

2025 Volunteer Leadership Rally & Awards Ceremony



Schedule

9 a.m. – General Check-In Starts

10 - 10:50 a.m – Volunteer Awards Ceremony (optional)

Ballroom doors close at 10:05 a.m.

10:50 – 11 a.m. – Break

11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m. - Session 1

12 – 1:25 p.m. – Lunch

- Sister's Retreat and Camp Greenblood Info Tables
- Product Program Info Table
- Troop Leader and Service Unit Giveaways
- Volunteer Training Patch Pickup
- Retail Store

1:30 – 2:45 p.m. – Session 2

2:45 – 2:55 p.m. – Break

2:55 - 3:45 p.m. – Closing Plenary

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Workshop Guide

Making GSLE Accessible: Supporting Girl Scouts with Disabilities

Pegasus West 3, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Recommended for: All Volunteers

Presented by: The MacDonald Training Center

Description: MacDonald Training Center (MTC) is a private 501(c)(3) that transforms the lives of people with all disabilities through innovations in vocational training, employment services, residential support, and life enrichment opportunities. In this workshop, volunteers will focus on how they can deliver an inclusive Girl Scout Leadership Experience to Girl Scouts with disabilities. Participants will explore practical ways to adapt activities so every girl can participate fully and confidently. Together, we'll build a toolkit for creating inclusive troop experiences that uphold the core values of GSLE: girl-led, learning by doing, and cooperative learning. Whether you're new to inclusion or looking to strengthen your practices, you'll leave with actionable steps to support every Girl Scout's journey.

Self-Care for Volunteers

Pegasus East 4, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. & 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Recommended for: All Volunteers

Presented by: Effinity of Metropolitan Ministries

Description: Effinity is a training program of Metropolitan Ministries in Tampa, FL, developed as an outgrowth of the organization, infusing trauma informed care and mindfulness throughout its culture. In this workshop, volunteers will learn about the need for self-care, define compassion fatigue, and how to develop a strategy for self-care.

Letting Older Girls Take the Lead

Pegasus East 2+3, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. & 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Recommended for: Troop Leaders of Juniors – Ambassadors

Presented by: Raelene Morrison, Joining Rivers Volunteer

Description: Raelene Morrison has served as a volunteer for over 30 years and held positions staff and several Service Unit Team roles. Participants will explore how to empower older Girl Scouts to take increasing responsibility for their troop experience. Through discussion, real-life examples, and GSLE tools, leaders will learn how to help girls make decisions, plan activities, and carry out their ideas. We'll dive into the girl-led progression, reflect on adult-girl partnerships, and practice applying the Girl Scout processes at different program levels. You'll leave with practical strategies to build confident, capable girl leaders in your troop.

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Workshop Guide

Hocus Pocus, Make Her Focus! The Magic of Effective Behavioral Management

Pegasus West 1, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Recommended for: Troop Leaders of Daisies and Brownies

Presented by: Meghann Sallee, Woodlands Volunteer

Description: Meghann Sallee earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in child psychology from the University of Alabama in 2016. As a troop leader and softball coach along with her education background, she has gained extensive experience in understanding and best responding to normative and challenging behaviors. This workshop will cover common behaviors, how to foster positive behavior and strategies for managing disruptive behaviors one would experience as a Girl Scout volunteer.

Your Guide to Travel Progression

Royal Palm West 2, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. & 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Recommended for: All Troop Leaders

Presented by: Michelle Gagnard, Lil Manatee Volunteer

Description: Service Unit Manager, Michelle Gagnard has traveled to over 20 states with her troop. Whether you are doing a domestic trip to St. Augustine or booking flights to Seattle and hiking Mt. Rainier, this workshop will cover all levels of travel progression. Learn how to involve girls in the planning process, navigate safety and budgeting considerations, and build the skills they need for successful travel experiences. Whether your troop is new to travel or looking to level up, you'll walk away with practical tools, resources, and inspiration to support every step of the journey.

Introduction to the High Awards: Diving into the Bronze Award

Pegasus West 2, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Recommended for: Troop Leaders of Juniors

Presented by: Andrea Weaver, Beautiful Waters Volunteer

Description: Andrea Weaver is a High Awards Council Team member who has led Girl and Adult Training for the High Awards. This workshop will equip you with the skills to guide your troop through their Bronze Award, clarify the requirements, and distinguish between a Bronze Award Take Action project and a community service project.

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Introduction to the High Awards: Diving into the Silver Award

Pegasus West 2, 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Recommended for: Troop Leaders of Cadettes

Presented by: Andrea Weaver, Beautiful Waters Volunteer

Description: Andrea Weaver is a High Awards Council Team member who has led Girl and Adult Training for the High Awards. This workshop will dive into what it takes to lead girls through earning their Silver Award. Participants can expect to learn the different components and how Girl Scouts can make impactful change in their community.

Gold Award Panel: Leading your Girls through the Highest Award

Pegasus West 3, 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Recommended for: Troop Leaders of Seniors or Ambassadors

Presented by: Jennifer Telfare, Rising Phoenix Volunteer

Description: This workshop aims to clarify each of the Gold Award's components, when and how to begin, share best practices, and keep Girl Scouts energized and motivated as they strive to achieve their Gold Award.

Leading the Mental Wellness Patch Program with Older Girls

Pegasus East 1, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. & 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Recommended for: Troop Leaders of Juniors - Ambassadors

Presented by: Baycare Behavioral Health

Description: Millions of people are affected by mental illness, and our young people in particular face challenges understanding and caring for their mental health. The Girl Scouts Mental Wellness Patch Program (designed for girls in grades 4-12) can empower young people and leaders alike to destigmatize mental health within their troops and community. Led by BayCare Behavioral Health professionals, this session will bring leaders together to explore age-appropriate language, facilitate sensitive conversations, and build confidence in navigating these important topics without needing to be experts. Attendees will leave with practical tools, inclusive language tips, and a deeper understanding of how to foster empathy, trust, and mental wellness in their troops.

Check back regularly as we continue to add more workshops!