

Girl Talk Newsletter

Welcome Our New Director of Programs and Partnerships: James Forde



We are thrilled to announce a new addition to our council! James Forde is joining us as our new Director of Programs and Partnerships, starting on November 3. James brings more than 15 years of youth development experience, including 11 years with Girl Scouts, most recently leading exciting programs at Girl Scouts of San Jacinto in Houston.

His passion for building innovative experiences in STEM, entrepreneurship, arts, healthy living, and travel will be key to expanding our reach and ensuring every girl in our council has access to the programs she needs for a lifetime of leadership.

Join us in welcoming James! We can't wait for the energy and vision he'll bring.

Critical Updates for the 2026 Cookie Program



We are sharing important, transparent information regarding key changes for the 2026 Cookie Program.

Those who joined our recent Town Halls know that our board approved a deficit budget this year. Even with the updates to the Product Program below, our council is still facing a \$488,653 deficit. To ensure we can continue investing in amazing Girl Scout experiences and maintain our beloved camp properties, a portion of cookie proceeds will now go directly toward these shared resources.

If you serve in a cookie manager role, we'll go over these updates in more detail at the cookie training sessions, so please bring any questions you have.

Key Program Changes

- Cookie prices will remain unchanged this year.
- To better support camp properties, Cookie Dough will no longer be offered as a reward option. Unused 2025 Cookie Dough will be honored until September 30, 2026.
- We are moving to a two-tier proceeds structure, simplifying earnings to either \$0.65 or \$0.75 per box sold. Available bonuses will remain in place.
- Rewards starting at the 1,000-box level and higher will become non-cumulative. Participants will receive only the single reward at the highest level achieved.

We know change is difficult, and we appreciate your leadership. Your dedication, creativity, and countless hours of effort make this program a success year after year. We couldn't do it without you!

If you have questions, [please review our FAQs](#). Additionally, you can reach out to Customer Care at 1-800-849-GIRL or customercare@gssc-mm.org.

A Home Run: Boots & Pearls



Thanks to our amazing Girl Scouts and supportive community, our recent Boots & Pearls event was a home run!

Boots & Pearls was held on Thursday, October 16, at Fifth Third Park, home of the Hub City Spartanburgers. We celebrated an inspiring group of women who model courage, confidence, and character, including Mary Helen Dunn Wade, Anne Flynn, Nicke Haney, and Young Professional Honoree Dr. Alysa Handelsman!

We're so proud of Girl Scouts from Troop 1734 who served as emcees and ushers, and we want to shoutout Eric Williams from Creative MMD for creating the videos for Boots & Pearls and Women of Distinction.

[WATCH HONOREE VIDEOS](#)

Girlz Gear Mobile Shop



Girl Scout Cookie Season is coming up soon! Is your troop or service unit planning a cookie rally? Our Girlz Gear Mobile Shop would love to be there! Girlz Gear Mobile Shops are available for troop and service unit events with at least 50 girls registered to attend. Find out more about mobile shop requirements and place a request below.

[REQUEST FORM](#)

Troop Spotlight: Troop 3355's Weekend Retreat



Shout to Girl Scout Troop 3355 for showing us how it's done—from crafts to comfort! A few weeks ago, they took over the Cathy Novinger Girl Scout Leadership Center for an awesome overnight adventure filled with cooking, crafting, and well-deserved pampering!

Did you know your troop or service unit can have a blast just like they did? You can rent our properties for your own unforgettable adventures.

Ready to plan your troop's next big sleepover or event? Learn more about our easy rental process and book your date below.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Travel Mode: On!

Where in the world will you find yourself this summer? On an outdoor adventure to Yellowstone National Park? Learning about the environment while hiking and camping in Washington State? Or mountain biking in the hills of the Ozarks.

Wherever you see yourself, Girl Scout Destinations has a trip that unlocks your passions. With more than 20 trips to choose from, you never know where you'll find yourself. Get out there, explore the Girl Scout Destination made just for you, but don't wait too long to unlock your summer of fun. Apply now!

[APPLY NOW](#)

Girlz Gear Shop

Girlz Gear Hours
The Cathy Novinger Girl Scout Leadership Center and Greenville Service Center Girlz Gear Shops are open 9:00 a.m.–1:30 p.m. & 2:30 p.m.–5:00 p.m. on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, & Thursdays and 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. on Fridays.

Orders for Camp Mary Elizabeth in Spartanburg are delivered once a week from the Greenville Service Center on an as needed basis.

Complete an order request for CME delivery [here](#).
[Learn more here.](#)

Our [Girlz Gear shops](#) are open 24/7 online.



Have a question? Don't be shy!
[Contact us](#) for more information.

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