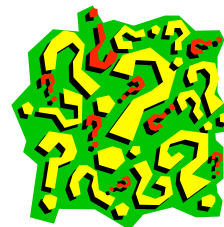


Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan **Girls Scouts My Way**



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is the Girl Scouts My Way (GSMW) program?

Girl Scouts My Way is a special program designed for individually registered Girl Scouts who are not affiliated with a troop or group. It is a way for these girls (formerly known as Juliettes) to stay connected to the council and service units. The Girl Scouts My Way program is a fun and flexible way to participate in Girl Scouting. It is especially popular among girls who love being a Girl Scout, but who are very busy with other activities. Girls waiting to be placed into a troop can also join the program, and then join a troop later if one becomes available.

Who can be a member of the GSMW program?

Any girl in grades K-12 can participate in the Girl Scouts My Way program.

How do I register?

To register, simply fill out a GSUSA Girl Registration Form and return it to the Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan (GSSEM) Clinton Township Service Center, attention Girl Scouts My Way, with a parent signature and payment of the \$12 annual registration fee. The registration fee provides membership in Girl Scouts of the USA for one year beginning October 1 and ending September 30. Once you've submitted your registration form, you will be contacted by the staff liaison at your service center to sign up for the welcome packet and monthly GSSEM Girl Scouts My Way newsletter.

What do girls in GSMW do?

Girls in the program can earn awards by using the available Girl Scout program materials, including badge/Try-It books and the Journey series. Older girls can create and work on their own special projects to earn the Girl Scout Bronze, Silver or Gold Awards. Girls can also attend local, council-wide, and national events; participate in Girl Scout product sales; attend activities at camp, including summer resident and day camps; perform community service; travel and go on field trips; and much more!

How do girls find out about events and community service opportunities?

Each month, girls registered in GSSEM's GSMW program will receive a newsletter outlining upcoming council-wide events. Service unit GSMW advisors will keep participants informed of upcoming local events. And be sure to keep an eye on our website, www.gssem.org, for all of the latest Girl Scout happenings!

Who helps the girls earn awards and participate in the Girl Scout program?

Girls in the GSMW program will need an adult advisor to help them along their journey. Advisors can guide one or a few individually registered girls. Anyone can be a GSMW advisor: parents, guardians, relatives, college students, neighbors, friends, etc.! Advisors are responsible for helping girls make decisions about how to participate in their leadership experience; handling event registrations and product sales paperwork; helping girls manage and keep track of available funds; and occasionally accompanying girls to events. Don't worry: help and support for advisors is available from your service unit GSMW advisor and council GSMW staff liaison.

Can girls in the GSMW program wear a uniform?

Yes—all registered members of Girl Scouts of the USA are eligible to wear Girl Scout uniforms. Although uniforms are not a requirement to be a Girl Scout, many girls choose to purchase some or all components of the Girl Scout uniform. Individually registered girls may choose to purchase uniform components, especially a sash or vest, appropriate for their Girl Scout age level or select fun Girl Scout t-shirts and casual wear.

Where do GSMW participants purchase uniforms, Girl Scout clothing, books, awards, badges and pins, and other Girl Scout items?

Each of GSSEM's five service centers throughout metro Detroit has a council shop. See the attached page for council shop locations and phone numbers.

Can girls in the GSMW program participate in the Girl Scout cookie, candy and nuts, and QSP magazine sales?

Yes! The welcome packet contains an information about participating in the fall product sale and the cookie sale. Girl Scout product sales are a great way for girls to learn valuable skills while earning money to continue their program-related activities!

Where does the money from product sales go?

GSMW participants are entitled to the same profits from product sales as troops. Girls will need to turn in all money collected. Their profits will then be transferred into an account, managed by the council, in the Girl Scout's name. Read below for information on how girls can then access their funds for program-related activities.

How else can girls earn money in the GSMW program, and what can they use it for?

In addition to council product sales, GSMW participants can earn money for special projects or travel through individual money-earning activities. Girls must submit a money-earning application to their GSMW staff liaison at the council service center for approval prior to beginning the activity. Please contact your service unit volunteer GSMW advisor or your staff GSMW liaison for more information about what types of money-earning activities are permitted for Girl Scouts.

GSMW participants can use money raised through council product sales for official uniforms, books, badges and awards, and other items from the council shop; national, council or service unit event

fees; service projects; program-related travel; annual membership fee; and activities and field trips related to earning badges and awards. The use of funds earned from individual money-earning activities is limited to the staff-approved activities described on the money-earning application.

How do GSMW participants access the money they've earned?

Girls can request funds from their individual accounts using the "GSSEM Girl Scouts My Way Request for Funds" form. The request form indicates the use of the funds and the amount requested, and should be submitted to the council GSMW staff liaison for approval. When girls request funds for council program/event fees or items from the council shop, the money will be transferred directly from the Girl Scout's account to that department. When girls request funds for non-council sponsored service unit or national events, individual program-related activities or service projects, etc., these funds will be reimbursed, not prepaid, to the Girl Scout's parent or advisor. Receipts or documentation for these expenses must be attached to the request form to receive reimbursement. Please see the "Instructions for Money-Earning and Use of Funds" page for more details.

How do GSMW participants register for a council-sponsored program, event, or camp?

If you're using funds from your Girl Scouts My Way account to pay for the event, fill out the event registration form and the Request for Funds form. Then submit both forms to your Girl Scouts My Way staff liaison—NOT to the contact information listed on the registration form. The staff liaison will approve your request and forward your event registration to the department sponsoring the event. See the "Instructions for Money-Earning and Use of Funds" page for complete details.

If you are not using funds in your GSMW account to pay for the event, fill out the event registration form and follow the instructions on the form to register as normal.

More questions? Contact Laurie Black at (586) 464-2402 or lblack@gssem.org

SERVICE CENTER/COUNCIL SHOP LOCATIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

All service centers: (800) 482-6734 or www.gssem.org

Clinton Twp. Service Center • 42804 Garfield, Clinton Twp., MI 48038

Detroit Service Center • 3011 W. Grand Blvd., Detroit, MI 48202

Flint Service Center • 2300 Austin's Parkway, Flint, MI 48507

Port Huron Service Center • 2186 Water St., Port Huron, MI 48060

White Lake Service Center • 8545 Highland Rd., White Lake, MI 48386