

Council Updates for Membership Year 2021-22

MyGS: Your Updated Single Sign-on

REGISTRATION AND RENEWAL

- Make sure Girl Scouts renew their memberships by October 1 to remain on troop and service unit rosters. If you are a Lifetime Member, please log in to confirm your roles for the upcoming year.
- To register new members: interested families should go to gsema.org/join from a tablet or PC, click “Register Today,” then click “Find Troops”, enter your zipcode and girl’s grade, and search for local opportunities.
- To renew: log into MyGS, select My Household, check the box next to the troop number, and follow the prompts.

GSEVENTS

- New convenient way to register your girl(s), troop or group for Girl Scout council-sponsored events, activities, trainings, and programs. (eBiz will no longer be used for event registration.)
- Your upcoming events are shown on the right-hand

side of your MyGS home page under My Events Dashboard and on the My Events tab on the left-hand side of your MyGS home page

GSLEARN

- New leaders should take New Leader Orientation, program level Essentials and Financing the Fun
- Experienced leaders should check in throughout the year for new content and enrichment courses

VOLUNTEER TOOLKIT (VTK)

- New leaders should check out the year plans, program content, and attendance information
- Experienced leaders should take a fresh look at new updates and tools that can make their role easier

[MyGS](#) is your new single sign-on for registration, gsEvents, gsLearn, and the Volunteer Toolkit. Questions or need assistance? Email customercare@gsema.org.

Recruitment

“Press Play” on adventure with Girl Scouts at fall recruitments! [Click here for full event listings \(bit.ly/trygsema\)](#)

- Families are invited to experience what it’s like to be a Girl Scout with a hands-on open house on a GSEMA property: Sept 19 at Camp Wind-in-the-Pines and Camp Cedar Hill, Sept 26 at Camp Maude Eaton.
- Sept 1 kicks off Join-A-Thon: Girls K-5 who register by Sept 30 will be entered to win a free Girl Scout starter kit. Girls who join by Oct 15 will be invited to an exclusive birthday party to celebrate Juliette Gordon in late October.
- Is your service unit hosting or attending a local event to recruit new Girl Scouts? Let us help you with custom Girl Scout branded materials, such as electronic flyers and brochures, banners, and yard signs! [Share your plans with us](#) so your Recruitment

Specialist can help create a custom kit to support your recruitment efforts.

- Don’t forget! There’s no need to keep waiting lists as there are lots of ways to participate in Girl Scouts! Diversify your community’s approach to recruitment with special interest troops, virtual troops, Girl Scouts in a box, episodic volunteers, and more. If you have interested families or want to discuss more, [connect with your local Membership Recruitment Specialist](#).
- Join the Opportunity Catalog! If troops have less than 12 girls or are willing to take more Girl Scouts, [add their troop on the opportunity catalog](#) and make it easier for new girls to find local ways to participate.



Volunteer Support & Safety

- GSEMA members should follow local, state, and federal guidelines for COVID-19 protocols. As a reminder, Girl Scouts should always follow the strictest COVID-19 guidelines among local, state, or federal restrictions or allowances for gathering sizes, quarantine, testing, and other precautions. Additional resources available at gsema.org/volunteerresources# covid19
- Troops may travel for day trips and overnights up to 2 nights within Massachusetts and neighboring states following the Massachusetts Travel Advisory. Troops must complete the appropriate troop travel paperwork, including a [Girl Scout Activity Form](#). International travel, domestic air travel, and overnights of 3+ nights are not approved at this time. GSEMA and GSUSA are actively reviewing processes for extended trips and travel; more information to come this fall. For additional safety guidelines, including the latest Safety Activity Checkpoints, please visit gsema.org/safety

FIRST AID/CPR CERTIFICATIONS

- Recertification courses are available now for [registration on gsEvents](#). If your first aid certification expired in the last several months or will be expiring in the next three months, please consider taking one of our recertification courses in August or September.
- New First Aid/CPR certifications, Wilderness First Aid, and Youth Mental Health First Aid courses will be available beginning in October.

CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS (CORI/SORI)

- If you have a previous [CORI/SORI form](#) on file with us, and need to submit a new one because it is due to expire, a signature from a notary will not be required. Just fill out, sign, and mail in a new CORI/SORI form . We will offer video calls for identification verification to new volunteers who cannot connect with a notary and who do not have a previous CORI on file.
- If your criminal background check expires, you will lose access automatically not only to troop rosters online (which include the ability to renew troop members), but also to the Volunteer Toolkit and gsEvents, until a new form has been processed. Criminal background check expiration dates can be found in [MyGS](#) on the My Household screen for caregivers, and on the My Troop(s) screen for troop volunteers.

SAVE THE DATE

This year's Volunteer Conference will be October 17-21 in a hybrid format – in-person opening ceremony and then online workshops throughout the week. We will be announcing our keynote and opening registration in the next few weeks!

Community Engagement

- The Community Engagement team works to build sustainable partnerships and volunteer-led troops in schools, centers, libraries and housing authorities for retention and recruitment.
- We provide support and resources to girls, volunteers, and their families to further GSEMA's commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.
- We are focused in the communities of Boston (Allston, Brighton, Charlestown, Dorchester, East

Boston, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Roslindale, Roxbury, South Boston, West Roxbury), Cambridge, Chelsea, Everett, Haverhill/Bradford, Lawrence, Lynn, Malden, Methuen, Revere, Saugus, Somerville.

- If you are interested in learning more or have connections in these communities, [please connect with us](#).

Programs

- [GSUSA released 28 new badges](#) with topics including entrepreneurship, math, outdoors, and digital leadership.
- GSEMA's fall programs will be open for registration by August 30 and spring programs will be available later.
- New & updated programs coming this year!
 - Monthly girl-led badge challenges easily accessible to individuals or troops
 - New sessions of Extreme Gingerbread (December) and STEM Conference (April) for younger Girl Scouts
 - February break Journey Days! Level-specific one-day program to complete a Journey up to the TA Project
 - Race track rental weekend for service units at Cedar Hill in March
 - Return of the Amazing Race: June 4 in Salem

Highest Awards

GSUSA STANDARDIZES THE GOLD AWARD

- GSUSA is launching a national rubric for the Gold Award for all councils to begin implementing in the new membership year.
- To guide Girl Scouts they are also launching additional [guide to Going Gold](#) to help support Girl Scouts, Volunteers, and councils move forward in addition to the already existing council resources.

GSUSA: CELEBRATING HIGHEST AWARDS!

- Introducing the Girl Scouts Change the World event! This is a virtual event hosted by GSUSA on the International Day of the Girl October 9th (2-5 EST). This event is for Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors, and all our amazing adult volunteers. It will include workshops and talks, including a special workshop and feature for and of our National Gold Award Class of 2021.
- Honoring our Gold Award Girl Scouts (Council Scholarships). As you may now the National Gold Award Girl Scout program is changing to better reflect the almost 4,000 Girl Scouts annually who receive their Gold Award. Part of this is the Girl Scouts Change the World event, the other part is a more equitable divide of the Gold Award scholarships. Starting this year, each council will

nominate one Girl Scout from that class year to be the recipient of the council's individual GSUSA scholarship!

GSEMA HIGHEST AWARDS PROCESS CHANGES

- To support these changes GSEMA is moving its class deadline for each year to match GSUSA so that GSEMA's annual class will not be different from GSUSA's in the Gold Award Celebration, Girl Scouts Change the World, and scholarship eligibility.
- Gold Award proposals are accepted monthly! Girl Scouts in grades 9-11 should submit their proposals online through [GoGold](#). For rising seniors, Gold Award proposals are due by September 15, 11:59 PM. This deadline helps give the largest chance of success and support, especially if a project proposal needs to be edited or further adjusted. Contact mygoldaward@gsema.org if you are a rising high school senior and need assistance.

COMING SOON!

To further support the success across all highest awards we are resuming Bronze and Silver orientations for both volunteers and Girl Scouts. In addition, we hope to bring back Proposal Writing Workshops from the Gold Award Committee.

Outdoor Program & Properties

- Fall properties reservations are open! Service units and troops can make site reservations for October 1 to December 21 at gsema.org/troopcamping
- Our focus this fall is training volunteers to take Girl Scouts outdoors. In September and October, we will be offering sessions in Outdoor Basics: Cooking, Outdoor Basics: Camping, Archery, and the new Girl Scouts Small Craft Safety training. See the full list of sessions and register online at gsema.org/programs (search "outdoor").
- We plan to offer our full suite of outdoor programming for Girl Scouts this year, pending COVID-19, including archery, high ropes, low ropes, snowshoeing, rock climbing, and more. ore at gsema.org/outdooradventures
- New this year! High Adventure Programming for Girl Scouts in grades 6-12, individually or as a troop. Each month will focus on a different type of high adventure activity!

Governance

Interested in learning more about council governance? Consider these unique leadership opportunities for adults and girls age 14+:

- Volunteer positions are available in the following categories: National Delegates, Regional Delegates, and Girl Board Members
- We are [accepting applications now](#) for National Delegates and Regional Delegates
- Girl Board Member application will be available in September. Stay tuned!
- Visit our [Council Delegates Page](#) for more information on governance leadership opportunities!

Fund Development

- You can become an inaugural member of the [Friendship Circle](#) today! Your monthly gift demonstrates your commitment to our mission, and directly helps girls and young women develop the skills and confidence to become remarkable leaders.
- COMING SOON! Be on the lookout for a sneak peek at how we plan to engage parents in our culture of philanthropy, and how you can help.
- We appreciate your support in building a culture of philanthropy throughout GSEMA's footprint. Do you have ideas to share, feedback on initiatives, or questions for us? [We would love to hear from you!](#)

Product Program

What is [Fall Product Program](#)? The Fall Product Program offers Girl Scout entrepreneurs valuable skills that set themselves up for success in life, while earning money to fund activities like troop travel, camping, community service projects and more!



- Program dates are September 20–October 24
- We are excited to share the Emperor Penguin mascot with the theme 'Rise Up'

Changes and new products this year:

- Troop Fall Product Coordinators will be activating the email blasts to families inviting girls to set up their M2 accounts
- Fruit Slices are now in a 10.5 oz resealable stand-up bag
- Caramel Apples, milk chocolate with an apple flavored center

- Sweet and Salty Mix with a tantalizing blend of salted and honey roasted nuts and sesame sticks
- Four-sided uniform tin highlighting all levels of the Girl Scout Uniform
- New bunny holiday tin filled with chocolate covered pretzels

Super Seller Club details and award:

- When girls sell 45 or more nuts and candy and 12 or more magazines (in person, girl delivery and direct ship) and send 18+ emails they will have earned their way into the Super Sellers Club!
- GSEMA is excited to partner with the New England Aquarium for a Virtual Penguin Encounter!
 - Girls will learn what it takes to care for a colony of over 70 Penguins!
 - New England Aquarium penguin experts will share some remarkable facts about penguins and the care that they receive.
 - Girls will learn what actions they can take to protect these incredible animals.