

2024-2025 Volunteer Conference

Virtual Session Descriptions

Conference Kick Off

Join us for an inspiring kick-off session as we embark on a new year of Girl Scouting! Led by our CEO, this session will set the tone for the conference. We'll explore exciting updates, share our vision, and celebrate the incredible impact of our volunteers. Get ready to ignite your passion and make a difference in the lives of girls across North East Ohio.

Work Smarter: Navigating the GS Online Tools

There can be a lot to navigate online in your volunteer role, so join us for an introduction to the systems built to help you in your goals. We'll explore the newly designed GSNEO website so you can find all your favorites. Plus, we'll romp around Rallyhood, you'll be guided through Get Connected, learn to manage your MyGS, venture into the VTK, and more!

Girl Scout Cookies 101

This session is intended for new Troop Leaders, new Troop Product Program Managers, and any seasoned volunteer who supports new troops that would like more information about our Cookie Program. Learn the different ways (from small to large) that a troop can participate in the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world, and become equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively manage and support your girls and troop during their successful Cookie Program.

Bre on Brand

Join us for an engaging session on understanding and harnessing the Girl Scout brand! In this session, we'll explore the importance of consistent branding and how it helps convey the Girl Scout Mission and values effectively. Our main objective is to equip you with the knowledge and tools to confidently represent the brand, ensuring that our message and impact shine through in every interaction and communication. Together, we'll empower girls to build courage, confidence, and character, while upholding the Girl Scout brand with pride.

Empowering Connections: Overcoming Challenges in Child Welfare and Beyond

This comprehensive training targets individuals and professionals involved in youth care, including program leaders, volunteers, and community members. Participants will deepen their understanding of child welfare, including its foster care dynamics, mandated reporting, mental wellness, crisis prevention, and best practices for effectively supporting youth.

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Rallyhood

Join us for a volunteer session with Christine Dodd, Chief Experience Officer at Rallyhood and Lifelong Girl Scout. In this session, our volunteers will learn about best practices and use-case examples from sister GS Councils on Rallyhood that have helped eliminate silos, streamline communication, transcend geographical boundaries, and unlock unprecedented levels of productivity. We will also hear about the latest updates and enhancements on Rallyhood. Together, we will discuss and share ideas for creating a more connected council community to amplify the movement and mission of Girl Scouts.

Bridges of Understanding: Identity, Intersectionality, and Allyship for Volunteers

This workshop equips volunteers with a comprehensive understanding of identity, intersectionality, and allyship, emphasizing their importance in building alliances and creating supportive environments. Through engaging activities and candid discussions, volunteers will learn to recognize and address the unique challenges faced by the girls they serve and the causes they champion.

Telling Your Girl Scout Story

In this session, we'll guide you on the art of effective storytelling. Discover how to share your unique Girl Scout story in a compelling and inspiring way. Our main objective is to equip you with the skills to connect authentically with any audience, whether it's the girls you lead, fellow volunteers, or the community at large. Learn to harness the power of your personal story to ignite passion and create lasting impact.

Service Unit FUNDamentals

Get all your Service Unit fundraising questions answered! This workshop provides essential insights into managing and utilizing funds effectively. Participants will learn the importance of adhering to GSNEO policies and maintaining transparent financial records. Join us to ensure your fundraising efforts are successful and compliant.

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Unmasking Bias: Understanding and Overcoming Implicit Bias for Youth Empowerment

This interactive workshop delves into the issue of implicit bias and its impact on our work as volunteers and mentors. Participants will explore how implicit biases are formed, their connection to discrimination and systemic racism, and the effect they have on our interactions and decision-making. Through engaging discussions and practical exercises, volunteers will learn strategies to identify and mitigate these biases, fostering a more inclusive and equitable environment for the girls we serve.

Excel

Cultivate skills that will transform your use of Excel from glorified grid paper to a symphony of data that is both functional and stylish. Eliminate tedious manual work by utilizing the time-saving tools at your fingertips! This session includes introductory functionality like formatting, filters and removing duplicates, along with more engaging features like combining cells, pivot tables, and VLOOKUP. Prior experience is helpful but not necessary.

In-Person Session Descriptions *Large Group/No Registration Required*

Insights Counseling

Join us for an insightful presentation designed specifically for Girl Scout Troop Leaders. Learn to recognize the signs of mental health issues within your troop and understand how to build resiliency skills in young girls. We'll explore practical strategies to know when to gently push them and when to give them the space they need. This session aims to equip you with the tools to support and nurture your troop's mental well-being effectively.

Media Girls Panel

The Media Girls program at GSNEO provides specialized training in various media aspects, enabling participants to act as official reporters and ambassadors for council and community events. These girls represent GSNEO in media opportunities and share their stories with the Girl Scout community and beyond. At the 2024-2025 Volunteer Conference, a panel will feature Media Girls from our Brownie to Senior program levels who will answer questions from a staff moderator. They will provide insights into girls' perspectives on their Girl Scout experience, the good and the bad, and offer their thoughts on how volunteers can work in partnership with their Girl Scouts to ensure the experience they are offering is girl-led, hands-on, and provides opportunities for cooperative learning and individual growth.

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In-Person Session Descriptions *Attendee Selected Sessions*

Mastering Networking: Building Connections in Five Easy Steps

In this session, you'll learn how to confidently approach new people, create meaningful connections, and build lasting relationships. Starting conversations with strangers can be intimidating, awkward, and uncomfortable. This session will break down those barriers and help you see a crowd of people in a whole new way. Join us to transform your networking skills and make meeting new people a more enjoyable experience.

New Volunteer Q&A

Designed for first-time GSNEO volunteers or experienced volunteers taking on a new troop or service unit role, this session offers a face-to-face opportunity to learn more about the responsibilities of your role. To begin, we will cover some of the most frequently asked questions volunteers are asking GSNEO's Customer Care and VSS staff. The second half of the session will be a live Q&A, so bring any remaining questions you might have!

DISC

In this session, we will learn about DISC with interactive activities and discussion. Participants will leave the session with the ability to use DISC to gain insight into how you and those you interact with prefer to communicate, make decisions, and behave under stress.

Time Management: Setting Priorities & Taking Action

Balancing family, work, and volunteer commitments can be extremely challenging, making it difficult to accomplish everything you set out to do. This session will help to identify what is currently consuming your time and help you understand the obstacles preventing you from managing your to-do list effectively. You will learn new time management strategies, techniques, and tools, and be provided new perspectives on setting priorities.

Playhouse Square

Playhouse Square, a long-time supporter of GSNEO, welcomes volunteers to join them as they discuss the many exciting opportunities they can offer your girls! Discuss with Playhouse Square staff how your troop can benefit from troop outings, Girl Scout Day, The Patch Program, and more!

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Strong Personalities and Tough Talks

This course will equip you with the essential skills to effectively handle challenging individuals and situations, as well as being better prepared to have those tough conversations. Whether you encounter difficult people in your personal or professional life, this course empowers you with practical strategies to navigate through tough scenarios with confidence and success. By the end, you will have a better understanding of how to keep your composure when interacting with those difficult people, as well as how to prevent those situations moving forward.

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Community Field Trip Descriptions

Field trips are exclusively for registered adult volunteers. Outdoor sessions will proceed as scheduled, regardless of the weather conditions. Participants will receive an email with details regarding meeting location and any necessary items for the specific field trip they have signed up for.

Geocaching - Kent, Ohio

Is your troop seeking new and exciting adventures? Geocaching can offer the experience, teamwork, and physical activity your troop is looking for! Join GSNEO staff on a modern-day scavenger hunt that utilizes GPS technology to find hidden caches in nature. After the session, volunteers can take this new skill and share their experience with their troop so they can begin planning their next big adventure. An email will be sent out after registration closes with the exact meeting location. Please be aware this field trip is for adult volunteers only, and involves hiking and navigating through the woods and on uneven ground.

Old Woman Creek Reserve - Huron, Ohio

Join us for an informative field trip to the Old Woman Creek Reserve, where volunteers will learn about estuaries, watersheds, and the habitats of wetland-dependent species. Participants will gain insights into the various activities the Reserve can offer their troop, including canoe and kayak outings, hiking, water quality testing, and more! Weather permitting, we may include a short trail hike of low to moderate difficulty, with adjustments available to accommodate any physical limitations.

Playhouse Square - Cleveland, Ohio

Visit Playhouse Square, a long-time supporter of GSNEO, and discover the many exciting opportunities they have to offer your girls! Take a guided walking tour of the numerous theaters, catch a glimpse of the behind-the-scenes action, and learn more about the exciting activities and family-friendly events your troop can participate in and enjoy!

Youth Mental Health First Aid - Camp Ledgewood

Capacity for this session is limited to 20.

The Youth Mental Health First Aid session equips adults who regularly interact with young people with the skills to support adolescents facing mental health challenges. Participants learn to recognize common mental health issues, understand typical adolescent development, and apply a 5-step action plan to assist youth in both crisis and non-crisis situations.