



2026 Girl Scouts National Convention & Washington, D.C. Adventure!

Girl Scouts National Convention Girl Scouts Unite:

Wednesday, July 22 - Saturday, July 25, 2026

Washington, D.C Adventure:

Sunday, July 26 – Tuesday, July 28, 2026

Join us for 2026 for Girl Scouts National Convention for a national gathering of changemakers from across the country and our global Movement. Get ready to spark new ideas, make friends, have fun, and create something incredible. This convention is open to all, including Girl Scout members, alums, and families. At the convention, you can expect activities and demos in the Expo Hall, special guests, live performances, and much more!

Following National Convention, you may choose to stay with GSofSI and continue the adventure! This educational trip to Washington, D.C. will offer Girl Scouts an engaging exploration of science, technology, engineering, and math through interactive learning and real-world experiences. In addition to STEM-focused visits, Girl Scouts will enjoy a variety of cultural and historical activities that highlight the connection between innovation and society. The trip encourages curiosity, collaboration, and a deeper understanding of how STEM shapes our world.

SAMPLE SCHEDULE:

- Wednesday, July 22, 2026 – Arrival Day. Groups should plan on arriving any time after hotel check-in. This day is on your own to settle in prior to the Conference start.
- Thursday, July 23, 2026 – Girl Scouts Unite Conference Day 1
- Friday, July 24, 2026 – Girl Scouts Unite Conference Day 2
- Saturday, July 25, 2026 – Girl Scouts Unite Conference Day 3
- Sunday, July 26, 2026 – Washington, D.C. Adventure Day 1
- Monday, July 27, 2026 – Washington D. C. Adventure Day 2
- Tuesday, July 28, 2026 – Departure Day. Check out by hotel check out time. Groups depart on their own. Groups may choose to check out of the hotel and visit other Washington, D.C. sites on their own time prior to departure – this will be on your own and not a part of the council trip.

SCHEDULE and TRAVEL OPTIONS ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

OPTIONS AND PRICING:

Choose one of the TWO options that's right for you and your group, and get ready to travel with us! For each option, you may choose either a Double Room occupancy or Quad Room occupancy. For all options, a deposit of \$300 is due at the time of registration.

NOTE: Trip selections do NOT include travel, transportation to hotel, or meals during the convention days. Options 1 & 2 will include a \$200 Gift Card to offset the cost for meals at conference – KEEP IN MIND the actual meal cost might be more than the \$200 gift card.

You will need to make arrangements to book your own travel to and from the hotel/event and arrange to pay for your own meals. Some meals during the Washington D.C. add-on portion will be paid for. See below to see what is included for different options.

OPTION 1 - CONFERENCE ONLY:

Wednesday, July 22 - Saturday, July 25, 2026

Pricing:

Double Room Occupancy \$1300

Quad Room Occupancy \$1000

Includes:

- Conference Fee
- Conference special events (tentative, as scheduled by GSUSA): Events, keynote speakers, Hall of Experiences, Workshops, exclusive DC Adventures.
- Conference Hotel Lodging – walking distance to the conference. Transportation from hotel to conference is also included.
- T-shirt and patch
- \$200 gift card for conference day meals, etc.

OPTION 2 - CONFERENCE + WASHINGTON, D.C. ADVENTURE:

Sunday, July 26 – Tuesday, July 28, 2026

Pricing:

Double Room Occupancy \$1900

Quad Room Occupancy \$1500

Includes:

- Conference Fee
- Conference special events (tentative, as scheduled by GSUSA): Events, keynote speakers, Hall of Experiences, Workshops, exclusive DC Adventures.
- Conference Hotel Lodging – walking distance to the conference. Transportation from hotel to conference is also included.
- Hotel Lodging for D.C. Adventure Portion (staying in same hotel)
- T-shirt and patch
- \$200 gift card for conference day meals, etc.
- Some meals during the D.C. Adventure Portion
- Metro Pass
- All tickets, fees, experiences for our two extra days in Washington D.C!

FAQs:

Who can go on this trip?

This trip is open to Girl Scout Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors, Troop Leaders, Caregivers, and Girl Scout alums. Tags are not permitted to register through the council trip. All adult participants will need to complete a background check and be members of Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois for the 2026 membership year.

What is the venue for the 2026 convention?

The convention will take place at:

Walter E. Washington Convention Center 801 Allen Y. Lew Place NW Washington, DC 20001.

Visit the official tourism site of Washington, D.C, for planning resources.

Is there a deposit due?

Yes. A deposit of \$300 is due at the time of registration for ALL options.

When is the deadline to register?

The deadline to register is Monday, January 12th, 2026.

When is the final payment due?

The final payment is due by Monday, May 4th, 2026.

Are there any other payment options?

No. A deposit of \$300 is due at the time of registration and the final payment is due by Monday, May 4th, 2026

What is the difference between a Double and a Quad occupancy?

All hotel rooms will have access to two queen beds. A double occupancy room is for two people (one person per bed) and a quad occupancy will host four people (two people per bed). During the registration process, you will need to add in your buddy request and room buddy requests.

IMPORTANT: ALL participants will need to fill out a Travel Agreement prior to attending the trip. Disclaimer: For participants selecting the quad room occupancy, you are consenting to share a bed and will need to fill out the Shared Sleeping Space Agreement form. Generally, adults will not sleep in the same space as girls. Exceptions will be given to mothers and daughters traveling together. If an adult is needed to stay in the room with girls, there will be two, unrelated adult females. Men, if traveling with the group, will have separate accommodations away from the girls.

We are registering for a Quad room, but only have a group of 3. What happens now?

If you register for a Quad room, you might have another person assigned to your room. You also might not have another person assigned to the room and you will end up with your originally group of 3. This will depend on our registration as we move closer to registration deadline. We will be grouping up registrants by troop/buddies/etc. so be sure to add that in the information when registering.

Where will we be staying?

This information is TBD. We will be within walking distance to the conference.

Is travel included in the pricing? Will the council be booking any travel for this trip?

No. Groups are responsible for booking and paying for their own travel. It will be up to your group if you choose to fly or drive to Washington, D.C. Please note that if you fly, you will need to book transportation from the airline to our hotel. If you drive, there may be parking fees that apply.

Is there an airport you recommend flying to?

Yes. We recommend Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

Is there a recommended arrival time for the arrival day? What about departure?

Arrival: Stay tuned for more official information.

Departure: Stay tuned for more official information.

What can we expect during the conference?

During the convention, you will connect with Girl Scouts from across the country and around the world to spark new ideas, make friends, have fun, and create something incredible.

Expect a National Bridging Ceremony and Gold Award Celebration, exciting experiences, and programming in the Expo Hall, including special guests, live performances, hands-on activities, demos, and more!

Is food included in the trip price?

No. Food is not included during National Convention. You will receive a \$200 gift card to help offset the cost of meals. Some meals will be included in the D.C. Adventure add-on.

Is food included during National Convention?

No. Each convention option selection will give you a \$200 gift card to help offset the cost of meals.

When we get to the convention, will our group need to stay together?

In short, no. Once you arrive to the convention, you are free to attend any sessions you wish with your small group or troop. Please stick together with your adult chaperones. Troop Leaders and/or Parents will be the leaders of their small group. All groups will need to check in and check out with the Council Travel Coordinator at designated times. For the D.C. Adventure option: Our group will primarily stick together for activities unless otherwise organized by the Council Travel Coordinator.

Are there any special offerings during the convention?

Yes! Please stay tuned for more information as it becomes available.

Is my Girl Scout allowed to travel alone without a Parent/Troop Leader/Chaperone?

Yes. However, Cadette - Ambassador Girl Scouts traveling without an adult chaperone will need to coordinate with the council Trip Coordinator. Please contact nbachmann@gsosfi.org for more information PRIOR to registering your Girl Scout. Girl Scout Juniors must be accompanied by an adult caregiver or troop leader who is registered to be a part of the trip.

Are there any requirements for this trip?

Yes. All adults (including 18-year-olds registered as an adult members) on the trip must have a current Girl Scout membership for the 2026 membership year and must complete and have a clear background check prior to the trip.

Will there be an information meeting about this trip?

YES! Please stay tuned for more information. After registration closes, we will have another meeting with participants attending on the trip.

I have questions about Financial Aid and/or Girl Scouts Experience Fund for this trip, who can I contact?

Please contact Customer Care at customercare@gsosfi.org.

I have more questions about this trip, who do I contact?

Please contact Natalie Bachmann at customercare@gsosfi.org.