

# GS EXPRESS

AUGUST 7, 2025

girlscouts  
of northeastern  
new york



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## Property Rentals

Still looking for an escape to a beautiful place this summer? Lake Clear Camp has just opened up new rental dates for August! Immerse yourself in the breathtaking scenery and tranquil atmosphere of Lake Clear!

Register [HERE!](#)

## Lake Clear Camp New Dates Available

Space is still available to rent at Lake Clear Camp this summer! Dates have now opened up for August 29-31!



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# S'more Learning - Camping Part 2

Dive into the second chapter of our 8-part S'Mores Learning adventure! Part 2:  
Choosing a Camping Destination.

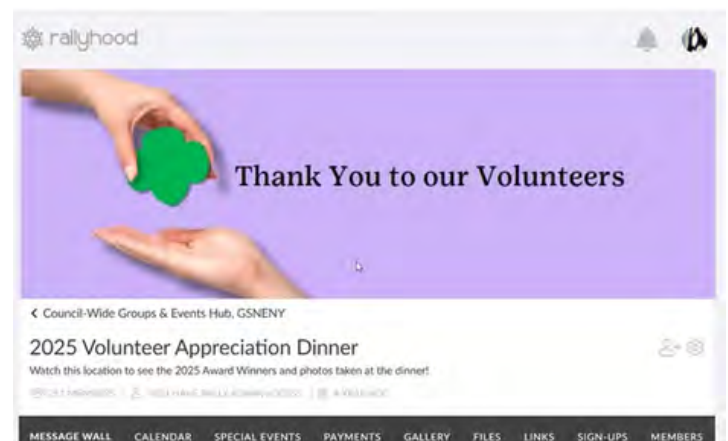
Watch Choosing a Camping Destination - Camping Part 2 : [HERE](#)



## How to Post a Message on Rallyhood

Check out this short video on posting a new message on rallyhood.com!  
Whether you're a seasoned user or new to the platform, this tutorial will guide you through the simple steps to share your thoughts and updates with your community. Perfect for staying connected and in the loop, this video makes it easy to engage and participate. Happy posting!

Watch “How to Post a Message on Rallyhood: [HERE](#)





# Troop Leader Learning



This free training provides a general overview of Girl Scouting, covering specific policies, standards, and guidelines GSNNY holds to each troop. This training is required for all new Troop Leaders, but all volunteers are encouraged to attend and are always welcome. We recommend all leaders take training every 3 years to ensure they receive the latest information and access to the newest resources! Multiple trainings are offered monthly, both in-person and virtually. Additional classes available upon request.

Register [HERE](#)

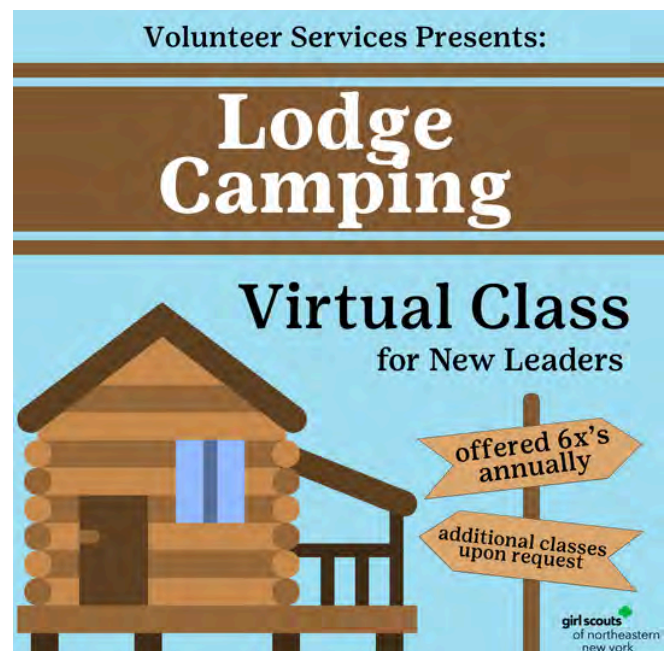
# Lodge Camping

Planning to camp but don't know where to start? If you are planning an overnight trip with your troop and don't know where to start? Come and join us as we talk you through the experience as a new leader. This is a free virtual training and recommended for New Leaders.

In this class you will:

- identify the value of the overnight experience
- understand progression as it relates to the Girl Scout Experience
- Know how to work cooperatively with the girls to plan & carry out an overnight
- understand policies and safety guidelines related to a Girl Scout trip
- Understand the importance of evaluating the process & experience

Register [HERE](#)



Registration Closes August 14th!

# *You're Invited...* *Growing Futures*

*Join your Girl Scout sisters for a festive summer gathering filled with meaningful connection and an exclusive opportunity to learn about ways to use our resources wisely—a core Girl Scout value. Our special host, who has spent 30 years helping women plan for their futures, will share smart insights for charitable giving that can also provide valuable tax advantages.*

Thursday, August 28

5:30 - 7:30 p.m.

797 Route 9W, Glenmont NY 12077

Hors d'oeuvres   Beer/Wine/Soda   Signature Cocktail

**Seating is limited!**

Click here to reserve your  
spot now!

Or contact Fund Development  
at (518) 489-8110 or  
[Give2GirlScouts@girlscoutsneny.org](mailto:Give2GirlScouts@girlscoutsneny.org)

*GSNENY is grateful to  
Girl Scout alum Kathleen Godfrey for  
generously underwriting this event.*

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# Girl Scouts Love State Parks

**It's time to lead the way at your favorite state parks and help create a better planet for all! How? By heading out to explore local state parks during this year's Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend! On September 13th and 14th, Girl Scouts can participate in self-guided tours, family hikes, watersports, stargazing, and more.**

**Thacher State Park and Taconic State Park will host exciting programs that weekend—check out the details below!**



**Thacher State Park will be hosting our annual Helderberg Hawk Watch**

**Thacher State Park overlook  
Saturday, 9/13  
10 am-3 pm**

**We will be leading guided hikes for Girl Scouts every hour.**

**Registration is required. Please call 518-872-0800 to register.**

**Taconic State Park in Copake Falls will be offering programs on Saturday and Sunday!**

**Saturday 9/13**

**9:30am @ Ore Pit Tweet & Fly**

**1 pm Meet at Copake Iron Works, Walking Bingo**

**3:30 pm at Wading Pool Pond Explorers**

**7:00 pm at Ore Pit Movie in the Park**

**Sunday 9/14**

**10 am at Pavilion Camp Crafts  
(Boondoggle & bead bracelets)**



# Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors

## Be Your Most Out There Self!



You don't need access to a national park or the woods to enjoy the outdoors! So put yourself out there with us and participate in our Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge.

Spending at least 120 minutes a week in nature is associated with improved mood, focus, and confidence—whether you spend that time becoming a rockstar at rock climbing, making a splash in the puddles around your neighborhood, or watching wandering wildlife at a park.

Download our free activity sheet [HERE](#) with 50+ fun activities to see what's possible right outside your own front door today!



















And order your patch [HERE](#)



# Highest Awards Update



In July, exciting news broke about the new prerequisites for Girl Scouts to earn their Highest Awards. We're working on updating the [Highest Awards page](#) on the website to include these changes. You'll find updates to the forms for the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards, plus new prerequisite awards designed to support Girl Scouts in earning these prestigious honors. Journeys will also serve as prerequisites until they are retired on 9/30/2026.

	Highest Awards	Personal Leadership	Peer Leadership	Teaching Leadership	Community Advocacy	Journeys
Bronze Award		True North 		Junior Aide 	Take Action  Global Action 	One Junior Journey
Silver Award	Earn the Bronze Award 	True North 	Silver Torch 	Program Aide 	Take Action  Global Action 	One Cadette Journey
Gold Award	Earn the Silver Award 	True North 	Gold Torch 	Volunteer in Training  Counselor in Training I and II  	Take Action  Global Action 	One Senior or Ambassador Journey

## Troop Update Form



Help make it easy for new and returning members by updating your troop information! This year, use our [Troop Update Form](#) to ensure your troop's information is current on MYGS, helping new Girl Scouts find you! Please complete the form with your co-leaders, as accurate information helps us place new girls and keep your troop details correct.



# Resilient. Ready. Strong.

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

## 5 Things She Needs for Back to School (That You Can't Buy at the Mall)



Think back to your own school days. Whether you felt excited or nervous or just couldn't wait to show your friends the new moves you learned at basketball camp—you wanted to be sure you were prepared for that first day back in the classroom. And while today's back-to-school shopping lists might be more tech-focused than they were in your youth, much remains the same. Pocket folders are still adorned with kittens, unicorns, and super heroes and that fresh crayon smell is just as you've always remembered it. But beyond pencils, paper, and glue sticks, there are a few back-to-school essentials you won't find at your local big-box store, and that you can't even order online.

Girl Scouts Developmental Psychologist, Dr. Andrea Bastiani Archibald recommends adding vital things to your girl's back-to-school checklist like a bold streak, team spirit, and a supportive adult (like you). [READ MORE](#)

## GSNENY's Mental Wellness Page [CLICK HERE](#)

### Resilient, Ready, Strong Patch Giveaway!

Thanks to GSUSA and a generous donor, GSNENY is excited to offer the Resilient Ready Strong patch to Girl Scouts in our Council who complete the requirements for FREE!

To get your patch, complete the requirements for your Girl Scout level (you can find those [HERE](#)) then fill out the form [HERE](#) to claim your patch.

Patches can be picked up at the GSNENY service center of your choice. Available while supplies last. Patch recipients must be current GSNENY members.



**Please join us in thanking our Mental Wellness partners.**



Contact the NAMI-NYS Helpline: (518) 245 – 9160 (M-F 8-3) or visit [naminy.org](http://naminy.org)



# Women Who Mean Business



Our very own CEO, Brenda Episcopo, will be honored this October as one of the Albany Business Review's Women Who Mean Business! Brenda will be recognized alongside five other exceptional women leaders in our community.

Brenda has built her career in nonprofit leadership. Under her leadership, Girl Scouts membership has grown, our operations have modernized, and we have focused on inclusivity. With a career spanning three decades, Brenda has also led transformative initiatives at the United Way and other nonprofits, focusing on poverty reduction, education, and equity.



***Congratulations, Brenda!  
Your leadership truly motivates  
and energizes everyone across the  
organization!***

The Women Who Mean Business award recognizes the influence and impact of the honorees' contributions to their companies, industries, and the broader community. Honorees were selected from nominations by an advisory committee. You can read the full article [HERE](#) with an Albany Business Review subscription.



# Troop 3872

Girl Scout Troop 3872 brought a bright touch to the Ronald McDonald House in Albany on Friday, August 1, by donating \$1,500 in outdoor furniture and supplies. Thanks to their successful Girl Scout Cookie Program, this thoughtful gesture was made possible.

Hailing from the Capital Region, Troop 3872 decided to channel their cookie earnings into purchasing these items, aiming to uplift the families staying at the House as their children receive care at nearby hospitals.





# Upcoming Girl Scout Programs

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

## Summer She & Me



For Daisies, Brownies and Juniors with their special adults.

Saturday,  
August 23rd & 24th  
Hidden Lake Camp

Last chance to register!

Summer is ending! Take this last chance to camp at Hidden Lake! Each Girl Scout and their "She" will spend the night in a unit at camp. Dinner on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday are provided. Between meals, we will play games, make crafts, and explore all that Hidden Lake has to offer!

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](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsneny.org)

Financial Assistance if available for year-round programs in our Council.

To learn more or apply, click [HERE](#)

## *GSNENY Summer Service Center Hours* *July 7th - September 1st*

**9 am – 3 pm, Monday – Thursday**

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 [customercare@girlscoutsneny.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsneny.org) 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](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsneny.org)

**WWW.GIRLSCOUTSNENY.ORG**