



Linking Leaders

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Volunteer Spotlight

My Girl Scouts WHY by Tabby Carle, Troop 24022

Service Unit: Jupiter

How long have you been with Girl Scouts?

I began my Girl Scout journey in March of 2022, so we missed out on cookies!

What is your Girl Scout why?

I want my daughter to build her confidence and be happy and content in her own skin! Also, to make more good friends!



We want to know your Girl Scout WHY!

Please send the following info to Lila Greenidge at Lgreenidge@gssef.org:

- Name
- Picture (preferably a headshot)
- Service Unit (Seastar, Magnolia, etc.)
- How long have you been with Girl Scouts?
- What is your Girl Scout why?

Programs at a Glance



Only a few days left to participate in Feeding Florida Together!

We currently have 35 troops who donated over 3,000 pounds of food so far! Help us fight hunger here in south Florida by participating in this council-wide effort by April 30. Gather your troop together, keep track of the number of pounds your troop is donating, and submit our online completion form to earn this year's patch.

NEW this year - Girl Scouts can submit volunteer hours in lieu of donating goods. They must volunteer for a minimum of 3 hours (or one shift) at a food bank or other organization battling hunger in our community.

Pictured above is Troop 20880 from the Aquarius Service Unit who donated 200 pounds of food to the Boynton Beach Soup Kitchen!

LEARN MORE



Registration closes April 30 for Art Fest

Daisies through Cadettes are invited to join us on May 6 at Camp Welaka for a day of colorful fun as we earn our Outdoor Art Badge! Activities like watercolor bubbles, chalk art, tie-dye and more will be going on all day as Girl Scouts choose what they want to do to complete their artist's palette.

REGISTER TODAY



NEW
Bilingual Daisy
Entrepreneurship
Program

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FREE Bilingual Virtual Program for Daisies

Spanish/English speaking Daisies are invited to join us for a virtual program to earn their My Money Choices Badge on May 7! Through this program, participants will find out more about their wants vs needs, how to set a goal, and making choices with money. The program will be offered in both English and Spanish and all participating Girl Scouts will receive their My Money Choices Badge for free thanks to funding from FINRA.

Plus, every girl participant of this program will receive a 15% off coupon for our retail store!

LEARN MORE



Celebrate Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month

Join the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens during our virtual AAPI Month celebration on May 10 to learn more about the history of the Asian American and Pacific Islander community as well as their cultures, people, and traditions. Participants will explore AAPI history, learn about Japan, and be taught how to do origami. This is an interactive program you don't want to miss!

The cost of this program is \$13 for GSSEF members and includes the Asian American and Pacific Islander Month patch.

REGISTER TODAY



Celebrate the 2023 Class of Gold Award Girl Scouts

Gold Award Girl Scouts are the dreamers and the doers who take “make the world a better place” to the next level! Our council's annual Gold Award Ceremony & Breakfast is an event filled with inspiration as we recognize our incredible Gold Award Class of 2023. We will also award our five local scholarships at this event.

Please note, class of 2023 Gold Award Girl Scout honorees should not purchase their personal, individual tickets here. This years honorees will receive THREE FREE tickets for this event to be used by themself AND two additional guests.

PURCHASE TICKETS

Engineering Camp-in Adventure at the Museum of Discovery and Science

Join us on Saturday, May 12 at the Museum of Discovery and Science in Fort Lauderdale for an overnight adventure of a lifetime! Throughout the evening Girl Scouts will explore and discover the world of STEM, including:

- Meet and greet with engineering professionals from UKG
- Engineering design challenges in The Hangar makerspace
- Chance to earn a Girl Scout STEM-focused Badge (*badge not included*)
- Showing of an IMAX engineering film, Dream Big
- Free pizza dinner

REGISTRATION CLOSES APRIL 27



Join us on June 3 for a day of community service

Kick off your summer at Camp Welaka for our first ever Summer Service Shindig!

We will have multiple stations with different service projects set up around camp so your Girl Scouts can choose the service project(s) they want to support throughout their day. Projects will include making cat and dog toys, putting together hospital care bags, helping to fix up Camp Welaka, and more!

All girl participants will receive a Summer Service Shindig fun patch included in the program fee AND this program will count towards earning your Summer Funshine patch (*more information about our NEW Summer Funshine program will be released in our next issue*).

LEARN MORE



Choose fun this summer at Camp Welaka!

We are reaching the end of the school year and summer fun is just around the corner. Our council is offering longer resident camp options for our experienced Girl Scouts AND three day-camp sessions for Girl Scouts looking for a more traditional summer camp experience. Both options will include all of the classic camp fun our Girl Scouts love plus exciting themed adventures.

Did Girl Scouts in your troop earn summer camp rewards as part of their Cookie Program? Reserve their spots today!

[LEARN MORE](#)

Financial Assistance for Programs and Events

Financial Aid is available to all currently registered GSSEF girl members for up to \$30 per Girl Scout year.* Applying for Financial Aid is done in one simple step during the registration process—just select the box that reads “Apply for Financial Aid” under “Choose payment options” on the event registration page.

**Resident Camp Financial Aid is separate from other programming and is still available to girls that have used their \$30*

Requesting Financial Aid does not guarantee a spot in a program. Financial assistance allocations are subject to availability within the Council’s current annual budget.

For Leaders and Volunteers



Don't forget! Troop finance reports are due June 30

It's **that special time of year again** and just like taxes were due in April, your Troop Finance Reports are due June 30, 2023. This is a requirement detailed in the Volunteer Policies and Procedures and here's why it's important for each troop to submit a finance report:

- Doing so allows our council to reconcile finances in preparation for the annual audit.
- It's good to organize the troop finances after a busy year. Remember, parents may ask to see the status of troop finances at any time.
- It provides details of what troops are doing and how they are spending their funds. This helps us with planning future programs and events.

Where's the Troop Finance Report and how long will it take me to complete?

It is easy and convenient to complete the Troop Finance Report! The report is available 24/7 in your Volunteer Toolkit (VTK). To access your troop's VTK simply login to [MyGS](#), click the VTK tab, and then the FINANCE tab. Entries are saved as they are entered and you may leave the form and come back to it to finish at a later time—just be sure to submit your completed form by June 30!

What will I need to complete the Troop Finance Report?

In addition to reporting troop expenses and income (save those receipts throughout the year!) you will also need a saved bank statement, preferably the May or June 2023 statement. That's it! The form does all the calculations for you.

For additional assistance, view the VTK Troop Leader guide with helpful information on all the tools available in the VTK, including the FINANCE tab. Still need help or have additional questions? No worries! Just contact customer care at customercare@gssef.org and

a member of our team will contact you.

SUBMIT YOUR REPORT TODAY



Bridging Basics: Planning Your Bridging Ceremony

Your Girl Scouts have worked hard all year, and they've earned a celebration! Bridging is a beloved Girl Scout tradition that honors girls' achievements throughout the year and celebrates their "crossing the bridge" to the next Girl Scout level.

Bridging Basics:

Many troops hold their bridging ceremony in May or June, and some link it to the end of the girls' current school year. You may also choose to deepen your girls' connection with their Girl Scout sisters by holding your ceremony during National Bridging Week on June 12-19, 2023. Girl Scout bridging ceremonies have a few basic elements.

- Opening: Welcome your guests and share the Girl Scout Promise and Law.
- Main section: Girls, whether physically or symbolically, cross a bridge and are welcomed to the next Girl Scout level.
- Closing: Girls participate in a friendship circle and thank their guests.

Where should the ceremony be held?

They can be held at a school, a recreation center, a park, backyard, or a church event space.

Keep the ceremony girl-led.

Depending on your girls' ages, you might find yourself doing a good chunk of the

planning, however, as troop leader encourage the girls to plan the ceremony. They can choose any readings, poems, or songs that they want to say or sing. The girls cross the bridge and if they are bridging to the next level, they get their new uniform right there.

Get families and your community involved.

Share this important moment with your girls' caregivers and other family members, and anyone else the girls wish to invite! Maybe a favorite teacher, coach, or someone they volunteered with this year—and be sure to recognize these individuals at the ceremony.

Don't forget to ask for help when you need it.

In order to minimize costs and free up some of your time as troop leaders, request that parents sign up to bring certain food items and decorations. Troops may purchase things for bridging ceremonies like cake and pizzas—so be sure to ask for parent volunteers to pick up those items while you might be rehearsing the bridging ceremony with the troop.

Check in with your service unit.

You may want to ask your service unit if it hosts a unit-wide bridging ceremony or if there are other opportunities for your girls to connect with their Girl Scout sisters at this time of year.

Pictured above is Troop 14505 bridging back in 2021!

Welcome to Mental Wellness 101



Mental Health

In this course, you will:

- ✓ Learn what mental health is
- ✓ Learn how to recognize signs of mental health challenges
- ✓ Explore scenarios young people may experience
- ✓ Learn how to promote an environment to thrive and grow

May is Mental Health awareness month, and if you are wanting to learn more about how to approach girls' mental well being, we have training and resources available to you. The challenges of today's world don't only affect grownups. Young people, especially girls, are facing mental health challenges of their own. Supporting them as they grow and navigate life's complexities is a top priority. gsLearn has trainings and resources that will provide you the tools you need to begin your journey.

ACCESS GSLEARN

Upcoming Leader Welcome Webinars

Save the dates troop leaders— This webinar series covers a variety of topics including ways to create a successful troop experience, troop finances, VTK & gsLearn access, navigation to important forms, and much more. We hope to see you there!

May 2 at 7:00 p.m.

May 30 at 7:00 p.m.

June 5 at 7:00 p.m.

July 11 at 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Link: <https://zoom.us/j/91068448712>

Passcode: leader

Council and Retail News

Mothers Day Special at the Retail Stores

April Showers has brought May flowers! Stop by either the Broward or Palm Beach retail store between 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, May 6 or May 20 and receive a special Mother's Day Flower and 15% your purchase.

While supplies last. Cannot be combined with any other discount.



SHOP ONLINE



Become a professional Girl Scout

Did you know that you can get paid to help build the next generation of female leaders? It's true! Our mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place and we want YOU to join our team. We have a variety of positions open for both full time and summer staff.

APPLY TODAY

Calendar



Upcoming Closures

May 29, 2023: Memorial Day

May 31, 2023: All Staff Meeting

July 3 - 6, 2023: Summer Shutdown

Check out gsEvents

At GSSEF, we have so many incredible programs happening all year long and we are constantly adding new opportunities. For a complete and **up-to-date listing of all of our activities**, please log into your **myGS account**.

Questions, Comments, Concerns?

We are here to help you! If you have a general question about any of the content featured in this newsletter, please reach out to our customer care team at (561) 427-0177 or email customercare@gssef.org.

Want to share a photo or story about your troop with our marketing team? We are always looking for content to share about our girls. Send us an email at marcomm@gssef.org with comments, pictures, or ideas.

Looking for a past issue? All of the Linking Leaders issues from the past 12 months are archived on our [training webpage](#) for easy reference.



Have a question? Don't be shy!
[Contact us](#) for more information.

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