



School is almost out for summer vacation and another hot Texas summer is upon us! As the school year wraps up, remind your families that Girl Scouts is still happening throughout the summer. Girls and their families can continue the fun at a local [Day/Twilight Camp](#), explore how the brain works best and be the first to earn the new BrainHealth® patch at the Center for [BrainHealth Day Camp](#), or take a field trip to the [Dallas Public Library](#) to earn the My Family Tree badge for Brownies or the Detective badge for Juniors. The [STEM Center](#) will continue through the summer to help girls be their best selves by offering hands-on activities to inspire girls to soar to new heights with aviation, explore the magic of STEM, create culinary experiences, and so much more.

I want to invite you to join me for the **May New Leader Virtual Meeting**. There are two options for you to choose from – **Tuesday, May 17 at 7pm** or **Wednesday, May 18 at 12pm**. Check out the Membership section in the newsletter below for the Zoom link and passcode.

This month's newsletter features information on what's happening in June and how your troop can stay connected throughout the summer plus more information on the activities and events mentioned above and more. There are so many things for your Girl Scouts to do and learn!

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## JUNE NEW TROOP LEADER NEWSLETTER

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### TOPICS

- Membership
- Volunteer Learning
- Camp
- Girl Scout Traditions – Bridging
- GSNETX Volunteer Policies & Procedures – Male Volunteers

- Girl Scout Programs
  - Patch Programs of the Month
  - Mental Health and Wellness
  - Troop Leader Resources
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## MEMBERSHIP

### May New Leader Virtual Meeting

Get the latest news and answers to your pressing questions, LIVE! You have two options to attend – Tuesday, May 17 at 7pm or Wednesday, May 18 at noon. Topics will include what steps need to be taken to wrap up your Girl Scout year, how to share the financial status of the troop with your families, Girl Scout traditions, and how girls can stay active in Girl Scouts during the summer.

#### Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93252268737>

Meeting ID: 932 5226 8737

Passcode: 521595

### Extended Year Membership

It's a great time to introduce new friends to Girl Scouts! They can participate in all the fun this summer! New members can purchase an extended year membership for the rest of this year and all next year for just \$35! This means that your new girls get to participate now instead of waiting until the fall! Find out more information at [gsnetx.org/join](https://gsnetx.org/join). To register click [HERE](#).

### Adding a New Co-leader to Your Troop – Free Membership Promotion

As you build and add girls to your troop, be sure to ask parents to join your troop leadership team! For a limited time, new co-leaders (and their girl) can receive their **first-year membership for free!** Go to [www.gsnetx.org/newtroop](https://www.gsnetx.org/newtroop) for more information or send the link to invite potential volunteers to join. Promotion offer is valid until **June 30, 2022**.

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## VOLUNTEER LEARNING

Explore the content in gsLearn! Log into gsLearn, our new learning management system from within your [MY GS](#) account. Click on the course catalog and view classes and video tutorials, as well as registration for upcoming webinars.

**gsLearn – Resilient.Ready.Strong:** This course will review activities that work for all grade levels to help your Girl Scouts earn the Resilient.Ready.Strong patch which focuses on building girls' inner strength so they are ready for anything and will know how to deal with difficult emotions, as well as provide reflective questions for discussion with the girls in your troop, and provides links to additional resources.

**GSNETX Learning Channel – What I did with my Troop!** Showcases ideas for Girl Scout fun. Check out the [My Troop Did That](#) installment for a new twist on tie-dying. This is a great idea for an end of the year troop meeting or if your troop will continue to meet during the summer!

**Camp Training – TR301 GSNETX Camping:** Participants will be certified to camp with girls at GSNETX owned sites with established sleeping and restroom facilities. This is also the certification you need to use fires in troop activities. **Registration deadline is Monday, May 16 by 9:00 AM**

[TR301: GSNETX Camping Certification \(SAT\) - STEM 5/21/22 9:00 AM-4:00 PM](#)

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## CAMP

### Summer Camp

Summer Camp registration is open, book their adventure now. Girls can customize their outdoor experience by participating in one or more [Resident Camps](#), [STEM Center Day Camps](#), or [Day/Twilight Camps](#). This short [video](#) will show you how to register for Resident Camp and STEM Center Day Camps through [MY GS](#). Registration for [Day/Twilight Camps](#) is through Camp Doc.

### Her Best Summer: Tips for Parents and Caregivers

A YouTube series of suggestions for parents and girls to ensure all Girl Scout campers are ready for the best summer yet. Girl Scout staff member and mom of a 2022 first-time camper, Kim, shares tips and tricks to get your girl ready for Summer Camp. You can find the series on our [webpage](#) and at the following link - <https://loom.ly/efhs6Kc>.

### Camp Transportation

For your convenience, bus transportation is available to and from camp.

**Resident Camp** - Weekly buses to and from Camp Bette Perot, Camp Rocky Point and Camp Gambill

**Day Camp** - daily vans to The STEM Center Day Camp

Rides start and end at our headquarters – JoAnn Fogg Service Center in north Dallas – 6001 Summerside Dr., Dallas, TX 75252

Click on the following link to add transportation - <https://www.gsnetx.org/en/camps/summer-camp/summer-camp-busses.html>.

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## GIRL SCOUT TRADITIONS

### Bridging

Bridging is a beloved Girl Scout tradition that honors girls' achievements throughout the year and celebrates their "crossing the bridge" to the next Girl Scout level. It involves a special ceremony for the whole family to enjoy as you reflect on the past and prepare for the future.

**This is how bridging works:**

- Grade 1 Daisies bridge to Brownies
- Grade 3 Brownies bridge to Juniors

- Grade 5 Juniors bridge to Cadettes
- Grade 8 Cadettes bridge to Seniors
- Grade 10 Seniors bridge to Ambassadors
- Grade 12 Ambassadors bridge to Adult Members

As girls progress through each level of Girl Scouting, they become more confident, get to know themselves better, continue to learn and master a ton of new skills, and enjoy countless more adventures! Learn about the steps for bridging and how to plan your first bridging ceremony by logging into your [My GS](#) account, click on the Volunteer Toolkit, and select Girl Scout Bridging Guide from the GS Traditions & Awards box.

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## GSNETX POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

### Male Volunteers

Girl Scout troops are designed to be inclusive and family-oriented so that adult family members - both male and female - feel welcome to volunteer and partner with each other to create a troop dynamic that fosters a positive Girl Scouting experience for every girl in the troop. Here are a few details to make it easier for dads, uncles, grandfathers, and other male role models to be Man Enough to be a Girl Scout!

#### Men who are troop leaders

- May have a male co-leader but must have one unrelated female registered volunteer with an eligible background check present at all troop meetings.
- At least two registered and background checked female volunteers must attend for overnights, camping trips, extended trips, or events.

#### Male volunteers attending campouts

- Must be a registered member with an eligible background check.
- Housing spaces for men are available at GSNETX properties. These spaces can be reserved in the camp reservation system when the campout reservation is made, pending availability.  
*For non-council camp facilities, a separate sleeping area apart from youth members must be designated for men.*
- May serve as **additional** First Aiders and Troop Camp Trained adults.  
*Due to the location of the designated sleeping facilities for men at GSNETX camps, registered volunteers who are men **cannot** be counted as Safety-Wise ratio adults or serve as the **primary** Troop Camp Trained Adult or First Aider.*
- A minimum of two unrelated Safety-Wise adults who are women must always participate in overnight activities involving volunteers who are men.

#### During overnight activities not taking place at GSNETX camps:

- It may be appropriate for registered volunteers who are men to be counted as Safety-Wise ratio adults if more than two adults are required to meet youth-to-adult safety ratios.
- It may be appropriate for a man to serve as the primary Troop Camp Trained adult or First Aider if he is able to be easily contacted and provide assistance quickly during sleeping hours.

If this assistance requires that he enter sleeping quarters designated for youth or women for any reason, one of the Safety-Wise volunteers who is a woman must be present at all times. If a volunteer who is a man is not able to be easily contacted or if the facility has rules that would prevent this type of supervision or interaction, he may not serve in these roles.

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## GIRL SCOUT PROGRAMS



### JUMPSTART

Are your girls ready for adventures in STEM or are you looking for an easy and fun way to incorporate STEM activities into your plans for next year? Jumpstart is an easy to use, on-the-go digital assistant helping parents and volunteers to deliver empowering and fun STEM programming. Volunteers and Girl Scouts can even earn a special Jumpstart patch when a parent or leader registers as a Jumpstart user and helps girls complete at least one badge of their choice using Jumpstart. Get started today! [Click here for more on Jumpstart](#), and when you have completed your first Jumpstart Badge, fill out this [online reporting form](#) to request your patch.

Click [here](#) for more opportunities provided by our approved Program Partners.

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## PATCH PROGRAMS OF THE MONTH



**Girl Scout LGBTQ+ Pride Month Celebration Fun Patch** is designed for Girl Scouts of all levels and their leaders to honor LGBTQ+ history, to celebrate the diverse cultures and identities of LGBTQ+ people, and to acknowledge the many contributions that the LGBTQ+ community has made and continue to make across our nation. Girls and leaders have plenty of activities to choose from to earn this fun patch, and we encourage Girl Scouts of all identities to participate. [Fun Patch Activities \(PDF\) coming soon](#). Order patch [here](#).



**Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge!** Summer is the perfect time to celebrate our love of the great outdoors. Check out the activities listed [here](#) to choose which you'd like to do to earn the patch. There are so many options for how to explore—from a window, a campsite, the sidewalk, or an open trail. Use **#gsoutdoors** to share your adventures and see how other girls are completing this challenge.

You can find free patch programs [here](#).

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## MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS

May is Mental Health Awareness month. Be sure to check out the [Mental Health and Wellness](#) page for programs and resources or learn a new wellness technique from the [Mindfulness Monday](#) series on the Girl Scouts of Northeast Texas Facebook page.

Here is a resource to share with families to help navigate this situation with the war in Ukraine: [Girl Scouts Raising Awesome Girls—When Violence on the News Shakes her World](#)

### [The Center for BrainHealth Day of Camp](#)

**Date and Time:** Tue June 14, 9:00 AM - 5:00 PM

**Level:** Junior, Cadette, Senior, Ambassador

This camp will focus on activities that bolster confidence and flexibility in how you take action and make inspired decisions. Girl Scouts will explore how the brain works best as you think, feel, play, and connect. The Courageous Brain activities encourage innovation as girls navigate new experiences through a brain healthy lens.



### Resilient. Ready. Strong Patch



Try activities from the Girl Scouts: Resilient. Ready. Strong. program to unlock a patch and strengthen your mental wellness. Nobody can snap their fingers and make the world all sunshine and lollipops, but you can take steps to be ready when things get tough. Go get 'em, Girl Scout!

[Resilient. Ready. Strong. Activity Guide](#) | [Español](#) (PDF)

## TROOP LEADER RESOURCES, TIPS, AND REMINDERS

### Reminders

- **May New Leader Virtual Meeting Tuesday 5/17 at 7 pm and Wednesday 5/18 at noon** – Topics to be discussed will include troop finances, end of year planning, a deep dive into the Girl Scout tradition of bridging, planning summer fun with your troop, and more. <https://zoom.us/j/93252268737> **Passcode: 521595**
- **Troop Financial Report (TFR) is now LIVE!** Log into MY GS, click on My Account, and select the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK). Once you are in the VTK, click on the Finances tab. **Due June 15.**
  - New troops beginning balance will be \$0.
  - You will be reporting finances from June 1, 2021 or when your troop started to May 31, 2022.
  - Use the [Troop Financial Ledger](#) to track and share the troop's spending and income with your girls and their families. It is designed to work in conjunction with the annual TFR found in the VTK.

### Tips and Resources

- **Planning a Bridging Ceremony?** [Check out this blog](#) and this [Bridging Guidebook](#) on how to plan your bridging ceremony. You can order [Bridging Kits](#) at any of our [shop](#) locations.
- **Troop Support Coordinator** – This is your point of contact for questions, resources, and to help guide through your first year and beyond as a troop leader. Click [here](#) to find your Troop Support Coordinator.



*Find resources for new leaders at <https://www.gsnetx.org/newleader>.*

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