

# heartstrings

girl scouts  
heart of the south

July 2019

# SOMETHING BIG IS COMING July 16



## EARLY BIRD INCENTIVES ARE READY PICK UP AT YOUR SELECTED LEADERSHIP CENTER

Adult members, and the parents/guardians of girls, who renewed during our Early Bird season should have received an email with information about patch and/or t-shirt pick-up, and those eligible will be receiving invitations to the Early Bird Encampment.

All members who renewed on April 1 were eligible to receive a free **t-shirt**. The deadline to order was April 16. The shirts are now available for pick-up at your selected Leadership Center.

Additionally, once the NEW badges are launched by GSUSA, access to the **virtual badge lab** will be shared directly with those eligible. Be on the lookout for the email later this summer.

**Early Bird Encampment** will be at Camp Fisherville, September 13-14. Girls who registered by May 3 will receive an email invitation.

And all Early Bird girls, who were registered by May 17, receive the **“My Next Step” fun patch**. These may be picked up at your selected Leadership Center.

Troop Co-Leaders: Please be sure to coordinate with your parents if you plan to pick up items for the whole troop.

If you have any questions please email [info@girlscoutshs.org](mailto:info@girlscoutshs.org) or call 800-624-4185.



## Volunteer Toolkit

*Updates coming this summer!*

You don't want to lose access to the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) this summer! There is a ton of new and exciting content being added, along with upgrades to improve the volunteer experience.

To keep your access, you must have renewed your membership for the 2019-2020 membership year, have a current background check that does not expire in the 2019-2020 membership year, and have an active co-leader role selected for the new membership year.

Here is a list of some things to look forward to this summer:

- 45 NEW badges and awards will be released July 16
- The three classic Journeys for Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors will be added to the VTK in a six-session format!
- Girl Scout Daisy, Brownie and Junior Journeys already on the VTK are being revised to fit the new six-session format
- All Girl Scout Cadette badges will be available on the VTK!
- In July, Co-leaders can begin using the VTK to plan their 2019-2020 membership year
- In July, VTK troop roster will only include girls with a 2019-2020 membership
- Change to email feature- previously defaulted to a generic user address; will now default to volunteer's email address
- In July, all 2018-2019 meeting plans will be archived

### **VOLUNTEER TOOLKIT TEMPORARILY OFFLINE**

Each summer, the VTK shuts down temporarily to archive troop year plans from the previous year, to provide maintenance, conduct system testing, and to load in new programming for troops.

Please make note of the following dates:

**JULY 1:** The system will be completely inaccessible.

**JULY 2-15:** The Explore, Year, and Meeting tabs will be unavailable, but troops will still have access to the Finance tab for finance report submission.

**JULY 16:** The VTK will relaunch with the MY20 year and brand new badge and journey opportunities loaded into the system.



## gsLEARN

### NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING EXPERIENCE

New troop co-leaders who join the Heart of the South family in the fall will receive a brand new training experience! gsLearn is a fun, engaging, learning environment for Girl Scout volunteers, accessible on any device.

Through the completion of training, volunteers can earn points, work their way to the top of the leader board and download printable certificates.

While the new leader learning path will be the first available option in gsLearn, additional opportunities will be made available as they are completed. More information will follow as it is released.

## DISBANDING TROOPS

### WHAT TO DO IF YOU'RE DISBANDING

A disbanded troop is a troop that is no longer meeting, or one who has not registered for at least two months from the membership expiration date (September 30, annually).

Any troop facing disbandment due to the loss of leadership should first attempt to recruit new troop co-leaders for the upcoming year. This helps to ensure continuity of the Girl Scout experience for the girls.

If the troop as a whole has decided not to return for the 2019-2020 membership year, the leadership team should follow the appropriate steps outlined in the council's [Disbanded Troop Process](#) to notify council staff as soon as possible.

Girl Scouts Heart of the South Disbanded Troop Policy states that funds and equipment of disbanded troops are the property of the council and will be returned to the keeping of the council. If reorganization of the troop does not take place within 12 months, the resources will be used by the council in the interest of Girl Scouting.



## DATA CLEAN UP

### COUNCIL WORKING TO CLEAN UP TROOP AND SERVICE UNIT INFORMATION

Council staff have been working hard to update our membership database (Salesforce) so that information is accurate and ready to best serve our volunteers and girl members.

This work will continue throughout the summer. Council staff may be contacting service unit team and troop co-leaders about the following specific items:

- Troops that have meeting locations outside of a service unit's zip code listing.
- Troop co-leaders that have multiple troops and "random" troop numbers for those troops.
- Multi-level troops that are not broken out by program grade level.

In these conversations we want to offer opportunities that simplify troop numbers for multi-level troops while considering the specific needs of troops and our members.

We are working hard to develop and implement an innovative business process at the council that will provide a solution to the difficulties that often arise with multi-level troops, and that will create a best practice on troop numbers so that girl members, volunteers and staff have an easier time identifying, remembering and communicating about their troops.

## AUTOMATIC AGING

### MEMBERSHIP DATABASE ADVANCES GRADE LEVELS AND MEMBERSHIP YEARS

On July 1, some membership data will automatically be "aged" by GSUSA, including the following items:

**Girl Grades** – All girls in our system will have their grade levels automatically aged for the upcoming school year, based off the information that was LAST input into the system.

**Single School Grade-Level Troops** – All troops set to serve a single school grade, will be aged to the next appropriate grade. For instance, all 3rd grade troops this year (but not any troops that were designated as 2nd and 3rd grade troops), will be moved forward in grade, and in grade level. In this example, the 3rd grade Brownie troop for the 2018-2019 membership year will now be listed as a 4th grade Junior Troop for the 2019-2020 membership year.

**Membership Years** – All membership years of participation for girls and adults will move forward by one.

This is a great opportunity to do a spot check on information for your family, to ensure that our records reflect accurate information. Having accurate and up-to-date information allows the council to better serve our members and their families.

Information can be updated through your MyGS account, or by contacting Council Care at 800-624-4185, or [info@girlscoutshs.org](mailto:info@girlscoutshs.org).

## CALL FOR TROOP INFO

### TIME TO UPDATE YOUR TROOP DETAILS

Staff members across the council are hard at work updating troop information in our online catalog to best reflect the details of your awesome troops!

You may have recently received a phone call or email asking that you contact us to update your troop information or going through that information with us.

As soon as your schedule allows, please take a moment to fill out this [form](#), which will help us prepare for new Girl Scouts to join us in making the world a better place!

If it's easier for you to call with this information, please contact a member of Customer Care at 800.624.4185 so that we can get your information updated.

Thanks for all you have done this year to build girls of courage, confidence and character and helping us prepare for our best membership year yet!

# FINANCE REPORT AND BANK STATEMENTS

## IMPORTANT CHANGES TO TIME LINE

Due to the difficulties expressed by many troop volunteers around the September submission deadline, we are changing the time line for completing troop finance reports.

You'll still find the Troop Finance Report in the VTK, conveniently located for you to access, upload and share. Some minor items have been updated on the report which should help address some additional concerns shared after our first year utilizing this new functionality. Among these updates are a space to indicate if your finance report is for more than one troop and a more emphasized request to upload your bank statements.

### **Here's what you need to know for this submission:**

The reporting period has been revised to cover all income and expenses of the troop(s) from September 1, 2018 through May, 31, 2019.

The submission period has been revised. Troop Finance Reports, and the accompanying bank statements, should now be submitted to the council between June 1 and July 31, 2019.

The bank statements that will be required this year are: September 2018, December 2018 and March 2019.

As a reminder, troops are only allowed one submission through the VTK per membership year, so do not submit before you are ready.

Also be advised that troop co-leaders experienced trouble around the site timing out. To avoid loss of data, be sure you are frequently saving your progress.

On July 1, any troop co-leaders that have not renewed their membership for 2020 and/or do not have a current background check that has an expiration date after September 30, 2019 will lose access to the VTK and, therefore, the ability to submit their finance report and bank statements until those items have been corrected.

As always, if you have any questions or need assistance, please contact a member of our Customer Care team for support at 800.624.4185 or [info@girlscoutshs.org](mailto:info@girlscoutshs.org).

## INVEST THE FIRST \$25

### UTILIZE TROOP MONEY TO RENEW MEMBERSHIPS

A wise Girl Scout leader once said, "A parent should only have to pay for a Girl Scout membership one time- the first year. Proceeds from the Girl Scout Cookie Program should be used in all years after."

Girls learn about goal-setting, budgeting, and investing in themselves when they earmark the "First \$25" of Girl Scout Cookie troop proceeds to re-new the troop's Girl Scout memberships.

This takes her hard work and transforms it into another year of opportunities, adventures, and fun with your troop! Talk to your girl's troop leaders about this option to pay for membership dues.



# GIRL SCOUT SATURDAY

## Get ready to kick off the new Girl Scout year in style!

On select Saturdays in August (17, 24 and 31), multiple events will be held across our council to make new friends and reconnect with old friends as we start our next membership year.

Plan to be part of this fun day in your local community by helping prepare or host an event, or simply by planning to attend and join in the fun!

We are currently working with service units to plan these events and will publish them on our [website](#). Check back often, as new event information will be added regularly over the coming weeks.

For more information on Girl Scout Saturday events or to list an event in your area, contact our Customer Care Team at [info@girlscoutshs.org](mailto:info@girlscoutshs.org) or 800.624.4185.



## SCHOOL RECRUITMENT SCHEDULING SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

In 2016, the 109th General Assembly of the State of Tennessee passed TN SB 2098 requiring the principal of a school to allow a patriotic society the opportunity to speak with students during school hours.

In summary, this bill requires school principals to allow Girl Scouts Heart of the South, as a patriotic society, to speak during a school assembly for 10 minutes.

This bill also allows the opportunity to encourage thousands of girls to become our next young women of courage, confidence, and character, but we need assistance in reaching that many girls.

If you work at a school, have children at a school in their area, or have some good relationships with any schools, we encourage you to reach out to us to share your connections and/or interest in supporting our efforts to have a small assembly at our schools.

We are excited about the opportunity that this piece of legislation offers our organization in fulfilling our mission.

While the state of Mississippi has not yet passed similar legislation, our staff is hard at work to make this happen.

In the meantime, we are committed to offering assemblies at as many elementary schools in MS as possible. Please let us know if you can provide any assistance in



scheduling or hosting assemblies at schools in your area.

We try to host the majority of our assemblies in August and September, so we are eager to start getting these on our calendars and can use your support in doing so.

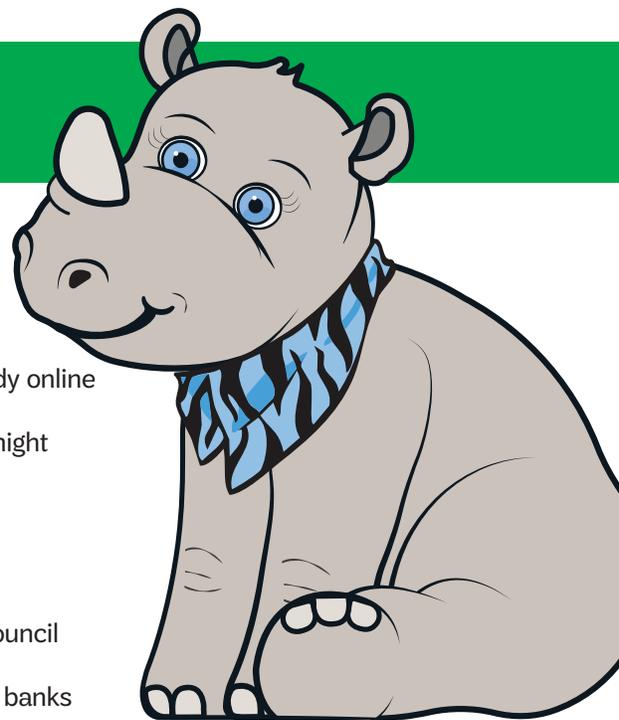
Please contact our Customer Care Team to support our school recruitment efforts: [info@girlscoutshs.org](mailto:info@girlscoutshs.org) or 800-624-4185.



# FALL PRODUCT PROGRAM

## 2019 CALENDAR

Wednesday	Sept. 4	Troop access to M2 Online System
Saturday	Sept. 14	Girls begin taking orders in person and online
Friday	Oct. 18	Girls submit Nut/Candy orders to Troop
		Girls continue selling magazines and nuts/candy online
Monday	Oct. 21	Troop submits Nut/Candy order online
		Troops locked out of Nut/Candy orders at midnight
Thurs.-Sat.	Nov. 14-16	SU Nut/Candy Delivery
Wednesday	Dec. 4	Final day for Online Program
Wednesday	Dec. 4	Girls submit money to Troop
Thursday	Dec. 5	Troops submit reward orders online
		Troops locked out at midnight
Wednesday	Dec. 11	Troop ACH Shortage information deadline to council
Wednesday	Dec. 11	Outstanding Balance Forms Deadline
Monday	Dec. 16	ACH payment from Troop bank accounts to hit banks within 48 hours



# GIRL SCOUT COOKIE PROGRAM

## 2020 CALENDAR



**FIND YOUR WINGS DO WOW THINGS**



Saturday	Jan. 11	Girls begin taking orders
Friday	Jan. 31	Girls Submit Initial Orders to Troops
Monday	Feb. 3	Troops submit Initial Cookie & Rewards Orders in eBudde –Troops locked out at midnight
		Large Order Memphis Area Count-N-Go
Mon-Thurs	Feb. 17-20	Memphis Area Count-N-Go
Fri.-Sat.	Feb. 21- 22	Jackson Area Count-N-Go
Saturday	Feb. 22	SU Cookie Delivery
Mon.-Thurs.	Feb. 24-27	Booth Sales Begin
Friday	Feb. 28	Girls submit 1/2 Payment to Troops
Friday	Mar. 6	Red Wagon Campaign
Saturday	Mar. 7	Troop ACH 1/2 Payment Shortage Information due to Council
Monday	Mar. 9	Digital Day
Tuesday	Mar. 10	Troop ACH 1/2 Payment from Troop Bank Accounts to hit banks within 48 hours
Wednesday	Mar. 11	DOC “Girl Delivery” Option Ends
		Booth Sales End
Friday	Mar. 13	Last day for Digital Cookie Orders
Sunday	Mar. 22	Girls submit cookie balance to Troop
Sunday	Mar. 22	Bling Your Booth submission deadline
Monday	Mar. 23	Troops submit Rewards Order in eBudde –
Monday	Mar. 23	Troops locked out of eBudde at midnight
Thursday	Mar. 26	Troops must have cookie balance deposited into troop bank account
Thursday	Mar. 26	Volunteer T-Shirt Order Deadline to Council
		Red Wagon Campaign Deadline
Monday	Mar. 30	Troop ACH Final Payment Shortage Information due to Council
Monday	Mar. 30	Outstanding Balance Form DEADLINE to Council Service Center
Wednesday	April 1	Troop ACH Final Payment from Troop Bank Accounts to hit banks within 48 hours
Wednesday	April 1	
Monday	April 6	

# EVENT CALENDAR

July 7-12	New York, New York! Trip	New York, New York
July 13-14	Girl Scouts Love State Parks	Your Favorite State Park
July 19-21	Camp Tik-A-Witha 50th Anniversary Reunion	Camp Tik-A-Witha, Van Vleet, MS
August 3-4	Troop Camp License	Camp Tik-A-Witha, Van Vleet, MS
August 10	National S'mores Day	Nationwide
August 24	WCBI-TV Station Day	Columbus, MS
August 24	S'mores Day Camp Cookie Reward	Kamp Kiwani
September 13-14	Early Bird Camporee	Camp Fisherville
September 14	Pony Riders	Kamp Kiwani
September 14	Ring Riders	Kamp Kiwani
September 21	Memphis Fire Department HERo Day	Memphis, TN
September 21	Pony Riders	Kamp Kiwani
September 21	Ring Riders	Kamp Kiwani
September 26	CEO Meet & Greet	Memphis
<b>&gt;&gt;&gt;Earn your CEO Patch to get an invite! <a href="#">Details.</a></b>		
September 26	Girl Scout Gold Award Training	Tupelo, MS
September 27-28	Family Campout	Camp Tik-A-Witha
October 5	Strong GIRL Event	Memphis, TN
October 19	Reach for the Stars: An Astronomy Adventure	Camp Fisherville
October 18-20	Troop Camp License Training	Camp Tik-A-Witha
October 26	Trail Riders	Camp Tik-A-Witha
October 26	Cowgirls	Camp Tik-A-Witha
November 1-3	Citizen Scientist Journey Camporee	Camp Tik-A-Witha
November 8-9	Pink Palace Camp In	Memphis, TN
November 15-17	Hiking Trip	Chapel Hill, TN
November 17	National Trail Hiking Day	Nationwide
December 7	GRAMMY Museum Day	Cleveland, MS
December 7	Let's Get Cookin'	Camp Tik-A-Witha

Find out more about events online at [www.girlscoutshs.org/calendar](http://www.girlscoutshs.org/calendar)



**A one-of-a-kind  
adventure  
for every G.I.R.L.!**

## SUMMER CAMP SESSIONS STILL AVAILABLE!

Are your girls looking for some summer fun? We have two summer camp sessions remaining with lots of great options!

View our [Summer Camp Guide](#) to see descriptions and get information on registering!

If you have questions, or need help registering, call 800-624-4185 or email us at [info@girlscoutshs.org](mailto:info@girlscoutshs.org)

### CAMP TIK-A-WITHA:

**June 30 - July 5**  
 Fairies and Fireworks  
 Mad Scientist  
 Chopped!  
 Hoofprints  
 Happy Trails

**July 7-12**  
 Roly Polys  
 Making Friends  
 I Spy  
 On the Loose



# GIRL SCOUTS

## STATE PARKS WEEKEND

### Fun, adventure and discovery await at Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend July 13-14

Join Girl Scouts from across the country for our first-ever Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend July 13 - 14, 2019 to experience the great outdoors, to find adventure, explore nature, and learn what Girl Scouts is all about!

Amazing opportunities come to those who love the outdoors! Grab your backpack, lace up your sneakers, and head out to your favorite State Park!

#### **EARN A FREE GIRL SCOUTS LOVE STATE PARKS FUN PATCH!**

The first 100 Girl Scouts who visit a State Park, snap a picture, and submit it online at [www.bit.ly/GSHS\\_State\\_Park](http://www.bit.ly/GSHS_State_Park) will receive a FREE Girl Scouts Love State Park fun patch! Deadline for submissions is Friday, July 19 at 5 p.m.

The fun and adventure is endless at our state parks! How will you spend your weekend?

Check out council state parks online and start planning your Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend fun!

**ARKANSAS:** [www.arkansasstateparks.com](http://www.arkansasstateparks.com)

**MISSISSIPPI:** [www.mdwfp.com](http://www.mdwfp.com)

**TENNESSEE:** [www.tnstateparks.com](http://www.tnstateparks.com)

So, don't wait! Make plans to celebrate the outdoors Girl Scout style and remember to share the fun on social media using hashtag #GSoutdoors



## 50th Anniversary Camp Alumnae Weekend July 19 - 21

Join us for the 50th Anniversary Camp Alumnae Weekend to cherish the memories made over the past 50 summers at Camp Tik-A-Witha.

S'mores at Brownie Corner, walking through the Fairy Trail, the smell of the campfire, hiking to Robins Nest and admiring the beauty of the land, adding another pine cone to the campfire at Mr. Joe's Valley, and helping a girl light her first wish boat only to later give her a staff tie at CIT graduation.

This weekend will give camp alumnae and friends the opportunity to relive the fun of camp, reconnect with old friends, and create new memories.

- WHERE:** Camp Tik-A-Witha
- WHEN:** Friday, July 19 - Sunday, July 21  
Friday check-in is at 4 p.m.  
Sunday check-out is at 11 a.m.
- COST:** \$50 per person, includes meals, accommodations and activities
- WHO:** Camp alumnae and friends, ages 18+

**REGISTER**

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[www.girlscoutshs.org](http://www.girlscoutshs.org)

800-624-4185

# National S'MORES Day

Girl Scouts first created S'mores in 1927! Help us celebrate National S'mores Day by roasting marshmallows and making s'more SWAPS with your Girl Scout Friends! Stop by and enjoy a tasty s'more with us to celebrate!

All Girl Scouts are welcome  
to this **FREE** event! Bring a friend, too!



Join us at one of our  
three locations!

### Bert Ferguson Park

8505 Trinity Rd.  
Cordova, TN 38018

Saturday, Aug. 10  
1 - 3 p.m.

### Reelfoot State Park

3975 State Route 21 East  
Tiptonville, TN 38079

Saturday, Aug. 10  
1 - 5 p.m.

*Register to canoe for \$7!*

### Ballard Park

2629 Main St.  
Tupelo, MS 38801

Saturday, Aug. 10  
10 a.m - 12 p.m.

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[www.girlscoutshs.org/calendar](http://www.girlscoutshs.org/calendar)  
800-624-4185

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If she can see it, she can be it.

## 5th Annual HERO DAY



Gear up and work alongside the elite women and men of the Memphis Fire Department at this high adventure career exploration day!

RAPPEL OVER THE EDGE OF A SIX-STORY BUILDING

EXPERIENCE SIMULATED FIREFIGHTING ENVIRONMENTS

SUIT UP IN PROTECTIVE GEAR AND TACKLE A LIFE-SAVING OBSTACLE COURSE

FEEL THE POWER OF A CHARGED FIRE HOSE AS YOU EXTINGUISH A MOCK FIRE

EXPLORE EMERGENCY MEDICINE WITH MEMPHIS' BEST PARAMEDICS

MEET THE HIGHEST RANKING FEMALES IN THE MEMPHIS FIRE DEPARTMENT

SEE URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE DOGS PERFORM SIMULATED RESCUES

LEARN ABOUT PHYSICAL AND EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS TO BE A FIREFIGHTER OR PARAMEDIC

GIRL SCOUTS CAN WORK TOWARDS EARNING THEIR FIRST AID BADGE!

**SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21**  
10 A.M. - 4 P.M.

**CHESTER ANDERSON FIRE TRAINING CENTER**  
4341 OK Robertson Rd., Memphis, TN

**\$20 per girl**

includes lunch and HERO swag!

Open to any girl in grades 6th - 12th

**REGISTRATION OPENS JULY 1**  
[www.girlscoutshs.org/hero](http://www.girlscoutshs.org/hero)  
**SPACE IS LIMITED.**

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[www.girlscoutshs.org/hero](http://www.girlscoutshs.org/hero)

800-624-4185

## Play Your Part!

Fine Arts Badge Day at  
Hutchison School

Join Hutchison School instructors to explore music, theatre, dance, and even perform new acting skills on a theatre stage!

**September 28, 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.**  
**\$30 fee**  
**Hutchison School - 1740 Ridgeway Rd.**  
**Memphis, TN 38119**

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800-624-4185

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# TREFOIL TRUNK COUNCIL SHOP



Proudly introducing the new Official **Volunteer Navy Vest!**

**\$30**

You asked and now its here. The official adult vest!

- Stand-up collar
- Welt side pockets
- Full gold-tone metal zipper closure
- Lightly brushed cotton/nylon twill

Available in sizes extra small through 5X.

*Online and In store availability in August!*

**PRE-ORDER ONLY! Orders due July 10**



**Girl Scout Cookie Yard Sign \$9.50**

Bright, colorful, big and attention-grabbing! These 24"x16" corrugated plastic yard signs will really draw customers to your cookie booth! Galvanized metal H stake included.

**ORDER NOW**



front

back

**Adult Mission Shirt \$15-\$17**

The must-have shirt for the summer! These Comfort Color, 100% ringspun cotton, shirts are perfect for trips, and the upcoming recruitment season! Available in three great colors. Adult Small - XL: \$15, Adult 2X-3X: \$17 *In store only.*

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## COUNCIL HOURS

All GSLS Leadership Centers will be closed on Thursday, July 4 and Friday, July 5

**Hours:** Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Friday 8 a.m. to noon

Shop online anytime at [www.girlscoutshs.org/shop](http://www.girlscoutshs.org/shop)

**Our Council Care team is available to assist you during normal business hours:**  
800-624-4185 or [info@girlscoutshs.org](mailto:info@girlscoutshs.org).

**Girl Scouts Heart of the South staff are committed to providing quality customer service to our volunteers, families and community.**

**MEMPHIS**

717 South White Station Rd., Ste. 2  
Memphis, TN 38117

**JACKSON**

1007 Old Humboldt Rd.  
Jackson, TN 38305

**TUPELO**

1140 West Main St.  
Tupelo, MS 38801