GS EXPRESS

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Cookie Season Countdown

One week until cookie season! Are you prepared to spread the cookie joy? Remember, practice makes perfect for your sales pitch. And social media? That's your secret weapon to reach more cookie lovers. Head over to the Little Brownie website for social media posts <u>HERE</u>. Here's to a successful cookie season filled with sweetness and smiles!



Former Girl Scout Survey



If you were ever involved in Girl Scouts we'd love if you could fill out our survey! Fill out the survey <u>HERE</u>.

By filling out our survey, you have the opportunity to share your unique Girl Scout story and reflect on the moments that have stayed with you through the years. Your feedback will not only help us understand the impact of Girl Scouts on individuals but also inspire the next generation of young girls who are embarking on their own Girl Scout journey.

Girl Scouts of the USA Destinations

Destinations are the ultimate adventure for individual Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts. They represent a unique, life-changing experience for everyone. CLICK HERE to learn more and check back often as more Destinations are offered.

GSNENY Girl Scouts may apply for Financial Assistance for Destinations offered by GSUSA. For more information CLICK HERE.



Los Angeles Wildfires

We are deeply saddened by the devastating wildfires happening in Los Angeles. Our hearts are with all those impacted, especially our Girl Scout family: the staff and volunteers at our Greater LA council and all our Girl Scout families and their communities. We know many of you are asking how you can help support those impacted. We are sharing a communication from Greater LA below, and we will continue to assess the impact and areas of greatest need. We will continue to share those details with you via GS Express.

Messaging from Theresa Edy-Kiene, CEO of Girl Scouts of Greater LA:

Dear Fellow CEOs and Girl Scouts,

Over the past several days, as we've navigated an incomprehensible stream of devastating news in our council, we've found strength in the power of gratitude. I am deeply grateful for the resilience, unwavering support, and sense of community that defines GSGLA and our entire Girl Scout Movement.

Your outpouring of care and strong response during this time has been inspiring. These moments remind me of the strength of our mission and the collective impact we create. This is when Girl Scouts is at its best—lifting one another up and embodying the values we teach daily.

We've created a resource page— https://www.girlscoutsla.org/resources—for those interested in learning more about the fires' impact, what GSGLA is doing in response, and how you can support our efforts.

I couldn't be prouder to serve our Girl Scouts alongside you, leading with courage, confidence, and character in this challenging time.

As a reminder, girls/troops may donate troop funds, earned within a Girl Scout product program or money-earning activity, to an organization of their choice if the organization is a nonprofit with 501 c3 status. It is recommended that the troop vote on where to donate funds to ensure all girls' voices are engaged and heard in the decision process.

The Boston Outdoor Expo

Dear Girl Scouts,

We have a great offer for you....





What is the expo?

The expo offers a full weekend of inspiration for outdoor enthusiasts, like you. See influential speakers, take part in activities, and shop the latest gear, tech, nutrition and advice. It is a one stop shop to prepare you for your next adventure. If you love hiking, climbing, water sports, camping, mountain biking, trail running or just being outside, you don't want to miss it.



Who is Melanie and why is she giving me free tickets?

Melanie Sawyer is a former model, Contestant on HBO's Alone Series, Season 10, Co-Founder of the Thunderhawk Living History School, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Certified BOW (Becoming and Outdoor Woman) instructor and a Girl Scout Volunteer in Northeastern New York! She lives in the Adirondack Mountains and is a fierce advocate for girl's learning survival and

independence skills. She is a Troop and program volunteer, Keynote for GSNENY's Ignite Her Flame 2024 and 2024 Honorary Gold Award Recipient.

She is also the Keynote Speaker for the Boston Outdoor Expo in 2026. Melanie says, "The more interest we have from Girl Scouts attending, the more the organizers will take notice and curate those experiences in the following years."

Melanie will be at the expo with Becoming an Outdoors Woman (BOW) and Back Country Hunters and Anglers, and says, "I will happily spend time and have give away gifts with any troop/girl scout who I get to meet." Did you read that? 'who I *get* to meet'. While we are inspired by Melanie, she is inspired by Girl Scouts!

GET YOUR TICKETS HERE.

More about Melanie: <u>Melanie Sawyer's Wild Life - Adirondack Life Magazine</u>, <u>Melanie Sawyer - Alone Cast | HISTORY Channel</u>, <u>Living History</u>

Upcoming Girl Scout Programs

Have more fun learning, doing, and growing with these events, activities, and opportunities designed just for Girl Scouts, like you!

New Year - More Fun!

<u>Daisy My Money Choices</u> <u>Badge</u> - D Jan 29, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM Albany

<u>Digital Leadership/STEM</u>
<u>Career Exploration with</u>
<u>UAlbany</u> - All Levels
Feb 08, 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM
Albany

Winter Sisterhood Shenanigans - C/S/A/Z Feb 01, 1:00 PM through Feb. 02, 3:00 PM

Lake George



Career Try It: Hewison Aviation
- C/S/A
Mar 08, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Selkirk

Career Try It: Hewison Aviation
- C/S/A
Mar 29, 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM
Selkirk

Flurries & Fireside Family
Festival - all Levels
Feb 28, 5:30 PM - 8:00 PM
Lake George

Find MORE programs here!

Program Guide or Calendar of Events

Did you know? You can use your Cookie Dough or S'mores Club to pay for camps and programs! Contact Customer Care to check or apply your balance, or with any other questions 518.489.8110, customercare@girlscoutsneny.org

Financial assistance is available for year-round programs in our Council.

To learn more or apply, click <u>HERE</u>

Troop Camping



July 27th - 29th

August 17th - 19th

All the fun with none of the planning!
A great opportunity for troops new to camping!

Gather your troop for a 3-day, 2-night camp adventure like no other! Explore all that camp has to offer with our camp staff guiding you through a variety of engaging activities. Troops will be assigned to units together, and communal meals will be provided in the dining hall. Each unit will have the chance to cook a meal over a fire and everyone is invited to the closing night campfire for a sing-along. The camp team will work with each troop to customize their camp experience to their Girl Scouts' levels and interests including swimming, boating, arts & crafts, rope course, archery, nature activities and more. Come join us for an exceptional Troop Camp experience, where adventure and bonding harmonize to create unforgettable memories!

all levels
\$195
per person



Click <u>HERE</u> for a full listing of GSNENY Camps. Registration opens February 5th!

Troops must register with sufficient number of adults to meet ratio for the number of campers registered. All adults in attendance must be registered members with current background checks. Adults do not need to have completed any camping training to attend, as activities will be led by camp staff.

Resilient. Ready. Strong.

GSNENY's Commitment to Mental Health for all our members.

Mental Health Matters Day

Girl Scout opportunity March 12, 2025

Our partner, the Mental Health Association in New York State (MHANYS) is partnering with the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention to host Mental Health Matters Day on March 12, 2025 at the Empire State Plaza. Cadettes, Seniors & Ambassadors seeking their Democracy Badge are invited to come to Albany to experience the advocacy process firsthand, including a morning policy briefing where an overview of the critical pending issues impacting youth mental health, school mental health and community mental health will be provided by MHANYS leadership as well as from invited guests including state commissioners and key legislators. You can read more about those legislative priorities here.

The interactive morning briefing will be followed by a rally to engage youth in demonstrating support of community mental health, and then an opportunity for Girl Scouts troops and their leaders to meet with their legislators to advocate on the priority issues.



Agenda (tentative):
8:00 am: Check-in
9:00 am - 12:00 pm:
Speakers & Rally
12:00 pm - 1:00 pm:
Break for Lunch
1:00 pm - 4:00 pm:
Meet with Legislators
(optional)

Girl Scout Troop Leaders are invited to register their troop online via the MHANYS website <u>here.</u> Pease be sure to enter "Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York" in the field for organization.

GSNENY's Mental Wellness Page CLICK HERE

Please join us in thanking our Mental Wellness partners.

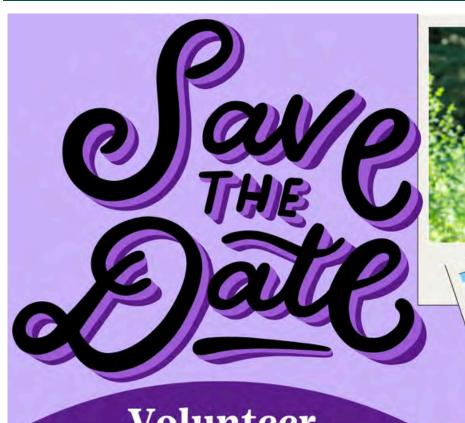






Contact the NAMI-NYS Helpline: (518) 245 - 9160 (M-F 8-3) or visit naminys.org

Volunteer Appreciation Dinner



Volunteer Appreciation Dinner

and recognition ceremony

April 25, 2025 Fort William Henry

Lake George, NY

5:30pm-8:30pm

In 2025 GSNENY Council is holding one dinner across our entire footprint to have everyone come together and mingle!

All current GSNENY volunteers are welcome to come free of charge. If you're not a volunteer but would like to attend to support someone the cost is \$35 for non-members and \$25 for members.

Event Program:
5:30 pm- doors open
5:30 pm-6:00 pm- mingling, networking
6:00 pm - dinner is served
6:30 pm- awards presentation begins
8:00 pm- awards presentation ends



GSNENY Service Center Hours

9 am - 3 pm, Monday - Friday

All in person meetings should be made by appointment to ensure the person you wish to see will be available at the location you intend to see them.

Appointments are required any time outside of normal business hours.

Email <u>customercare@girlscoutsneny.org</u> to set up appointments with the staff member you need to meet with if you are not sure how to contact that person directly.







CLICK HERE to shop online!

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

@GirlScoutsNENY | 518-489-8110 | customercare@girlscoutsneny.org

WWW.GIRLSCOUTSNENY.ORG