girl scouts of northern california

Service Unit Team Monthly Summary December 2025

This newsletter, combined with access to our current month's issues of Troop News and Council News, should provide you with topics, reminders, and ideas to help you plan your next leaders' meeting.

In this issue:

- Girl Scout Cookie Season Updates and Reminders
- Golden Gate Bridging Opportunities
- Discoveree
- Youth Board Participant Applications
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Invite Girl Scout Troops for a Brave. Fierce. Fun! Cookie Season Ahead

Cookie season kicks off January 12! There is already a lot of buzz about the new Exploremores cookie in this year's lineup, and we would love to see all service units encourage all Girl Scout troops to join in on the fun!

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the #1 financial literacy program for girls and a powerful way for Girl Scouts to practice goal setting, money management, and customer skills while funding the experiences they love.

In addition to encouraging Girl Scout troops to join in on cookie season, please share out the following:

- Girl Scout Cookie Program Resources:
  With newly updated resources, we aim to make the Cookie Program easier and more supportive. Check out our Girl Scout Cookie Program Resources in this gsHelpCenter article.
- Girl Scout Cookie Access:
  Troop Cookie Chaircan log into their myGS account to complete either the 636 New Troop Cookie Chair 2026 or 636 Experienced Troop Cookie Chair 2026 learning paths. *These training links will only work for properly rostered Troop Cookie Chairs*. Once training is complete, Smart Cookies access opens on January 5. Digital Cookie welcome links are only active for seven days. If the link expires, encourage them to reset password.
- Entrepreneurship Programs:
  Share the various opportunities for Girl Scouts to further develop and grow their entrepreneurship skills! Some include the Disneyland 2026, Market DisruptHERS, and Cookie CEO: Pitch Program. For more, check out the Entrepreneurship Programming gsHelpCenter article.
- Girl Scout Recruitment at Cookie Booths and a Bonus Challenge!
  With the goal to recruit 100+ new youth across the council during the cookie season, we need your help! This year, we're asking Service Units to make sure their Girl Scout troops receive new recruitment table tents (shipping to you in mid-January), along with a branded booth tablecloth. Troops can request a table cloth by January 16. Together, these items create the foundation of a troop's "booth kit" to use at all scheduled cookie booths.

  Bonus Challenge:
  Service Units with the highest growth in new members who register using the table tent QR code will win free Badges to Business Program seats for fall 2026! We'll award three programs — one each to a small, medium, and large Service Unit.

Questions about the 2026 Girl Scout Cookie Program? Email info@gsnorcal.org and the Entrepreneurship Program Team can support!

Golden Gate Bridging Opportunities

Event is April 25, 2026 | San Francisco
From crossing the iconic Golden Gate Bridge to supporting the celebration at Crissy Field, there are lots of ways for troops and volunteers to take part:

- Register to Attend:
  Registration is open for Girl Scouts in grades 5–12 and adult participants to take part in this special Golden Gate Bridging experience.
- Volunteer with Us:
  Volunteers are needed to support participants, help with logistics, and assist with event operations throughout the day.
- Host a GSNorCal Member Booth (Free):
  GSNorCal troops, Service Units, committees, and alumnae are invited to host fun, hands-on Girl Scout program activity booths at Crissy Field at no cost. Questions? Contact ababazade@gsnorcal.org.

If you know a business, organization, or supporter who may be interested in getting involved, please share these opportunities below:

- Partner Booths (Paid):
  Community partners and businesses may host vendor booths during the celebration at Crissy Field. Contact ababazade@gsnorcal.org for details.
- Support Through Sponsorship:
  Sponsorship opportunities are available for those who want to help make this meaningful Girl Scout tradition possible.

Discoveree

Register by January 21
January 24 | Hayward | Adult Volunteers
Join us at Discoveree, a one-day learning event for all Girl Scout volunteers. Learn from dedicated Girl Scout volunteers as you choose four workshops from over 70 choices. Options include crafts, outdoor skills, STEM, songs, games, and troop support. This event is run by volunteers, for volunteers! Learn more about Discoveree.

Youth Board Participant Applications

Apply by January 16 | Grades 9-11
Each year, Girl Scouts of Northern California appoints two Youth Board Participants to serve on our Board of Directors. For youth currently in grades 9-11, this is an excellent opportunity to take part in council governance, advocate for their peers, and see first-hand how an organization is run. Check out this gsHelpCenter article to apply and learn more.

Monthly Troop Leader Training Webinars

January 7 | Virtual | Troop Leaders
All Troop Leaders, whether starting a new troop or taking over an existing one, are invited to join our webinar! This session is for those who have opted out of their first option of completing the gsLearn New Leader Trainings and prefer to learn directly from a GSNorCal staff member. Leaders will get everything they need to confidently start their Girl Scout year. Sessions are held on the first Wednesday of every month.

Share Your Incredible Stories!

Girl Scout adventurers, leaders, and trailblazers—we want to hear from you! Have a favorite Girl Scout memory, a proud accomplishment, or a story that warms your heart? Share your experiences and inspire others with your journey. Submit your story now and help us showcase the magic of Girl Scouts.

Sneak Peek Into The Future

Here's a glimpse of the events coming up.

- National Girl Scout Cookie Season Launches | January 6
- GSNorCal's Cookie Season Launches | January 12
- Camper Registration Opens: Returning campers | January 21 at noon
- Camper Registration Opens: New campers | January 28 at noon

Have an event you want included in a newsletter? Submit your information and optional graphic via our Asana form. Any troop or SU can share across Service Units. Please only submit for one of our three newsletters based on the audience.

Deadlines, audience, and send dates are as follows:

- Council News: sent to all members on the 1st of each month (pending holidays). Deadline for submission is the 21st of the prior month.
- Troop News: sent to troop leadership volunteers on the 15th of each month. Deadline for submission is the 5th of the month.
- Service Unit News: sent to Service Unit teams on or after the 15th of each month. Deadline for submission is the 5th of the month.

Have a question or need help?

Check out our gsHelpCenter with articles and resources for volunteers and members.