girl scouts
of the desert southwest
southern new mexico
& west texas

November 2026 Newsletter

Ceremony of Honors 2026

Please join us to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our girls and volunteers, at our annual Ceremony of Honors.

Saturday, Dec. 12, 2026

El Paso Location

St. Mark's Church
5005 Love Rd.
El Paso, TX 79922

RSVP: https://tinyurl.com/COH2026EP

Midland Location

Midland Girl Scout Program Center
901 W. Dengar
Midland, TX 79705

UPDATED

RSVP: https://tinyurl.com/COH2026MD

Your GSDSW Updates

- The Outdoor Training in Hobbs, NM (Sunday, Nov. 15, 2026) is in danger of being canceled due to low registration.
- Initial cookie orders are due in ABC Smart Cookies Tuesday, Dec. 15, at 5:00 PM MST
- Early Bird patches have arrived and will be mailed out to troop leaders of qualifying troops

Key Dates 2026 - 2027 is now avaliable!

CLICK HERE!



2026/2027 Key Dates

October 2026
- October 1: Membership Year 2027 begins
- October 2 - 4: She & Me at Camp Mitre Peak
- October 5: Adult Award nominations due
- October 15: Gluten Free order due to Council
- October 17: Outdoor Training in Midland
- October 19 - 23: Product delivery to service units
- October 30 - November 1: Archery Camp at Camp Mitre Peak
- October 31: Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday

November 2026
- November 7: Chuck Wagon Fundraiser at Camp Mitre Peak
- November 13 - 15: He & Me at Camp Mitre Peak
- November 15: Outdoor Training in Hobbs
- November 19: Fall Product ACH
- November 25 - 26: Thanksgiving (offices closed)

December 2026
- December 8 - 9: Staff Retreat (offices closed)
- December 12: Ceremony of Honors in El Paso and Odessa
- December 15: Troop initial cookies order due in ABC Smart Cookies
- December 24 - 31: Winter Break (offices closed)

January 2027
- January 1 - 3: Winter Break (offices closed)
- January 16: Cookie booth selections begin
- January 17: Outdoor Training in El Paso
- January 19: Delivery of cookies to cupboards/home deliveries begin
- January 23: Cookie Mega Drop in El Paso and Odessa
- January 24: Cookie Program begins

February 2027
- February 11: Cookie Program ACH #1
- February 15: President's Day (offices closed)
- February 22: World Thinking Day

March 2027
- March 4: Cookie Program ACH #2
- March 7 - 13: Girl Scout Week
- March 12: Girl Scout Birthday
- March 21: Cookie Program ends
- March 25: Girl Delinquent Report due

girl scouts of the desert southwest southern new mexico & west texas

August 27, 2026

SWEETER DEALS, SAME IMPACT



Support Girl Scouts for Less!

We know every dollar matters. That's why we've lowered the retail prices on our Fall Product nuts and chocolate lineup, making it easier than ever to support local Girl Scouts.

Stock up on your favorite snacks and treats while helping girls develop leadership, business, and life skills. Great products, lower prices, and a great cause - it doesn't get much sweeter than that!

FALL PRODUCT ENDS NOV. 8



Product Program

Fall Product Timeline

November

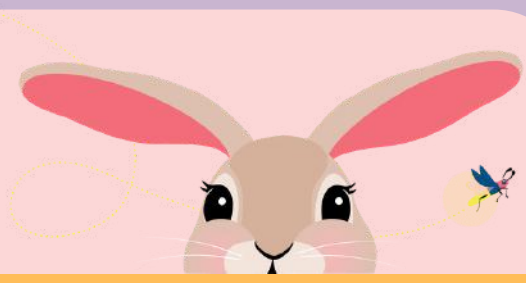
- Sunday, Nov. 8, 2026: Last day for online/direct ship and M2 storefront sales
- Monday, Nov. 9, 2026: Fall Product Program officially ends
  - Troops are encouraged to have sufficient funds available in their troop bank accounts
- Tuesday, Nov. 10, 2026: Last day for girls/troops to make reward choices
- Wednesday, Nov. 11, 2026: Deadline to submit the delinquent parent report
- Monday, Nov. 19, 2026: ACH withdrawal from troop accounts

January

- Early January: Delivery rewards delivered to service units



2027 Cookie Program Timeline



November

- Monday, Nov. 30, 2026: Virtual Booth Coordinator & Cupboard Coordinator trainings

December

- Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2026: Virtual Booth Coordinator & Cupboard Coordinator trainings
- Monday, Dec. 7, 2026: Virtual Cookie Rookie / ABC refresher training
- Tuesday, Dec. 15, 2026: Initial cookie orders due in ABC Smart Cookies
- Thursday, Dec. 17, 2026: Troop bank account information due in ABC Smart Cookies

Program

Quarterly Quests

Ready to take your Girl Scout skills a little further? Quarterly Quests offer a deeper-dive experience than our Monthly Challenges, with more activities, more to explore, and a badge or patch to celebrate your accomplishment!

Each quarter will feature something different. Some Quests will give you the opportunity to earn a retired or legacy Girl Scout badge, while others will feature a GSDSW custom fun patch focused on a fun topic or skill. Our first Quest, launching in October, will feature a retired Junior badge! Quarterly Quests are $5 per girl, which helps cover the cost of the badge or patch and postage while also helping us continue offering our free Monthly Challenges throughout the year.

Whether you're interested in earning a piece of Girl Scout history or trying something completely new, there's always another Quest waiting for you!

Get yours here: https://bit.ly/QuarterlyQuest1

October - December 2026 Quarterly Quest is one of three Legacy Junior Badges!



Toy Maker
2001 - 2011



Collecting Hobbies
2001 - 2011



Ms. Fix-It
1980

Click to view full flyer



Dolly

Inspire • Dream • Do More

November 2026

Dolly Parton has inspired generations through her music, her stories, her businesses, and her generosity. She dreamed big, worked hard, and used her success to do more for others.

For this challenge, Girl Scouts will discover how they can *Inspire, Dream, and Do More* - just like Dolly.

INSPIRE

Dolly inspired people through music, storytelling, and the way she treats others. Choose one:

- Create a song, poem, story, or piece of artwork that could inspire someone.
- Learn about someone who inspires you and share what makes them special.
- Do something to make someone else smile.
- Share a favorite book, song, quote, or idea with someone else.

DREAM

Dolly grew up with big dreams and never stopped pursuing them. Choose one:

- Create a dream board showing things you want to learn, experience, or accomplish.
- Write a letter to your future self.
- Draw or describe what you hope your life will be like someday.
- Pick one dream and identify three steps that could help make it happen.

DO MORE

Dolly has used her success to help others, including giving books to children through her Imagination Library. Choose one:

- Read a book to a younger child.
- Donate a new or gently used book.
- Complete a service project.
- Help someone without being asked.

YOUR DOLLY MOMENT

Finish this sentence: "I can inspire, dream, and do more by..."
Then **do the thing you wrote down.**

Deadline to submit your Dolly report: Monday, November 30, 2026 @ 5:00 PM MDT
Submit report at: https://bit.ly/Dolly_Nov26
You will receive your patch in 3 - 4 weeks after the end of challenge.
If you have any questions, please email info@gsdsw.org.

www.gsdsw.org • info@gsdsw.org • 915-566-9433

Monthly Challenge

The November Monthly Challenge is Dolly inspired! Click here to learn more: https://bit.ly/Nov26_Dolly



Program

Get Ready to Get Outdoors

Want to take your Girl Scouts camping? Then Outdoor Training is a MUST! This training is required for volunteers who want to lead their girls on camping adventures and is valid for three years.

Plan now for next summer's camping trip! Get your training completed early, so when camping season arrives, you're ready to go. And yes - troop funds may be used to cover the cost of training.

Don't miss this opportunity to build your outdoor skills, gain confidence, and get ready for campfires, s'mores, starry skies, and unforgettable Girl Scout adventures.

Outdoor Training is one you don't want to miss - sign up and get outdoors!

Sunday, Nov. 15, 2026
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM MST
Registration Deadline:
Monday, Nov. 2, 2026, 5:00 PM MST
https://bit.ly/OutTrain_HB26





Sunday, Jan. 17, 2027
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM CST
Registration Deadline:
Monday, Jan. 4, 2027, 5:00 PM MST
https://bit.ly/OutTrain_EP2027

Program

T.W.Y.G. Growing Through Tradition
Saturday, Nov. 21, 2026
Hobbs, NM
Deadline to register: Monday, Nov. 9, 2026
https://tinyurl.com/TWYGHobbs2026



Click for more info

A Promise Across Generations: The History of the Girl Scout Promise

When Juliette Gordon Low founded Girl Scouts in 1912, she began a tradition that would unite generations of members through a shared promise of service, honor, and helping others. The original Promise called on girls to do their duty to God and country, help others, and obey the Scout laws.

To do your duty to God and to your country;
To help other people at all times; and
To obey the laws of the Scouts.

Over the decades, the words evolved alongside the organization. In 1972, the Promise was revised to emphasize serving others and living by the Girl Scout Law. In 1984, it became the familiar version we recite today:

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.

In 1993, members were given the option to use wording that reflects their own spiritual beliefs. Though the words have changed, the heart of the Promise remains the same. For more than a century, Girl Scouts have stood together in a commitment to serve their communities, support one another, and make the world a better place.

Different generations, one Promise, and a tradition that continues to grow!

Program

Click for more info

Saturday
Dec.
5



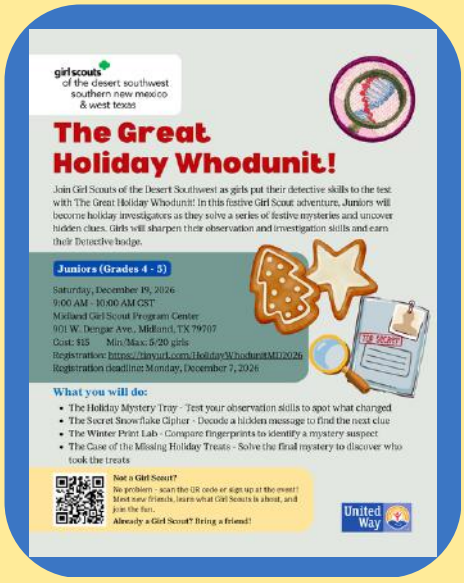
Hobbs, NM

Friday
Dec.
18



Roswell, NM

Saturday
Dec.
19



Midland, TX

Saturday
Dec.
19



Midland, TX

Engagement

Upcoming Volunteer Training Opportunities

New Leader Virtual Roundtable

Have questions, need advice, or want to connect with fellow Girl Scout volunteers? Join our Volunteer Support Specialist for a virtual drop-in session!
Stop by anytime during this four-hour Zoom call to ask questions, share ideas, and get the support you need.

Saturday, Nov. 21
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM MST

Register here

Canva Workshop
In-person and Virtual

Wondering how to advertise your Girl Scout events in creative, unique ways while staying within proper branding guidelines? Join us to explore how to make personal, eye-catching flyers for your events!

Wednesday, Dec. 16
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MST
El Paso, TX

Thursday, Dec. 17
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM MST
Virtual

Register here

All volunteers are required to complete the GSUSA Girl Scouts Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Course.

The course is available on gsLearn. If you are unable to find this course, please email info@gsdsw.org for assistance



Important Troop Forms

- Bank Account Request
- Emergency Procedures
- Health History
- Special Assistance Application
- Safety Activity Checkpoints
- Trip and High-Risk Activity Form
- Troop Disbandment Checklist
- Troop Disband Form
- Volunteer Essentials

Service Unit Roundtable

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

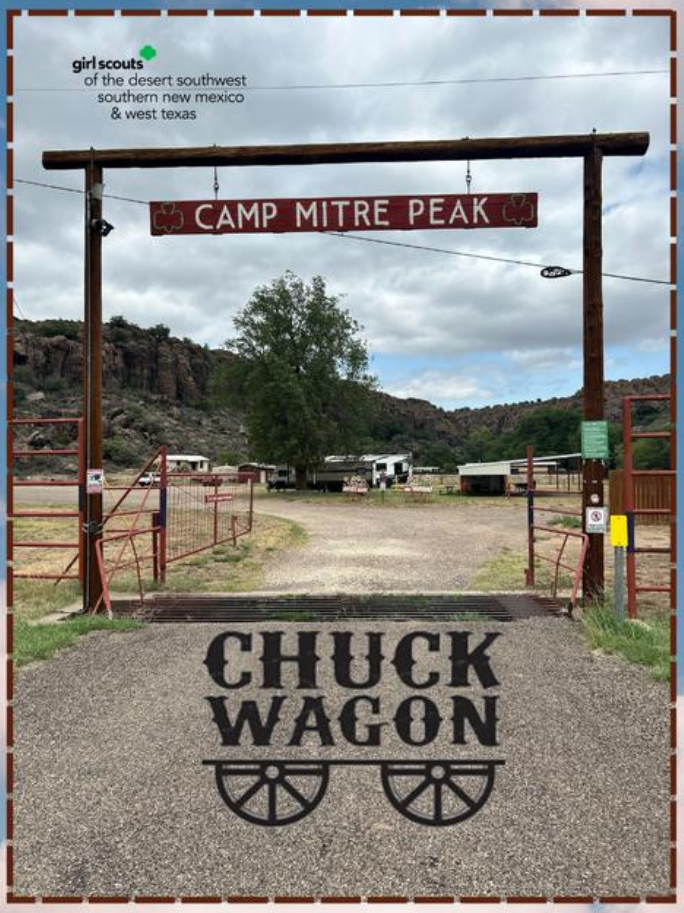
Recruitment Volunteer Opportunities

Looking for a new way to make an impact?

From helping at recruitment events and community outreach activities to supporting special events, there are many ways to lend your time and talents to support Girl Scouts in your area.
Explore current recruitment volunteer opportunities and sign up here:

View Opportunities Here!

Resource Development



You are cordially invited to join us for a magical evening under the stars at

Camp Mitre Peak
Saturday, November 7, 2026
6:00 PM - 10:00 PM
200 Mitre Peak Camp Rd.
Fort Davis, TX 79734

Enjoy a delightful dinner at 7:00 PM followed by dancing under the open sky.

Music by Hall's Last Call Band

To sponsor or buy tickets:
https://bit.ly/2026ChuckWagon

For questions, contact us at funddevelopment@gsdsw.org or (915) 566-9433 Ext.2221

Sponsorships

Sponsorship Levels	Seating	Logo/Name on Website & Social Media	Logo/Name on Event Banner	Verbal Recognition	Listing in Annual Report
Kiva - $5,000	Premium 8 Seats	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kick-a-Poo - $2,500	6 Seats	✓	✓	✓	✓
Seminole - $1,500	4 Seats		✓	✓	✓
Apache - $750	2 Seats			✓	✓
Banner Advertisement - $200	No Seats		✓		✓

Resource Development



For more than three decades, Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest has honored more than 300 women who have distinguished themselves through their leadership, extraordinary contributions to their community, and, most importantly, by exemplifying the Girl Scout mission as women of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

The proceeds from these events allow Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest to provide scholarships, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE), enhance our four priority program areas: Financial Literacy, Healthy Living, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math), and Outdoor Leadership, and support various Girl Scout activities and programs for Girl Scouts throughout Southern New Mexico and West Texas.

Council Properties

Council Property Building Rental / Usage

Planning Your Next Girl Scout Gathering?

From troop meetings and service unit gatherings to trainings and special events, our council properties are here to help make the magic happen! Remember, a new Troop/SU Meeting Property Rental Application is required each program year, even if you submitted one last year. If the dates on your previous form have passed, be sure to submit a new request for upcoming dates.

Ready to reserve your space? Submit your request to use or rent Camp Mitre Peak or any of our program centers here:

- Camp Mitre Peak Rental Application
- Troop/SU Meeting Property Rental Application
- GSDSW Members and Troop Mitre Council Property Rental Application





Camp Mitre Peak, Fort Davis, TX
Carlsbad, NM
El Paso, TX**
Fort Stockton, TX
Hobbs, NM
Las Cruces, NM
Midland, TX
Odessa, TX
Roswell, NM
Silver City, NM
White Spur Hut, El Paso, TX

**El Paso Program Center is currently unavailable for use due to septic issues. We will keep you informed with updates as we receive them. Thank you for your understanding.

Around the Council

Retail Shops

Council Shop Hours*

El Paso
Monday – Thursday 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM
2:00 PM - 6:00 PM MT
(Closed for lunch 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM)
1st Saturday of each month:
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM MT

Midland
Tuesdays 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT
Thursdays: 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT
Fridays: 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT
1st Saturday of each month:
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM CT

Odessa
Wednesdays: 2:00 PM- 6:00 PM CT

For locations, click here.

Shop orders will be placed on the second Thursday of each month for special orders and items not in stock.

*Subject to change due to unforeseen circumstances.

Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest Career Opportunities

Interested candidates should email careers@gsdsw.org with resumes and a cover letter.

Engagement Specialist
- Carlsbad
- Odessa
- Silver City

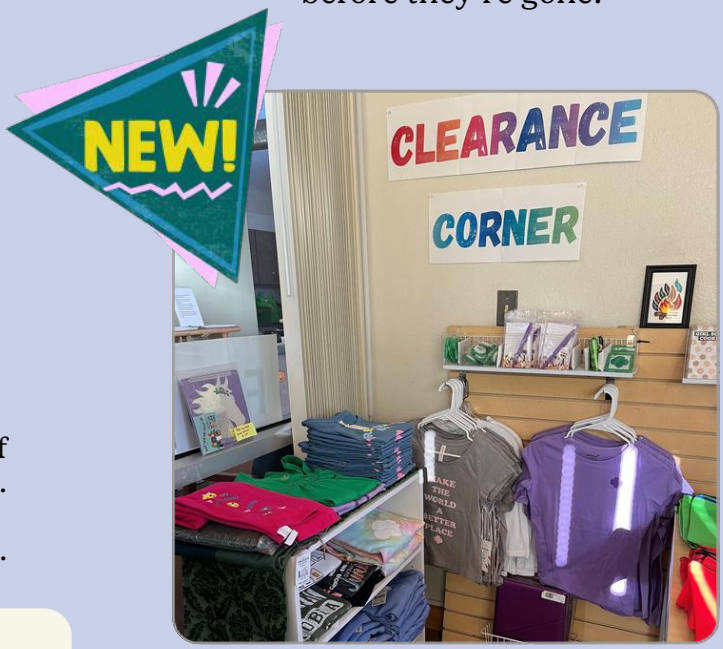
Resource Development Specialist
- Midland

Program Specialist
- Midland (Part-time & seasonal)

Discover Our New Clearance Corner!

Get ready to shop and save! Our new Clearance Corner in El Paso is full of goodies waiting for a new home.

Don't Miss Out! All items are available while supplies last, so browse the selection, snag your favorites, and shop before they're gone!



GSDSW Mobile Shop

If your service unit is organizing an event and you would like to have the GSDSW Mobile Shop present, please complete and submit the form below at least one month before the event.

Mobile Shop Request Form