girl scouts western pennsylvania

800-248-3355
gswpa.org

Fall Town Hall Q&A 2026

Thursday, Oct. 15, 2026, 6-7:30 p.m. | Edinboro
Wednesday, Oct. 21, 2026, 6-7:30 p.m. | Cranberry Township
Thursday, Oct. 22, 2026, 6-7:30 p.m. | Virtual

Questions from Edinboro Fall Town Hall:

1. **Why are there only a few United Way Applications listed?**
    a. Not all United Way Applications require board approval.
2. **Why can you not volunteer and be on the Board of Directors?**
    a. PA state law requires separation of the two.
    b. There is a conflict of interest.
    c. Labor law can also come into play.
3. **Why are there people who work at GSUSA but volunteer at councils?**
    a. They are considered two different organizations, so they can work for one, but then volunteer for a completely different council.
4. **Stalls in the barn at Camp Skymeadow need updating. Has this been done?**
    a. Property team is working on it.
5. **Can caregivers attend events (not as volunteers)?**
    a. This is on a case-by-case basis; every event is different.
6. **Are there any Mariner or Trailblazer Troops anymore?**
    a. No, but looking to start an adventure troop again.
    b. Should look into Women on the Water for a Mariner Troop.
    c. Travel troops are also getting popular.
7. **Is there going to be a Mercer County program person?**
    a. We have a few new girl program employees, but they are still working on getting trained and will start scheduling programs for this area.
8. **Why did Edinboro shop hours change?**
    a. Did research, and the busiest days were Tuesday and Wednesday; wanted to be able to stay open longer on those days to accommodate, rather than every day during business hours.
9. **How does the Mobile Outdoor Express work?**
    a. Troops can request for it to come to them; there is a form on the website.

   b. So far, three troops have requested it for October—before this, we focused on community events.
10. **Can we start looking at how many girls attend camp all year (not just summer)?**
    a. Yes, we're looking at different ways to pull data to show the entire picture of utilization of camp.
    b. Will present at the annual meeting the full usage of camps.
       i. Unit usage—what is being used and what for?
       ii. Looking at qualitative and quantitative data.
11. **Volunteer toolkit is hard to use. Any improvement happening?**
    a. GSUSA is working on improving this and separating information out to make it easier to digest.
12. **Can we look at charging adults for events differently? If they are just there for ratio but not volunteering, can we do participant vs. chaperone fee?**
    a. Program team will look into this.

Questions from Cranberry Township Fall Town Hall:

1. **Is there a plan for recruitment outside of the popular areas? Our member success advisor has not been helpful.**
    a. This is a specific issue that Kate is aware of and will reach out directly.
    b. The member recruitment team is starting in the higher population areas but will be expanding out.
    c. Hired seasonal recruitment staff to help during busy season.
       i. New alignment in the last year; the recruiting model needs to expand to the more rural areas.
       ii. Identified 11 counties that need recruitment support.
2. **Onboarding new leaders: there are unexpected fees that continuously pop up. Is there a document that can be created that is explicit about this? Ex. membership dues, certifications, uniform costs, etc.**
    a. The dues that are for GSUSA membership grant you access to all GSWPA programming.
    b. All troops handle funds differently.
    c. There is the troop mentor network.

        i. This needs to be more user-friendly right out of the gate; it is too much too soon—what is needed at the very beginning to get a troop started?
    d. Can we create a new leader guide for dummies?
        i. For example—do not need sashes or shirts right away; just nice to have.
        ii. What is the least you can do to be successful?
            1. Not everything needs to be "Pinterest."
3. **Are experience boxes available on hand?**
    a. They come directly from GSUSA; they are for first-year Daisy or Brownie troops with 5 total—4 girls and 1 adult.
        i. Please reach out to Colleen Rossmiller if you meet the requirements but haven't received one.
4. **When does the cookie program start?**
    a. Jan. 12, 2027
5. **What is the difference between fundraising and money-earning?**
    a. Fundraising is soliciting cash directly; money-earning is doing the work. (See form on site for more information.)
6. **Gifts & Goodies Program**
    a. Can the girl delivery date be extended in the future? It is very quick, and some are still building their troops.

Questions from Virtual Fall Town Hall:

1. **There is limited pickup for election week, and that makes it hard to participate.**
    a. Please contact product program; our team is happy to help and figure out a way to get you the cookies.
2. **For the new online cookie—can we bulk buy as a troop to have at cookie booths? And would the shipping rate be discounted?**
    a. No, GSUSA does not have discounted shipping rates for cookies, and they do not recommend bulk buying for troops. This is not designed for this, and we do not want another Raspberry Rally scenario.
    b. GSUSA is trying to expand bakers and not just be reliant on two bakers for the entire cookie program.

    i. This is a pilot program.
3. **What are the dates for service unit manager training?**
    a. Dec. 3 in Edinboro / Dec. 9 Virtual
    b. Still looking for other locations and dates.
4. **Recently went to Camp Conshatawba and stayed at Boeing Lodge, the kitchen sink has no running cold water, and it has been like this for a while now—when will it be fixed?**
    a. Emily did not know about this; will work with Greg to get it fixed.
5. **Any ideas on cookie cupboard locations?**
    a. Still working on it.
6. **When are cookie deliveries?**
    a. They will be between Feb. 20 and March 3, with booth sales starting March 5.
7. **At Camp Skymeadow, the steps were broken in May and still were like that when we went back in August. The fire pit was also overgrown and unusable.**
    a. We have a new director of property in place who is working to rectify all of these maintenance issues.
8. **Will Fall Town Halls be hybrid next year?**
    a. We are looking to revamp town halls in the future.
    b. Having both options does make it hard for virtual to feel included and connected.
9. **Are there any multi-level service unit enrichment events?**
    a. Please connect with Colleen Rossmiller.
10. **Can we have more generalized leader get-togethers? Like Amy and Janet's Great Getaway?**
    a. Would need someone willing to organize. Amy and Janet organize and handle all of the details.
    b. Trefoil Alumni—everyone is welcome! Please contact Darla Burket.