



Volunteer Leadership Rally 2026 Schedule

9 a.m. – General Check-In Starts

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

Start the morning celebrating national and council award recipients, as well as years of service honorees

Ballroom doors close at 10:15 a.m.

10:50 – 11 a.m. – Break

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

Choose from a variety of workshops topics led by experienced volunteers and council staff. Seating is first come first served.

12:15 – 1:25 p.m. – Lunch & Hall of Experience

Enjoy lunch and Hall of Experiences. Don't forget to enter our volunteer prize giveaways and shop at the Girl Scout store. Want to pre-order items ahead of time? Email your order to gsstore@gswcf.org no later than **Thursday, August 13** and use "**Leadership Rally Order**" as the subject line of your email.

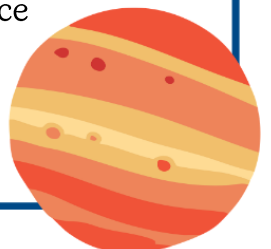
1:30 – 2:45 p.m. – Session 2

Choose from a variety of workshops topics led by experienced volunteers and council staff. Seating is first come first served.

2:45 – 2:55 p.m. – Break

2:55 - 3:45 p.m. – Closing Plenary, CEO Award of Excellence

End the day with hearing from GSWCF's CEO, Mary Pat King. We will also celebrate service units who have earned the CEO Award of Excellence





Workshop Guide

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

Location: Royal Palm West 2, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Recommended for: Troop Leaders of Daisies and Brownies

Presented by: Meghann Sallee, Woodlands Volunteer

Description: Returning Volunteer Leadership Rally 2024 and 2025 presenter, 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.

Curiosity to Confidence in the Outdoors

Location: Royal Palm West 1, 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Recommended for: Troop Leaders of Girl Scouts who are new to outdoor experiences

Presented by: Danielle D'Elia, Council Staff

Description: Danielle D'Elia serves as council's Director of Camp Program and grew up at Camp Indian Echo. In this workshop, volunteers will explore the concept of outdoor progression—what it is, why it matters, and how to use it as a guide to organize meaningful outdoor experiences for Daisies and Brownies. We'll break down the first four steps of the outdoor progression chart, connect activities to age-appropriate badges, and explore how to make outdoor adventures girl-led, cooperative, and hands-on. Volunteers will also assess their troop's readiness, share ideas, and leave with resources to support outdoor growth.

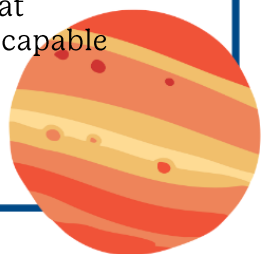
Letting Older Girls Take the Lead

Location: Royal Palm East 1, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Recommended for: Troop Leaders of Juniors – Ambassadors

Presented by: Kristin Crawford, Crystal Waters Volunteer

Description: Kristin Crawford has served as a troop leader for over 11 years and Crystal Water Events Coordinator for over five. Volunteers 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.





Little Leaders, Big Confidence - Helping Daisies, Brownies & Juniors Take the Lead

Location: Royal Palm East 1, 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Recommended for: Troop Leaders of Daisies to Juniors

Presented by: Adrienne Berlin, Rising Phoenix Volunteer

Description: Ever wonder what "girl-led" actually looks like with a room full of 5 to 10 year-olds? You're not alone! Join us for a fun, practical session full of real troop stories, interactive discussion, and easy-to-implement strategies that help young girls build leadership skills without the meetings turning into chaos. Learn how to give girls meaningful choices, encourage ownership, and create a troop culture where every girl has the confidence to lead. You'll leave with a one-page "Girl-Led Toolkit" featuring practical, age-appropriate ideas you can start using at your very next troop meeting.

Your Guide to Travel Progression: Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

Location: Royal Palm East 2, 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Recommended for: Troop Leaders of Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors

Presented by: Michelle Gagnard, Lil Manatee Volunteer

Description: Returning Volunteer Leadership Rally 2024 and 2025 presenter and Service Unit Manager, Michelle Gagnard has traveled to over 20 states with her troop. This workshop focuses on travel progression for CSAs, offering guidance on trip types ranging from simple overnights to national and international travel. Volunteers will walk through the later stages of Girl Scout Travel Progression, learn how to assess troop readiness, and explore timelines and planning tips for more complex trips. It will also highlight how girls can take the lead in each stage of planning, preparing them for travel with independence and confidence. You'll also learn about Girl Scout resources to help you with the planning process.

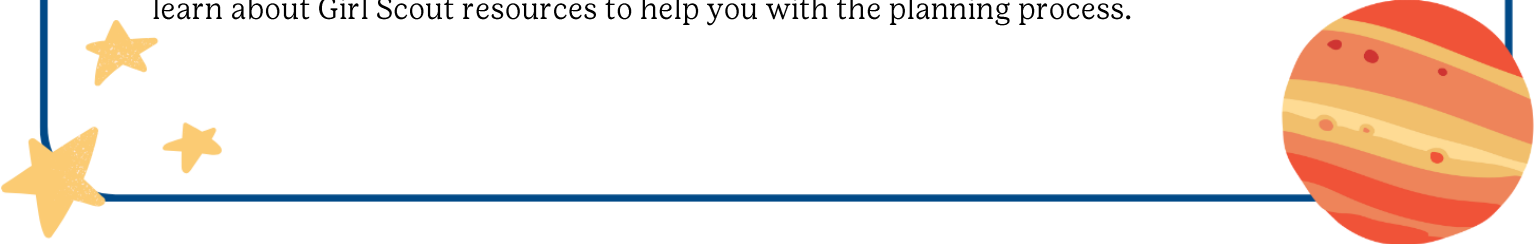
Your Guide to Travel Progression: Daisies, Brownies and Juniors

Location: Royal Palm East 2, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Recommended for: Troop Leaders of Daisies, Brownies and Juniors

Presented by: Michelle Gagnard, Lil Manatee Volunteer

Description: Returning Volunteer Leadership Rally 2024 and 2025 presenter and Service Unit Manager, Michelle Gagnard has traveled to over 20 states with her troop. This workshop introduces volunteers to Girl Scout travel progression and how it supports girls' growth through hands-on learning. Volunteers will explore age-appropriate trip ideas for DBJ, from neighborhood walks to simple overnights, and discuss when your troop is ready for the next level. Participants will review suggested planning timelines and how to give girls a voice in the planning process—even at the youngest levels. You'll also learn about Girl Scout resources to help you with the planning process.





Building Leaders: Supporting the Journey from Bronze to Silver, to Going Gold

Location: Royal Palm West 3, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. & 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Recommended for: Troop Leaders of Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors

Presented by: Jill Painter, Council Staff

Description: Join Girl Leadership Manager, Jillian Painter, and High Awards Committee volunteers for a fun, fast-paced look at the Girl Scout High Awards journey. We'll break down Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award requirements, how leadership grows at each level, and what "girl-led" really looks like in action. You'll hear real tips, best practices, and ways to overcome common challenges. Walk away with practical tools and a clear roadmap to confidently guide girls to success.

Mission Control: Resources to Power Your Troop

Location: Board Room 3 (Upstairs), 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. & 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Recommended for: All Girl Scout Volunteers

Presented by: Alissa Arnt, Council Staff

Description: Join staff from the Girl Experience team as we blast off into the many resources, programs, and opportunities available to help your troop thrive. During this interactive session, volunteers will explore GSWCF Community Partner Patch Programs, learn how to navigate Safety Activity Checkpoints with confidence, and discover ways to keep girls in the captain's chair through girl-led planning and decision-making. We'll also chart a course through the Troop Experience Guide and highlight exciting opportunities for troops and service units at Girl Scout Fest. You'll leave with a constellation of ideas, planning tools, and resources to help create memorable experiences that are truly out of this world for your Girl Scouts.

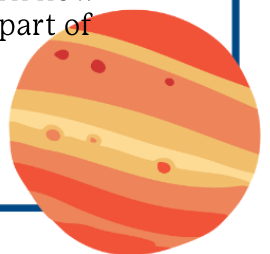
Tech in the Outdoors

Location: Royal Palm West 1, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Recommended for: Troop Leaders of Cadettes – Ambassadors

Presented by: Ameen Bailey, PALS Volunteer

Description: Returning Volunteer Leadership Rally 2025 presenter, Ameen Bailey has a Bachelors in Environmental Science and graduate degree in Geography. As an environmentalist and lifetime scouter, Ameen strives to teach youth to love and protect the natural environment. Technology has completely transformed outdoor recreation, offering incredible tools to elevate safety, comfort, and navigation. Whether you are hitting the trails or heading off-grid, modern devices allow you to track health, maintain connectivity, and power your excursions with ease. In this workshop you will learn how to turn phones from distractions into educational tools that can be an important part of helping girls explore the world around them.





When Good is Good Enough: Creating a Meaningful Girl Scout Experience Within Your Limits

Location: Royal Palm East 3, 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. & 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Recommended for: All Girl Scout Volunteers

Presented by: Amanda Drake, Whispering Pines Volunteer

Description: Amanda Drake is a Volunteer of Excellence Award recipient and has lead Troop 61214 for the past 8 years. Leading a Girl Scout troop doesn't have to be perfect, and it probably won't be - and that's okay! In this lighthearted yet practical session, we'll focus on how to provide a meaningful Girl Scout experience without the pressure to overextend yourself. Learn how to set realistic expectations, manage your meeting time, and embrace flexibility, so you can balance your best-laid plans with the true spirit of scouting when the unexpected hits. Join us for an honest conversation about leading with confidence and imperfection.

Service Unit Showcase: Encampment and Events

Location: Board Room 4 (Upstairs), 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.

Recommended for: Service Unit Event Coordinators and Encampment Directors

Presented by: Various presenters

Description: Hear from multiple service unit volunteers on new, interesting, or innovative things happening in encampment and events from different areas of council. Cristina Lera from Royal Swans will share how she incorporates girl voices into the planning of service unit events. Hear from Beautiful Butterflies Girl Event Managers (GEMs) on how they champion the care of our Girl Scouts camps during encampment and Hoxie's Eddie Curren will share how she effectively collaborates with sister service units to plan and execute service unit events. The workshop will end with a panel of presenters engaging in questions and discussions from participants.

Service Unit Showcase: Enhancing the Culture of your Service Unit

Location: Board Room 4 (Upstairs), 11 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.

Recommended for: Service Unit Managers and Co-Managers

Presented by: Various presenters

Description: Hear from multiple service unit volunteers on how they are enhancing or improving the culture of their service unit. Hear from Elisa DeGregorio on how she champions a culture of year-long appreciation and recognition within Coacoochee Service Unit. Anjanette Clark-Vazquez will share how Whispering Pines utilize committees to fill service unit positions. Additionally, Michelle Barker will share how she has built Fossil Valley into a collaborative and inclusive service unit as acting Service Unit Manager. The workshop will end with a panel of presenters engaging in questions and discussions from participants.

