



*November 2023*

## **Your Year of Fulfillment**

Think back to when you were a kid. Do you remember all the people who really listened to you, who inspired you, and who supported you through it all?

When you volunteer with Girl Scouts, you have the opportunity to be one of those people.

Together, you and your troop will try new things, help your community, build each other up, and make unforgettable memories. Through fun, laughter, and connection, you create a safe space where girls are celebrated for being themselves.

Girl Scouts of Utah recognizes the impact you make every day and are truly thankful for your contributions!

Happy Thanksgiving to all our fantastic volunteers and their families!

*“Thanksgiving Day is a good day to recommit our energies to giving thanks and just giving.” - Amy Grant*

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## **Troop Leader Tips**

**Cell Phones? Cliques? Short Attention Spans? Here’s How Troop Leaders Deal!**

You are shaping future female leaders who will smash expectations and change the world—that is, if they could just focus on this week's troop activity.

No matter which level of Girl Scouts you lead, some experiences, like friend cliques or apparent cell phone addiction, are more common than you might think. But, at what point do you intervene? And if you are a new troop leader, you might wonder how to intervene. Do you call out a problematic behavior? Let the girls sort out an issue among themselves?

Rest assured, troop leader, you are not alone in navigating these experiences. Here are some solutions to shared challenges as troop leaders.

### **Attention Span**

Sometimes a five-minute meeting welcome is five minutes too many, especially for Daisy and Brownie troop leaders. A few easy implementations can break up a troop meeting, which is perfect for our youngest Girl Scouts:

- Break up the meeting into ten-minute increments, so the girls do not have to sit still for too long.
- Divide into smaller groups when working on projects and have an adult assist with each group can help keep the Girl Scouts engaged.
- When corralling those who have strayed from the task, use a call and response such as 'Hey, hey, Girl Scouts,' that they respond to with 'Hey, hey, [troop leader name].'
- Pay close attention to when they need a break and adjust plans as needed.

### **Friend Cliques**

The girls in your troop may not all be best friends, and that's okay! However, watching some girls repeatedly exclude other girls from activities? That's definitely not in the spirit of sisterhood!

Unfortunately, cliquy behavior is a normal part of growing up. But there are a few things you can do to encourage your girls to play fair and respect one another.

- Pair girls together instead of picking their own group or partner; count off by number or use popsicle sticks to be placed in groups. This way, girls will have the opportunity to mix it up, get to know each other better, and become closer.

- If there are girls that may consistently be left out, try sitting in a friendship circle and talk about exclusion and inclusion. This is a great opportunity to remind the girls that they are all Girl Scout sisters and review the Promise and Law.
- Remember to remain calm and do not raise your voice; this example helps the girls to understand the need to be kinder and more accepting of each other.

### **Learning to Lead**

Each girl comes to Girl Scouting at a different point in their leadership journey, and some may need a little extra support to discover their inner leader. So, how do you help those girls build their confidence and learn to overcome obstacles? Here are some quick tips:

- Girls are great at cheering on their fellow Girl Scouts when they try new things.
- All they really need from adults is a high-five and a "way to go."
- A good rule of thumb is to “praise the try in public and the win personally.”

### **Cell Phones**

If it seems like you can't get through a meeting without girls messaging their friends, bring the issue directly to the girls.

- Remind girls to get things done in the short time you have together and that they need to keep their cell phones put away or agree that they can look at their phone occasionally during meetings.
- To keep things girl-led, let the girls decide when they want to have their phones out and accessible.

Remember that these challenges—among many others—are not a reflection of your leadership skills! By meeting girls where they are and understanding where they are coming from, you'll be the supportive troop leader and positive role model they need.

*Want to read more? Get real-world advice from fellow troop leaders who've been there so you can help your Girl Scouts take the lead. [Tips for Troop Leaders](#)*

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## **World Thinking Day - February 22**

Join your fellow Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from over 150 countries around the world to celebrate World Thinking Day! The best part is you don't need to wait until February to get started. Girls can start learning about World Thinking Day now and embrace perspectives outside their own!

This year's focus is "Our World, Our Thriving Future: The Environment and Global Poverty." Girls can explore how these issues are even more challenging for girls and women in their communities and around the world. They can identify factors of underlying problems and consider small actions that can have a significant impact!

**ACTION:** Download the [World Thinking Day 2024 Activity Guide](#) for Girl Scout Daisies through Juniors.

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## Product Program Updates

### Upcoming Cookie Season

Can you believe tomorrow is Thanksgiving? Which means only 32 days until Christmas, and **only 58 days** until the Cookie Program officially begins!

***Own Your Magic*** again with the Girl Scout 2024 Cookie Season!! Check out the axolotl, this year's cute mascot; what an adorable little creature! Be sure to submit [the 2024 Cookie TPM Agreement form](#) ASAP so your troop doesn't miss important information like cookie training dates and program information.

You can get a head start now with training from GSUSA on the overall cookie details with **New Troop Leader Onboarding: The Girl Scout Cookie Program** available in gsLearn. Every Troop Product Manager (TPM) **must** watch this quick, 10-minute, **mandatory** training video to participate in the 2024 Cookie Program.

### Smart Cookie Training - January 13

Registration (for Service Unit Product Program Representatives (SUPPRs) and TPMs) will be live on **December 1** – you must register for the training whether you are attending in-person or virtually, or need to view the recording later. Registration will open on the [GSU Events list](#).

### Cookie Rallies

Many Service Units are offering Cookie Rallies to kick-off the Cookie Season,

some are open to the entire council. If you are looking for a fun way to get your girls motivated for the new cookie season, be sure to check in on the [GSU Events list](#) regularly for an opportunity to participate.

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## Training Opportunities

### **Extended Overnight Trips and International Travel**

GSU is adding recurring training for **Extended Overnight Trips (EOT)** and **International Travel**, which will be held twice a year in February and September. EOT renewal is required every two years and International Travel is required for every international trip. It is highly recommended to complete the International Travel training at least 18 months prior to **planning** your trip abroad.

### **Intro to GSU (Girl Scouts of Utah)**

Intro to GSU is held the first Wednesday of each month – Designed to help you better understand council policies, processes, and procedures, as well as review information unique to Girl Scouts of Utah. GSU staff will be available to answer any questions.

### **Service Unit Event Rep/Program Lead Training**

Council Sponsored Events is now a blended learning training - Complete **674 Council Sponsored Events Training** on gsLearn and attend a virtual **CSE Knowledge Follow-Up** with GSU Program Specialists in April or September.

### **Upcoming Training for Volunteers:**

- First Aid/CPR/AED - December 5 in Salt Lake
- First Aid/CPR/AED - January 9 in Ogden

**PLEASE NOTE:** It is important to register for training early so your certification remains current. Check the [GSU Events list](#) for registration dates and links.

### **Leadership Development**

Volunteers who complete five or more training courses within the year will receive a Leadership Development certificate of achievement and a magnetic name badge. You will receive an email with your certificate and a link to order your name badge. All levels of volunteers are eligible. You may only earn the name badge once every three years.

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# Service Unit Extra

## **Council Connect – Wednesday, November 29**

All Service Unit Team members can join us for a jam-packed meeting full of impactful information that you can share with leaders during your next service unit meeting. Make sure that your service unit is represented by at least one of your team members. We will be reviewing our up coming Daisy Launch so Recruitment and/or Membership Reps would be ideal.

### **Council Connect Zoom**

Meeting ID: 933 3401 9832

Passcode: 828757

## **Cookie Rally Reminder**

If your service unit is planning to host a Cookie Rally as a council sponsored event – the **Council Sponsored Event Applications** are due no later than December 7.

## **Update to Girl Scouts Insurance**

Girl Scouts of the USA has updated their insurance policy. Girl Scout members and non-members who are invited to participate in a Girl Scout event are now automatically covered during Girl Scout events for accidental bodily injury. This includes Service Unit events and shorter troop trips. Girl Scout groups can choose to purchase additional sickness insurance. This coverage is intended for extended, long-distance trips.

Girl Scout insurance still does need to be purchased for international trips of any length. For questions regarding the updated insurance, please reach out to **[programs@gsutah.org](mailto:programs@gsutah.org)**.

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## **Quick Links**

- Join GSU's team - **[find and apply to job openings](#)**.
- Receive ongoing communications from GSU - **[GSU's Facebook](#)**
- Stay up-to-date on trainings and events from GSU - **[GSU Programs Facebook](#)**
- Salt Lake City and American Fork shop info - **[Retail](#)**



Have a question? Don't be shy!  
[Contact us](#) for more information.

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