

Welcome to the NEW Heartstrings! The monthly publication of Girl Scouts Heart of the South.

Now for ALL members,* Heartstrings brings you the latest must-have volunteer information, council highlights, program and event opportunities (including a full program calendar each month!), exciting news for members, families, caregivers, and MORE!

*All previous recipients of the Council Connect newsletter will now receive Heartstrings. Council Connect has been retired.

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July 2025 Volunteer Spotlight **Deborah Harris** SU 329 - Leflore

Printable Links For those who prefer to download and print Heartstrings, written links for all embedded, external hyperlinks are provided below:

p3 - Volunteer Recognition Webpage

https://bit.ly/gshs_VolRecognitions

p3 - Volunteer Toolkit - Troop Finance View

https://gslearn.litmos.com/course/4999942*

*You must be signed in to MyGS in order to access this link.

Service Unit Finance Report

https://bit.ly/gshs_SUFR25

p4 - Current Budget

https://bit.ly/gshs_SUBudgetMY26

p4 - Super Troop Requirements

https://bit.ly/gshs_STRQs

Application

https://bit.ly/gshs_STSubmission

p4 - Service Unit of Excellence Requirements https://bit.ly/gshs_SUEXGuide

Service Unit Teams

https://bit.ly/gshs_SUTeams

p11 - THIS FORM

https://bit.ly/gshs_HeatPress

p11 - Automated Text Messaging Opt-In Form

https://bit.ly/gshs_TEXT23

For all program and event registrations, see our GSHS Event Calendar at www.girlscoutshs.org/events



This Month's Top Volunteer **News & Information**



REGIONAL

2025 Girl Scouts Heart of the South **Volunteer Leadership Summits**

Greater Memphis Memphis, TN

9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

West TN

Jackson, TN NOON - 5:00 PM

North MS Tupelo, MS

Saturday, August 16, 2025 Saturday, August 16, 2025 Saturday, August 23, 2025 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM



This year's Volunteer Leadership Summit events will provide opportunities for you to enhance your leadership skills, learn about your specific volunteer role and network with fellow - local - volunteers and members of your service unit team!

Participants will be able to choose from various trainings based upon their own and their troop's various interests. And we can't wait to honor and recognize YOUR outstanding MY25 volunteers as we present the MY25 GSUSA and GSHS Adult Awards specifically for the volunteers in your region!

Come enjoy a wonderful day of learning, networking, and celebrating YOUR success!

This event is FREE for all currently registered GSHS Service Team Members. Troop Co-Leaders, Troop Treasurers and Troop Product Sales Managers!

Choose your preferred location below, and click to register TODAY!

GREATER MEMPHIS **Hutchison School**

JACKSON, TN Jackson Christian School TUPELO, MS **Location TBD**

Adult Award Nominations



Honor a deserving volunteer by nominating them for an Adult Award! Individual and service team awards are available. Recipients will be honored at the regional 2025 Volunteer Leadership Summits in August.

Please take a look at the <u>Volunteer Recognitions</u> tab on our website for a full description of Adult Awards, Nomination forms, and list of previous recipients. Criteria for receiving Years of Service Pin and Numeral Guards is also listed. **Deadline for all nominations and recognitions is July 15, 2025.**

Troop & SU Finance Reports



Every year, troops and service units are asked to submit a finance report to the council. *This is a requirement*.

Finance reports are necessary to ensure the proper management of Girl Scout funds. They protect both the hard-earned funds and the volunteers who manage those accounts. Participation in the Fall Product and Girl Scout Cookie Programs, as well as approval for any additional money-earning activities, may be affected for troops who have not submitted this report. These reports are due between June 1 and July 31, 2025.

Troop Finance Reports

The Troop Finance Report can be found in the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK). Troop leaders should work with their troop treasurer to complete the report.

This year, both troop leaders and troop treasurers have the ability to access and submit the form. Please be sure you work together to determine who will submit the report and ensure the accuracy of the information submitted.

Here's what you need to know:

- 1. The reporting period is June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025. Unless a troop has completed all activities for this current year or is disbanding, reports should not be submitted before June 1 to ensure all income and expenses for the reporting period are included.
- 2. The bank statements that will be required this year are: August 2024, October 2024, January 2025, and March 2025. A troop's finance report is not complete without all four of these bank statements.
- 3. Troops are only allowed one submission through the VTK per membership year, so do not submit before you are ready. Once the form has been submitted, it cannot be altered.
- 4. You will have the opportunity to add attachments to your finance report after you have hit the button to submit your report.
- 5. After the report has been submitted, troops should download a copy of their finance report to keep for their records and to forward it to the service unit's finance coordinator.

<u>GSUSA Volunteer Toolkit- Troop Finance View</u>, is available in gsLearn. With this short step-by-step guide, you'll learn more about how you can submit the troop finance report through the VTK. Log in to MyGS, open gsLearn from the left-side menu, and click the <u>link</u> to take a look today!

Service Unit Finance Reports

Each service unit is required to submit a <u>finance report</u> no later than July 31, 2025. The report should cover all income and expenses from June 1, 2024 through May 31, 2025. To ensure the full reporting period is included, the form will not accept submissions prior to June 1, 2025. Service units should be prepared to upload bank statements for the following months when submitting their finance report: August 2024, October 2024, January 2025, and March 2025. Service Unit Operation Managers should complete and submit the report.

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

Service Team Budgets

Budgeting is an important part of the service unit planning and finance management process. Service units are required to submit a budget at the beginning of each program year. As a reminder, service unit proceeds cannot be distributed until service units have both a <u>current budget</u> and a complete <u>finance report</u> on file with the council.

This year, the budget submission period is June 15, 2025 through August 31, 2025. The budget should be developed by the service unit's leadership team to support the program plans for the upcoming year, and submitted HERE by either the Service Unit Operations Manager or Service Unit Finance Coordinator. Once submitted, the volunteer submitting the form will receive an email confirmation of their submission. If you have any questions about your service unit budget, please contact a member of our Customer Care team at 800.624.4185 or info@girlscoutshs.org.

Super Troop



Please review the Super Troop Requirements for those working on this accomplishment for MY25. Let us know your troop qualifies for this higher achievement by submitting your application online.

The deadline to complete the MY25 requirements for Super Troop status is August 1st each year.

Service Unit of Excellence



Service Units that achieve the Service Unit of Excellence distinction will receive their choice of \$100 credit at their local GSHS Trefoil Trunk location or \$100 off a GSHS property rental fee, and all active

registered members of the SU team will receive a SU of Excellence pin.

The <u>Service Unit of Excellence Requirements</u> and submission form can be found on the <u>Service Unit Teams</u> page on our website and are due by August 1st each year.

If you know a volunteer we need to feature in the Volunteer Spotlight segment in an upcoming issue, email us at news@girlscoutshs.org to get them on the list!



July 2025 Volunteer Spotlight Deborah Harris SU 329 - Leflore

Deborah Harris's Girl Scout journey started in 1976 in Carroll County, Mississippi, at Marshall Elementary School, where Miss Emily O'Brien was her Girl Scout leader. That experience, during school hours, left a lasting impression. "Girl Scouts was a big deal," Deborah recalls. "We practiced for two weeks to march in the Christmas parade in full uniform and white gloves. It was something special."

As an adult, Deborah's involvement was rekindled when her daughter Keisha joined Girl Scouts at age five. "I was very into what my child was doing," she said. What began as a role on the troop committee quickly evolved into assistant leader, then troop leader for the troop, which at one point served 95 girls from across the Greenwood area.

Managing a multi-level troop, Deborah led with a team of volunteers. Each grade level had its own leader; each girl had her voice, and older girls helped plan their own experiences—a Girl Scout method known as "girl-led" programming. "We were doing that before the term even existed," she said with a laugh.

Sharing Girl Scouts with her daughter is a highlight of her memories. From camping and community service to "Girl Scout vacations" filled with educational travel, Deborah treasures the bond it created. "It made me closer to my daughter," she reflects. "And I had so many girls call me their Girl Scout mom."

Deborah's leadership extended beyond her troop. She served as Service Unit Manager for 11 years and held roles in communications, finance, and media. One of her proudest moments was serving on the GSHS Council Board of Directors and the CEO Search Committee.

She's now a troop advisor, stepping back slightly while supporting her sister's troop, but her impact remains. Through countless service projects, especially visits to local nursing homes, gardening lessons, and community celebrations, she's helped girls develop courage, confidence, and character.

Over the years, Deborah estimates she's worked with more than 1,000 girls—and now, she's seeing a second generation. "I have girls now whose moms were Girl Scouts with me," she says proudly. "They know how good the program is, and they want the same for their daughters."

A highlight of her troop's year is the annual bridging ceremony. Under Deborah's guidance, girls crossing to the next level wear white dresses, a symbol of growth and transition. The tradition includes a bridge gifted by another troop leader. Graduating seniors sign it with their name and year—literally leaving their mark.

Her advice for new volunteers? "Surround yourself with people who want to help. Meet monthly with your volunteers to plan activities. Learn your girls' names. Listen to them. Be present. The girls will teach you as much as you teach them."

GSHS Programs & Events

FREE ALL AGES EVENTS! BRING A FRIEND AND SHARE THE FUN!



Celebrate National S'mores Day with Girl Scouts Heart of the South!

GSHS is hosting FREE events throughout our council area to celebrate this yummy day! Join us!

Saturday, August 9, 2025 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM All Ages, Friends, Families, Volunteers Shelby Farms Park - Memphis, TN Fairpark - Tupelo, MS GSHS Leadership Center - Jackson, TN

Did you know Girl Scouts invented s'mores?
Come join us as we celebrate National S'mores Day by roasting marshmallows, playing games, and making fun s'more SWAPS with your Girl Scout friends. The event style is come and go and is FREE for all Girl Scouts and their families! Bring a friend too! Stop by one of our three locations around the council and enjoy a tasty s'more with us to celebrate!

Click <u>HERE</u> to register for the Jackson, TN event.**

Click <u>HERE</u> to register for the

Memphis, TN event.**

Click <u>HERE</u> to register for the Tupelo, MS event.**

**Each location has a separate event listing so make sure you're registering for the location nearest you!



Join us for TOTALLY TREFOIL 2025!

September 13, 2025 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM Landers Center 4560 Venture Drive, Southaven, MS

This exciting, annual, all-ages event is totally FREE for EVERYONE! Bring a friend! Girl Scouts and Non-Girl Scouts are ALL welcome!

The event style is come and go, with tons of activities happening throughout the day! Girl Scouts Heart of the South is partnering with many local organizations to bring this event to the community to show girls all about the exciting things Girl Scouts has to offer, as well as meeting new faces from across our 59 counties!

Vendors from across our council will be on hand to have fun with you and show off all the amazing things girls can do!

Click **HERE** to register today!

GSHS MY25-MY26 PROGRAM CALENDAR

A full, current listing of all upcoming council programs and events is provided in each issue of Heartstrings. Our supplemental, programs and events-focused "Program Possibilities" e-newsletter is emailed to all members on the 15th of each month. Be on the lookout for additional, program-specific communications, too! More exciting programs and events are being added all the time! For the latest information, visit the GSHS Events Calendar on our website at www.girlscoutshs.org.

AUGUST 2025



Wild Waters Weekend Whitewater Rafting on the Ocoee River

8:00 AM Friday, August 1 -6:00 PM Sunday, August 3, 2025 \$160 per GSHS registered member Age Level: Juniors (ages 12+) - Ambassadors Girls must be at least 12 years old at time of event. Hiawassee-Ocoee Scenic River State Park Delano, TN

For more information and to register, click **HERE**. Registration ENDS at Midnight, Sunday, July 20, 2025. MIN/MAX: 8/10



Girl Scout Gold Award Training

Thursday, August 7, 2025, 6:00-8:00 PM REGISTER OR

Tuesday, August 26, 2025, 6:00-8:00 PM REGISTER

\$5 per GSHS girl member FREE for GSHS registered adult volunteers Age Level: Seniors & Ambassadors, Volunteers Online via ZOOM



National S'mores Day Events

Saturday, August 9, 2025 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM FREE

All Ages, Friends, Families, Volunteers GSHS Leadership Center - Jackson, TN REGISTER Shelby Farms Park - Memphis, TN REGISTER Fairpark - Tupelo, MS REGISTER See page 5 for more info.



2025 Girl Scouts Heart of the South **Volunteer Leadership Summits**

Greater Memphis Memphis, TN 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Jackson, TN NOON - 5:00 PM

Tupelo, MS Saturday, August 16, 2025 Saturday, August 16, 2025 Saturday, August 23, 2025 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Regional Volunteer Leadership Summit Events

Saturday, August 16 & Saturday, August 23, 2025 Times & Locations Vary FREE for all registered GSHS Service Unit Team Members, Troop Co-Leaders, Troop Treasurers and Troop Product Sales Managers

> 8/16 Memphis, TN Event **REGISTER** 8/16 Jackson, TN Event REGISTER 8/23 Tupelo, MS Event **REGISTER**

See page 3 for more info.

SEPTEMBER 2025



Girl Scout Gold Award Training

Sunday, September 7, 2025, 2:00-4:00 PM <u>**REGISTER**</u> OR

Thursday, September 11, 2025, 6:00-8:00 PM REGISTER

\$5 per GSHS girl member FREE for GSHS registered adult volunteers Age Level: Seniors & Ambassadors, Volunteers Online via ZOOM



Totally Trefoil 2025

Saturday, September 13, 2025
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
FREE
All Ages, Friends, Families, Volunteers
Landers Center
Southaven, MS
For more information, see page 5.
To register, click HERE.

OCTOBER 2025



HERo Day 2025

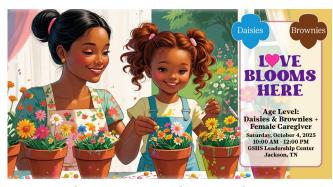
Saturday, October 4, 2025 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM

\$20 per GSHS registered girl member ◆ \$2 per adult Age Level: Juniors - Ambassadors, Adults Chester Anderson Fire Training Academy Memphis, TN

For more information and to register, click **HERE**.

Registration ENDS at Midnight, Friday, September 5, 2025. MINIMUM: 75 MAX # GIRLS: 115

MAX # ADULTS: 50



Love Blooms Here Mother-Daughter Event

Saturday, October 4, 2025 10:00 AM - 12:00 NOON \$20 per GSHS registered girl member Age Level: Daisies & Brownies + One Female Caregiver GSHS Leadership Center Jackson, TN

For more information and to register, click **HERE**.

Registration ENDS at Midnight, Monday, September 15, 2025. MINIMUM: 30 MAX # GIRLS: 45 MAX # ADULTS: 45

Girl Scout Gold Award Training

Saturday, October 4, 2025, 10:00AM -12:00 NOON REGISTER OR Tuesday, October 21, 2025, 6:00-8:00 PM REGISTER

\$5 per GSHS girl member
FREE for GSHS registered adult volunteers
Age Level: Seniors & Ambassadors, Volunteers • Online via ZOOM



NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2025



Girl Scout Gold Award Training

Thurs., November 6, 2025, 6:00-8:00 PM <u>REGISTER</u> OR Sun., November 16, 2025, 2:00-4:00 PM <u>REGISTER</u> OR Tues., December 9, 2025, 6:00-8:00 PM <u>REGISTER</u> OR Sat., December 13, 2025, 10:00 AM-12:00 PM <u>REGISTER</u>

\$5 per GSHS girl member FREE for GSHS registered adult volunteers Age Level: Seniors & Ambassadors, Volunteers Online via ZOOM



Powderpuff Derby

Saturday, November 8, 2025
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
\$15 per GSHS registered girl member
All Ages, Volunteers
Northside Church • Jackson, TN
For more information and to register, click HERE.

Registration ENDS at Midnight, Friday, September 5, 2025. MINIMUM: 75 MAX # GIRLS: 115 MAX # ADULTS: 50



Breathe by the Trees - Overnight Journey

5:00 PM Friday, November 21, 3:00 PM Saturday, November 22, 2025
\$35 per GSHS registered girl member
Age Level: Cadettes
Camp Fisherville • Collierville, TN

Camp rishervine • Comervine, Th

For more information and to register, click $\underline{\textbf{HERE}}.$

Registration ENDS at Midnight, Friday, November 7, 2025. MIN/MAX: 10/18



The GumDROP: Extreme Gingerbread House Decorating Contest 2025

Saturday, December 6, 2025
9:00 - 11:00 AM
\$15 per GSHS registered girl member
Age Level: Daisies & Brownies, Adults
Camp Tik-A-Witha ◆ Van Vleet, MS
For more information and to register, click HERE.

Registration ENDS at Midnight, Friday, November 21, 2025. MINIMUM: 15 MAX # GIRLS: 45 MAX # ADULTS: 5



Masterpieces & Memories: A Girl Scout Art Day

Saturday, December 6, 2025 Times Vary by Age Level Event \$20 per GSHS registered girl member Age Level: Daisies-Ambassadors, Volunteers GSHS Leadership Center ◆ Jackson, TN

Daisies: 9:00-10:30 AM <u>REGISTER</u>
Brownies & Juniors: 10:45 AM-12:15 PM <u>REGISTER</u>
Cadettes-Ambassadors: 1:30-3:30 PM <u>REGISTER</u>

Registration ENDS at Midnight, Monday, November 17, 2025. MIN/MAX: 20/25



Product Program News & Info



FRIDAY, AUG. 29 SU & TROOP ACCESS TO M20S

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6 GIRLS BEGIN TAKING ORDERS IN PERSON AND ONLINE

THURSDAY, OCT. 9 GIRLS SUBMIT NUT/CANDY ORDERS TO TROOP OR THROUGH M20S

SATURDAY, OCT. 11 TROOP SUBMITS NUT/CANDY ORDERS IN M2OS
SUNDAY, OCT. 12 LAST DAY FOR ONLINE GIRL DELIVERED ORDERS
SUNDAY, OCT. 12 SU FINALIZES NUT/CANDY ORDERS IN M2OS

THURS.-SAT., OCT. 30-NOV. 1 SU NUT/CANDY DELIVERY

MONDAY, NOV. 3 ADDITIONAL PRODUCT AVAILABLE FOR PICKUP AT COUNCIL

SATURDAY, NOV. 8 DIGITAL DAY

SUNDAY, NOV. 16 FINAL DAY FOR ONLINE PROGRAM
SUNDAY, NOV. 16 GIRLS SUBMIT PAYMENTS TO TROOP

MONDAY, NOV. 17 FINAL DAY FOR GIRLS TO SELECT REWARDS IN M20S

MONDAY, NOV. 17 TROOP FINALIZES REWARDS IN M20S

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 19 TROOP ACH SHORTAGE & OUTSTANDING BALANCE FORMS DUE

MONDAY, NOV. 24 ACH PAYMENT FROM TROOP BANK ACCOUNTS



2025 FALL PRODUCT

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6

Girls begin taking orders in person and online.

THURSDAY, OCT. 9

Girls submit orders to Troop Fall Product Manager or online.

- Nut & Candy Orders
- Reward Choices (selected on Girl Order Summary or online).
- Girls can continue taking online orders.

SUNDAY, OCT. 12

Last day for online Girl Delivered orders.

THURS.-SAT., OCT. 30-NOV. 1

Service Unit Nut & Candy Delivery.

- Your troop will notify you when to pick up your products.
- Upon pickup, girls immediately begin delivering product and collecting money.

MONDAY. NOV. 3

Additional product available for pickup at the council.

SATURDAY, NOV. 8 - Digital Day

- Send 20 emails through the M2 Online System to be entered to win a 20 oz. tumbler. Of those qualifying, ten (10) girls will be drawn to win.
- Sell \$20 in online sales and be entered to win \$50 in Passport Bucks. Of those qualifying, one (1) girl will be drawn to win.

SUNDAY, NOV. 16- Final day for online program.

Girls submit full payment to Troop Fall Product Manager.

SUCCESS CHECKLIST

TURN IN CAREGIVER PAPERWORK

Complete the Caregiver Responsibility and Permission Form and return to your troop leader.

Whether it be a reward, Passport Bucks, or enough to fund your community service project, you'll stay motivated with

CREATE AN M2 ONLINE SYSTEM ACCOUNT

www.gsnutsandmags.com/gshs

enjoy the opportunity of participating totally online with no money to collect or items to deliver!

SEND OUT AT LEAST 20+ EMAILS

Make a list of family and friends that you can ask to support you by purchasing nuts, candy and magazines.

SHARE ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Ask your adult to share on their social media accounts to



MEET OUR 2025 MASCOT

THE GRIZZLY BEAR



- Life Span: 20-25 years.
- Claw Length: Up to 4 inches.
- Weight: 400-800 pounds.
- Grizzly bears live in forests, mountains, and near rivers where they can catch salmon.
- Grizzlies are strong swimmers and cross large rivers.
- Before hibernation, grizzlies eat up to 20,000 calories a day.
- Grizzly cubs remain with their mothers for 2-3 years to learn survival skills.

View all rewards online at bit.ly/gshs_MY26FPRewards. All rewards are cumulative!



POM POM KEYCHAIN \$125 Combined Sales

FLOWER HAIR CLIPS (2PCS.) \$225 Combined Sales



SMALL PLUSH GRIZZLY BEAR OR PATCH POUCH

(assorted color pouches) \$325 Combined Sales



BRAVE. FIERCE. **FUN. T-SHIRT**

\$425 Combined Sales



LARGE PLUSH **GRIZZLY BEAR**

OR FRIENDSHIP BRACELET KIT OR \$10 PASSPORT BUCKS

MOON LAMP

OR \$50 PASSPORT BUCKS

\$1,250 Combined Sales

\$750 Combined Sales



BELT BAG OR \$10 PASSPORT BUCKS

BFF NECKLACE

OR \$5 PASSPORT BUCKS

\$525 Combined Sales

(assorted color belt bags) \$875 Combined Sales



TRAVEL DUFFLE

\$1,500 Combined Sales



OR \$75 PASSPORT BUCKS



DIGITAL DAY DRAWING - NOVEMBER 8

20. OZ TUMBLER

Send 20 emails through the M2 Online System to be entered to win a 20 oz. umbler. Of those qualifying, ten (10) girls will be drawn to win.

\$50 PASSPORT BUCKS

Sell \$20 in online sales and be entered to win \$50 in Passport Bucks. Of those qualifying, one (1) girl will be drawn to win.





MINI KARAOKE MACHINE *or* \$20 passport bucks

\$1,000 Combined Sales



BFF BANDANA \$250 Online Sales







BRAVE. FIERCE. FUN. PATCH







Stop the Pressing! Let US do the Work!

Girl Scouts Heart of the South's heat press services are available year-round at our Memphis Trefoil Trunk location! Need your badges and fun patches secured? We can do that, too!

Please see <u>THIS FORM</u> for more information about our heat press service including pricing information.

Completion of <u>THIS FORM</u> is required in order to purchase heat press services. You will submit your completed form to the council staff member helping you at your time of purchase.

STAY "IN-THE-KNOW" WITH GSHS!

In our ongoing efforts to enhance communications with members and volunteers, Girl Scouts Heart of the South offers automated text messaging!

Fill out the form linked below to optin to this additional communications platform!

GSHS TEXT
MESSAGING SERVICE
OPT-IN FORM



Council Hours 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM Monday - Friday

(starting Monday, July 7)