





## Volunteer Enrichment Conference 2025 Sessions

Find your track!

-  Service Unit
-  New Leader
-  Experienced Leader
-  Volunteer Enrichment

### Block 1: 10:50 – 11:35

#### **Bronze, Your First Step on the Path to Gold**

Gold Award Girl Scouts count earning gold as one of their proudest achievements! Though Girl Scouts must be a Senior or Ambassador to earn a Gold Award, it's never too early to encourage members to dream of how they might earn the Gold Award. The first step on the path is earning the Bronze Award! Learn how Junior troops plan and complete a project to earn the highest award a Junior can achieve.

#### **Building a Dream Team: Service Unit and Troop**

Gain tools and best practices for engaging and making individuals feel part of a team, identifying the strengths of team members, and capitalizing on those strengths for the benefit of the group. This session is appropriate for service unit leaders who want to engage troop leaders differently and troop leaders who want to engage more caregivers in supporting their troops.

#### **Cadette, Senior, Ambassador Bag of Tricks**

Get new ideas from council staff and experienced troop leaders for providing fun and engaging, age-appropriate troop experiences that support Girl Scout processes (multi-dimensional, hands-on, girl-led). Special focus will be placed on working with Girl Scouts who are getting busy with jobs and other activities; identifying patches, badges, and leadership opportunities that reinforce their priorities and stage in life; and how to guide girl-led opportunities to fruition.

#### **Daisy, Brownie, Junior Bag of Tricks**

Daisies, and Brownies, and Juniors, oh my! How do you incorporate the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and make your troop girl-led at this age? How do you plan for inconsistencies? This session will help you build your bag of tricks so that you are ready for the unexpected.

#### **Happy Crafters**

Spark your imagination with a variety of crafts for younger and older Girl Scouts. Whether you're planning ahead or using the supplies you have on hand—gain new ideas as you network with your fellow volunteers during this session full of classic crafts with a fun twist.



### **Leveraging Your Volunteer Experience to Build Your Resume** ●

This session will help volunteers identify marketable skills they are developing through their roles as Girl Scouts volunteers and understand how to best highlight those skills on their resume.

### **Managing the Transition to Leading Older Girl Scouts** ●

Middle school and high school not only means many changes for your Girl Scouts personally, but also within their Girl Scout experience. This session will focus on what it means to be girl-led for this age group and how to engage Girl Scouts as the leaders of their own experience. We will also explore what opportunities your troop members should be able to step up and lead and where you should consider taking a step back from how you guided your Girl Scouts when they were younger.

### **SWAPS** ●

Have fun while making several SWAPS to take back to your troop or service unit and get ideas for more.

## **Block 2: 11:45 – 12:30**

### **Experienced Leader Networking** ●

If you have been a troop leader for more than two years and are looking to connect with other experienced leaders, this session is for you! Meet more of your peers, share troop leadership ideas and best practices, ask questions, and get ready to expand your troop leader community.

### **Getting Started with Troop Activity Planning** ●

Discover how to make your year girl-led and deliver the Girl Scout Leadership Experience for the youngest levels of Girl Scouts. Learn how to design troop meetings, evaluate your options for funding activities, and review available resources to assist troop leaders in planning and delivering Girl Scout programming.

### **Get to Know Girl Scout Traditions** ●

SWAPS, pinning ceremonies, and bridging ceremonies are beloved Girl Scout traditions. Learn more and make these traditions your own!

### **Get to Know the Service Unit Suite of Tools** ●

Get an overview of all the tools service unit volunteers can utilize to be effective in their role. Topics include customer care, gsLearn, Looker, forms, brand information, gsEvents, and the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK), and how these tools are used to support various service unit functions.

### **Product Program Updates** ●

This session is an overview of new changes and updates to both the Fall Product Program and the Girl Scout Cookie Program. In-depth volunteer training for each product program will be available in the fall.



### **Recruiting Made Easy** ●

What are some recruiting best practices? How do you set your team up for success? This session will cover council recruitment strategy, service unit recruitment collaboration and engagement, utilizing troop school organizers and school liaisons, plus general best practices and idea sharing.

### **SWAPS** ●

Have fun while making several SWAPS to take back to your troop or service unit and get ideas for more.

### **Troop Leaders Guide to Silver Award** ●

The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award that can be earned by a Cadette. This session will provide troop leaders with strategies and tips to support their troop as they pursue their Silver Award. We will provide information on what it means to take action, how to consult with Girl Scouts to select a project, and how to use our online resources to support your Girl Scouts' efforts to make the world a better place.

## **Block 3: 1:50-2:35**

### **CEO Chat** ●

Join this open Q&A with Girl Scouts of Central Texas CEO, Paula Bookidis. Bring your burning questions.

### **Connecting with Your Community** ●

Looking for ways to increase Girl Scouts presence in your community? Join us for a discussion on how to promote Girl Scouts, build a bigger community network, and engage with local area schools and community partners.

### **Explore the Outdoors** ●

Girl Scouts love outdoor adventure, but sometimes going outdoors with a whole troop can be overwhelming. Learn how to lead your troop through an outdoor progression into high adventure and leverage the council resources available to get your troop exploring outside. This session will build your confidence to lead Girl Scouts outdoors.

### **Happy Crafters** ●

Spark your imagination with a variety of crafts for younger and older Girl Scouts. Whether you're planning ahead or using the supplies you have on hand—gain new ideas as you network with your fellow volunteers during this session full of classic crafts with a fun twist.

### **Service Unit Event Planning 101** ●

Let's host an event! This session will center on creating dynamic events for your service unit membership, both large and small.

### **SWAPS** ●

Have fun while making several SWAPS to take back to your troop or service unit and get ideas for more.

### **Troop Finances & Money Earning for New Leaders** ●

If your Girl Scouts have big plans, then this is a workshop you don't want to miss! Learn everything you need to know about managing troop finances and money earning, including gathering ideas for age-appropriate money earning projects your Girl Scouts can lead.

### **Troop Leaders Guide to Gold Award** ●

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award that can be earned by a Senior or Ambassador Girl Scout. This session is designed to guide adult volunteers who are supporting Girl Scouts earning their Gold Award to ensure they keep their projects aligned with Girl Scout standards and have a wonderful experience earning their award. We will provide information on the overall Gold Award process from prerequisites, to submitting their proposal, to completing the project, and ultimately sending in their final report.

## **Block 4: 3:00 – 3:45**

### **Building Better Service Unit/Troop Relationships** ●

Drive effective service unit communications while building better relationships among your team and volunteers. In this discussion, you'll hear about approaches to building supportive, mutually beneficial relationships with troops.

### **Demystifying Multi-Level Troops** ●

Learn more about how to manage a troop that includes members of different Girl Scout levels. We'll discuss which badges can be combined across levels, how to make a meeting run smoothly while including each level, safety wise basics, and how to help adult volunteers get involved in assisting with troop functions.

### **Celebrating Volunteers through Recognition** ●

Fill all volunteers' cups through recognition. There are many ways to show appreciation for a Girl Scout volunteer. Whether you send a homemade card or nominate a volunteer for a formal award, your recognition can have a big impact.

### **Girl Scout Leadership Awards** ●

There is no better place than Girl Scouts to develop leadership skills and achieve awards! You know the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. But do you know all of our awards opportunities starting with our youngest leaders - Girl Scout Daisies in kindergarten, all the way through high school seniors - Girl Scout Ambassadors? Learn more about the special awards for Girl Scouts in grades K-12 you might not be familiar with.



### **Managing Girl Scout Behavior and Providing Assistance for Different Needs**

Learn methods and tools for leading a troop that includes Girl Scouts with different needs, such as Girl Scouts with neurodivergence or disabilities. We will provide advice on how to arrange the troop to offer appropriate adult support and select and deliver activities and field trips that are inclusive and allow every Girl Scout to have an enriching experience.

### **New Leader Workshop**

If you have been a troop leader for less than two years or are considering stepping into that role, this session is for you! Learn some tips and tricks for leading Girl Scouts of courage, confidence, and character, meet other new leaders, share best practices, ask questions, and make some new friends.

### **SWAPS**

Have fun while making several SWAPS to take back to your troop or service unit and get ideas for more.

### **Troop Travel: Planning for Local, National, and Beyond**

Ready to get out and about? Travel challenges and empowers Girl Scouts to cultivate their cultural competencies, learn a wide range of practical life skills, advance their sense of self, and build memories. This session will review the recommended troop travel progression from younger to older Girl Scouts and introduce you to council and GSUSA-hosted travel opportunities for which older Girl Scouts may apply to participate.

## **Block 5: 3:55 – 4:40**

### **Discover Take Action Projects and Community Service**

As your Girl Scouts look for meaningful ways to give back to their community, you can help sharpen their problem-solving skills and expand their definition of doing good by discussing community service and take action projects. Both projects serve essential needs at different levels.

### **Get to Know Girl Scout Songs**

Get your Girl Scouts engaged during troop meetings! Join us for a traditional sing-along to learn some of our favorite Girl Scout songs that we think your troop will love.

### **Girl Campaign Workshop**

Gear up for a great Girl Campaign year! The Girl Campaign is your opportunity to bring more Girl Scouts to The Movement through increased financial support. Learn about what's new and share ideas about successful fundraising tactics during a round table discussion. You will be inspired and charged up with the right tools to make this your service unit's best Girl Campaign year yet!

### **Independent Travel Opportunities for Older Girl Scouts** ●

Travel, including both council trips and Girl Scouts of the USA's Destinations, challenges and empowers older Girl Scouts to cultivate their cultural competencies, learn a wide range of practical life skills, advance their sense of self, and ultimately build memories and friendships with Girl Scouts from within and outside our council. This session will answer questions about where to find trip information, how to plan for these travel opportunities financially, the application process, and the overall travel experience.

### **Service Unit Coach/Troop Organizer** ●

New troop leaders need someone to learn from and someone to lean on. As a service unit troop coach, learn the skills that will make new troop leaders feel comfortable in their role. A troop organizer is crucial in placing new Girl Scouts into local troops and forming new troops so that every new member can actively participate in Girl Scouts. Learn how to be the support that troop leaders need.

### **Taking the Troop Camping** ●

Are your girls begging to go camping? Are you nervous about taking them camping because you are not a "camper"? How are you going to feed all these people? Learn the basics of taking your troop camping: how to let your girls plan the schedule, packing checklists, and sample food menus to feed a crowd-even the pickiest eater or most food allergies.

### **Money Earning Ideas for Experienced Leaders** ●

If your Girl Scouts have big plans, then Money Earning Ideas is a workshop you don't want to miss! Learn everything you need to know about money earning and get new troop money earning ideas.

### **SWAPS** ●

Have fun while making several SWAPS to take back to your troop or service unit and get ideas for more.