Smell the Roses

Shout out to Stephanie in the GS Shop!

Adult Education

Q. What Adult Education courses will be held this fall and where will I find a listing?

A. All adult education courses for this fall can be found in our online version of Lead and Learn; available on our website. Launching this fall is gsLearn, our official Girl Scouts online training portal for volunteers and staff. With gsLEarn members will have access to online training materials and courses.

Beginning August 21, 2020, volunteers may access gsLearn by selecting “myGS” on our website, choosing the “gsLearn” link, logging into their myGS account when prompted, and selecting “gsLearn” on the landing page. This will direct you to your gsLearn dashboard.

If you encounter difficulties accessing gsLearn, please contact the Answer Center at answercenter@girlscoutsem.org or 314.400.4600.

Q. If there is incorrect information in gsLearn, what is the process to correct information? How are corrections made if a training is missing in gsLearn?

A. Contact your Community Engagement Manager and an update will be made.

April Showers

Q. What to do with left over April Showers items?

A. April Showers items that are dated should be recycled. Those that are not should be retained and guidance will be provided as to what to do with them.

Camp

Q. Will the Camp Adventure Guide be available for camp registration in November?

A. We are currently looking at the schedule for the Camp Adventure Guide and the opening date for camp registration. We will announce the schedule in the October newsletter.
**Council Publications**

Q. When will council publications be available and in what format?

A. Due to the many ways we are engaging our members, our publications will be available electronically on our website. The publications will cover all activities taking place between late-September 2020 and January 2021. In mid-January, a new version will be available.

**COVID Guidelines**

Q. If my troop is meeting outdoors do we need to wear masks?

A. No, as long as all participants maintain social distance of at least six feet.

Q. Why is the council increasing the maximum number of participants from 10 to 20 when other organizations are not doing so?

A. The increase in the number of participants is consistent with guidance from St. Louis County. These guidelines are subject to change based on the ever-evolving nature of COVID-19, its community impact and the release of new guidelines from the CDC and St. Louis County.

**Daisy Drop Box**

Q. Is the Daisy Drop Box still active?

A. Yes. If you are interested in the program please contact Pam Johnson, Daisy Drop Box, Program Manager, pjohnson@girlscoutsem.org.

**Highest Awards**

Q. What is the deadline for the Bronze Award?

A. If a girl/troop could not complete due to COVID and they are moving to Cadettes, they have until the end of December to complete their project. Otherwise they can complete this upcoming program year.

**Insurance**

Q. Is an overnight camping trip at a leader’s home covered by GS insurance.

A. Yes, the Girl Scout Activity Insurance that is included with the member’s registration provides coverage for injuries that could take place. The council's liability policy covers activities in the leader’s home as long as the girl/adult ratio is met, and all Safety Activity Checkpoints are followed.
Live from Girl Scouts

Q. Are there plans to create and provide a Journey in a Day opportunities through Live from Girl Scouts?

A. The programs being offered through Live from Girl Scouts will offer a variety of opportunities to complete badge and Journey requirements. The descriptions will include info about this.

Marketing/Communications

Q. I'd love to see videos of troops working on badges post on our website.

A. Please share pictures and videos of your troop activities with our Marketing Communications team at communications@girlscoutsem.org.

Membership

Q. How do we access the new recruitment videos?

A. Community Engagement Managers will be sharing with volunteers conducting recruitment events. The recruitment videos are now live on our YouTube channel. You can also access the videos via this link https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nwlkochdVZs

Q. There were Bridging activities available online. Where can I find this information?

A. GSUSA published information about Bridging activities. You can access these resources https://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/renew/bridge-now.html.

National Council Session (NCS)

Q. What is National Council Session and how do people get selected to participate?

A. The 55th National Council Session of Girl Scouts of the USA will be held October 23-25, 2020. Originally planned to be held in Orlando, Florida but due to COVID the NCS will be held virtually. The NCS is an opportunity for delegates elected by their council to come together and discuss and debate topics around the future direction of Girl Scouts.

This year a delegation of 27 delegates which includes volunteers, staff and four girl members 14 years of age and older will represent Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri. Visitors may attend to watch the proceedings but may not participate.

More information is available online.
**Product Programs**

**Q.** I have a troop number but no girls currently. I would like to participate in Treats and Read, is this possible?

A. Treats & Reads and the Girl Scout Cookie Program are programs for girls. Adults support their efforts. If there are not any girls in a troop the adult can volunteer to assist another troop. To get girls for your troop a Community Engagement Manager will reach out to you.

**Q.** Have you considered a Family Reward for families with multiple girl members for Cookie Sales?

A. Each year the council reviews options for rewards including a family reward. We appreciate the suggestion and we will take it into consideration.

**Q.** Is there a new cookie this year?

A. There are two bakers licensed to bake GS cookies, Little Brownie Bakers and ABC Bakers. ABC introduced a new cookie this year, but it is unavailable in our market. Little Brownie Bakers, our supplier introduced the new Lemon-ups last year.

**Q.** Can you clarify the Digital Cookie access on December 19?

A. Girls can get into Digital Cookie, set up their online storefront and begin taking online orders on December 19. Order card sales begin January 9.

**Q.** I am a Neighborhood Cookie Manager. What do I do with cookie rewards that have not yet been picked up by a troop?

A. If you have made multiple attempts at communication, including phone and email, with no response, you can arrange to bring that troop’s rewards to the council service center.

**Q.** Are cookie trainings for volunteers virtual this year?

A. Training for Neighborhood product program volunteers will be offered in a live virtual format and training for troop product program volunteers will be recorded and posted on gsLearn.

**Council Staff Structure**

**Q.** Could the Council provide information about staff changes and access to the staff structure chart since the staff roster is no longer online.

A. The staff structure chart is posted under Volunteer/Volunteer Resources.

There is a department listing and a general email template available for department specific communication under **Contact Us**. Requests that come in through this format are distributed to the appropriate department personnel for follow up. You should receive a response within 1-2 business days.
**Volunteer Toolkit**

**Q. I'd like to learn more about the Volunteer Tool Kit and how to use it?**

A. The Volunteer Toolkit is a customizable digital planning tool for troop leaders and co-leaders to conveniently manage their troop year-round and deliver easy, fun troop meetings. Accessible via desktop and mobile devices, the Volunteer Toolkit saves you time and energy all year long, so you can focus on ensuring every girl has the opportunities she deserves to build a lifetime of leadership, success, and adventure. For leaders and parents alike, this resource keeps girls, leaders and parents connected throughout the year.

For more information go to [https://www.girlscoutsem.org/vtk](https://www.girlscoutsem.org/vtk).

**Zoom Licenses - Christina**

**Q. Zoom Licenses – who will receive a license, how will they be notified to opt in and what type of training is available?**

A. Troop leaders who have re-registered and have a registered Co-leader with their troop will receive an invitation to opt-in for a free Zoom license. The Council pays by the license, so it is important that volunteers opt-in to indicate interest in using the license.

District and Neighborhood Managers who have re-registered for the 2021 membership year also receive an invitation to opt-in for a free Zoom license. The Council pays by the license, so it is important that volunteers opt-in to indicate interest in using the license. District and neighborhood managers that have active troops are asked to opt-in to receive their license via the troop leader survey and to utilize their troop leader Zoom license for District and or Neighborhood meetings.

Neighborhood Fall Program and Product Programs are not required to have a Zoom license. All trainings will be online, and communication and questions will be answered through the troop leader. In an instance where a District or Neighborhood volunteer is hosting a Girl Scout meeting, they should request to use the District or Neighborhood Zoom license from their District or Neighborhood Manager.

**Q. Where can I get the GS backdrops to use on Zoom?**

A. Zoom backgrounds will be added to the gsemtogether.org site under resources > virtual meeting resources.

**Q. Can Google be used instead of Zoom?**

A. Yes. Whatever platform a troop uses, be sure and follow Safety Activity Checkpoints for Virtual Troop Meetings.

**Q. Will I be told if my background check is not current when I request a Zoom license?**

A. A Zoom license is available to any troop with a troop and assistant leader, which means if they are registered, they have a current background check.

**Q. What training is available for Zoom?**

A. Training is available through gsLearn and there will be live training at the Season Opener.