

heartstrings

JUNE 2026

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June 2026
Volunteer Spotlight
Emily Marett
SU 243 - MS Southeast

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

p3 - Service Team Budget

https://bit.ly/gshs_STBudgetMY27

p3 - VTK Troop Finance View

<https://gslearn.litmos.com/course/4999942>

p3 - SU Finance Reports

https://bit.ly/gshs_SUFinanceMY27

p4 - Volunteer Recognitions

https://bit.ly/gshs_VolRecognitions

p4 - Super Troop Requirements

https://bit.ly/gshs_STRQs

p4 - Super Troop Application

https://bit.ly/gshs_STSubmission

p4 - SU of Excellence Requirements

https://bit.ly/gshs_SUEXGuide

p4 - SU of Excellence Submission Form

<https://bit.ly/4rDGYQP>

p4 - GSHS Service Team Webpage

https://bit.ly/gshs_SUTeams

p4 - June 11th Council Circle Registration Form

https://bit.ly/gshs_CCJune11

p4 - 2026 Annual Meeting Event Program

<https://bit.ly/3QK9zWS>

p4 - 2026 NCS Feedback Form

https://bit.ly/gshs_2026NCS

p5 - Junior Experience Box - <https://bit.ly/4m2lcnx>

p5 - 2026 LOU-WOD Nomination Form

https://bit.ly/gshs_LOUWODNominations

p5 - GSUSA America250 Project Page

<https://bit.ly/4c2Or5n>

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!

SAVE THE DATE



REGIONAL 2026 Girl Scouts Heart of the South Volunteer Leadership Summits

Greater Memphis
Memphis, TN

Saturday, August 22, 2026
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

West TN
Jackson, TN

Saturday, August 22, 2026
NOON - 5:00 PM

North MS
Tupelo, MS

Saturday, August 29, 2026
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM



June 2026
Volunteer Spotlight
Emily Marett
SU 243
MS Southeast

Originally from Eastern Washington, Girl Scout volunteer Emily Marett never imagined that Girl Scouting would become such a meaningful part of her life. After moving to Starkville in 2008 with her husband, an Amory native, Emily began searching for activities that would help her daughter, Julianne, build friendships and confidence outside of school. When Julianne joined Girl Scouts as a Brownie in second grade, Emily quickly discovered the organization offered

far more than she expected.

Now a co-leader of multi-grade Troop 20320 in Starkville, Emily has spent years helping girls grow into confident leaders while also watching her own daughter recently earn her Girl Scout Gold Award. Reflecting on that journey, Emily says one of the greatest rewards has been seeing timid second graders transform into young women who confidently lead at camp, speak publicly, and tackle ambitious service projects.

Emily and her fellow troop leaders have created a troop culture filled with adventure, service, and tradition. From celebrating Juliette Gordon Low's birthday with community service projects to exploring cultures during World Thinking Day and participating in local Christmas parades, the troop emphasizes leadership, learning, and fun. Service remains at the heart of their work through partnerships with organizations like Starkville Strong and the local Humane Society.

As an instructor in Mississippi State University's College of Business, Emily also brings mentorship and organization to guiding girls through Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award projects. She takes pride in helping girls think critically about the problems they want to solve and empowering them to take ownership of their ideas.

For Emily, Girl Scouts has become more than an activity — it is “adventure time” shared with her daughter and a community that has deeply enriched both of their lives.



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 current budget and a complete finance report on file with the council.

Please submit your budget by August 31, 2026. 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 your Membership Manager or email us at info@girlscoutshs.org.

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, 2026.

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, 2025 through May 31, 2026. 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: September 2025, November 2025, February 2026, and April 2026. 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.

[GSUSA Volunteer Toolkit- Troop Finance View](#), 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 [link](#) to take a look today!

Service Unit Finance Reports

Each service unit is required to submit a [finance report](#) no later than July 31, 2026. The report should cover all income and expenses from June 1, 2025 through May 31, 2026. To ensure the full reporting period is included, the form will not accept submissions prior to June 1, 2026. Service units should be prepared to upload bank statements for the following months when submitting their finance report: September 2025, November 2025, February 2026, and April 2026. Service Unit Operations 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.



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 2026 Volunteer Leadership Summits in August.

Please take a look at the [Volunteer Recognitions](#) page 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, 2026.**

Super Troop

Please review the [Super Troop Requirements](#) if you are working on this accomplishment for MY26. **There have been some updates made to the list.** Let us know your troop qualifies for this higher achievement by submitting the [online application](#) which is now open. The annual deadline to complete 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 [Service Unit of Excellence Requirements](#) and [submission form](#) can be found on the [Service Unit Teams](#) page on our website and are due by August 1st each year.

All current GSHS members are invited to join 2026 GSHS National Council Delegates and GSHS council staff for our June 11, 2026 Council Circle to gain membership feedback on the Discussion Topics and Proposals slated to be addressed at the upcoming 58th National Council Session.

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026
7:00 - 8:00 PM
VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM

Click [HERE](#) to register to attend the June 11th Council Circle. All active GSHS members are invited to attend, however PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. The meeting details will be automatically emailed to you once you click "Submit."



- 2026 NCS Discussion Topics & Proposals
- Discussion Topic: Amplify Impact
 - Discussion Topic: Revolutionize Engagement: Girl Scouts Her Way
 - Proposal: Girl Scouts Highest Awards Solicitation of Contributions
 - Proposal: Membership Dues & Procedures for Registration
 - Proposal: Preservation of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience Relating to the Entrepreneurship Program

All five agenda items are summarized in the [2026 Annual Meeting event program](#). Click the [HERE](#) to view the [2026 Annual Meeting event program](#) and to read more about the Discussion Topics and Proposals (see pages 4-8).

We value your feedback!

Once you have had a chance to review the Discussion Topics and Proposals, click [HERE](#) to let us know your thoughts. We will use your submissions to inform our upcoming virtual Council Circle on June 11th. Council Circles are town hall-style sessions where we will go deeper on each topic and continue the conversation with our broader council community. Thank you!

Give your Junior troop an unforgettable start to the year!



The Girl Scout Experience Box: Limited Special Edition for Junior Troops is a one-time, limited-edition offer for this membership year—packed with everything your troop needs for the Uniquely Us and Digital Leadership badges, plus the Be Internet Awesome Family Challenge and the exclusive Be Internet Awesome fun patch from Google.org.

Your troop can receive this special edition box by registering or renewing one troop leader and at least four Juniors entering 4th or 5th grade in the 2026–27 year. Multilevel troops that meet this requirement are eligible, too! Keep your eye out for an email from GSUSA - when you receive it, follow the instructions to redeem your box.

Boxes ship this summer. Quantities are limited—renew or register now to guarantee your box! Please contact your Membership Manager with any questions or for help with the box registration.

[LEARN MORE!](#)



Join us as we celebrate inspiring female leaders who are making amazing things happen in the

Lafayette-Oxford-University area!

Tuesday, September 15, 2026

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Oxford Conference Center ♦ Oxford, MS

[CLICK HERE TO NOMINATE A WOMAN OF DISTINCTION!](#)

Nominations close Wednesday, July 15, 2026.

Trefoils & TRAILBLAZERS

celebrating leaders who light the way

Join us in celebrating trailblazing leaders—past, present, and future—who are making a difference and inspiring the next generation of changemakers.

Tuesday, October 6, 2026

11:30 AM - 1:00 PM

Memphis Botanic Garden

Tickets & Sponsorship Information Coming Soon!



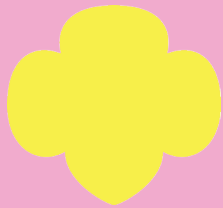
America250 - Mark a Milestone

On July 4, 2026, the United States will commemorate 250 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Girl Scouts of the USA has partnered with America250.org to recognize this anniversary—and you can earn a special five-patch collection.

You can join an event, take part in a national project, or create your own way to participate. Explore history, discover diverse stories, and give back through service!

Be part of the conversation about our past, present, and future. Ready to start?

[CLICK FOR MORE INFO](#)



GSHS Programs & Events

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

Celebrate National S'mores Day

August 8, 2026 9:00-11:00 AM Memphis, TN Grenada & Tupelo, MS	August 14, 2026 5:30-7:30 PM Jackson, TN
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FREE Event for All Ages, Families & Friends!

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!

All Ages, Friends, Families, Volunteers

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 four locations around the council and enjoy a tasty s'more with us to celebrate!

Saturday, August 8, 2026

9:00 - 11:00 AM

Audubon Park - Memphis, TN

Location TBD - Grenada, MS

Fairpark - Tupelo, MS

- Click [HERE](#) to register for the Memphis, TN event.
- Click [HERE](#) to register for the Tupelo, MS event.
- Grenada, MS registration link coming soon!

Friday, August 14, 2026

5:30 - 7:30 PM

GSHS Leadership Center - Jackson, TN

- Click [HERE](#) to register for the Jackson, TN event.



presented by



Join us for TOTALLY TREFOIL 2026!

September 19, 2026

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!

Click [HERE](#) or the image to read the May 2026 issue of The Promise Quarterly!



Cookie Season Celebration with Overnight Camping on the Field*

6:00 PM Saturday, June 13, 2026 -
9:00 AM Sunday, June 14, 2026

Ticket Prices Vary ♦ All Ages, Troops, Families

Celebrate the end of Cookie Season with a fun-filled night at the ballpark! Join us for a Jackson Rockabilly's baseball game - includes dinner, overnight camping on the field, and a movie on the jumbotron after the game!

*Families are welcome to attend the game, but the overnight fun is exclusively for registered Girl Scout Adults and Girls. Register siblings and non-Girl Scout children as Family Guests to attend the game only.

Click [HERE](#) for more information and to register.

Registration ends at Midnight, Wednesday, June 3, 2026.

SHARE YOUR NEWS!

Has your troop done a Service Project?
Has your Service Unit held a great program event?
Have you found the perfect way to organize badge steps into fun activities? We want to know about what our troops are doing in their meetings, communities, and Service Units!

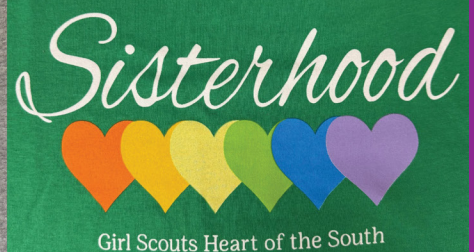
Send pictures and information about your latest and greatest to: news@girlscoutshs.org

You might just find yourselves highlighted in a council publication, on social media, or even in your local press!

Girl Scout Leaders Lead the Way.

Girl Scouts Heart of the South

50% OFF



50% OFF

Trefoil Trunk Treat of the Month - June 2026
50% OFF all in-stock Heart of the South T-Shirts! While supplies last.

My Girl Scout Kit

Are you ready for your next amazing year of Girl Scouts?!
Start with the essentials!

MY GIRL SCOUT KIT:

for new, bridging, and returning Girl Scouts

This kit contains everything a girl needs for a great year in Girl Scouts!

1. Choose a Handbook.
2. Choose: a Tunic, Vest, or Sash (depending upon the grade level).
3. Purchase the required Insignia: Troop Numerals, Council ID Set, American Flag Patch, Insignia Tab, World Trefoil Pin, and Membership Pin.
4. Finish up with your choice of any of our Girl Scouts Heart of the South t-shirts!

Are you a new Girl Scout?

We can heat press all your new badges and insignia on your uniform for you! *Heat press fees for Required Insignia elements are \$6.00/set. Heat press fees for additional badges start at \$1.00 each.*



Stop the Pressing! Let US do the Work!

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

Please see [THIS FORM](#) for more information about our heat press service including pricing information.

Completion of [THIS FORM](#) 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.

MY27 Bridging Kits NOW AVAILABLE! \$9 each



Kits include:
Girl Scout bridging certificate, Bridge-To iron-on award, Membership Disc, Girl Scout Membership Star pin, Bridging Fun Patch, and Rainbow Coil Hair Tie packaged in a resealable bag.

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!

Click the button and fill out the linked form to opt-in to this additional communications platform!

