2025/2026 Key Dates and Actions

September 2025

Important Dates

- **September 18:** Back to Troop Mixer in Flint
- **September 19:** Back to Troop Mixer in Southgate
- **September 20:** Fall Fest and Back to Troop Mixer at Camp Hawthorn Hollow
- **September 30, 2025:** End of 2025 Membership Year. Deadline to submit Highest Award projects.

Key Actions:

- Register new and returning Girl Scouts and volunteers by **September 30**. Double check your member profile to see when your background check expires to ensure your troop maintains a healthy volunteer-to-youth safety ratio.
- Register for the 2026 Membership Year Kickoff on **October 6, 2025** at www.gssem.org/kickoff.
- Review Volunteer Essentials and the Safety Activity Checkpoints.
- Hold a rededication ceremony to welcome Girl Scouts back to the troop.

October 2025

Important Dates

- **October 1:** Membership Year 2026 begins, Fall Product Program begins
- **October 6:** Membership Year 2026 Kickoff
- **October 11:** International Day of the Girl
- **October 23:** Virtual Leader Meeting
- **October 30:** Deadline to submit Fall Product Program orders (due at 12 PM)
- **October 31:** Founder's Day. Celebrate by honoring Juliette Gordon Low.

Key Actions:

- Attend the 2025 Membership Year Kickoff on **October 6**.
- Discuss troop finances and goal with caregivers. Remember to use the GSSEM Annual Troop Finance Report document to keep track of expenses throughout the year.
- Kick off your troop's year planning discussion using pre-made troop year plans from GSUSA, available in both English and Spanish.

November 2025

Important Dates

- **November 6:** New Leader Roundtable
- **November 23-28:** Council shop closed for Thanksgiving.
- **November 27-28:** GSSEM offices closed for Thanksgiving.

Key Actions:

- Nominate a volunteer for a Volunteer National Award or a community partner organization for the Friend of Girl Scouting award at www.gssem.org/volawards.
- Submit the ACH Debit Authorization and Troop Agreement to Assume Debt ahead of the Girl Scout Cookie Program if you didn't already complete them for the Fall Product Program.

December 2025

Important Dates

- **December 12:** Volunteer National Awards and Friend of Girl Scouting Award nomination deadline.
- **December 15:** 2026 Cookie Program Begins
- **December 22-January 1:** GSSEM offices closed for the holidays

Key Actions:

- Complete the Cookie Refresher or online Cookie Rookie modules to refamiliarize yourself with Digital Cookie and eBudde.
- Apply to host a Big Game Booth

January 2026

Important Dates

- **January 19:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day shop closure
- **January 24:** Cookie Rally
- **January 26:** Cookie Program booth reservations begin in eBudde
- **January 30:** Cookie Program initial orders due in eBudde

Key Actions:

- Schedule your troop's council cookie booths and mall kiosks in eBudde.
- Check the GSSEM Calendar for summer camping opportunities at Camp Hawthorn Hollow and Camp Playfair.

February 2026

Important Dates

- **February 5, 6, 7, 9, 10:** Troop Cookie Pickup
- **February 22:** World Thinking Day
- **February 25:** Cookie Program initial order ACH sweep

Key Actions:

- Prepare to pick up your troop's cookies by securing enough help and vehicle space to transport cookies to a secure and dry location to distribute to families.

2025/2026 Key Dates and Actions

March 2026

Important Dates

- **March 8-14:** Celebrate Girl Scout Week
- **March 12:** Girl Scouts' Birthday

Key Actions:

- View the GSSEM Bridging Guide at www.gssem.org/bridgingguide for tips on planning a girl-led bridging ceremony.

April 2026

Important Dates

- **April 3:** Service center cookie cupboards close
- **April 5:** 2026 Cookie Program ends
- **April 9 & 16:** Volunteer Appreciation Mixers
- **April 15:** Spring Renewal Begins
- **April 30:** Final Cookie Program ACH sweep
- **April 25:** Girl Scout Leader Day
- **April 30:** Volunteer National Awards Ceremony

Key Actions:

- Prepare for the final cookie program ACH sweep.
- Sign up for your nearest volunteer appreciation mixer to get pampered!

May 2026

Important Dates

- **Mid-May:** Cookie Program reward distribution
- **May 25:** Memorial Day council shop closure

Key Actions:

- Review finances with caregivers so they understand where the troop stands on their progress toward their goal.
- Collect all receipts and begin updating your ledger in preparation for your troop's finance report.

June 2026

Important Dates

- **June 21:** Deadline to submit your troop's annual finance report and May banks statement – www.gssem.org/financereport
- **June 27:** GSSEM council shop closed for inventory until **August 2**.

Key Actions:

- Provide optional activities for families to complete together over the summer, like the Girl Scout Loves the Outdoors Challenge.

Scan for more Volunteer Resources

girl scouts of southeastern michigan