More on page 3.



It's time to renew!

In Girl Scouts, girls discover who they want to become, creating memories that last forever, and setting out on outdoor adventures.

Every moment as a Girl Scout helps girls build a foundation for a bright future!

Renew her membership for the new Girl Scout year, which begins October 1!

Need help? Our team is here for you! Call 800-497-2688 today, or email helpdesk@gshom.org, and we'd be happy to assist.

Scan to renew



Get ready for a year of new adventures!

Back to Troop Checklist



1 Visit myGS and confirm your Troop Roster to make sure any girl or volunteer who isn't registered for the new year secures their spot in the troop. ☐

2 Update the Troop Catalog. ☐

3 Complete the yearly update of ACH information. ☐

4 Hold a yearly Caregiver Meeting. ☐

5 Apply for Honor Troop award for this Membership Year. ☐

6 Sign up for Rallyhood. ☐

7 Take grade level training, review and set up the Troop year plan. ☐

8 Plan an investiture and rededication ceremony for current and new troop members. ☐

9 Take Fall Product Program training. ☐

Support our Sister-to-Sister Fund



The Sister-to-Sister Fund is at the heart of our mission to ensure every girl can grow with courage, confidence, and character—no matter her financial situation. This fund provides critical financial assistance for membership fees, uniforms, program costs, and camp experiences. Whether it's a Daisy getting her first vest, or a high school Girl Scout attending her final camp session, the Sister-to-Sister Fund ensures no girl is left behind. Every gift helps another girl write her own Girl Scout story.

Scan here to donate



The 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!



It 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.



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.

Fall Product Manager Training

9/14 & 9/16 - 1st and 2nd year
5:30-7:00 p.m.

9/10 - 3+ year. 5:30-6:30 p.m.

9/12 - gsLearn

Girl Program Dates

9/24 - Girl Launch Email & Program begins

10/18 - Girl delivery orders due

10/19 - Girl sites continue ship direct only

11/7 - Troop Initial Order (IO) payments due

11/9 - Troop delivery days begin

11/15 - Girl sites close for season

11/16-17 - Rewards submit by Troop

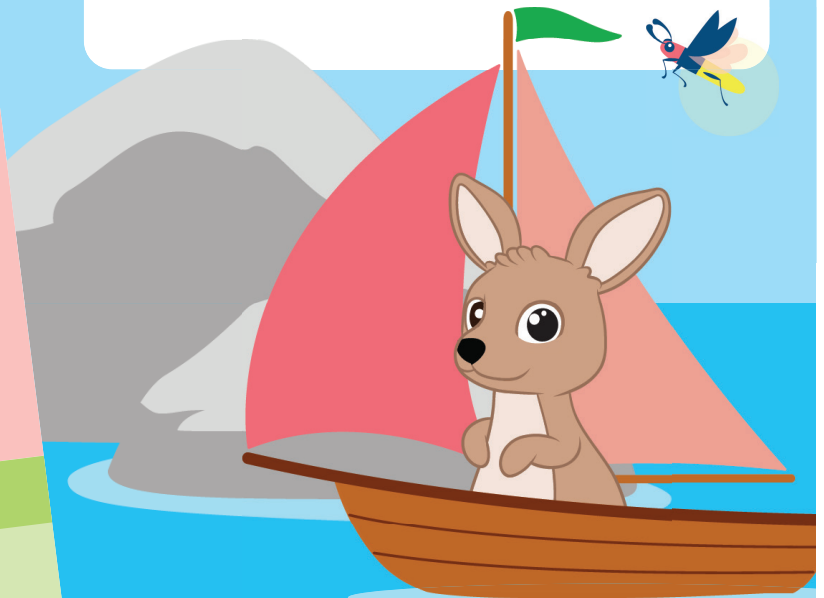
12/11 - Troop Final Payment Due

Office Open Hours

9/24 Thursday - Getting Started
6:00-6:30 p.m.

10/19 Monday - Initial Order Overview
6:00-6:30 p.m.

11/16 Monday - Wrap Up Rewards
6:00-6:30 p.m.



ACH
Form



Volunteer
Resources



Volunteer Shout-out:

Nichole Marvin

Nichole is a troop leader for four troops in Branch County! She leads girls from K-12, and she is also a prominent member of the Branch County Service Unit Team. Soon, Nichole will be transitioning into a Service Unit Manager role for the county!

Nichole is beloved by the girls she leads. She listens to their opinions and meets them where they are at, always willing to provide an equitable experience for all. Nichole Marvin is passionate about Girl Scouting and ensuring the organization is thriving in Branch County!



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!

Thanks for all you do!

Learn more



Service Unit Troop Organizer

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).



Learn about how you can become a Service Unit volunteer



Save the date for **Discover Girl Scouts**



*Saturday,
September 19th
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM*

• Ann Arbor • Lansing
• Jackson • Saginaw
• Kalamazoo*

**Free
Event**

This community event is open to current Girl Scouts and families that want to learn more about what Girl Scouts do.

Join us at this open house for hands on activities related to the roots of Girl Scouts: outdoor, traditions, product program, meetings/badges, trips and travel and community service.

Whether you're brand new to Girl Scouts or a seasoned volunteer, this interactive event offers fresh ideas to help bring the Girl Scout experience to life.

*The Kalamazoo event will be hosted at Camp Merrie Woode.



Girls and adults will:

- *Get to know our new Fall Product Program mascot, the Kangaroo!*
- *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!*

Other organizations from our community will also be present to connect with you and your girl.

**Scan to
Register**



Upcoming Programs

August

Aug 8 Camp Merrie Woode 100th Anniversary Celebration *fdhjcsa* *Camp Merrie Woode*

Participate in camp activities, have a picnic lunch, help us create a time capsule, participate in a ceremony to celebrate 100 years of camp, and a campfire celebration!

Aug 16 Girl Scout Day with the Detroit Tigers *fdhjcsa*

All Girl Scouts and Troop Leaders in uniform will also get to participate in a pre-game experience on the field (weather permitting).



Aug 28-30 Backpacking 101 *csa* pre-requisite to Backpacking Trip *Camp O'the Hills*

All Girl Scouts and Troop Leaders in uniform will also get to participate in a pre-game experience on the field (weather permitting).

September

Sep 11-13 Backpacking Trip *csa* *Camp O'the Hills*

Go on a backpacking trip with the Camp O'the Hills team!



Sep 19 Night Navigators *fdhjcsa* *Camp O'the Hills*

Creep, crawl, and discover! This exciting program explores the world of bugs, spiders, and other fascinating creatures that also live here in Southern Michigan. A fun and educational adventure for all ages!

Sep 26 Let's Get Batty *fdhjcsa* *Camp O'The Hills*

Explore the amazing world of bats! This educational program introduces participants to bat biology, behavior, habitats, and conservation.



Sep 30 Photography 101 *jcsa* *Camp O'the Hills*

Learn the basics about photography and even take some amazing photos here at Camp O' The Hills. Explore nature photography and learn the importance of lighting, angles and more.

October

Oct 4 Badgefest! Code for Good *bjcsa* *Plymouth*

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!

Oct 4 Badgefest! Cybersecurity *bjcsa* *Plymouth*

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!

Oct 10 Embers and Exploration *jc* *Camp Merrie Woode*

In partnership with Kalamazoo College Outdoor Programs, you'll learn how to safely build a fire and explore the outdoors through geocaching. Using teamwork, navigation skills, and curiosity, you'll discover hidden treasures while building confidence in the great outdoors.

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 and hands-on STEM activities!

Oct 22 Spooky Science *dbj* *All Regions*

Wear your costume and get ready for a hauntingly good time! Join us at our annual Spooky Science event for a night of hands-on Spooky STEM fun!

Oct 24-25 Harvest Festival *fdhjcsa* *Camp Linden*

Join us for a full weekend of Halloween whimsy and camp magic! You'll embark on a hayride, make spooky SWAPS to trade with friends new and old, and compete in a bring your own pumpkin (BYOP) carving contest! Learn about nocturnal creatures at the new Camp Linden Nature Center, press leaves, and enjoy all the tricks and treats camp has to offer! Day option available!

Oct 31-1 Soaring Eagle Lock-In *fdhjcsa* *Mt. Pleasant*

Join us at Soaring Eagle Waterpark and Hotel for a waterpark lock-in! Take part in a Girl Scout Scavenger Hunt with prizes for the top 3 participants, as well as a DJ Dance party.

November

Nov 3 Girl Scout Grand Prix Prep *fdhjcsa* *Camp O'the Hills*

Design and construct your own grand prix cars while learning engineering and design principles. The cars built will meet all the qualifications for the Grand Prix race. DBJ will earn their Automotive Badges.

Adventure is always around the corner!

From exciting events to new programs and opportunities, there's always something happening across Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan. Follow us on social media and visit gshom.org to stay connected and join the fun!

Nov 7 Top Chef: New Cuisines East Lansing

c

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



Nov 7 Top Chef: Simple Meals East Lansing

j

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

Nov 8 Mission Leadership Whitmore Lake

csa, adult

CSA Girl Scouts will explore their personal leadership strengths and values, build skills in teamwork and communication. Adults will focus on coaching vs. managing, understanding adolescent development, and fostering reflection, leadership experiences and supporting girl-led experiences.

Nov 14 First Aid Fanatics Kalamazoo

db

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.

Nov 14 Girl Scout Grand Prix Camp O'the Hills

fdbjcsa

Come race your own car down the track, outlaws welcome!

Nov 21 First Aid Fanatics Kalamazoo

j

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.

December

Dec 5 Cookie Kick Off All Regions

bjcsa

Join us to kick off your cookie season strong! You'll get to do activities that bring the 5 Skills to life, while the adults can get any help they might need to support you!



Dec 6 Badgefest! Code for Good Plymouth

bjcsa

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 6 Badgefest! Cybersecurity Plymouth

bjcsa

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!

Dec 12 First Aid Fanatics Kalamazoo

db

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.

Dec 12-13 Marvels of Meteors Camp O'the Hills

fdbjcsa

Stars, milky ways, and meteors oh my! Let's learn about meteors and watch the Geminids meteor shower.

Oct 6 | Nov 11 | Dec 2

dbjcsa

Juliette Virtual Meetings

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



Register here



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



This committee is made up of volunteers and girls who gather feedback from other members, and pass it along to the Executive Staff and Board of

Trustees. Members are welcome to submit feedback to the MAC via a form on our website.



GIRL SCOUT Night

Little Caesars arena

DISNEY ON ICE PRESENTS:
FIND YOUR HERO
SEPTEMBER 17-20

RINGLING BROS. AND BARNUM & BAILEY® PRESENTS THE
GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH®
November 13-15

*All scouts receive a scout patch



GET TICKETS

All Seasons are Camp Season!

We are so incredibly lucky to have several beautiful properties that offer year-round camping to enjoy the outdoors in Michigan! Come have fun at camp as a family or a troop, reserve a lodge to stay overnight, or just visit for a day trip, either way, you'll have a memorable time together!

COMING SOON: We're making updates to our rental website, so renting a weekend at camp will be easier than ever! More info this fall.

Fall hikes, nature walks, or even indoor/outdoor climbing can count toward badges like Snow or Climbing Adventure and Outdoor Art Master.



Learn More



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 complete each element

Mark each one when completed

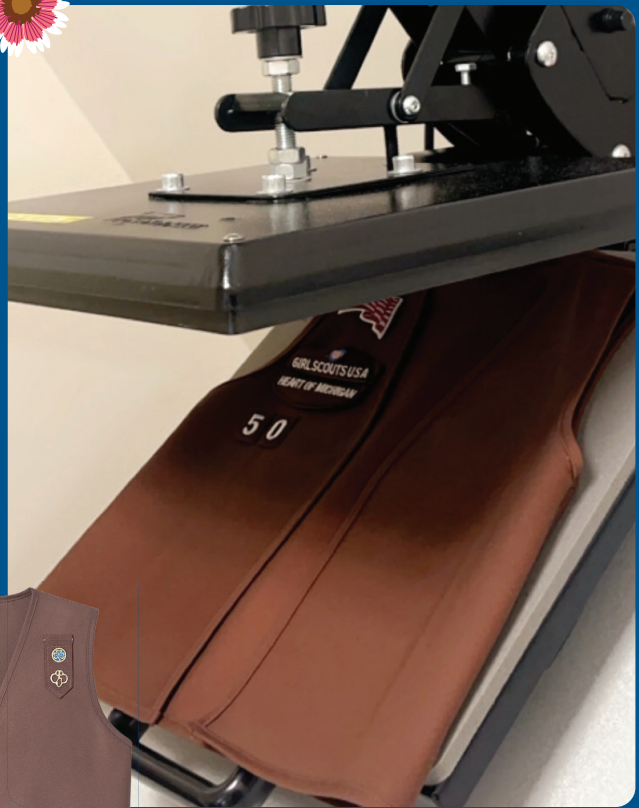
New uniforms?

Heat Press Service Available

We offer heat pressing services at all our retail stores! 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.



Our mission
in motion!

See what our
Girl Scouts
are up to!

Troop 90979
Fighting hunger by making
meal kits

Troop 50451
Junior aMUSE Journey

Troops 40635 and 40427
Exploring Mammoth Cave National Park in KY

Enchanted Garden Party!

Troop 40849
Bridging to new levels

Girl Spotlight

Marison's Gold Award Project



Marison Clement wrote, illustrated, and published *The Secret Code of Dyslexia: A Friendly Guide for Kids Just Like Me* to support newly diagnosed dyslexic learners for her Girl Scout Gold Award project. She printed more than 400 copies, donated them for distribution, and created a digital version accessible via QR code, including a read-aloud option for children. Marison partnered with the Legacy Center for Community Success in Midland, Michigan, which hosted her book launch and helped distribute the donated books to children who would benefit most. She also worked closely with Quick Reliable Printing in Midland, Michigan, whose support and affordable pricing made it possible to print far more copies than she initially imagined.

Marison's most rewarding moment came at the book launch, when she held the finished book in her hands and met young dyslexic readers eager to ask questions and have their books signed—an experience that confirmed the meaningful difference her work made.



Scan here to Learn More



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



Highest Awards Dates to Remember

September 30: Final Report Deadline for Bronze Award Girl Scouts who enter 6th grade in the fall of 2026.

September 30: Final Report Deadline for Silver Award Girl Scouts who enter 9th grade in the fall of 2026.

September 30: Final Report Deadline for Gold Award Girl Scouts who Graduated from High School in 2026.

February 1: Final Report Deadline for Gold Award Girl Scouts (who did not graduate in 2026) to be recognized at the May 2027 Ceremony.

March 1: Final Report Deadline for Bronze Award Girl Scouts (who did not enter 6th grade in the fall of 2026) to be recognized at the May 2027 Ceremony.

March 1: Final Report Deadline for Silver Award Girl Scouts (who did not enter 9th grade in the fall of 2026) to be recognized at the May 2027 Ceremony.

If you register for an online training and do not receive the link, please reach out by noon the Friday before the training to receive the link (helpdesk@gshom.org)

If you see a deadline that conflicts with the information above, please contact awards@gshom.org with the information you found and where you found it so we can ensure only accurate information is shared.

Oct 3
Saturday

Dec 12
Saturday

Feb 6
Saturday

Apr 17
Saturday

May 1
Saturday

Highest Awards Trainings Dates and Times



Bronze
10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.



Silver
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.



Gold
1:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.



Gold Workshop
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Bronze Award
Final Report**



**Silver Award
Project Proposal**



**Silver Award
Final Report**



Have you ever wanted to participate in council-led programming, but none of the session times worked for you or your troop?

Introducing Programs a la Carte!

A new opportunity for you to participate in a GSHOM staff-led program at a time and date that works for you! Some of our initial offerings include programs such as:

- Magical Miniature Fairy Garden
- Camp Craft
- Science of Happiness
- And More!

Scan to
learn more



Skip the planning and shopping
with our new GSHOM

Badge in a Box

Each kit includes most of the supplies, simple instructions, and girl-led activity ideas to help your troop earn a badge with confidence. Bonus: each kit has the badges in them so your Girl Scouts can take them home right away!

- Less prep for leaders
- More fun for Girl Scouts
- Ready-to-go badge experiences

Order your kits today and make your next badge adventure a breeze!

First kits available: Automotive Engineering Badges for Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors.



Scan here
to order your
kit today!

Available for pick up
starting October 1st.



Adult Education Corner



First Aid/CPR/AED Training

This course will teach you how to recognize and respond appropriately to cardiac, breathing, and first aid emergencies. Those who successfully complete this course will receive certificates for Standard First Aid and AED with CPR - Adult and Child, which are valid for two years.

Learn
more



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.

Outdoor Skills

This class will prepare you to take your troop on a camping trip.

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.*



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).

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 due
January 15th.**

**More information
available on our website.**





601 W Maple St
Kalamazoo, MI 49008

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

Follow us on



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

CeleBEARate With Us!
Schedule a party, birthday celebration,
bridging ceremony, and more!

Book a Party!
7050 Jomar Dr.
Whitmore Lake,
MI 48189
734-714-5140



The Trefoil Times

July 2026 • Issue 9



Dates to Remember

September 7

Labor Day
Regional Centers closed

September 19

Discover Girl Scouts

September 24

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



Fear Factor Edition

A Five Senses Challenge

Do you dare face your fears? In **Spooky Science: Fear Factor**, you will explore how your five senses affect the way we experience fear and uncertainty. Through a series of creepy, surprising, and science-based challenges, you will discover how the brain interprets sensory information and why unfamiliar experiences can sometimes feel scary, and you will learn the science behind your reactions and gain confidence! Can you trust your senses enough to conquer your fears? Join us for a spooky adventure that combines science, bravery, and a little bit of gross-out fun!

Thursday, October 22nd

Learn
More

