girl scouts
western pennsylvania

Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania Town Hall Meeting Report—Fall 2026

Board of Directors Recent Activity

Board Meeting, September 2026

- The motion to accept the 2026-2027 budget was passed.
- The motion to accept the United Way of Beaver County Annual Application was passed.
- The board approved spending on repairing the culverts on Alpine Road at Camp Skymeadow to reduce the flooding of the road and to maintain access to Alpine Lodge and the primitive tent campsite.

Board Meeting, June 2026

- The motion to accept the Clearfield Area United Way Annual Application was passed, as well as the motion to accept the Warren Area United Way Annual Application.
- At Camp Skymeadow, the board approved removal of the Alpine Platform tent units that were in disrepair to leave room for primitive tent camping. The Forest platform tent units were approved for repair due to the high utilization of the units.

Referrals for Board and Girl Advisory Committee

We are open to referrals and applications for our Board of Directors, Board Development Committee, and Girl Advisory Committee positions. Position descriptions and applications can be found on the governance page of our website.

Annual Meeting

- The Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, 2027, at the Atrium in Prospect.
- While we encourage in-person attendance, we are continuing to have a virtual option with access for remote participation from your home. Breakfast and lunch will be provided, as well as a retail shop and great networking opportunities with both staff and other volunteers.

58th National Council Session

- The 58th National Council Session took place in Washington, D.C,. July 20-22, 2026.
- Our council was allotted nine adult and two girl delegates.
- Delegates attended webinars and education sessions provided by GSUSA. They also met with key staff from our council to learn about council-specific considerations regarding each proposal.
- Proposals and discussion topics were then presented at our 2026 Annual Meeting to get feedback from our members. Delegates also discussed topics with local service units and troops at meetings and in committees to gather feedback that would help them make decisions on the proposals.

Highlights from the 58th National Council Session

- Delegates voted by acclamation to elect the National Board of Directors and National Board Development Committee. Learn more about these volunteers by scanning here. >>
- The National Council voted to allow councils to establish their own policies and procedures to guide Girl Scout Juniors and Cadettes in soliciting contributions for their Bronze and Silver Award projects, in the same way Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors can already fundraise for their Gold Award project.
- Delegates also voted to allow the National Board to approve membership dues increases by up to 15% within a triennium, with continued input from councils and delegates before any change. The National Council must vote to approve any dues increases above 15% in a single triennium.
- Delegates also participated in two discussion topics where they provided important input to the National Board about how we expand the ways we deliver Girl Scouting to reach all girls and how we build better connections to our communities through belonging and inclusion.
- For more detail, visit our governance page at gswpa.org or scan here. >>

Membership Stats and Goals

Due to the increase in dues and local and national trends, we anticipated a decline in membership in 2025-26.

Unofficial Membership Numbers MY26 (as of 9/30/26)

Type	New	Renewed	Outreach	Lifetime	Total
Girl Members	2,626	9,461	113	N/A	12,090
Adult Members	1,325	3,757	N/A	3,190	8,272

Based on where we anticipated ending 2026—around 12,000 girls; in fact, we were 90 girls over that anticipated number—we set our goal for 2026-27 at 4% down year over year.

MY27 Membership Numbers and Goals as of 10/1/26)

Type	As of 10/1/26	Goal for MY27	Difference of MY27 Goals
Girl Members	8,730	11,892	-3,162
Adult Members	6,822	7,941	-1,119

While we are still below last year's numbers, we are currently trending close to last year in terms of girl membership. And, importantly, we are doing better month by month than we anticipated.

Membership Team

One year post-realignment, our commitment to our members continues to be:

- ▶ Excellence in Service
- ▶ Shared Purpose
- ▶ Building Meaningful Relationships

In reality, this looks like increased presence and participation from staff, improved resources, fun community events, more adult recognition opportunities, listening to the needs of our Girl Scout communities, improved/simplified resources, and building community partnerships.

Volunteer Engagement

- *Volunteer Recruitment:* Encouraging adults to get involved in a way that meets their needs.
- *The Membership Experience:* Helping you to get everything you were hoping to get out of Girl Scouting.
- *Finances:* Building resources to help fund the fun.
- *Volunteer Resources:* We are here to help!

Summer Camp

Summer Camp 2026

- 533 girls, 87 adults, 620 total participants served across three camp properties.
- 61 sessions, including 7 family/troop camp opportunities and 6 rental sessions.
- 16 weeks of overnight programming: Camp Skymeadow—8 weeks of overnight camp; Camp Hawthorne Ridge—3 weeks of overnight camp; Camp Conshatawba—5 weeks of overnight camp.
- This summer was a year of trying new session formats and exploring different ways to provide meaningful camp experiences for girls, families, troops, and adult volunteers.
- The summer provided opportunities for girls to build friendships, develop independence and leadership skills, try new activities, and experience the outdoors. At the same time, family, troop, and rental opportunities helped broaden the ways our camp properties could be used and experienced.

Summer Camp 2027

- Summer 2027 will build on feedback from girls, families, and volunteers to create a more flexible and engaging camp experience. We will focus on age-appropriate programming, themed camp weeks, expanded leadership opportunities, one-day and mini-camp experiences, and day camp opportunities.
- We will build intentional rental periods into the summer schedule across our properties with more choice and flexibility while creating meaningful opportunities for girls to explore, lead, connect, and grow.
- We are also refining key aspects of the camp experience to ensure girls and families are better prepared and supported from registration through the end of their session, including updated confirmation packets, refined staffing models, refreshed menus, and a later end-of-session pickup time. These changes are designed to improve communication, consistency, and the overall camp experience for both participants and their families.

Girl Program

- The girl program team continues to create meaningful opportunities for members to experience the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) in a variety of ways. One key strategy is partnering with organizations to offer unique, hands-on experiences that girls may not otherwise have access to as Girl Scouts.
- 80 programs across council; 13 volunteer-led day camps
- 36 Girl Scout Gold Awards; 48 Girl Scout Silver Awards
- $93,000 revenue from programming
- 202 trip applications: Safety remains a priority, particularly for high-adventure activities. The team dedicates significant time to reviewing trip and activity applications to ensure appropriate safety standards are met and girls are well supported during these experiences.

Fall Product Program (Gifts & Goodies Program)

- **Theme:** *Ready to Explore* **Mascot:** the kangaroo. During our annual contest, girls suggested names and voting on selected entries followed. The winning name was Bindi!
- What is the Gifts & Goodies program?
  - For troops: This is a short, fun, and engaging program to kick-start the new Girl Scout year. This program allows the troop to earn proceeds for Girl Scout activities early in the troop year.
  - For girls: This is a great way for them to learn important life skills as they run their own business. This also gives girls the opportunity to set and achieve goals.
- This program offers a variety of items from nuts and candies, magazines, Tervis tumblers, exclusive Girl Scout BarkBoxes, candles, and personalized products.

Girl Scout Cookie Program

Election Week Cookie Program

- We are excited to kick off the 2026-2027 Girl Scout Cookie Program with booth sales during the week of the general election again. This program is a risk-free way for troops to earn extra proceeds. Troops can return any unsold cookies—packages or cases (in new condition)—to council offices. Troops only pay for cookies not returned!
- Booth sales can be held from Oct. 31-Nov. 8, 2026.
- Benefits:
  - Customers can stock up on their favorite Girl Scout Cookies.
  - Girl Scout troops earn proceeds for the new Girl Scout year.
  - Girls gain booth-sale experience. (Perfect for new Girl Scout troops and young Girl Scouts!)
  - Girl Scouts practice the five skills of the Girl Scout Cookie Program—goal-setting, decision-making, money management, people skills, and business ethics.

2027 Girl Scout Cookie Program

- The biggest news of the season is that we'll be offering TWO new cookies in 2027!
- Inspired by Girl Scouts around the country who have advocated for expanding the cookie lineup to meet the diverse needs of their communities, Patch Pals™ and Girl Scout Sparkables™ offer new ways for more girls, families, and beloved pets to participate in the Girl Scout Cookie Program—while staying true to what makes the tradition special.
- Patch Pals™ and Girl Scout Sparkables™will be available exclusively online for direct shipping beghinning Jan. 12, 2027, with the launch of the 2027 cookie season in western Pennsylvania.

Property Updates

- We opened a new location in Latrobe after selling the Johnstown office in March 2026 and the Greensburg office in May 2026. The new office location at 911 Ligonier Street in Latrobe maintains our ability to serve members in the region with convenient access to our staff and resources. This new Laurel Highlands office is open by appointment only.
- The multi-complex building that was scheduled for Camp Skymeadow has come in over budget and has been put on hold during the CEO transition.