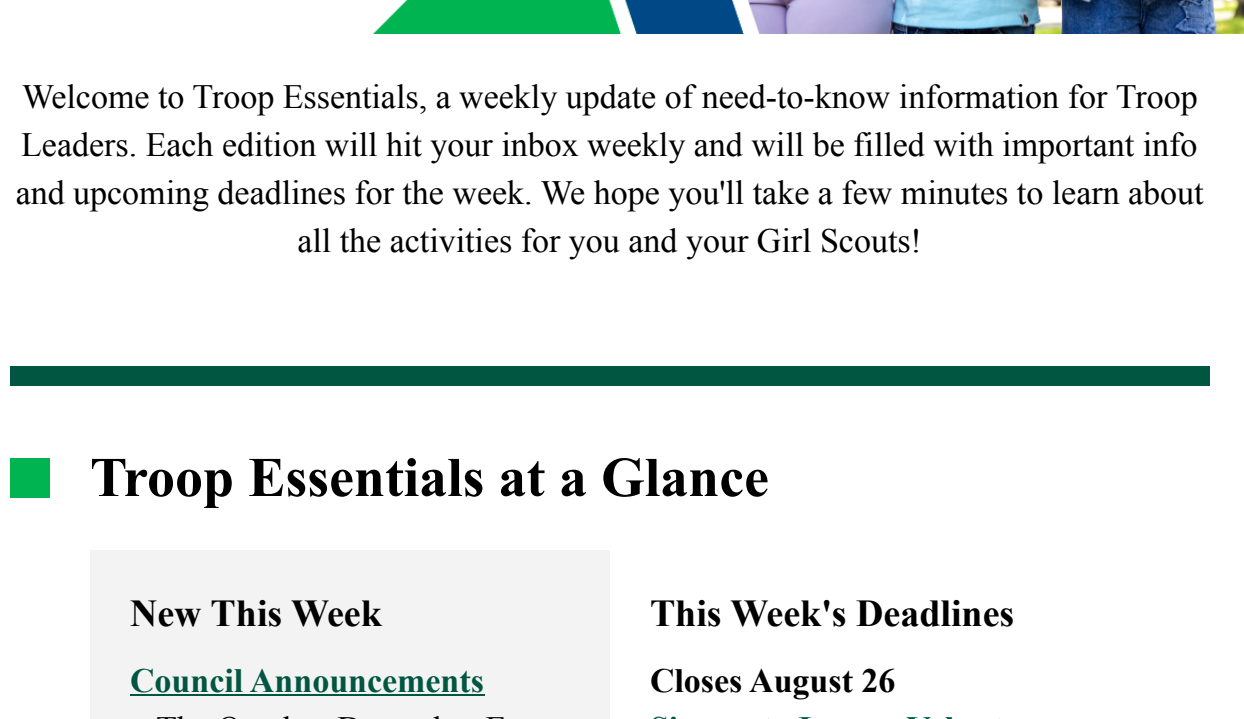


girlscouts of new mexico trails

August 24, 2026



Welcome to Troop Essentials, a weekly update of need-to-know information for Troop Leaders. Each edition will hit your inbox weekly and will be filled with important info and upcoming deadlines for the week. We hope you'll take a few minutes to learn about all the activities for you and your Girl Scouts!

Troop Essentials at a Glance

New This Week Council Announcements - The October-December Event Guide is Here! - Girl Member of the Board of Directors Application Now Open Program - Girl Scouts Love State Parks: New Park Added! - Bubbles & Balloons: Daisy Liftoff - Check out these sessions for September 26th's big event! Membership Volunteers Fund Development La Tienda Product Program - Product Program Permission & Caregiver Responsibility Form Available Community Announcements - Service Opportunity: Women's Circle of Wishes High Tea Previously Shared News	This Week's Deadlines Closes August 26 S'more to Learn: Volunteer Mentorship Closes August 28 S'more Stories Please! Summer Book Club Dice & Card League Tabletop Guild First Aid/CPR Training Girl Scouts Love State Parks Babysitting Training
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Every Girl Scout has a story to tell. Share the moments that define your Girl Scout experience – the challenges you overcame, the friendships you forged, the positive impact you made. These Mission Moments inspire us all and are vital in helping us tell the Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails story on social media and in grant applications that support our mission.

[Share your Mission Moments here!](#)

Council Announcements

Girl Member of the Board of Directors Application Now Open

Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails is seeking a passionate, thoughtful, and dedicated 9th, 10th, or 11th-grade Girl Scout to serve as a Girl Member on the Board of Directors .	Action Needed ☐ Apply here by 5:00 p.m. on September 18
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This is a unique opportunity to make a lasting impact while learning how organizations operate and how leaders work together to create positive change.

Her voice matters. Her leadership matters. Apply today!

Who else should get this information: Senior & Ambassador Troop Leadership, Girl Scouts & their caregivers
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

The October-December Event Guide is Here!

Ready to plan your next adventure? The Oct-Dec Event Guide is now available online!	Action Needed ☐ Click here to view what's coming this fall!
Take a look at everything coming up this fall and secure your spot at your favorite events.	

Who else should get this information: Troop Leadership, Girl Scouts & their caregivers
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

Program

Girl Scouts Love State Parks: NEW Park Added | September 12

Cost: \$5 includes patch & parking! Join us for Girl Scouts Love State Parks and explore New Mexico's outdoors through hands-on adventures, nature discovery, hiking, and overnight experiences!	Action Needed ☐ Register here by 12:00 p.m. on August 28 and celebrate nature, leadership, and outdoor adventure with your troop, friends, and family!
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This year's participating parks offer unique activities, including:

- Cerrillos Hills State Park:** Geology hikes, sand art and watercolor projects, and pollinator garden stewardship.
- Hyde Memorial State Park:** Forest ecology, nature journaling, flora printing, and an overnight star party.
- Rio Grande Nature Center State Park:** Guided birding hikes, bird feeder crafts, bosque ecology, and cottonwood conservation.
- NEW! Manzano Mountains State Park:** An overnight camping experience featuring ranger-led campsite setup, a breakfast cookout, nature journaling, and trail exploration.

A special event patch is included with registration.

Bonus for Girl Scouts! Parking fees will be **waived at all New Mexico State Parks during Girl Scouts Love State Parks weekend**. To receive free parking, Girl Scouts must be wearing **Girl Scout gear**, such as a vest, sash, or Girl Scout apparel.

Visiting a different state park? You can still join the fun. Event patches will be available for purchase in **La Tienda**.

Who else should get this information: Troop Leadership, Girl Scouts & their caregivers
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

Bubbles & Balloons: Daisy Liftoff | September 19

Cost: FREE We're rolling out the green carpet for our newest and youngest Girl Scouts as they begin their journey.	Action Needed ☐ Register here by 12:00 p.m. on September 4
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At Balloons & Bubbles, Daisies will celebrate their very first steps into sisterhood with joyful play, simple science, and plenty of sparkle. Join us for a colorful welcome to the world of Girl Scouts, where curiosity is encouraged, kindness is celebrated, and every Daisy is ready to "Liftoff".

Who else should get this information: Daisy Troop Leadership, Girl Scouts & their caregivers
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

Check Out These Sessions for September 26th's Big Event!

Cost: \$25 Celebrate, connect, and get inspired at this exciting 110th year of Girl Scouting in New Mexico! <i>Honoring Our Roots, Growing Our Future</i> on September 26th from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. is fast approaching!	Action Needed ☐ Register here by 12:00 p.m. on September 11
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Don't miss out on sessions and activities like these:

- Girl Scout Resources on the web (website, VTK, myGS, Other stuff, including what's coming soon)
- What you need to know about Product Program, but didn't know to ask
- Intro to travel for volunteers and caregivers
- How to navigate High Awards, plus some updates on the process
- Troop Leader Talks – come and go with questions, ideas, or just take a moment to chat about anything troop-related
- All the places you can go! (travel for youth)
- Your path to High Awards (brainstorming and meeting requirements)
- Want to be a Pen Pal?
- How to build and manage an effective website
- Project Management 101 – how to tackle big plans with small steps
- How to make GS swag (badge presentation options, troop shirts, etc.)
- High Award Hangout – a casual space to come talk, brainstorm, and ask questions about Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards
- Messages Through Time (Earn parts of the Digital Leadership Badge)

Whether you are just beginning your Girl Scout journey or bringing years of experience as a youth member or adult volunteer, you will find fun hands-on activities, practical skills, and an unforgettable beginning to the year.

With activities for all ages from classic crafts and inspiring badges to shared stories, service ideas, and plenty of Girl Scout spirit, this is your chance to learn, laugh, create, and leave recharged for an amazing year ahead.

Who else should get this information: Troop Leadership, Girl Scouts & their caregivers
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

Membership

Chile Award Submissions are Now Open!

Troop volunteers and Juliette caregivers may submit nominations for the Chile Award. Service Unit Volunteers may submit nominations for the Service Unit Ristra Award.	Action Needed ☐ The Chile Award nomination forms are now available on our website!
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All award submission forms are **due by September 30, 2026**.

Who else should get this message: Troop and Service Unit Leadership
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

Volunteers

New to Troop Leadership? Join Us!

S'more to Learn: Volunteer Mentorship is open to all troop leadership. This virtual series focuses on helping Girl Scout troop leaders build confidence, strengthen their skills, and connect with fellow volunteers.	Action Needed ☐ Register for one (or both) of this month's sessions August 22nd at 9 am August 26th at 5:30 pm.
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Each month features a new topic with practical guidance and helpful takeaways for both new leaders and those looking to refresh the basics. To make participation easy, multiple sessions will be offered each month on the same theme. Every session will also include at least 30 minutes of open forum conversation and Q&A, giving you time to ask questions, share ideas, and learn alongside other troop leaders. This month's topic is tips and tricks for troop organization and running meetings.

Who else should get this message: All new troop leadership
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

Volunteer Recognition Nominations Are Now Open Year-Round

You asked for nominations to open earlier so you could recognize outstanding volunteers throughout the year—and now you can. Volunteer award nominations are open year-round.	Action Needed ☐ Check out the Volunteer Recognition page
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Nominations submitted by November 30 will be considered for recognition at the Celebration of Service and Success on April 17.

Before submitting a nomination, please review the requirements for each award carefully. Be sure your nomination clearly explains how the volunteer meets the award criteria.

You will also need email addresses for all endorsers. Each award lists the minimum number of endorsers required, but you may include additional endorsers if you would like.

Who else should get this message: All members
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

La Tienda News & Promotions

La Tienda Hours This Week

La Tienda is open 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday & Wednesday, & Thursday this week.	Action Needed ☐ Contact us with your La Tienda needs
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August Promotion: Get your troop ready for a new year of adventures with our **Back to Troop Bundle** at the Girl Scout La Tienda Shop!

Choose Your Own Adventure! Customize your bundle with the items that best fit your troop's needs and kick off the new Girl Scout year prepared for fun, learning, and unforgettable memories.

Stop by the La Tienda Shop this August to build your perfect bundle. We can't wait to help you get adventure-ready!

Who else should get this message: Troop leadership, adult volunteers, and Girl Scout caregivers
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

Product Program

Product Program Permission & Caregiver Responsibility Form Available

As we gear up for another great troop year, there are a few forms that need to be completed. If your Girl Scout plans to participate in the 2026 Fall Product Program or the 2026 Cookie Program , a new Product Program Permission Form is required for the new Girl Scout year.	Action Needed ☐ Complete a Product Program Permission Form for each Girl Scout who plans to participate in either the 2026 Fall Product Program or the 2027 Cookie Program. Please submit the form as soon as possible.
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Who else should get this message: Girl Scout Caregivers
Contact: [Product Program Team](#)

Getting Started with the 2026 Fall Product Program

The Fall Product Program will begin soon. Training for volunteers will be available in gsLearn for Fall Product Program Troop Chairs starting Monday, August 17th if their	Action Needed ☐ Fall Product Program Chairs need to complete their forms to gain access to training
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[2026 Fall Product Program Troop Chair Agreement](#) is submitted. Click here to complete the form. The Fall Product Program begins Friday, September 25th.

Who else should get this message: Fall Product Program Troop Chairs
Contact: [Customer Care](#)

2026-2027 Product Program Calendar

Back to school means back to troop, and as your troop plans its Girl Scout year, remember to save these important product program dates.	Action Needed ☐ Share this calendar with other troop volunteers and families
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[Click here](#) to check out the full 2026-2027 Product Program calendar, including dates for the Fall Product Program and Cookie Program. Dates for Cookie Reward experiences will be released on Tuesday, January 26, 2027.

Who else should get this message: Troop Volunteers & Girl Scouts Families
Contact: [Product Program Team](#)

Community Announcements

Service Opportunity: Women's Circle of Wishes High Tea

Troop 10711 invites 7-8 senior and/or cadette Girl Scouts to join us as we serve tea and finger foods at the Make-A-Wish New Mexico Women's Circle of Wishes High Tea on Sunday, September 20th, 10:30 am-1:30 pm.	Action Needed ☐ Contact Trish Ingersoll at (505) 249-5814 or via email for information and to sign up!
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This is a special service opportunity and a wonderful chance for Girl Scouts to serve their community, practice hospitality and leadership skills, and be part of an event supporting Make-A-Wish and its mission of bringing hope and joy to children and their families.

We look forward to making this a great service experience for Girl Scouts while helping make this event special for the guests and supporting an amazing cause.

Beyond the Baseline

Beyond the Baseline serves the greater Albuquerque community, bringing hands-on learning through free life skills, academic enrichment, and tennis.	Action Needed ☐ Sign Up Here
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August 29, 11 am - 1 pm: APD Canine Heroes
Meet and learn from our canine heroes about the work they do every day to keep us safe

Share Your Upcoming Events & Projects

Do you have an upcoming event or project that you'd like to share with all Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails troops/members?	Action Needed ☐ Contact us
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Send us your information to be included in future Troop Essentials emails!

Who else should get this message: Troop and Service Unit Leadership
Contact: [Katrina Montoya](#)

Previously Shared News

August 17, 2026 - Dice & Card League - Tabletop Guild	August 10, 2026 - Girl Scouts Love State Parks - NM Summer Bucket List - Media Stars Santa Fe - Chile Awards - S'more to Learn: Volunteer Mentorship - Volunteer Recognition Nomination Open Year-Round - Back to Troop Bundles - Getting Started with the 2026 Fall Product Program - The Land of Enchantment Young Ambassadors Program - Beyond the Baseline
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Visit the [Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails website](#) for more information and upcoming events.

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