



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Unleash New Adventures With Girl Scouts

Girls ages 5-18 invited to join Girl Scouts, discover 30 new badges in outdoors, STEM

WICHITA – As students return to school, Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland is inviting all K-12 girls to sign up for Girl Scouts and lead the way like a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader) in their community and make the world a better place.

Girl Scout troops are forming across Kansas and preparing for an exciting year of girl-led adventures that help girls tap into their potential and develop the courage, confidence and character they need to be tomorrow's leaders. When girls sign up for Girl Scouts on kansasgirlscouts.org, they can find troops in their area, including troop meeting times, in our online troop catalog.

In July, Girl Scouts launched 30 new badges available exclusively for girls ages 5–18 that further enhance our one-of-a-kind Girl Scout learning experiences, and also address some of society's most pressing needs, such as cybersecurity, environmental advocacy, mechanical engineering, robotics, computer science, and space exploration. In a safe all-girl space, Girl Scouts develop critical soft skills, including problem-solving, teamwork and perseverance, as well as hard skills, preparing them to enter the workforce equipped to succeed and to take action in their communities and beyond for a better world. Today's youth are more vocal than ever about the change they want to see, and Girl Scouts are the most equipped with the skills needed to make a real impact. The results are proven: girls who participate in Girl Scouts are more than twice as likely to exhibit community problem-solving skills as girls who don't (57 percent versus 28 percent).

The unique Girl Scout environment provides fun, exciting, and essential learning experiences through which girls develop skills they will utilize in their future careers and personal and civic lives; the [KPMG Women's Leadership Study](#) of more than 3,000 professional and college women shows that early exposure to leadership has a significant impact on a woman's perceptions of her ability to lead. Additionally, 76 percent of

women today wish they had learned more about leadership and had more leadership opportunities while growing up, demonstrating how imperative it is for girls and volunteers to join Girl Scouts.

“Girl Scouts is the only organization for girls with the expertise and reach to provide girls across Kansas and our nation with cutting-edge programming to empower them to dream big, gain hard and soft skills and become strong, confident leaders. We provide an all-girl, safe, supportive environment, in which girls can develop the skills and aptitudes to thrive in the 21st century as work-force ready adults,” CEO of Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland, Liz Workman said.

Girls in grades K–5 can now earn badges in:

- Environmental Stewardship, through which girls learn how to respect the outdoors and protect it.
- Cybersecurity, introducing girls to age-appropriate online safety and privacy principles, information on how the internet works, and how to spot and investigate cybercrime (funded by Palo Alto Networks).
- Space Science, enabling girls to channel their inner NASA scientist as they learn about objects in space and how astronomers conduct investigations (funded by NASA’s Science Mission Directorate and led by the SETI Institute).
- Mechanical Engineering, through which girls in grades 4 and 5 design paddle boats, cranes, and balloon-powered cars, learning about buoyancy, potential and kinetic energy, machines, and jet propulsion.

The new programming for girls in grades 6–12 includes:

- Environmental Stewardship badges, Girl Scout’s first-ever badge series focused on environmental advocacy. Girls prepare for outdoor experiences and take action on environmental issues (funded by the Elliott Wildlife Values Project).
- Badges that teach girls how to program, design, and showcase robots, completing the suite of Robotics badges GSUSA first introduced for grades K–5 last year.
- The College Knowledge badge for Girl Scouts in grades 11 and 12, the first badge completely dedicated to college exploration. By showing girls how to research the admissions process, financial aid, and other factors, the badge fills a specific need that girls asked for—and that many do not have support for outside Girl Scouts.
- Two Girl Scout Leadership Journeys: Think Like a Programmer (funded by Raytheon) provides a strong foundation in computational thinking and the framework for Girl Scouts’ first ever national Cyber Challenge, coming in 2019. The Think Like an Engineer Journey exposes girls to design thinking to understand how engineers solve problems. The programming aims to prepare girls to pursue careers in fields such as cybersecurity, computer science, and robotics.

These new badges not only provide all Girl Scouts in elementary school the opportunity to delve into hands-on engineering experiences, but also prepare girls to pursue careers in fields such as cybersecurity, computer science, robotics and more.

The skills and experiences girls develop through Girl Scouting positively affects all areas of their lives. Research shows Girl Scouts do better than their non-Girl Scout peers in the classroom and are more likely to seek careers in STEM, law and business – industries in which women are underrepresented. And the benefits of Girl Scouting are not exclusive to any specific demographic, meaning no matter where girls live, their age, or their background, Girl Scouts can help them unleash their full potential and excel in all aspects of life.

To join or volunteer, go to kansasgirlscouts.org, email info@gskh.org, or call 888-686-MINT (6468).

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About Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland

Girl Scouts of Kansas Heartland serves more than 11,700 girls and adults in 80 Kansas counties through its operational headquarters in Wichita, Kan., and regional offices in Salina, Hays, Emporia and Garden City. Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts is the leading authority on girls' healthy development and is the pre-eminent leadership development organization for girls. Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.