

girl scouts 
of southern illinois
**COUNCIL
CONNECTIONS**

March 3, 2025

Recording in Process

WELCOME
Service Unit Managers

Agenda

1. Girl Scout Promise
2. Property Update
3. Product Program
4. Adult Education
5. Retail
6. Program Engagement
7. Community Engagement
8. Announcements

PROPERTY



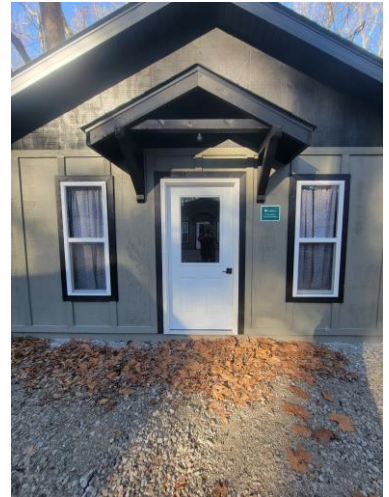
PROPERTY

The Pines @ Camp Torqua

The new cabins are ready to open! The Pines is a four-cabin unit with an onsite pavilion nestled in the scenic grove of pine trees on the west side of Camp Torqua. The units are available for year-round overnight use and can be booked by the unit. Each cabin unit can sleep 12, for a total of 48 for the whole site.

Reservations will open soon, with the first booking slots available on Friday, March 14th. For more information, please visit our website to book your reservation. <https://www.gsofsi.org/en/discover/about/camp-torqua.html>

New bunk beds have also been installed in the cabins at Pumpkin Patch.



PRODUCT PROGRAM



PRODUCT PROGRAM

Cookie Program Updates

In honor of Girl Scout Week, GSofSI is giving its girl members a bonus week to participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Program. The Cookie Program has officially been extended until Sunday, March 16th. This move will not affect the ACH date that is already set. Unpaid caregiver balances, troop rewards and troop allocations will be due March 18. Thank you for continuing to ensure the presence of Girl Scouts in your communities during such an important week in the Movement.



ADULT EDUCATION



Adult Education

GSofSI Upcoming Adult Training

Adult Outdoor Experience

- [Camping Out / 03-30-25 / Edwardsville, IL](#)
- [Archery / 03-30-25 / Edwardsville, IL](#)
- [Camping Out / 04-26-25 / Mount Vernon, IL](#)
- [Camping Out / 05-17-25 / Edwardsville, IL](#)
- [Archery / 05-17-25 / Edwardsville, IL](#)
- [SCST Flat Water Canoe / 06-07-25 / Carlyle, IL](#)
- [SCST Flat Water Canoe / 06-14-25 / Carlyle, IL](#)
- [SCST Moving Water Canoe / 06-29-25 / Sullivan, MO](#)



CPR/AED/First Aid



- [ARC Adult & Pediatric CPR/AED First Aid / 02-24-25 / Mount Vernon, IL](#)
- [ARC Adult & Pediatric CPR/AED First Aid / 03-30-25 / Edwardsville, IL](#)



Leadership Trainings



- [YMHFA / 03-08-25 / Edwardsville, IL](#)
- [Volunteer Training Summit / 03-29-25 / Camp Torqua, Edwardsville, IL](#)
- [YMHFA / 05-17-25 / Mt. Vernon](#)

Training Event



Adult Education

Registration Now – Volunteer Training Summit

- March 29, 2025
- Camp Torqua
- \$25/adult (includes all Saturday sessions, lunch and patch)
- Financial assistance available, [Adult Financial Assistance](#)
- Free camp overnight stays
 - Friday, 3/28 -- Campfire Chat – S'mores & Hot Dogs,
 - Saturday, 3/29 – Movie Under the Stars
 - Register for Volunteer Appreciation Events:
 - [Fireside S'mores](#)
 - [Movie Under the Stars](#)
- Certification Trainings on Sunday, 3/30



Adult Education

Adult Training

Service Unit Volunteer Training:

Monthly Short & Snappy: **Spring Renewal**



gsLearn Updates:

- New Leader Onboarding Series via gsLearn. Use the [New Leader Onboarding Map](#), located on our website, for support.
- Reminder: Please contact Customer Care if having trouble accessing your gsLearn account.

Adult Education

Adult Awards

Standout Service Unit - GSofSI Service Units are always hosting amazing events, doing service projects, helping their communities, and so much more. We've created a new opportunity for volunteers to submit one of their Service Unit's activities, events, service projects, or other Girl Scout opportunity to be entered to win the \$50 GSofSI Council Shop gift card and have their submission shared across GSofSI social media accounts and the Volunteer Newsletter! Starting in October 2024, GSofSI will be randomly selecting a different Service Unit from the nominations submitted to council between the first and last day of each month. The winner will be drawn on the first of the next month, and the Service Unit Manager of the winning SU will be notified via email. The submitted activity/event needs to have been held no more than three months prior to submission.

STAND-OUT SERVICE UNIT

Adult Education

Volunteer Appreciation

[Saturday, April 12th](#)- Have you already been certified in archery but want a little more practice? Come on over to the archery range at Camp Torqua to ask questions and brush up on your archery skills with one of our trainers! Drop in any time between 12:00PM and 2:00PM for this free practice opportunity. Registration End Date: March 31, 2025; Location: Edwardsville, IL.

[Friday, March 28th](#) – Join us at the campfire for smore’s and hotdogs! Join us for a campfire chat as we prepare to kick off Volunteer Training Summit 2025!

[Saturday, March 29th](#) – Movie Under the Stars – Join us for popcorn and a movie at Camp Torqua

RETAIL



RETAIL

Girl Scouts' Birthday

- 10% off all purchases on 3/12/25
- In-shop, online and phone purchases
- Use code VOLUNTEERAPP25 for online purchase at [GSofSI Local Online Shop](#)



Trading Posts Request

- Request for 2025 Day Camps are due by May 8th
- <https://forms.gsofsi.org/gs/trading-post-request>

New Shop Hours

- Monday, Tuesday and Thursday – 10:00 AM – 6:00 PM
- Wednesday -10:00 AM – 7:00 PM
- Second and Fourth Saturday - - 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

RETAIL

World Thinking Day

World Thinking Day Badges are currently on backorder. We are still taking orders and will notify customers when these badges arrive.



Program Patches Available

The Pre-Order Panda Ventures Patch has arrived, those who placed orders for pickup should have already been notified.

The Winter Challenge Checklist Patch is still available for pre-order until March 10th. Please visit the [GSofSI Local Online Shop](#) for ordering.



You shop, We ship!

- MY25 Membership Year, purchases of \$50 or more ship for free
- [GSofSI Local Online Shop](#), use code: **MEMBER25**



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

MY25 Membership Goals and Update

Traditional Troop Girls = **5300**

Adults = **3125**

- Girls = 4,530 girls
or 85% to MY25 goal
- Adults = 3,329 adults
or 106% to MY25 goal

It's Girl Scout Week!

March 9 Spirit Sunday Do something kind in the spirit of Girl Scouts.	March 10 Affirmation Monday Share a positive message with a friend.	March 11 Troop Tuesday Appreciate your awesome troop besties.	March 12 National Girl Scout Day Post a photo in your Girl Scout gear and tag @girlscouts!
March 13 Thankful Thursday Share something you're thankful for.	March 14 Flash Forward Friday Make your plans for a brighter future!	March 15 Service Saturday Serve your community as a sisterhood.	

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Spring Renewal Incentives:

Renewal Incentives			
	First Month (April 1-30)	First Two Months (April 1- May 31)	Entire Campaign (April 1- June 9)
Girl/ Adult Renewal	Girls and adults who renew by April 30 will receive a free T-Shirt (October 2025).		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All girls renewed will receive a GSofSI Spring Renewal Patch!• All girls and adults are invited to the Girl Scouts Take Over Water Park Events (August 2025 - Early Registration Deadline: June 9).

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Renewal Incentives

	First Month (April 1-30)	First Two Months (April 1- May 31)	Entire Campaign (April 1- June 9)
Troop Renewal	Troops that renew five (5) girls and two (2) adults by April 30 will be entered into a weekly drawing for their choice of either a Troop Experience Gift Box or Girl Scout Surprise S.W.A.G. Gift Box (October 2025)	Troops that renew eight (8) girls and three (3) adults by May 31 will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 Council Retail Shop Gift Card. One troop drawing per service unit.	Troops that renew 75% of their girls by June 9 will be entered into a drawing for a Collapsible Travel Wagon and a Pop Up Tent. One troop drawing per service unit.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Renewal Incentives

	First Month (April 1-30)	First Two Months (April 1- May 31)	Entire Campaign (April 1- June 9)
Service Unit Renewal	Service Units that renew 50% of its members (girls and adults) will receive a Service Unit Event Box.	Service Units that renew 65% of its members (girls and adults), will receive a Service Unit Dinner. A member of the Senior Leadership Team will bring dinner to the October 2025 Leader's meeting. (8 selected - 1 per area)	

**Incentives are expected to be distributed after the start of the new membership year (October 2025)

*Troops renewing 100% of girls will automatically qualify for the Troop Renewal Incentives.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Girl Scout Driver Role

As a youth serving organization, safety is always our number one priority. In order to continue to support this priority, a driver record check will be required for any volunteer who transports Girl Scout members to an activity that takes place outside of their typical meeting space. For more information and to submit a request to be added as a council Driver, please visit the Traveling with Troops section of GSofSI's Adult Training and Resources page found here: <https://www.gssofsi.org/en/members/for-volunteers/volunteer-essentials/adult-training-and-resources.html>.

PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT



PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT

February Patch Point – Healthy Living

- Get healthy and fit this Girl Scout year! Complete activities to earn the Healthy Living Patch. All activities are designed to encourage girls to be active, try a new activity or sport, eat healthy, and have a well-balanced lifestyle. <https://www.gsofsi.org/en/members/for-girl-scouts/badges-and-journeys/councils-own-badges-and-patches.html>

NEW: Martial Arts Patch Program

- Activities for all grade levels



Girl Scout Week 2025 – Patch Program

- Show off your Girl Scout spirit during Girl Scout Week 2025



Preferred Partner Spotlight

- **The Fabulous Fox Theater**
527 North Grand Blvd., St. Louis, MO
<https://www.fabulousfox.com/events-tickets/group-services>
- **Casey Little Town of Big Things**
<https://www.bigthingsmalltown.com/>

PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT

- **April 3 – Tree Promise Virtual Kick-Off**
 - Daisy - Adults
 - Virtual (Zoom)
 - Cost: \$0 – Register to receive Zoom link
 - Deadline: 3/24/25
- **April 12 – Caving at Camp Wartburg**
 - Junior – Ambassador
 - Waterloo
 - Cost: \$35/girl, adult
 - Deadline: 3/10/25
- **April 12 – InventHER Day at Greenville University**
 - Daisy – Ambassador
 - Greenville
 - Cost: \$35/girl (includes two badges, materials, lunch and activities); \$10/adult
 - Deadline: 3/31/25

PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT

- **April 26 – Wheels and Wonders Automotive Design Badge Day**
Daisy - Junior
O'Fallon
Cost: \$15/girl (includes badge)
Deadline: 4/7/25
- **April 26 – Road Warriors Car Care Badge Day**
Senior
O'Fallon
Cost: \$15/girl (includes badge)
Deadline: 4/7/25
- **May 3– Mindful Morning Free Yoga Sessions**
Daisy - Adult
Edwardsville & Mt. Vernon
Cost: \$0
Deadline: 4/28/25

PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT

- **May 10 – Tree Promise Mother’s Day Tree Planting**
Daisy - Adults
Mattoon
Cost: \$0
Deadline: 4/10/25
- **May 3 – Sew Myself Workshop**
Juniors - Cadettes
Carbondale
Cost: \$5/girl (includes badge)
Deadline: 4/14/25
- **May 10– Sew Myself Workshop**
Juniors - Cadettes
Glen Carbon
Cost: \$0
Deadline: 4/28/25

PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT

Upcoming Trainings, Info Nights & More

- 3/26 – Trailblazer Troop Info Night

Program Aide Training - Cadette

4/6/25 – Whittington, IL

Girl Cost: \$40

Deadline: 3/24/25

6/8/25- Red Bud, IL

Girl Cost: \$40

Deadline: 5/27/25

Counselor-in-Training (Training) – Senior & Ambassador

4/5/25 – Whittington, IL

Girl Cost: \$40

Deadline: 3/24/25

6/7/25- Red Bud, IL

Girl Cost: \$40

Deadline: 5/27/25

PROGRAM ENGAGEMENT

Summer Programs – Registration Open

All Council and Service Unit Summer Day and Overnight Camps are open for registration on our event calendar

<https://www.gsofsi.org/en/discover/activities/event-calendar.html/2025-03>

Financial Aid is available

[Day Camp and Overnight Camp Financial Assistance Application](#)

ANNOUCEMENTS



DATES TO REMEMBER

GSofSI Office Closures (includes the Council Shop)

Thursday, March 13 – All-Staff Meeting

Annual Meeting and Recognition of Excellence

Sunday, April 27

Doubletree Hotel, Mt. Vernon

11:30 AM – Annual Meeting

2:00 PM – Recognition of Excellence

Let's Chat w/Loretta

May 5

Before Council Connections

6:00-6:25PM



Thank You!

NEXT MEETING:

April 7, 2025

