



Volunteer Essentials

Money

Supporting GSNorCal

We believe that when Girl Scouts succeed, so does society. Whether they're coding a website, planting a rain garden, or running a literacy program, Girl Scouts are unleashing their potential to build a better world for all of us, every day.

When you contribute to Girl Scouts of Northern California—no matter the amount—you make an immediate difference in the lives of Girl Scouts. Every dollar you give stays right here in our communities, bringing Girl Scouting to more than 40,000 youth.

We also believe that all youth should have access to the Essential Girl Scout Experience and that is why our expanded Opportunity Fund is so important. Each year, GSNorCal serves over 12,000 Girl Scout members who live in low-income communities. Gifts to the Opportunity Fund ensure that all Girl Scouts who live in low-income communities and/or communities recovering from local disasters have equitable access to—sisterhood, supportive adults, and experiences that help each Girl Scout feel valued—through troops and at camp. [Click here to support girls \(https://www.gsnorcal.org/en/support-us/donate.html\)](https://www.gsnorcal.org/en/support-us/donate.html)

Employee Gifts, Volunteer Hours, Matching Gifts and United Way

Many employers offer a matching program for charitable gifts or participate in employee gift programs offered through agencies such as the United Way. Please make sure to designate Girl Scouts of Northern California as your preferred gift beneficiary.

Sometimes employee gifts require additional approval by the employer in order to process gifts to GSNorCal. For questions or to get help with employers' forms, contact FundDevelopment@gsnorcal.org. We can sign, verify or validate any paperwork needed to set up the gift process.

Companies and corporations also offer matching gifts or volunteer-hour matching gifts to honor and support employees. This is a great way to maximize your gift to Girl Scouts. Ask your human resources department if there is an option for your company to match. The GSNorCal Fund Development Department will assist you with any additional paperwork that the employer provides or needs. For GSNorCal support, please email: FundDevelopment@gsnorcal.org

Council Service Fee

Effective April 2024, GSNorCal will adjust its council membership fee from \$15 to \$25. This adjustment will change the total cost of an annual Girl Scout membership to \$50, which includes GSUSA's national membership fee of \$25. This change marks the first update to our council fee structure since it was introduced in 2011 and is necessary to sustain and enhance the Girl Scouts experience in Northern California.

The decision to increase the council dues comes after careful consideration and thorough analysis of our operational costs and the economic landscape. Key factors driving this change are:

- **Enhancing Member Experience:** The additional funds will create innovative programming and experiences for members and provide comprehensive volunteer training and volunteer support.
- **Keeping Pace with Inflation:** The cost of providing Girl Scouts' programming and services has risen with inflation. The updated council service fee will help us continue to provide high-quality programming and experiences to our members and bridge the gap between and the program fees charged and actual program cost.
- **Commitment to Accessibility:** Financial aid is available for those for whom the cost of membership and uniforms is a barrier to participation.

Most families are well-aware of the benefits of Girl Scouting, and often are eager to defray the cost of providing Girl Scouting to their own daughter or to provide Girl Scouting for another member.

Cost of providing Girl Scouting for one youth:	\$300
Funds raised through program and camp fees, product program and property rentals	\$240
Amount needed per youth	\$60

The annual adult membership fee is \$25. Adults do not pay a council fee.

Financial Aid

We are committed to ensuring all youth have the opportunity to participate in Girl Scouts. Financial aid is available as a resource for Girl Scouts and troops who might not otherwise have access to the Essential Girl Scout Experience. Funds provided can help with annual membership dues, uniform costs, program and event fees, travel expenses and camp sessions.

If GSUSA's membership dues or GSNorCal's council service fee are a financial hardship for a family, we encourage them to request financial aid. To do so, check the box to request financial aid on the 'Registration Summary' page during the online registration process. If you have questions about financial aid for additional program opportunities, or would like to donate to assist Girl Scouts or troops, contact info@gsnorcal.org