



GSU Volunteer Weekly Update



As a Girl Scout volunteer, we know how busy you are, and we want our weekly newsletters to be helpful and not another item on your task list. In an effort to make it easier to navigate your newsletter, the content is now organized into color-coded sections. There is a lot of great information for you each week, but if you are looking for something specific, you can either scroll through the sections, or use the new table of contents to access each topic. The table of contents will preview the topics in each section so you can easily find what you need! In addition, you will now be included in the Girl/Family weekly newsletter email list if you weren't already.

Click the section header below to skip to that section of the newsletter.

In this issue, you will find:

[Cookies & Product Program](#)

Venmo now accepted, council-provided cookie booth shields, troop cookie website, Walmart booths, and cookie skills

[Volunteer Support](#)

GSU Family Award honorees, Troop Leader Tips, volunteer training, and quick links

[Outdoor Program](#)

Register for troop camping, run a day camp, and camp rentals for troops

[Council News & Updates](#)

World Thinking Day activities, survey about years of service and early bird renewal, and quick links

[Service Unit Updates](#)

Never the Same Weekend information, L.E.A.P, and Council Connect

A Message from GSU's Volunteer Support Team:

We want to shout out to our amazing lead taking, logistics crushing, mountain moving, make-it-happen-no-matter-what Cookie Volunteers, who work so hard and give so much during Girl Scout Cookie Season to ensure girls' success—you ROCK!

Cookies & Product Program

Contactless Payments Update - Venmo Now Accepted!

We are excited to announce that troops may now take Venmo for their payments and we encourage all troops to use the Digital Cookie app to take contactless payments at booths and while selling cookies. We know that many of you have been wanting to use this platform, and just recently Venmo made it possible to connect business checking accounts to Venmo. This now makes it possible to connect troop bank accounts to the system. In addition, the previous issue of customers being able to reverse their payment after receiving cookies has been resolved. We have updated our [Contactless Payments](#) section of the website, and the [Contactless Tip Sheet](#) is available for download.

GSU Providing Cookie Booth Shields



The safety of our girls and volunteers is always our top priority, and this year all troops who participate in cookie booths will receive a free 3-foot-wide Girl Scout Cookie Booth shield. These are stand up, tabletop shields with a clear plastic window in the middle to keep girls and customers safe. Shields will be distributed at the various cookie pickups throughout the state beginning next week.

Additional Shields

Each troop will receive one free shield, but if you would like to purchase additional shields for \$25 each, please email Linda at Ineeley@gsutah.org by Wednesday, February 17 at 6:00 p.m. She will arrange payment and have them ready for your cookie pickup.

Don't Be Left Out of Online Troop Cookie Sales

GSU, GSUSA, and Little Brownie Bakers are advertising the National Troop Link across all digital channels. Customers enter their zip code and buy cookies from troops local to them, and troops receive credit at random through GSUSA's algorithm. To be included, troops simply have to set up their troop Digital Cookie page! The entire process takes less than five minutes, and you can start receiving credit for cookies immediately without additional effort.

Action needed: [Follow our how-to guide](#)

Walmart Booths

Beginning Thursday, February 18, at 6:00 p.m., troops will be able to sign up for three Walmart booths during the first round of signups. The second round will open Friday, February 19. Please check your eBudde emails for more details!

In the Know: Decision Making

Girl Scout Cookie entrepreneurs are leaders in the making. They make decisions about how to run and promote their cookie sale, interact with customers, and spend their earnings. And when it comes time to make decisions in their personal lives, they'll use what they learned selling cookies to easily make the best choices.

Quick Links

- Cookie trainings, social toolkit, printables, and more - [Cookie Resources](#)

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Volunteer Support



Recognition of Excellence Honorees

This week we are honoring our 2020 GSU Family Award honorees.

GSU Family Award

GSU Family Award recognizes an adult volunteer whose performance in providing service to troops/groups and the Girl Scout service unit merits recognition.

2020 Awardees:

- Barron Family (16 years) - Oquirrh Service Unit
- Tankersley Family (14 years) - Lakeview Service Unit
- Zumbado Family (10 years) - Juniper Service Unit

Action needed: [Check out the 2020 Adult Award Honorees!](#)

Troop Leader Tips



Troop Leader Tips - Open Office Hours February 13 @ 10:00 a.m.

Don't miss Troop Leader Tips this Saturday! We will have cookie experts on the call to share some clever booth ideas and answer your cookie questions. [Register in advance.](#)

Join your Volunteer Support Team, GSU department staff, and service unit team members the second Saturday of the month for this unique opportunity to get all your Girl Scout questions answered! No one said this rewarding journey would be easy, but with Tips for Troop Leaders, you'll be ready to meet any challenge that comes your way.

Rallying Troop Families for Cookie Booths & Walkabouts

Cookie season is here, and you're feeling proud of your Girl Scout troop for rocking their goal setting conversation and committing to a cookie goal that'll power their Girl Scout experience. Before the girls break out cases of cookies, there is another group you need to rally: your troop parents and caregivers.

That doesn't sound difficult – after all, most troop families want to be supportive –

but what happens when you have parents who see the cookie program as just another task on their lengthy to-do list rather than an entrepreneurial experience for their cookie boss?

The cookie program is a team effort, and adult support plays a major part. If you're looking for ways to motivate any apprehensive parents in your troop, we have [a few strategies](#) you need to outline the importance of the experience.

Quick Links

- Volunteer trainings and girl programs - [GSU Event Calendar](#)
- GSU-hosted virtual troop meetings, customizable flyers for troops, VTK, and troop leader blueprint - [Online Support for Volunteers](#)
- Guidelines for in-person activities and troop meeting space at council service centers - [GSU's COVID-19 guidelines](#)

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Outdoor Program

Troop Camping Registration is Open!

Registration for troop camping is now open! Spots are limited this year, so we recommend registering early. Registration is open February 11 at 12:00 p.m. through February 18 at 12:00 p.m. We can't wait to see you at camp!

Troop Camping at summer camp is a way for girls and their troop leaders to enjoy the camp experience together with the support of camp staff. It can also be a great step in the camp progression before sending girls to summer camp alone or before going camping on your own as a troop.

Action needed:

- [Review the new Troop Camping Guide](#)
- [Register for Troop Camping 2021](#)

Run a Day Camp

Day Camps are hosted by Girl Scout volunteers and are typically held over a

three day period in various locations across the state, including parks, churches, and community centers. Some day camps are offered virtually!

If you are planning to run a day camp virtually or in-person (if COVID conditions permit) in 2021, there are two important deadlines coming up:

- By March 1, submit your [Intent to Run a Day Camp form](#)
- Then by April 15, submit your [Council-Sponsored Event form](#)

Camp Rentals for Troops

February and March dates for troop camp rentals are open for registration! At this time, Trefoil Ranch is open for day-only excursions, three hours per troop of no more than 10 people. The Amphitheater and Ranch House restrooms are included in your rental fee. Snowshoeing is available for an additional \$50 for a troop-facilitated experience or \$100 for a staff-facilitated experience.

Action needed: Find and reserve a session, add optional programming, and make a payment [here](#). Troops are required to follow [GSU's COVID-19 guidelines](#) during these day rental opportunities.

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Council News & Updates

World Thinking Day

Since 1926, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world have celebrated World Thinking Day on February 22. It's a special day when we explore the global dimensions of Girl Scouting and take action to make the world a better place. Let's get inspired by peace activists and celebrate [World Thinking Day!](#)

Some of GSU's service units are hosting virtual World Thinking Day events. You can find these events on our [Event Calendar](#).

Action needed: [Learn more about World Thinking Day 2021](#). If you can't make one of the GSU service units' events, check out GSUSA's activity guides:

- [Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors](#)

- [Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors](#)

Complete GSU's Survey

Years of Membership & Service Survey

Each spring, we honor volunteers for their years of volunteering and total years of membership, including time spend in Girl Scouts as a girl. This year we need your help ensuring our information is accurate. To ensure your service unit requests the correct number of pins, please encourage all volunteers – troop leaders and service unit - to [complete our survey](#).

Early Bird Renewal Survey

Rosie would like to know your troop's and girls' feedback regarding our 2020 Renewal Program as well as your thoughts and suggestions of what to offer this year. [Complete the survey](#) to provide your feedback.

Action needed: [Complete GSU's survey](#) to help GSU ensure accurate data and improve your membership experience.

Quick Links

- Support GSU Camps - [Amazon Wish Lists](#)
- Salt Lake City and American Fork shop info - [Retail](#)
- Receive ongoing communications from GSU - [COVID-19 Updates](#) & [GSU's Facebook page](#)

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Service Unit Updates

Spring 2021 Never the Same Weekend Update

Currently, NTSWs can be held at Trefoil Ranch in the spring as long as the service unit follows COVID-19 guidelines from the CDC, the state, GSUSA, and GSU. Indoor spaces at camp are currently not available for use. Groups of 10 or fewer may meet in-person for a day-only excursion. If your group is larger than 20, consider groups coming to camp for 3 hours at a time.

Action needed: For more information, visit the [NTSW webpage](#).

Quick Links

- L.E.A.P. and Council Connect info and registration - [Service Unit Team Resources](#)

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Support Girl Scouts of Utah While You Shop!

- Shop with [AmazonSmile](#) and select Girl Scouts of Utah
- Shop at [Smith's](#) and follow the instructions to link your Rewards Card to Girl Scouts of Utah



Have a question? Don't be shy!
Contact us for more information.

Our address is 445 East 4500 South #125, Salt Lake City, UT 84107

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