

GSSEM Volunteer Training Guide



Getting Started

GSSEM training platforms make learning easy.

Volunteers can explore Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan's comprehensive training offerings through **gsLearn**—an online library featuring categorized learning opportunities and regular webinars tailored to various topics. GSSEM also provides Rallyhood—a platform that also offers direct links to gsLearn content, and also streamlines communication, and encourages collaboration across the council community.




New Troop Training

These essential trainings must be completed within 60 days of your troop's start date



Live Trainings!

Troop Leader Orientation This training covers everything you need to succeed as a troop leader and to support a successful Girl Scout troop. This course must be completed by at least one volunteer per troop. www.gssem.org/tlo

 Run time: 2 hours

January

January 6, 2026, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
January 12, 2026, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
January 21, 2026, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
January 30, 2026, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM

February

February 3, 2026, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
February 12, 2026, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
February 18, 2026, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
February 24, 2026, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

March

March 2, 2026, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
March 10, 2026, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
March 18, 2026, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
March 23, 2026, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM

April

April 1, 2026, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
April 7, 2026, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
April 13, 2026, 7:00 PM-9:00 PM
April 22, 2026, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

GSSEM requires at least one volunteer per troop to complete Troop Leader Orientation, a Grade Level Essentials course, Managing Troop Finances, and Cookie Rookie. **For additional information, see page 5 for Cookie Rookie and page 8 for Managing Troop finances.**

May

May 6, 2026, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM
May 19, 2026, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

June

June 2, 2026, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM

July

July 28, 2026, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM



Grade Level Essentials

Online grade level-specific training on how to lead Girl Scouts in age-appropriate ways. GSSEM recommends taking all grade-level training for the program levels present in your troop. At least one troop volunteer must complete one Grade Level Essentials course per troop.

www.gssem.org/gle



30-45 minutes



Girl Scouts Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Course

This training prepares supervising adults of Girl Scout youth to recognize, respond to, and report concerns of child abuse and neglect. This course must be completed by all Troop Leaders and Co-Leaders.

www.gssem.org/prevention



50 minutes

Onboarding for New Leaders

These courses guide you toward providing a fun and safe troop environment for Girl Scouts.



New Leader Onboarding: The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

Provides new troop leaders an overview of how to facilitate the Girl Scout Leadership Experience when working with Girl Scouts.



22 minutes



New Leader Onboarding: Your First Troop Meeting

Provides new troop leaders with the structure and tools to plan a successful first troop meeting (and beyond!) with their Girl Scouts.



25 minutes



New Leader Onboarding: Troop Safety

Highlights fundamentals on how to keep troops safe in meetings and on field trips with a “go-to” guide that helps your troop stay safe no matter where adventures take them!



21 minutes



New Leader Onboarding: Family Engagement-the Key to Success

This course highlights the benefits of engaging and enlisting family support and includes an agenda for planning a parent/caregiver meeting.



13 minutes



New Leader Onboarding: The Girl Scout Cookie Program

In this GSUSA course, leaders learn the basics of the Girl Scout Cookie program including how to utilize cookie proceeds, exciting program options and cookie selling tips.



24 minutes



New Leader Roundtable

January 15, 2026, 7:00-8:30 PM

May 14, 2026, 7:00-8:30 PM

During this virtual meeting, First Year Troop Support Specialists will share important GSSEM updates and essential troop leader resources. There will be time to network with staff and volunteers.



Virtual Meeting for GSSEM Troop Leaders

May 21, 2026, 7:00-8:30 PM

The GSSEM Member Support Team is here to connect you with the support you need to succeed as a troop leader. Your Member Support contact answers questions and provides resources to help you through your Girl Scout experience.

Join your Member Support team for important Girl Scout updates, essential Troop Leader resources, and networking with other volunteers from across our Council.

Product Program

These courses explain how to manage the Fall Product Program and Girl Scout Cookie Program on behalf of your troop.



Cookie Rookie

This online course explains how to manage your troop's 2026 Girl Scout Cookie Program, including Digital Cookie and online sales, the eBudde online cookie management tool, finances, safety tips, and what-if scenarios. This course must be completed by at least one volunteer per troop and is required for all Troop Product Program Managers.

www.gssem.org/cookie training



Run time: 2 hours



Cookie Rookie Virtual Trainings* - Troops

Live Trainings!

These Zoom trainings are 6:30-8:30 PM unless otherwise noted.



January 7, 2026, 12:00-2:00 PM
January 13, 2026



Cookie Refresher Virtual Trainings*- Troops

Live Trainings!

These Zoom trainings are 6:30-8:30 PM unless otherwise noted.



January 8, 2026
January 15, 2026

**Run times vary*

Cookie Booth Tips

Cookie booths help Girl Scouts flex their customer service, money management, inventory management, and teamwork skills. Keep these tips in mind to make sure your troop's cookie booths are productive and safe:

- Keep doorways clear and ensure pedestrians, bikes, and cars can safely pass by.
- Make sure there is adequate space for a table to display cookies and for Girl Scouts to stand around it.
- Have a first aid kit available at the booth.
- Use a money pouch to hold cash for the booth.



Camp & Outdoor Experience

These trainings explore outdoor skills. Some courses are required to attend Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan camps.

Troop Camp

Outdoor 1: Preparing Your Troop For Camp

Get to know Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan's camps, facility policies and procedures, and outdoor progression in Girl Scouting on these information sessions.


This training is required for at least one volunteer of any troop planning to go troop camping at a GSSEM camp.

 31 minutes

Outdoor 2: Cabin Camping

In this training, we will discuss how to work with your Girl Scouts to plan an amazing cabin camping trip.

This course is required for all troops planning a troop camping trip at Camp Hawthorn Hollow or Camp Playfair.

 21 minutes

Outdoor 3: Camping Beyond the Cabin

This portion is focused on preparing your troop to camp beyond the cabin. **This course is required for all troops planning a tent camping trip or cooking over a campfire at Camp Hawthorn Hollow or Camp Playfair.**

 70 minutes

Outdoor Experience

Backpack in Your Backyard Short & Snappy

Working with Girl Scouts new to the outdoors? Gradually Introduce them to outdoor overnights by camping close to home.

 15 minutes

First Aid Short & Snappy

This training contains several helpful resources to help adults teach first aid to girls. This training is not a substitute for First Aid/CPR certification.

 33 minutes

GO! Explore The Sky Short & Snappy

Learn a little bit about what's going on up in the sky and how women have influenced space exploration.

 15 minutes

GO! For Snow Short & Snappy

Help prepare Girl Scouts for winter outdoor adventures.

 4 minutes

Mariner Adventure Short & Snappy


This training for Girl Scouts discusses the importance of watersheds and how you can keep them healthy.

 8 minutes



Nature Identification Short & Snappy

A two-part training course for Girl Scouts shows what to look for when you are trying to identify a tree as well as how to identify some of Michigan's common animals and trees.

 21 minutes

Survival Skills Short & Snappy

This training discusses four survival skills to help your girls explore the outdoors: knife skills, knot tying, shelter construction, and fire-building.

 32 minutes

Urban Exploration Short & Snappy

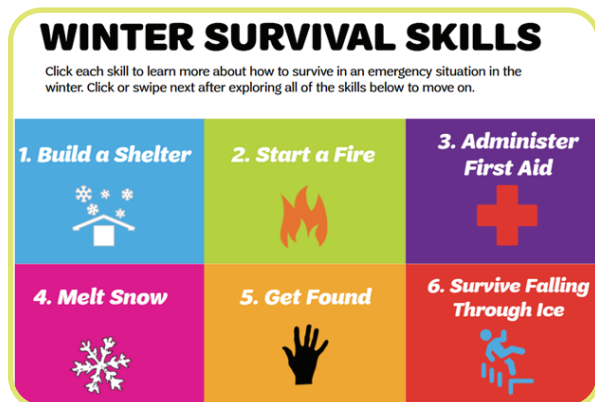
Fun outdoor exploration opportunities are all around you! This training for Girl Scouts discusses how to get outside in an urban setting.

 5 minutes

Winter Survival Skills Short & Snappy

Before you venture into the cold, make sure you're prepared with these helpful winter survival skills.

 7 minutes



Finances

*Troop bank accounts hold the funds for fun! **All Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan troops are required to have a troop bank account on file with Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan.***



Managing Troop Finances

Live Trainings!

This course is a deep dive into GSSEM finance from opening a troop bank account to reporting on finances. **This course is required for all GSSEM Troop Treasurers.**



Run time varies by selected modality.



January 14, 2026, 7:00-9:00 PM

February 4, 2026, 6:00-8:00 PM

March 19, 2026, 7:00-9:00 PM



Finance Report Short & Snappy

This course explains how to complete the annual finance report that is due June 21 every year.



11 minutes



Funding the Fun-Managing Girl Scout Troop Finances

Learn the basics of managing your troop's funds in this GSUSA course. GSSEM does not use the Volunteer Toolkit finance report. The GSSEM annual troop finance report may be found at www.gssem.org/financereport.



15 minutes



Opening a Troop Bank Account Short & Snappy

Explains the process of opening a troop bank account.



7 minutes

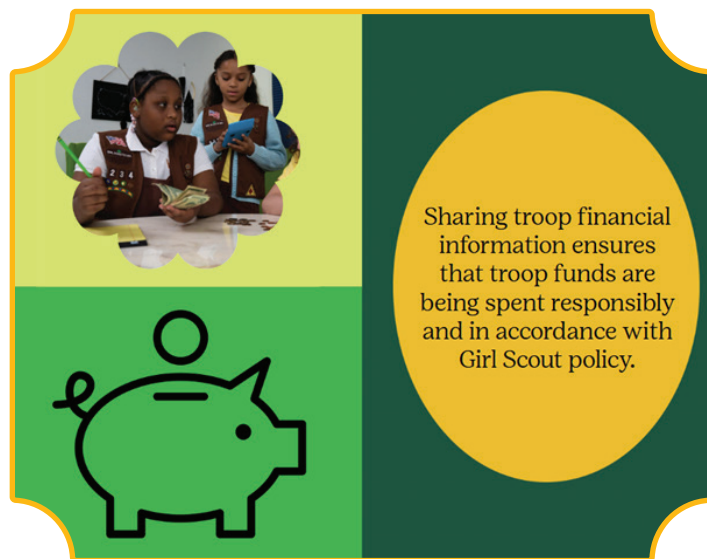


Troop Dues Short & Snappy

A (quick) deep dive into understanding troop dues and how they can work for your Girl Scout troop.



9 minutes




Girl Scout Traditions

These courses explore time honored traditions and ceremonies in Girl Scouting.

Planning Bridging Ceremonies

Bridging is an important part of the Girl Scout experience! From ceremony structure, awards and patches, best practices and helpful resources, this webinar will show you how to plan a memorable bridging ceremony in partnership with your Girl Scouts.

 March 12, 2026, 7:00-8:00 PM
April 27, 2026, 7:00-8:00 PM

Girl Scout Ceremonies Short & Snappy

Learn about traditional Girl Scout ceremonies, including investitures, rededications, flag ceremonies, the court of awards, Girl Scout bridging ceremonies, as well as opening and closing ceremonies for your troop meetings.

 3 minutes


Girl Scout Bridging Ceremonies Short & Snappy

This training explains the most time-honored ceremonies in Girl Scouts and how your troop can work together to plan a bridging ceremony.

 10 minutes

Girl Scout Bridging Ceremonies

Bridging is a time-honored Girl Scout tradition! This training prepares you to plan a girl-led bridging ceremony for your troop.

 March 12, 2026, 7:00 PM-8:00 PM
April 27, 2026, 7:00 PM-8:00 PM

 1 hour.

Flag Ceremonies Short & Snappy

This short training explains how to conduct an opening and closing flag ceremony with your troop.

 13 minutes

Flag Ceremony Roles



These are roles found in every Girl Scout flag ceremony:

- Girl Scout In Charge
- Flag Bearer
- Color Guard

World Thinking Day 101

Discover the meaning behind World Thinking Day, learn about the World Thinking Day Award, how to use the World Thinking Day Activity Guides, and how to plan a World Thinking Day event.

 20 minutes



Highest Awards

These courses guide Girl Scouts and adult volunteers through the process of earning the highest awards.



Bronze Award Enrichment Training

The Bronze Award is the highest award Girl Scout Juniors can earn. This training for Girl Scout volunteers explains the Bronze Award, how girls earn it, and tips for helping girls along the way.



20 minutes



Silver Awards: A Guide to the Requirements and Process

This Girl Scout Silver Award learning path for Girl Scout Cadettes contains three courses to prepare them to earn the Silver Award in a fun and interactive way. This does not fulfil the training prerequisite to start earning the Girl Scout Silver Award.

Silver Award Overview

Learn about the Silver Award requirements and the resources available to help achieve them.



13 minutes

Silver Award Requirements: A Closer Look

In this course, you'll dig into the key required elements in greater detail and share real projects along the way.



20 minutes

Silver Quest: Complete the Steps for Earning Your Silver Award

Get real project examples, tips and guidelines for how to use your workbook at each step to help you get organized for your Silver Award.



52 minutes



Striving for Silver: Silver Award Training

Live Training!

During this interactive session learn how to plan and complete your Silver Award project from start to finish. This course is a prerequisite to starting the Silver Award process. Find upcoming trainings and register at www.gssem.org/silvertraining.



1 hour



\$5.00 per Girl Scout



GSUSA How to Support a Gold Award Girl Scout

Designed for Girl Scout adults supporting Girl Scouts interested in earning the Girl Scout Gold Award, this course will cover questions about the Gold Award including how to guide Girl Scouts, and the value of completing the award.



20 minutes



Going For Gold: Gold Award Training

Live Training!

This interactive training session for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors covers the Gold Award process from start to finish. This course is a prerequisite to starting the Gold Award journey.



1 hour



\$5.00 per Girl Scout


Do you know a Girl Scout interested in earning a highest award? Contact highestawards@gsem.org to be added to gsLearn. **gsLearn courses do not fulfill the training prerequisites to start the Silver or Gold Awards.**

Technology

An overview of tech resources volunteers use for troop management.

Rallyhood for Troop Leaders

Troop management? There's an app for that! In this webinar, learn how to supercharge your troop with Rallyhood! We'll connect you with key GSSEM Rallies you'll want to check regularly for updates.

 54 minutes


gsLearn Demo Video

This short demo shows you how to access gsLearn and search for trainings to help you boost your Girl Scout knowledge.

 3 minutes


GSSEM Service Unit Finder

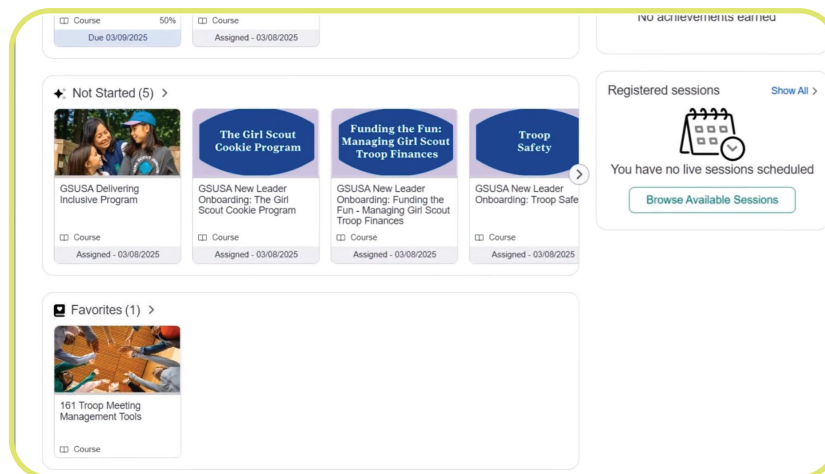
This course explains what a service unit is and uses a search engine to help you identify your own service unit and connect with your local Girl Scout community.

 4 minutes

New Member Registration Short & Snappy

This short training explains how to register new girls and adult members individually or to a troop.

 5 minutes



Working with Adults

These courses help you work with other volunteers and caregivers.



Difficult Conversations

Live Training!

This webinar will give you the tools you need when friction arises in your troop as you work towards making Girl Scouts a great experience for all.



Run time varies by modality.



February 23, 2026, 7:00-9:00 PM
April 8, 2026, 6:00-8:00 PM

Live Trainings!



Engaging Girl Scout Families

During this live training session your Troop Support Team will help you establish a foundation for effectively collaborating with the families of your troop members.



January 20, 2026, 6:00-8:00 PM



Troop Travel Office Hours

Live Trainings!

Troop travel will broaden your Girl Scouts' horizons. From field trips around town to a trip across the globe, this webinar will show you how to travel the Girl Scout way! During the Troop Travel Office Hours, our Volunteer Experience team will answer questions about planning travel experiences and council-approved activities..

March 24, 2026, 7:00-9:00 PM
April 21, 2026, 7:00-9:00 PM



Difficult Conversations Short & Snappy

This online course is a shortened version of the Difficult Conversations webinar which covers tools and tips for having emotionally-charged conversations.



15 minutes



Navigating Conflict with Confidence

In this interactive training, you'll gain skills to navigate challenging conversations and reach common ground with others when emotions run high and positive outcomes are critical.



2 hours



Volunteer National Awards Short & Snappy

In this interactive training, you'll gain skills to navigate Learn how you can honor an amazing Girl Scout volunteer by nominating them for one of the five Volunteer National Awards.



15 minutes



Volunteer RelationsSM Process Short & Snappy

This training will cover how the Volunteer RelationsSM process can help in difficult situations where relationships are at risk of being damaged.



5 minutes



Co-Leadership Short & Snappy

Teamwork makes the dream work! This course covers skills to help you develop a shared style of leadership and how to effectively support your co-leader.



13 minutes

Working with Girl Scouts

These courses support you to create a safe and supportive environment for youth.



Managing Girl Scout Behavior

Live Trainings!

As a troop leader, you may encounter behavioral challenges in your troop. During this webinar, we'll provide essential tools to help you navigate these challenges if they arise.



February 11, 2026, 6:00 PM-8:00 PM



Youth Mental Health First Aid

Live Trainings!

Youth Mental Health First Aid is an early intervention public education program. It teaches adults how to recognize the signs and symptoms that suggest a potential mental health challenge, how to listen nonjudgmentally and give positive reassurance, and how to refer a person to appropriate professional support and services.

Youth Mental Health First Aid consists of 2 hours of self-paced content followed by 4.5 hours of instructor-led training. This course is for adults only.



\$30 per adult.



January 31, 2026, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM
April 18, 2026, 9:00 AM-4:00 PM



Ability Enrichment Training

Learn about different kinds of disabilities and how you, as a Girl Scout volunteer, can work with Girl Scouts and their families and your troop to provide an amazing, inclusive experience for Girl Scouts of all abilities.



18 minutes



Daisy Petal Badges Learning Path

This Learning Path is a fun and fast introduction to the ten Daisy Petals Badges. The ten quick courses in this Learning Path are short explorations of each Petal Badge.



7-10 minutes per course



Field Trips & Travel

Take an in-depth look at field trips and travel, going over how to plan purposeful, girl-led trips, the Girl Scout Travel Progression, and where to find resources for funding trips and keeping Girl Scouts safe.



20 minutes



First Four Meetings Short & Snappy

This training provides new Daisy, Brownie, and Junior troops with a sample road map for the first four meetings.



15 minutes

Working with Girl Scouts



Girl Led Discussions Short & Snappy

As a volunteer with GSSEM, you'll have the opportunity to grow Girl Scout leadership and encourage collaborative decision-making. This training will provide helpful tips on how to have group discussions that allow Girl Scouts to share ideas.



15 minutes



Group Decision Making Short & Snappy

Girl Scouts of all ages gain confidence and leadership skills when given the opportunity to lead their activities. This training will take a look at four traditions troops have used for Girl Scout-led governance.



3 minutes



Including Girl Scouts with ADHD

Created by our friends at Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast and adapted for GSSEM, this course discusses ways to include and accommodate Girl Scouts with ADHD.



25 minutes



Including Girl Scouts with Autism Spectrum Disorder

In this course you will learn characteristics of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and how to provide troop and individual-level accommodations for Girl Scouts with ASD. This training was created by our friends at Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast and adapted for GSSEM.



33 minutes



Including Girl Scouts with Physical Disabilities

Learn how to provide troop and individual-level accommodations to support Girl Scouts with physical disabilities. This training was created by our friends at Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast and adapted for GSSEM.



16 minutes



Inspiring Girl Courage Short & Snappy

At Girl Scouts, our goal is to create an environment where members feel encouraged to develop confidence by trying new things, learning new skills, and practice being leaders. This training explores strategies you can use to help your troop grow in the Girl Scout environment.



9 minutes



Mental Wellness 101

In this course, you will learn what mental health is and how to recognize the signs of mental health challenges. You will explore different scenarios that young people may experience, and learn how you can promote an environment within Girl Scouts for you and others to thrive and grow.



25 minutes



Mental Wellness Patch Program

The Mental Wellness Patch Program is program level-specific, designed to give older Girl Scouts the tools and support they need to better understand and care for their mental health.



20 minutes

Quieting a Noisy Room Short & Snappy

This Short & Snappy looks at how to take a room buzzing with activity to a space where Girl Scouts are prepared to learn about their next adventure.

 3 minutes

Take Action Short & Snappy

Take Action Projects are an important part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience that has Girl Scouts think critically about issues impacting their community. This course discusses the basics of identifying and implementing Take Action projects.

 13 minutes

Troop Agreements Short & Snappy

Troop agreements explain the troop's rules and expected Girl Scout conduct at meetings. Learn how to establish a troop agreement and sample items you can put in a troop agreement.

 15 minutes


Welcoming New Girl Scouts Short & Snappy

It is exciting to have a new Girl Scout join your troop! This training covers five thoughtful ways to help new troop members feel welcome.

 3 minutes

Troop Organization Meeting Short & Snappy

Set your troop up for success with a Troop Organization Meeting! This training shows how to create an agenda and other helpful tips.

 15 minutes

What Girl Scouts Do Series

These courses explain what to do at each program level. Select the level you wish to explore in this earning path.

Leading Multi-Level Troops

Designed for leaders of multi-level troops, this course will review the basics of leading a multi-level troop, strategies and tips to incorporate and implement multi-level programming into troop planning.

 20 minutes

Rallyhood

Volunteer Learning is on Rallyhood!

In the Training Offerings and Requirements Rally:

- Access direct links to gsLearn trainings.
- View calendar listings and registration information for all trainings found in this issue of the GSSEM Training Guide.
- Post questions, comments, or feedback to the Volunteer Experience team to inform training development at GSSEM.

Well-informed volunteers are critical to the success of our mission! That's why Girl Scouts of Southeastern Michigan has partnered with Rallyhood to help streamline communication, encourage collaboration and foster a connected council community. Start exploring Rallyhood by checking out these hubs and the Rallies underneath them:

- [Volunteer Hub](#)
- [Product Program](#)
- [Camp & Outdoor Education](#)
- [Highest Awards](#)
- [Council Programs & Events](#)

Volunteer Hub

The GSSEM Volunteer Hub on Rallyhood gives you access to everything you need to stay in the know! Use the Hub to access Rallies like the Troop Leader Network, where you can download premade meeting activity plans, the Cadette Senior Ambassador Leader Chat, the Travel Rally, and much more!

Helpful links:

- [Rallyhood website login](#)
- [Rallyhood Success Center](#)
- [Rallyhood Admin and Member User Guide](#)
- [Rallyhood tech support](#)

Download the updated Rallyhood app! Use the QR code below to download today.

- Convenient when on-the-go
- Faster and more responsive experience
- New features

