

September 2026 Newsletter

DRIVING CHANGE
Saturday, September 26, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Topgolf El Paso - 365 Vin Rambla Dr., El Paso, TX 79912
REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!
\$25 PER GSDSW MEMBER

Key Dates 2026 - 2027 is now available!



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

Your September GSDSW Updates

- A few important closures: GSDSW offices and shops will be closed for Labor Day on Monday, Sept. 7. Shops will also close for annual inventory beginning Thursday, Sept. 17, and will reopen with regular hours on Thursday, Oct. 1.
- Adult Award Nominations are now open. Nominate a volunteer who has gone above and beyond for Girl Scouts before Friday, Oct. 2 at 11:45 PM MDT.
- Driving Change Topgolf Classic takes place in El Paso, TX, on Saturday, Sept. 26. Get ready for a day of friendly competition and support for Girl Scouts.
- The membership year is coming to a close. Wednesday, Sept. 30 marks the end of the 2025-2026 membership year. Let's welcome a great Girl Scout year!



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
IS NOW
LIVE!**



Product Program

September Fall Product Calendar

- Monday, September 14, 2026 - Troop coordinators can start to enter nut order cards into M2
- Thursday, September 17, 2026 - SUFPC* can begin to enter nut order cards into M2
- Monday, September 28, 2026 - Deadline for in-person and online girl-delivered ordering
- Monday, September 28, 2026 - Family deadline for entering in-person orders into M2OS
- Tuesday, September 29, 2026 - Deadline for troops to enter or edit order card items
- Wednesday, September 30, 2026 - Deadline for SUFPC* edits to order card items

*SUFPC: Service Unit Fall Product Coordinator



Cookie Training is Going In-Person!

This year, Cookie Training is happening IN PERSON - and everyone is invited!

Whether you're a parent, troop leader, Troop Cookie Coordinator, Service Unit Cookie Chair, or Service Unit Manager, we want you there!

We'll kick things off with everyone together for the first 30 minutes, covering the Cookie Program basics, important updates, and some exciting news we can't wait to unveil! We'll also be sharing our new social media guidelines to help everyone feel confident and prepared for cookie season.

After the first 30 minutes, parents will be dismissed, and training will continue for Troop Cookie Coordinators and Service Unit Cookie Chairs with additional information and training specific to their roles.

Sign up for your regional meeting - <https://bit.ly/CookieTraining2026> or scan the QR code below. There is no cost to attend - we simply ask that you register so we can be prepared for how many people will be joining us.

Mark your calendar and join us! You won't want to miss the news, updates, and everything you need to get ready for a successful cookie season!



Scan me

Product Program

In-Person Cookie Training Schedule

Permian Basin

Odessa Girl Scout Program Center - 5217 N Dixie Blvd., Odessa, TX 79762

- Wednesday, September 30, 2026, at 6:00 PM CDT

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

- Thursday, October 1, 2026, at 6:00 PM CDT

Fort Stockton Girl Scout Program Center - 407 W Railroad Ave., Fort Stockton, TX 79735

- Friday, October 2, 2026, at 6:00 PM CDT

Andrews - First Baptist Church, Bridge Building - 201 NE 2nd St., Andrews, TX 79714

- Monday, October 5, 2026, at 6:00 PM CDT

Pecos - Reeves County Library, Conference Room - 315 S Oak St., Pecos, TX 79772

- Friday, October 9, 2026, at 4:00 PM CDT

El Paso & Southern New Mexico

Carlsbad - Virtual on Zoom

- Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM MDT

Las Cruces Girl Scout Program Center - 225 E Idaho Ave., Las Cruces, NM 88005

- Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 6:00 PM MDT

Hobbs Girl Scout Program Center - 522 E Broadway St., Hobbs, NM 88240

- Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 6:00 PM MDT

El Paso - El Paso Girl Scout Program Center - 9700 Girl Scout Way, El Paso, TX 79924

- Wednesday, October 7, 2026, at 6:00 PM MDT
- *Cotton Valley, Desert Flower, Indian Summer, & Fort Bliss*

El Paso - El Paso Girl Scout Program Center - 9700 Girl Scout Way, El Paso, TX 79924

- Thursday, October 8, 2026, at 6:00 PM MDT
- *Mountain Poppy, Painted Desert, Stateline, & West Sunset*

Artesia - Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church - 1111 N Roselawn Ave., Artesia, NM 88210

- Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 10:00 AM MDT

Roswell Girl Scout Program Center - 1307 E College Blvd., Roswell, NM 88201

- Saturday, October 10, 2026 at 2:00 PM MDT

Ruidoso - First Presbyterian Church - 101 Sutton Dr., Ruidoso, NM 88345

- Saturday, October 10, 2026, at 6:00 PM MDT

Silver City Girl Scout Little House - 302 W. 11th St., Silver City, NM 88061

- Monday, October 12, 2026, at 6:00 PM MDT

Alamogordo Recreation Center - 1100 Oregon Ave., Alamogordo, NM 88310

- Tuesday, October 13, 2026, at 6:00 PM MDT

Program

Girl Scout Highest Awards: Start Planning!

With the new membership year just around the corner, now is the perfect time to start thinking about the Girl Scout Highest Awards—Bronze, Silver, and Gold!

Have your Girl Scouts completed their Highest Award project? The deadline to submit the Final Report for council approval is Wednesday, September 30, 2026. Don't wait until the last minute! If updates are needed for approval, you'll want time to make corrections and resubmit.

Looking ahead to a Highest Award project? There are prerequisites to complete before getting started. Each award level has its own required training, which must be completed by the Girl Scout. Leaders and parents are encouraged to participate, too!

In addition to the required training:

- Already earned the Bronze or Silver Award? They count! Each Highest Award now leads to the next.
- Complete one Leadership Award to meet the leadership prerequisite.
- Complete one Journey to meet the Journey prerequisite - yes, just one for the Gold Award now! Any completed Journey will count, even after Journeys are retired on Thursday, October 1, 2026.

Start planning now and help your Girl Scouts turn their ideas into impact!

Questions? Contact info@gstdsw.org and put ATTN: Highest Awards in the subject line.

Click to view
full flyer



Gold Award Training
Tuesday, October 6, 2026
5:00 PM MDT / 6:00 PM CDT

Click here to register:
<https://bit.ly/GoldTrainOct26>

Monthly Challenge

The September Monthly Challenge
turn you into an Energy Detective!
https://bit.ly/Sept26_Energy

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!



OUTDOOR TRAINING
in Midland, TX

Ready to build your outdoor skills, gain confidence, and learn how to lead Girl Scouts on unforgettable adventures? Outdoor Training is a must for volunteers who want to take their troops camping and exploring!

Don't just talk about outdoor adventures - be the volunteer who makes them happen! Come ready to learn, get outside, and have a great time. You'll leave with the skills and confidence to create amazing outdoor experiences for your Girl Scouts.

DATE & TIME
Saturday, October 17, 2026
9:00 AM - 5:00 PM CT
Minimum - 5 / Maximum - 20

LOCATION & COST
Girl Scout Program Center
901 W. Dengar Ave.
Midland, TX 79705
\$45 until Monday, September 28, 2026
\$55 Tuesday, September 29 - Monday, October 5, 2026

REQUIRED TRAINING
This training is required every three years and needs to be completed for your troop to be able to go camping.

TO REGISTER:
REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
MONDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2026
5:00 PM MT
<https://bit.ly/OutTrainMD1026>

Saturday, October 17, 2026

9:00 AM - 5:00 PM CDT

Registration Deadline:

Monday, October 5, 2026, 5:00 PM MDT

<https://bit.ly/OutTrainMD1026>



OUTDOOR TRAINING
in Hobbs, NM

Ready to build your outdoor skills, gain confidence, and learn how to lead Girl Scouts on unforgettable adventures? Outdoor Training is a must for volunteers who want to take their troops camping and exploring!

Don't just talk about outdoor adventures - be the volunteer who makes them happen! Come ready to learn, get outside, and have a great time. You'll leave with the skills and confidence to create amazing outdoor experiences for your Girl Scouts.

DATE & TIME
Sunday, November 15, 2026
10:00 AM - 6:00 PM MT
Minimum - 5 / Maximum - 20

LOCATION & COST
Girl Scout Program Center
522 E. Broadway
Hobbs, NM 88240
\$45 until Monday, October 19, 2026
\$55 Tuesday, October 20 - Monday, November 2, 2026

REQUIRED TRAINING
This training is required every three years and needs to be completed for your troop to be able to go camping.

TO REGISTER:
REGISTRATION DEADLINE:
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2026
5:00 PM MT
https://bit.ly/OutTrain_HB26

Sunday, November 15, 2026

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM MST

Registration Deadline:

Monday, November 2, 2026, 5:00 PM MST

https://bit.ly/OutTrain_HB26

Outdoor Training in El Paso, TX

Sunday, January 17, 2027

Registration opens October 1, 2026

Program

Click for
more info



Thurs.
September
17

girlscouts
of the desert southwest
southern new mexico
& west texas

**Spin a Yarn:
Sharing tall tales & yarn craft**

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest to explore and celebrate the people, traditions, and memories that make their families unique during our "My Family Story" badge program! Through storytelling, hands-on activities, and creative projects, Girl Scouts will learn more about their family history while sharing meaningful stories and connections with others.

Brownies (Grades 2 - 3)

Thursday, September 17, 2026
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM MDT
Eunice Public Library
1003 Avenue N., Eunice, NM 88231
Cost: \$10 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/YarnEUN2026>
Registration deadline: Monday, September 7, 2026

What you will do:

- Family Storytime — Read stories that celebrate diverse families
- Memory Maker Craft — Create a fun craft while sharing favorite family moments
- Family Tree — Build a family tree and discover your roots

Not a Girl Scout?
No problem - scan the QR code or sign up at the event!
Meet new friends, learn what Girl Scouts is about, and join the fun.
Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!

United Way

Eunice, NM

Fri.
October
9

girlscouts
of the desert southwest
southern new mexico
& west texas

**Girl Scouts
Around the World**

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest as we celebrate the International Day of the Girl! Girls will learn virtually about this global celebration and how people around the world are working to advance the rights and opportunities of girls everywhere. Through engaging activities and meaningful discussions, they'll discover how supporting, encouraging, and investing in girls can help make the world a better place for everyone.

All Girl Scout Levels (Grades K - 12)

Friday, October 9, 2026
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM MDT
Virtual
Cost: \$15 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/GSWorldVirtual2026>
Registration deadline: Monday, September 28, 2026

What you will do:

- What is International Day of the Girl? - Learn how this special day became
- Girl Scouts/WAGGS Trivia - Play a trivia game for girl-oriented organizations
- Virtual Games - Connect with your fellow Girl Scouts with online games

Not a Girl Scout?
No problem - scan the QR code or sign up at the event!
Meet new friends, learn what Girl Scouts is about, and join the fun.
Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!

United Way

Virtual

Sat.
October
10

girlscouts
of the desert southwest
southern new mexico
& west texas

**Girl Scouts
Around the Globe**

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest as we celebrate girls around the globe. In honor of International Day of the Girl, girls will explore the history of this special day. Through age-appropriate discussions, creative art projects, and interactive surveys, girls will discover the importance of empowering girls, celebrate their unique voices, and create ideas for meaningful change.

All Girl Scout Levels (Grades K - 12)

Saturday, October 10, 2026
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM MDT
El Paso Girl Scout Program Center
9700 Girl Scout Way, El Paso, TX 79924
Cost: \$15 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/GSGlobeEP2026>
Registration deadline: Monday, September 28, 2026

What you will do:

- International Day of the Girl - Learn about its history and impact
- What Being a Girl Means to Me - Create art that celebrates being a girl
- Girls Around the World - Explore the lives and achievements of girls worldwide
- Community Gender Roles (Cadettes & Seniors) - Survey local gender roles

Not a Girl Scout?
No problem - scan the QR code or sign up at the event!
Meet new friends, learn what Girl Scouts is about, and join the fun.
Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!

United Way

El Paso, TX

Sat.
October
17

girlscouts
of the desert southwest
southern new mexico
& west texas

Leafy Little Artists

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for a day of creativity and outdoor inspiration! Designed especially for girls who love to explore and express themselves, this hands-on experience invites participants to discover the beauty of the Rose Garden through art. Girls will enjoy engaging activities that spark imagination—like watercolor painting, nature-inspired crafts, and sensory exploration—all while connecting with friends and appreciating the world around them.

Daisies (Grades K - 1) & Brownies (Grades 2 - 3)

Saturday, October 17, 2026
10:00 AM - 11:30 AM MDT
Young Park
850 South Walnut St., Las Cruces, NM 88001
Cost: \$15 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/LeafyArtistsLC2026>
Registration deadline: Monday, October 5, 2026

What you will do:

- Watercolor in the Garden — Paint outdoors among the roses
- Leaf Rubbing Art — Collect leaves and make colorful texture rubbings
- Sound Explorers — Listen for nature sounds and create maracas or wind chimes
- Garden Walk Discovery — Walk and explore nature colors, patterns, and scents

Not a Girl Scout?
No problem - scan the QR code or sign up at the event!
Meet new friends, learn what Girl Scouts is about, and join the fun.
Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!

United Way

Las Cruces, NM

Sat.
October
24

girlscouts
of the desert southwest
southern new mexico
& west texas

**Exploring
Shapes in Nature**

Join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest for a day of discovery, creativity, and outdoor exploration. For Daisies who are curious about the world around them, this program encourages girls to slow down, observe nature, and find inspiration in the beauty surrounding them. Girls will explore the outdoors with fresh eyes as they search for colorful flowers, interesting leaves, and other natural wonders to earn the Shapes in Nature badge.

Daisies (Grades K - 1)

Saturday, October 24, 2026
11:00 AM - 12:30 PM MDT
Western Heritage Museum
1 Thunderbird Cir., Hobbs, NM 88240
Cost: \$15 Min/Max: 5/20 girls
Registration: <https://tinyurl.com/NatureShapesHB2026>
Registration deadline: Monday, October 12, 2026

What you will do:

- Meet a Master Gardener — Learn about the plants and flowers in nature
- Pattern Hunt — Find unique shapes and patterns found in leaves and flowers
- Nature-Inspired Art — Create artwork inspired by your surroundings

Not a Girl Scout?
No problem - scan the QR code or sign up at the event!
Meet new friends, learn what Girl Scouts is about, and join the fun.
Already a Girl Scout? Bring a friend!

United Way

Hobbs, NM

Engagement

Adult Award Nominations Now Open!

These awards are a meaningful way to recognize the incredible dedication and impact of our volunteers. If you know someone who has gone above and beyond in service to Girl Scouts, now is the perfect time to nominate them.

Nomination Deadline: Friday, Oct. 2, 2026 at 11:45 PM MDT

[Click to view
Award Guide](#)



Ceremony of Honors

Ceremony of Honors 2026 - Save the Date!

Please join Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest to celebrate the hard work and dedication of our girls and volunteers at our annual Ceremony of Honors.

Saturday, December 12, 2026

El Paso location

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

Odessa location

Odessa Girl Scout Program Center
5217 N. Dixie Blvd.
Odessa, TX 79762

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, September 8, 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:

[**Recruitment Volunteer Opportunities here!**](#)

Resource Development

DRIVING CHANGE

Saturday, September 26, 2026 | 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Topgolf El Paso - 365 Vin Rambla Dr., El Paso, TX 79912

REGISTRATION NOW OPEN!

\$25 PER GSDSW MEMBER

Includes:

- Fun Patch
- Buffet Breakfast
- 3 Hours of Topgolf Play
- Networking & Team Building
- Up to 5 Players per Bay

COMPETE FOR
GREAT PRIZES!

Top Individual Golfers

Whether you're a seasoned golfer or just in it for the fun, come swing, laugh, and enjoy a fun-filled day with friends!

Every Swing Supports Girl Scouts

Your participation helps girls across West Texas and Southern New Mexico develop:

Leadership Skills
Financial Literacy
Outdoor Skills

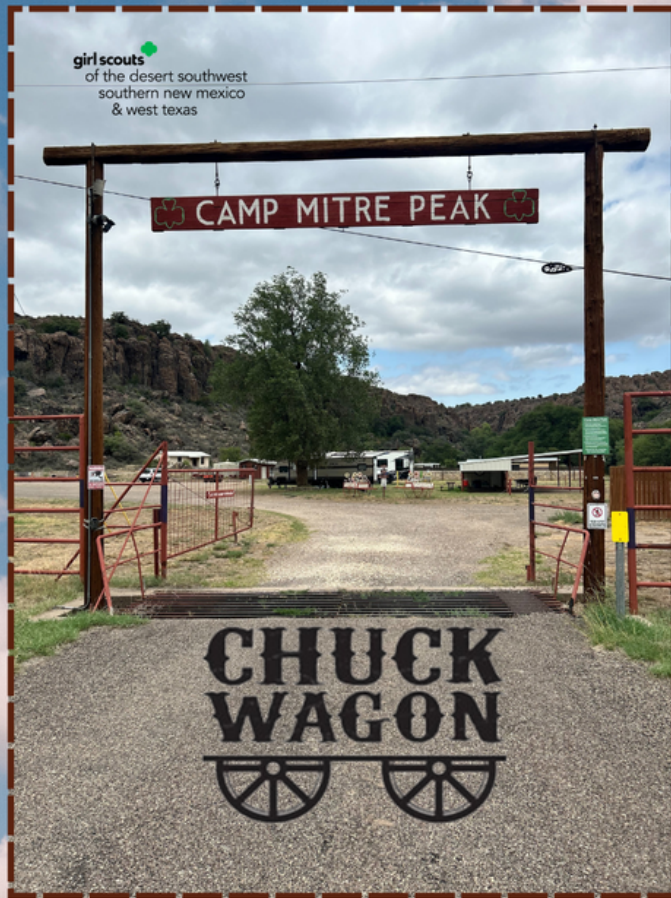
Confidence & Courage
STEM Exploration
Community Impact



REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!
funddevelopment@gsdsw.org



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				

Council Properties

Council Property Building Rental / Usage

Reminder: Council Property Use Form Required

Planning to use a council property or building for troop meetings, programs, trainings, service unit meetings, or other gatherings? You must submit the Troop/SU Meeting Property Rental Application each program year, even if you submitted one last year.

If your previous form included dates that have already passed, a new request is required for any upcoming use. This helps us keep accurate, up-to-date scheduling and ensures proper support for all users.

Want to use or rent Camp Mitre Peak or any of our program centers for troop or service unit meetings, or special events? Submit your request 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

Las Cruces

At the monthly Service Unit event
Pre-orders will also be delivered.
([Mobile Shop Request Form](#) must be submitted)

Midland

Tuesdays 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT
Thursdays 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM & 2:00 PM - 7:00 PM CT
1st, 3rd, & 5th Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM CT

Odessa

2nd & 4th Saturday 10:00 AM - 2:00 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.

Shop Updates

- Midland Retail Shop will be closed on Saturday, Sept. 5, 2026, as the Mobile Shop team will be traveling to Hobbs, NM.

Annual Inventory

- All GSDSW Shops will be closed for inventory from Sept. 17-30, 2026. Shops will reopen on Thursday, Oct. 1, 2026.
- During this time, customers will have an opportunity to purchase items at the Volunteer Conference, Sept. 18-20, 2026.
- We are looking for volunteers to assist with inventory. Volunteers do not need to stay for the entire day. Even one or two hours of assistance would be greatly appreciated.
- Due to inventory activities during September, any pre-orders placed during that month will be submitted on the second Thursday of October.

Girl Scouts of the Desert Southwest Career Opportunities

Engagement Specialist

- Carlsbad
- Odessa
- Silver City

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

Resource Development Specialist

- El Paso
- Midland

Part-time Program Specialist (Seasonal)

- Midland

If your service unit is organizing an event and you would like to have the GSDSW Mobile Store present, please complete and submit [this request form](#) at least one month before the event.