

Your Family Guide to Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois



My Girl Scout Info:

Girl Scout's Name _____

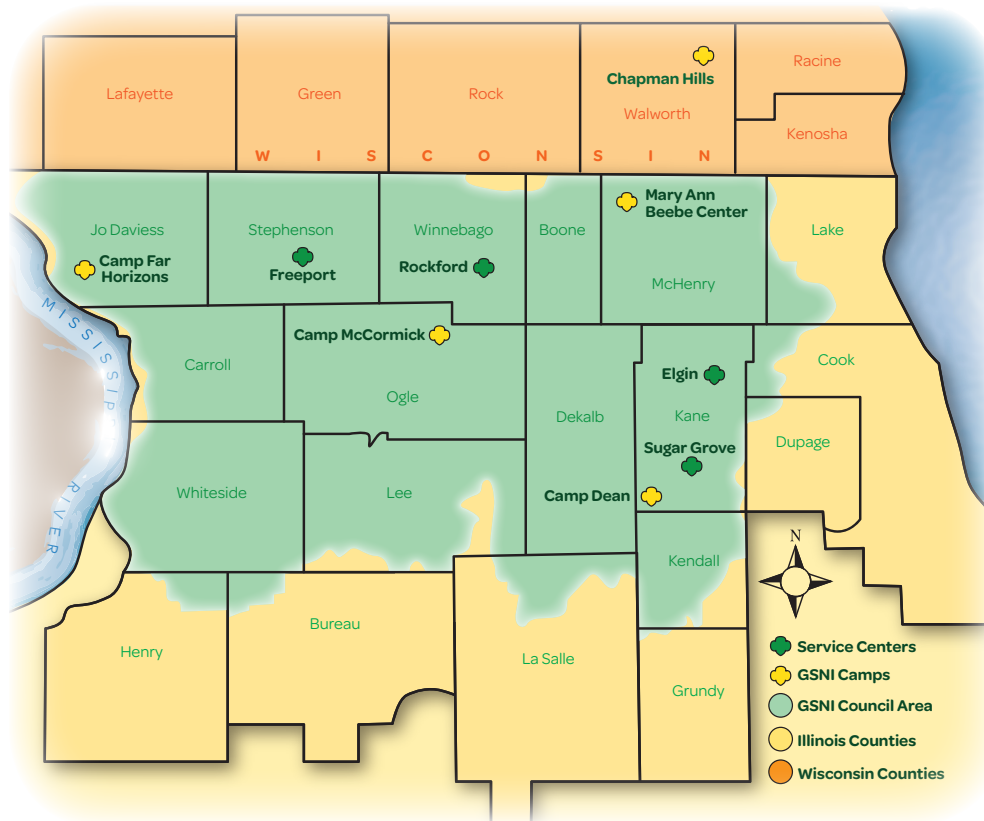
Troop # _____ Service Unit _____

Leader _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Our Jurisdiction

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois is one of 112 councils in the U.S. serving girls 5–17 in grades K–12. As of September 30, 2013, the region served over 17,000 girls and 4,000 adults in communities located in Boone, Carroll, Cook, DeKalb, DuPage, Jo Daviess, Kane, Kendall, Lake, LaSalle, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties.



Contact Us ...

Elgin Service Center

12N124 Coombs Road
Elgin, IL 60124
Phone: 847-741-5521
Fax: 847-741-5667

Freeport Service Center

5040 Business Rt. 20 West
Freeport, IL 61032
Phone: 815-235-8777 or
800-925-3327
Fax: 815-235-2468

Rockford Service Center

2820 McFarland Road
Rockford, IL 61107
Phone: 815-962-5591 or
800-242-5591
Fax: 815-962-5658

Sugar Grove Service Center

200 New Bond Street
Sugar Grove, IL 60554
Phone: 630-897-1565
Fax: 630-466-7018

info@girlscoutsni.org





HELLO!

Welcome to Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois!

The Girl Scout mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

This booklet is your guide to use throughout the year as a reference to questions about your Girl Scout's program experience. We at Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois are excited that you and your Girl Scout have chosen membership in the world's premier leadership development organization for girls.

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Throughout her time in Girl Scouting, a girl will develop memories and friendships that will last a lifetime.

"Girl Scouts is one of the best choices I have made in my life. Being with my troop for 8 years, I know I can really make a difference in my community and Girl Scouts is definitely the reason why!"

- Cadette Girl Scout

Girl Scout Centers—The Girl Scout Centers are located in Elgin, Freeport, Rockford and Sugar Grove and house most of Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois' employed staff. You can find a complete listing of staff members and contact information on GSNI's website at www.girlscoutsni.org.

Our Girl Scout Stores—In our Council Stores you can find everything your Girl Scout will need in Girl Scouting, from *The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting*, to uniforms . . . from badges to Journey Awards. You can also purchase Girl Scout "fun-wear" items and accessories, as well as gift items for your favorite Girl Scout. Check out our online store at www.girlscoutsni.org. Council Stores are located in each of the service centers and the Girl Scout Express is in the Ice House Mall, in Barrington. Service Center summer hours change from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Please check the GSNI website for changes.

Elgin Service Center and Council Store

Phone: 847-741-5521

Fax: 847-741-5667

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

The **Council Store** is also open until 7 p.m. on Monday and the 1st Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Should that Saturday fall on a holiday weekend, the store will be open the following Saturday.

Freeport Service Center and Council Store

Phone: 815-235-8777 or 800-925-3327

Fax: 815-235-2468

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

Rockford Service Center and Council Store

Phone: 815-962-5591 or 800-242-5591

Fax: 815-962-5658

Hours: Monday–Friday, 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

The **Council Store** is also open Monday–Thursday until 7 p.m., Friday until 6 p.m. and open Saturday 9 a.m.–3 p.m.

Sugar Grove Service Center and Council Store

Phone: 630-897-1565 • **Fax:** 630-466-7018

Hours: Monday–Friday: 8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.

The **Council Store** is also open until 7 p.m. on Thursday and the 2nd Saturday of the month, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Should that Saturday fall on a holiday weekend, the store will be open the following Saturday.

Sterling Extension Office located in YMCA

Phone: 815-235-8777, Ext. 7114

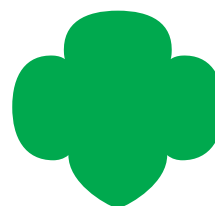
Hours: By appointment only

Girl Scout Express

200 Applebee Street
Barrington, IL 60010

Phone: 847-620-5043

Hours: Monday–Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, 10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Thursday, 10 a.m.–7 p.m.
Sunday, 12 Noon–4 p.m.



Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois Camps:

Mary Ann Beebe Center

17501 Streit Road, Harvard, IL

This 295-acre camp serves as a program facility, troop overnight facility, and a day or twilight camp site.

Chapman Hills

N9377 Scout Road, East Troy, WI

This 105-acre facility offers indoor and outdoor overnight capabilities.

Camp Dean

46W253 Camp Dean Road, Big Rock, IL

This facility is available for resident camp as well as troop camping and girl programming throughout the rest of the year.

Camp Far Horizons

9702 South Lost Horizon Road, Hanover, IL

This facility is used for troop camping and programming throughout the year.

Camp McCormick

9995 North Girl Scout, Stillman Valley, IL

This facility is located a few miles south of Rockford, Illinois, serves as a resident camp, and provides opportunities for troop camping and girl programming year-round.

About the Girl Scout Leadership Experience

What Your Girl Scout Will Gain

In Girl Scouts, girls experience a safe place where they are encouraged to try new things—a place where they will learn to become decision-makers and leaders, while gaining confidence and self-esteem. Fun, age-appropriate activities encourage girls to practice leadership skills that are based on the values of the Girl Scout Promise and Law. These activities are directly tied to specific outcomes such as: valuing cultural diversity and individual uniqueness; educating and inspiring others; and making a difference through community service and action.

15 Outcomes of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience:

1. Girls develop a strong sense of self.
2. Girls develop positive values.
3. Girls gain practical life skills.
4. Girls seek challenges in the world.
5. Girls develop critical thinking.
6. Girls develop healthy relationships.
7. Girls promote cooperation and team-building.
8. Girls can resolve conflicts.
9. Girls advance diversity in a multicultural world.
10. Girls feel connected to their communities, locally and globally.
11. Girls can identify community needs.
12. Girls are resourceful problem solvers.
13. Girls advocate for themselves and others, locally and globally.
14. Girls educate and inspire others to act.
15. Girls feel empowered to make a difference in the world.

Three Keys to Leadership

The Girl Scout approach to leadership is based on three principles—*Discover*, *Connect*, and *Take Action*. Through this leadership development program, girls will *Discover* their personal best and prepare for a positive future, *Connect* with others in an increasingly diverse world, and *Take Action* to solve problems and improve their communities. It's not just what girls do, but how they are engaged that creates a high-quality experience. All Girl Scout activities are designed to use three processes that make Girl Scouting unique from school and other extracurricular activities—*Girl-Led*, *Learning by Doing*, and *Cooperative Learning*.

Three Processes

These are what makes the Girl Scout experience different from school work and other activities!

◆ **Girl-Led:** Simply means that girls are playing an active part in figuring out the “what, where, when, how and why” of their activities. This means girls

are more engaged in playing a critical role as decision-makers in the planning and implementation of their activities.

◆ **Learning-By-Doing:** Is a “hands-on” learning process that engages girls in continuous cycles of action and reflection resulting in a deeper understanding of concepts and mastery of practical skills.

◆ **Cooperative Learning:** Takes place when all members of a group are working together towards a common goal. It is designed to promote sharing of knowledge, skills, and learning in an atmosphere of respect and cooperation as girls work together on goals that can only be accomplished with the help of others.

GSUSA Membership Dues

The \$15 annual (October 1–September 30) membership dues are paid directly to Girl Scouts of the USA to provide national and international opportunities for girls and adults and supplemental medical insurance. Financial Assistance is available—see GSNI’s website for procedure and appropriate forms.

Troop Dues

Troops may also have “troop dues” which might cover the cost of activities, badgework and field trips. Financial Assistance is available—see GSNI’s website for procedure and appropriate forms.

How Girl Scouting Works in Northern Illinois

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois’ jurisdiction (see cover) is divided into 42 geographic service areas, called service units. Each service unit should have a volunteer Service Unit Manager who guides the volunteers within that area. She is assisted by a troop leadership team consisting of volunteers—Troop Coordinators, Treasurer, Recognition Chair, Registrar, New Volunteer Mentor, Product Program Coordinators, Volunteer Services Facilitator, Engagement Coordinator, Communication Liason, Event Coordinator and GSLE Coach.

Volunteer leaders administer the Girl Scout program directly to girls at meetings and events. Without our nearly 5,000 volunteers, we would be hard-pressed to deliver upon our mission to girls. Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois provides training for all of their volunteers and has strict standards regarding criminal background checks and adherence to Girl Scouts of the USA Safety Activity Check Points. All volunteers are supported by GSNI’s staff at each of the Girl Scout Centers.

Pathways

Did you know that girls interested in joining Girl Scouts have the opportunity to participate in ways beyond the traditional troop setting? There are currently five pathways available, with an additional Virtual Pathway currently in development.

Camp: The camp pathway features day, weekend, and resident camp experiences that introduce and explore the out-of-doors.

Events: Events give girls the ability to participate in activities about topics of interest to them. The primary difference between the events pathway and all other pathways is that different girls participate in each event.

Series: A series is a pathway of short-term duration that fits into the busy lives of middle- and high-school girls and delivers the essential elements of a series experience. While the essential elements of a series pathway are similar to those of a troop, they are defined somewhat differently based on a shorter timeframe.

Travel: The travel pathway offers girls leadership opportunities and cross-cultural understanding through local, regional, national, and International travel. Girls prepare, plan, money-earn, and participate through group travel, council-sponsored trips, or nationally-sponsored excursions.

Troop: The troop pathway offers the same group of girls the opportunity to participate in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience over a period of time. The duration varies based on girl and adult availability, but must deliver the essential elements of a troop experience. Girls may join at any time during the troop year.

Virtual: (Currently in the development stage.)

Age Levels

Girls involved in Girl Scouts work together in their appropriate age level. The following list describes each of the levels.

- ◆ **Daisy (Kindergarten & 1st Grade)**
- ◆ **Brownie (2nd-3rd Grades)**
- ◆ **Juniors (4th-5th Grades)**
- ◆ **Cadettes (6th-8th Grades)**
- ◆ **Seniors (9th-10th Grades)**
- ◆ **Ambassadors (11th-12th Grades)**

Volunteer Opportunities—

There are a variety of ways adults can participate in Girl Scouting! Volunteer your time and talents:

- ◆ Troop Leader
- ◆ Service Team Volunteer
- ◆ Committee Member
- ◆ Volunteer Facilitator
- ◆ Short-Term Series Advisor



I can't wait to ...

**Teach her
something new**

**Show her what's
possible**

Be her role model

Help her shine

Be a volunteer.

Product Programs and Other Important Dates

An integral component of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, your Girl Scout learns 5 important skills when participating in GSNI's product programs. Additionally, your Girl Scout's troop receives a portion of sales proceeds from both the Fall Product Program and Girl Scout Cookie Program. Girl Scouts also earn reward items they may choose according to sales level, as well as *"Cookie Dough" or "S'More Dough" for the Girl Scout Cookie Program.

Girl Scout Fall Product Program—GSNI's fall product program typically runs October/November with delivery of products to troops late in November.

Girl Scout Cookie Program—GSNI's Girl Scout Cookie program usually has girls taking orders during a three-week period in January. Please be sure to follow safety guidelines in the information distributed to your Girl Scout. Troops/groups may also hold a Girl Scout Cookie Booth during the months of February and March.

Both of these programs are intended to be a learning experience for the girls. Through their participation, girls develop skills they will use for their entire lives.

5 Skills for Girls

1. Goal Setting
2. Decision-Making
3. Money Management
4. People Skills
5. Business Ethics

Each service unit should have a Fall Product Program Coordinator and a Girl Scout Cookie Program Coordinator. If your Girl Scout is registered individually in a non-troop pathway, you should be getting your information and order forms from these individuals. If your Girl Scout does not receive information regarding these programs, contact your local Girl Scout Service Center and dial extension 7250 to reach our Product Hotline.

***NOTE:** Cookie Dough and S'More Dough earned during the 2013-2014 Girl Scout Fall Product and Cookie Programs will expire April 1, 2015.

Important 2013-14 Dates

2013

Oct. 18–Nov. 1 Fall Product Program Order Taking
Oct. 31 Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday
Nov. 21–23 Fall Product Program Delivery
Nov. 28–29 All GSNI Service Centers Closed
Dec. 7 Fox Valley Ice Arena Cookie Kick-Off
Dec. 14 IceHogs Cookie Kick-Off
Dec. 15 KeyLime Cove Cookie Kick-Off
Dec. 23–Jan. 1 All GSNI Service Centers Closed

2014

Jan. 1–22 Girl Scout Cookie Program Order Taking
Jan. 15 Resident Camp Registration Opens
Jan. 20 All GSNI Service Centers Closed
Feb. 7–8 National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend
Feb. 8–13 Girl Scout Cookie Delivery
Feb. 14–Mar. 9 Girl Scout Cookie Booths
Feb. 22 World Thinking Day
Mar. 8 Girl Scout Sunday
Mar. 12 Girl Scout Birthday
Mar. 15 Girl Scout Sabbath
Apr. 22 Girl Scout Leader's Day
Apr. 26 Volunteer Recognition Event
Apr. 26 GSNI Annual Meeting



Help transform the philanthropic landscape for women and girls. To honor our legacy of providing leadership opportunities to girls:

Annual Gifts to Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois support day-to-day operations to deliver the nation's premier leadership experience to nearly 17,000 girls in our council. Annual gifts may support where GSNI needs it most or be designated to financial assistance, travel assistance, scholarships, or camperships.

Family Partnership is an opportunity for Girl Scout families to make a financial investment to support their own Girl Scout's leadership journey. In 2014, Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois will invest \$265 in each girl to participate in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Your entire \$15 membership fee goes to Girl Scouts of the USA and we raise approximately \$200 per girl through product sales, program and camp fees. That leaves a gap of \$65 per girl to raise from donors like you. Participate in the Family Partnership campaign today and open the doors to all the promise and possibility in your Girl Scout... She's worth it!

Matching Gifts—Many companies match employees' gifts to charitable organizations. The impact of your gift could be doubled or possibly tripled! Additionally, some employers will also donate dollars to the organization for volunteer hours served by their employees. Contact your human resources department to find out if your employer sponsors a matching gift program.

Gifts-In-Kind—Non-cash gifts of materials or services are another way that individuals and businesses can support Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois.

Corporate/Foundation giving opportunities are available in Northern Illinois throughout the year to support key program areas of science and technology, financial literacy, healthy living, environmental leadership, and global citizenship. Companies and organizations who partner with GSNI help provide girls the important leadership skills they need to become our future business leaders. If you feel your company may be interested in supporting the Girl Scout Mission, please contact Emily at ekeilback@girlscoutsn.org.

Honorarium and memorial gifts are the ideal way for you to honor a loved one. An honorarium is made in honor of someone still living while a memorial is in memory of a person(s) who is deceased. Birthdays, anniversaries, recognition of

an award, graduations or the passing of someone are appropriate times at which you could honor or remember those close to you, especially if they have a connection to Girl Scouts.

Juliette Low Society is for those who wish to leave a legacy for the future of girls... and the girls of the future. Juliette Gordon Low's bequest was the beginning of planned giving to Girl Scouts. In her memory, the Juliette Low Society was established to thank and honor friends of Girl Scouting who choose to make Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois part of their legacies and a beneficiary of their estate plans.

GSNI Publications

Annual Report

GSNI's membership year ends September 30. An annual report is published and will be on line by the following Spring.

GSNI Weekly

This E-Newsletter is e-mailed weekly and keeps Girl Scout families and volunteers informed of council news and upcoming events and opportunities. If you do not receive this publication and would like to be added to our distribution list, please contact pr@girlscoutsn.org.

Program Guide

This booklet is posted to the GSNI website four times per year: Fall, Spring, Summer, and Camp Season. It contains council-sponsored events and activities for girls and training opportunities for adult volunteers.

Alumnae E-Newsletter

This newsletter is emailed monthly to Girl Scout alumnae.

Northern Lights

This newsletter is targeted toward donors and friends of Girl Scouts twice each year.

A Glossary of Girl Scout Terms

Badge—recognition earned by Girl Scouts upon completion of required activities in a particular subject area. Badges are official GSUSA recognitions and should be worn on the front of the vest or sash.

Cookie Dough—refers to a coupon girls earn as a recognition during the Girl Scout Cookie Program. Girls may use “Cookie Dough” to pay for council events and activities or to purchase items in any of our Girl Scout stores.

Council—a not-for-profit corporation chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA to provide Girl Scout program in a specific jurisdiction. Your “council” is Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, with service centers in Elgin, Freeport, Rockford and Sugar Grove.

Council Product Program—council-wide program of authorized, tangible products, such as Girl Scout Cookies, nuts and candy, or magazines, in which Girl Scouts participate.

Daisy Petals—The Promise Center and ten learning petals are earned by Daisy Girl Scouts upon learning the Girl Scout Promise and Law.

destinations—Girl Scout *destinations* give girls ages 12–17 (some are age-specific) a chance to go somewhere new, do something different, and meet people from everywhere you can imagine.

Fun Patches—earned by Girl Scouts of all ages and adults for specific “fun” activities. Fun patches are unofficial recognitions and should be worn on the back of the vest or sash—adults can wear fun patches on a piece of clothing such as a shirt, vest or jacket.

Girl Scout Emissary Network—A Girl Scout of any program level who represents Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois in the media, in the community and in council publications. For more information, contact pr@girlscoutsni.org or call 815-962-5591, Ext. 7172.

Girl Scout Gold Award—The highest award a Girl Scout can earn is the Girl Scout Gold Award. Girl Scout Seniors (9 - 10th grade) and Ambassadors (grades 11 - 12) work individually to earn the Gold. Girls must complete the prerequisites before submitting their project proposals. Questions? Contact mygoldaward@girlscoutsni.org

Girl Scout Silver Award—The Silver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette, grades 6–8, can earn. Girls must complete a Cadette level Journey before beginning to work on the Silver Award.

Girl Scout Bronze Award—The highest award a Girl Scout Junior, grades 4–5, can earn is the Bronze Award. Once a girl has completed a Junior level Journey she can work with her troop to earn her Bronze Award.

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA)—the national organization chartered by the United States Congress to direct and coordinate the Girl Scout Movement across the country.

The Girl’s Guide to Girl Scouting—There is a Girl’s Guide for each level of Girl Scouts. It contains a handbook, Legacy badges (Petals for Daisies) requirements, additional award requirements and a “My Girl Scouts” section. Together with the Journeys it makes up the Girl Scout Leadership portfolio.

Leader—adult volunteer who meets regularly with a troop of Girl Scouts to help them achieve the purpose of Girl Scouting.

National Leadership Journey—Journeys are the core program of the Girl Scouts National Leadership Experience. They can be customized by the girls as they plan their Girl Scout experience and learn about the world around them. There are three Journey Series with books for each program level: *It’s Your World—Change It!*, *It’s Your Planet—Love It!*, and *It’s Your Story—Tell It!* See www.girlscoutsni.org for additional information.

Program Aides—registered Girl Scouts who are in grades 6–8 who have taken appropriate training and are willing to assist leaders by teaching specific skills to younger girls.

Program Level—there are six grade-designated program levels. Each level participates in age-appropriate activities that allow girls to *Discover*, *Connect*, and *Take Action*.

Promise and Law—the spiritual force and ethical code accepted by all Girl Scouts. (See page 9.)

Safety Activity Checkpoints—national publication which contains Girl Scout program standards. These can be found on the GSNI website

Service Units—geographic subdivision of the council for the purpose of troop organization and communication.

A Glossary of Girl Scout Terms

Service Team—A team of volunteers who support Girl Scouting in a Service Unit—Service Unit Manager, Troop Coordinator, Treasurer, Recognition Chair, Registrar, New Volunteer Mentor, Product Program Coordinators, Volunteer Services Facilitator, Engagement Coordinator, Communications Liason, Event Coordinator and GSLE Coach. For more information on these volunteer opportunities, visit www.girlscoutsni.org.

S'more Dough—Like “Cookie Dough,” this is an earned coupon for individually registered girls in non-troop pathways during both the Fall Product and Girl Scout Cookie Programs. These girls may use S'more Dough to pay for council events and activities or to purchase items in any of the Girl Scout Council Stores.

Uniforms—Girl Scouts at each level have one official uniform item (tunic, vest, sash) for the display of official pins and awards. While not required for Girl Scout membership, this official uniform item is required when girls participate in ceremonies or officially represent the Girl Scout Movement.

The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

The Girl Scout Promise

*On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.*



Notes:

