

# NEWSNOTE

ISSUE 22 MARCH 13, 2024

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK...

Dear SME Families,

Each year as we slowly but surely inch our way towards spring, I am reminded of the verse from the Book of Revelation, which proclaims that God makes everything new! (21:7) As we endure a few final days of cold wintry weather and near the warmth of another spring, I would like to communicate some important dates:

Our annual **Mother-Son Dance** has been very cleverly coined '**Date Knight**.' The event was such a great time last year and promises to be so much fun again this year! Please see the flyer enclosed in this newsletter or our post on Facebook for a scannable QR code to purchase tickets for one of our young gentlemen (knights) and yourself. We'll have a DJ, games, pizza, refreshments, and a professional photograph taken, courtesy of Kelly Tanski Photography! I look forward to seeing many of you on **Friday, March 22, from 6:00 - 8:00 pm**.

If you are not in the "boy mom" club, or if any of our dads are interested in volunteering for this event, please reach out to Mrs. Alicia Sears at [aliciarosesears@outlook.com](mailto:aliciarosesears@outlook.com) or 716-531- 2867.

We've scheduled three dress down days to help raise funds to host our upcoming **Meat Raffle**. For a \$1 donation, students are able to dress down on **March 14, March 27, and April 11**. We're hoping the Meat Raffle grows into our second largest annual fundraiser!

Please see page 2 of this week's NewsNote for additional information about the **Meat Raffle**, which will be held here in both the gym and parish center on **Friday, April 19th**. We still have many seats and whole tables available if you are interested in attending the event. If you are not a fan of meat raffles and are uninterested in trying to win a chest freezer but would still like to help out, **our team is still in need of many volunteers the night of the event**. The sign up link is included in this newsletter. In advance, thank you so much to all of our volunteers who will make this night a success for SME!

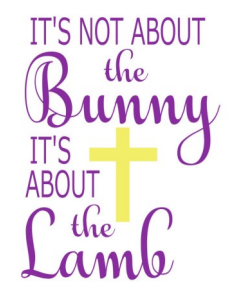
As our school enters its next season and we all begin spring 2024 together, thank you for your continued support and volunteerism. Without the cooperation or partnership from home, we at the school would be unable to serve to our fullest.

Have a wonderful week,  
Mr. O



### UPCOMING EVENTS:

- **Fri. 3/15 - 10:45 Early Dismissal**, Staff PD
- **Wed. 3/20** - MP2 Report Card Upload: K-8, Living Stations 6pm
- **Fri. 3/22** - Mother/Son Date Knight Event 6-8pm
- **Thurs. 3/28 - NO SCHOOL**, Holy Thursday
- **Fri. 3/29 - NO SCHOOL**, Good Friday
- **Sun. 3/31** - Easter Sunday
- **Mon 4/1-4/8 - NO SCHOOL**, Spring Recess
- **Tues 4/9** - School Resumes
- **Fri. 4/12** - CW Mass
- **Fri. 4/19** - Meat Raffle
- **Thurs. 5/2** - Art Show, Sp. Book Fair



## BY THE NUMBERS

We understand that every fundraiser will not be for everyone, but we do appreciate any & all support you can give!

Year round ways to help:

- ◇ Boxtops 4 Education

*Scan in the app to earn!*

*We earned \$25.50 in February*

- ◇ RaiseRight Program
- ◇ Tops in Education Program

*Link your bonus card*

### Mega Raffle Update:

Tickets Sold: 412

Tickets Available: 588

1st Early Bird Winning Tx: #277

## TAX TIME

Is your preparer looking for our Tax ID Number? The directive given to us by the diocese is to *not* release that number. In its place you can/should indicate **Religious Exemption**. Specific questions can be directed to Mrs. Jezuit: ([jezuitn@smeschool.com](mailto:jezuitn@smeschool.com))



Please note the following calendar updates:

- Living Stations has been rescheduled to March 20th
- we are now off on Holy Thursday, March 28th

An updated and trimmed down version of the annual calendar is available on our website.

## HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

Thank you to everyone who has ordered Little Caesars Pizza Kits! The fundraiser is off to a great start. Remember to only support the fundraiser if it works for you and your family.

Friday will be the last day to RSVP for the Date Knight Dance. Don't miss out on this fun event for SME boys and a special lady.

The Meat Raffle tickets are selling so grab yours before it's too late. More information for the Meat Raffle can be found in the Meat Raffle section.

### March Events:

**6th-21st:** Little Caesars Pizza Kit Fundraiser

**22nd:** Date Knight Dance - LAST CALL See flyer or link for tickets:  
<https://date-knight-dance-29628.cheddarup.com>

We are in need of a few parents or teachers to assist the night of the dance, please use the sign up genius link to volunteer to help:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040E4DABAF2FABF49-48456742-date>

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## ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

2 St. Mary's Hill  
Lancaster, NY 14086

Phone: 716-683-2112  
Fax: 716-683-2134  
www.smeschool.com



UPON THIS HILL,  
WE DO GOD'S WILL



Social Responsibility



Spiritual Growth



Academic Excellence

## BISON SCHOLARSHIP

The BISON Fund pre-application for new or current families not on BISON for the 2024-25 school year opened on January 15th.

To start the process, families can complete a pre-application form online at:

<http://bisonfund.com/our-scholarships>.

The deadline is March 15th. Scholarships are awarded using a lottery system from all submitted pre-applications forms and all applicants will be notified of lottery results via email on March 16th.

Current families **do not** need to fill out a pre-application, they will be emailed a link to complete the renewal process and add siblings on February 20th.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Bison Fund office at 716-854-0869 ext. 1.



## MEGA RAFFLE

**When:** June 7, 2024 at 6:00PM

**Where:** St. Mary's High School

**Tickets sold to date:** 412

**Tickets remaining:** 588

The top prize is \$35,000 with 13 other prizes to win.

The winner of our 1st Early Bird Drawing prize of \$300 was ticket #277!

There are 2 more early bird drawings before the BIG event in June!

**Did you see what's new for this year?** We are excited to offer a limited number of VIP tickets available for purchase online only. This includes admission for 2 adults (aged 21+), entrance to the VIP area including Lilly Belle Meads and a sponsored food pairing, as well as VIP only door prize. Get yours online before they sell out!



Our [Amazon Wish List](#) is set up if you would like to donate an item for the basket raffle. Thank you to those who have already donated items! We will be collecting items until June and remember you can always purchase items with a RaiseRight Gift Card - everybody wins!

If you are interested in volunteering email [megaraffle@smeschool.com](mailto:megaraffle@smeschool.com).

## MEAT RAFFLE



April 19th

Doors @ 5:30 Spin @ 7



If you are able to donate any of your time, please sign up using the link below. You're going to want to be a part of the fun!

[Meat Raffle Volunteer Sign Up](#)

Freezer full of meat side raffle tickets went out to every family to sell or purchase. You need not be present to win! The table/ticket request letter is available here: [Ticket/Table Reservation Order Form](#) & on our website (Fundraising Tab: Meat Raffle) or hard copy by request.

*The meat raffle needs your help! Show off your creativity by donating a basket for us to raffle off at the meat raffle. All donations can be dropped off for Mrs. Boundy at the main office.*

\$ Dress Down Days: 3/14, 3/27 & 4/11 will benefit the raffle baskets!

## 2024-2025 TRANSPORTATION

A flyer with area transportation department links has been added to the registration tab on our [website](#).

All transportation requests should be submitted to your districts transportation department directly and are due 4/1!



## ATHLETICS INTEREST LINKS

If your child(ren) are interested in any of the following sports please use the links below which were shared in last weeks NewsNote Noteworthy mentions:

**Soccer:** <https://forms.gle/2wVYKgnjTtLLubK9>

**Track:** <https://forms.gle/pugzzhAneZHQvJvc6>

**Softball:** <https://forms.gle/iEoDKi63hpDhAmqDA>

Any/All Questions: [athletics@smeschool.com](mailto:athletics@smeschool.com)

## PARISH CORNER

Did you know there are many opportunities for your child(ren) to participate in the Mass celebrations here at St. Mary's?

Our **Family Mass** takes place once a month at the Sunday, 10am Mass. Masses have been scheduled for the months of March - June. Click the following link to see the dates and the roles offered for your child(ren): <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0F4DA8A72EA4F9C52-48001519-stmary>

**St. Joseph's Table** will be held here at St. Mary's on Tuesday, March 19th. The invite has been attached one last time today with all the details!

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Hoag in the Faith Formation office: [becky@stmarysonthehill.org](mailto:becky@stmarysonthehill.org) or (716) 683-8564

## RAISERIGHT

Reminder: Families earn 100% of rebates up to \$250 and an 80/20 split thereafter.

### About the process:

RaiseRight credits are processed quarterly: March, June, September, and December. Mrs. Jezuit applies credits to tuition accounts based on the reports generated and received from RaiseRight. The RaiseRight office is not able to look into individual tuition accounts. If you (or a family member) is purchasing cards to help reduce your tuition you/they **must** designate the recipient family when opening an online account **or** by indicating the family name on paper order forms. Without this information the RaiseRight office has no way of knowing where to assign credits.

If you have any questions, please email [raiseright@smeschool.com](mailto:raiseright@smeschool.com). Our team is here for you!

Creating an online account: [RaiseRight.com](https://www.raiseright.com)

For a complete list of participating retailers visit the shop with scrip website:

<https://www.raiseright.com/brands>

Here is a quick link to the order form: [RR Order Form](#)

## YEARBOOK

Parents and Guardians the deadline to order a 2023-2024 SME Yearbook is Wednesday, March 20, 2024.

Order your yearbook online!

Visit [www.inter-state.com/order](http://www.inter-state.com/order)

St. Mary's Elementary-Lancaster, NY

Order Code is 84834H



## 8TH GRADE INFO

Please be sure to check your email for an important message from Mrs. Pesany-Au ([pesanyau@smeschool.com](mailto:pesanyau@smeschool.com)) regarding 8th grade baby pictures and year-book write-ups! This was sent last week.

## STAY IN THE KNOW

**Save the Date:** 5/2 Art Show, Spring Book Fair

**Save the Date:** 5/3 CW Mass, Spring Book Fair

**Make Note:** 5/8 PR3 Upload

**Make Note:** 5/9 Ascension Thursday Mass, 8:30am

**Save the Date:** 5/10 May Crowning Mass, 8:30am

**Save the Date:** 5/10 Penny Fair

**Save the Date:** 5/17 Hope Ribbon Mass

**Make Note:** No School: 5/24-27



# Notes From the Nurse

March 2024

**Dara Sirianni RN, BSN**

## Spring Sports

All students who wish to participate in school sports **MUST HAVE** a valid NYS Physical on file in the Health Office. Please hand these in ASAP to avoid delays in your child participating in practices/games.

## Always Changing and Growing-Up

All students in the 5th Grade class will have an opportunity to watch the Always Changing and Growing-Up Puberty videos in class this month. Information and permission slips have already gone home.

This important information provides students in this age range with the appropriate tools and resources to navigate the changes that will or already have begun within their bodies. As well as give them the opportunity to ask questions they may have or that can arise from watching the videos.

Parents may view the videos online prior to the class. Feel free to contact me via email if you would like the link.

## RSV = Respiratory Syncytial Virus

**What is it:** A respiratory virus with symptoms similar to the common cold.

**How it's spread:** From contact or droplets (saliva or mucus) of infected individuals. Ex: coughing or sneezing. These droplets then are transferred via air or surfaces to others through the mouth, nose, and eyes.

### Symptoms:

- Runny nose
- Decrease in appetite
- Coughing
- Sneezing
- Fever
- Wheezing

### Prevention:

- Stay home when sick.
- Cover your coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your shirt sleeve, not your hands.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with others, such as kissing, shaking hands, and sharing cups and eating utensils.
- Clean frequently touched surfaces such as doorknobs and mobile devices.

For more information please visit:



## Common Childhood Viruses

## Health Office Information

Office Hours: School Days 9:30-1pm

Phone: (716) 683-2112 ext 128

Fax: (716) 683-2134

email: nurse@smeschool.com

# DRESS DOWN DAYS

BENEFITING OUR UPCOMING  
MEAT RAFFLE!

THURS: 3/14

WED: 3/27

THURS: 4/11



MIN. \$1/CHILD



ST. MARY'S ELEMENTARY SCHOOL  
HOME SCHOOL ASSOCIATION

# DATE KNIGHT

## A MEDIEVAL ROYAL DANCE FOR SME BOYS AND THEIR SPECIAL LADY

Please join us for an evening of dancing, games, pizza, refreshments  
and photo opportunity with Kelly Tanski Photography.

PRE SALE  
TICKETS ONLY

\$12

FRIDAY  
MARCH 22ND

6-8PM

Scan QR code below or visit  
<https://date-knight-dance-29628.cheddarup.com>  
for tickets by Friday, March 15th



**SOLIDIFY YOUR CHILDCARE**

**We dismiss early  
Friday 3/15 for  
Staff PD!**

Pre-K Dismissal is at 10:15

K-8 Dismissal is at 10:45



# SPORTS INTEREST SIGN-UPS



TRACK & FIELD  
GR. 2 & 3- 8



[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/9HUPUGJRMMW6WPAU9](https://forms.gle/9HUPUGJRMMW6WPAU9)



SOCCER  
GR. 1-8



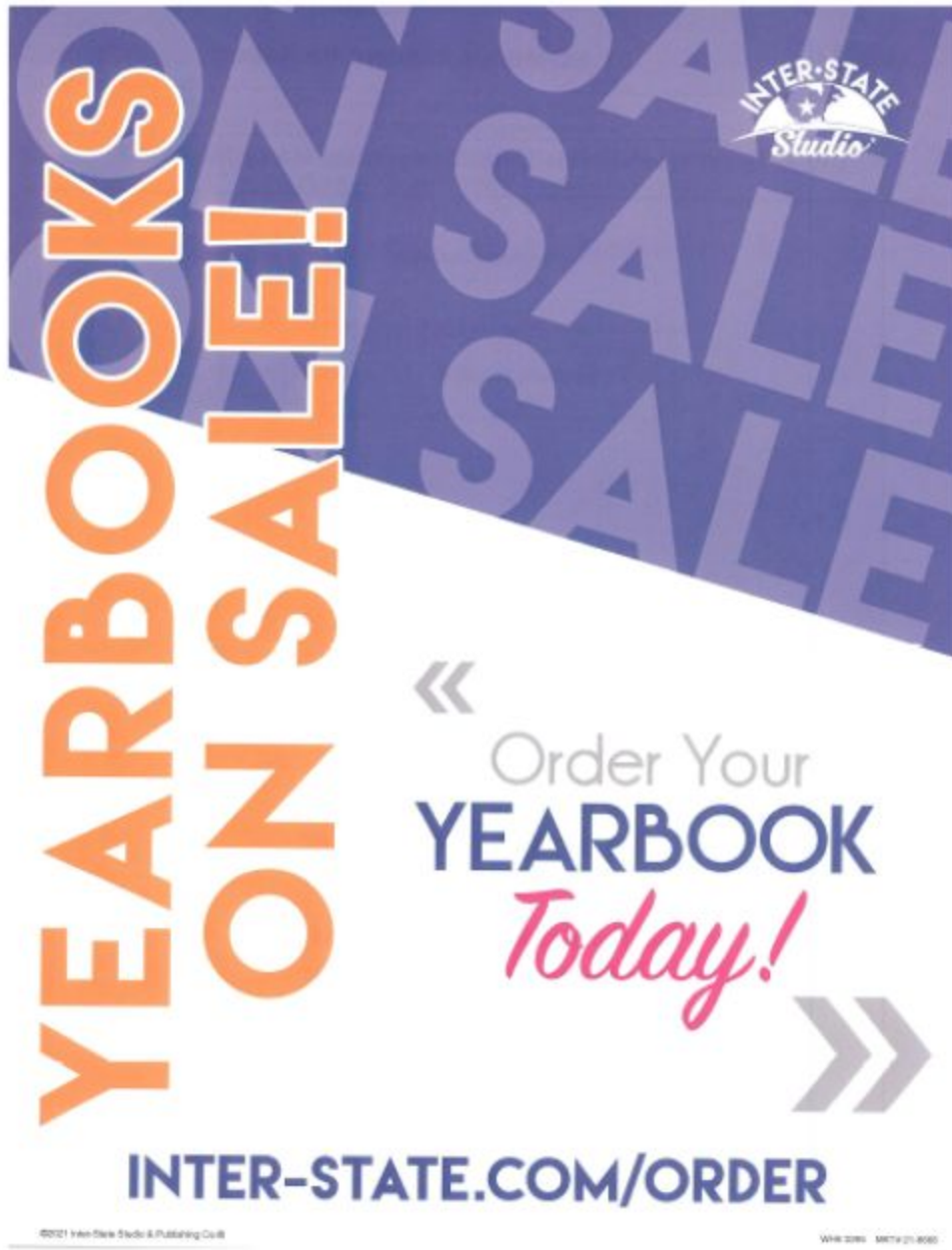
[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/UyRXV1WPJZGQP7189](https://forms.gle/UyRXV1WPJZGQP7189)



SOFTBALL  
GR. 5-8



[HTTPS://FORMS.GLE/YBVCLYZRJC9UB1QT9](https://forms.gle/YBVCLYZRJC9UB1QT9)

A purple banner with the word 'SALE' repeated in a light purple font. On the left, 'YEARBOOKS ON SALE!' is written vertically in large orange letters. In the top right corner is the 'INTER-STATE Studio' logo. In the center, the text 'Order Your YEARBOOK Today!' is displayed, with 'YEARBOOK' in blue and 'Today!' in pink script. Below this is the URL 'INTER-STATE.COM/ORDER' in blue. At the bottom left, there is a small copyright notice: '©2021 Inter-State Studio & Publishing Co. LLC'. At the bottom right, there is a small code: 'WHS 2021 - MTHX 21-000'.

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WHS 2021 - MTHX 21-000



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enter code: 84834H

Online Ordering Available  
Until Wed. 3/20!







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Lancaster, NY 14086  
www.smeschool.com  
P: 716.683.2112  
F: 716.683.2134

\* Afterschool Care is NOT available on 10:45 Early Dismissal Days

MARCH '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

- 1 Christian Witness Mass: 8:30 am
- 15 **10:45 Early Dismissal:** Staff PD
- 20 MP2 Report Card Upload: Gr K-8
- 20 Living Stations 1 & 6pm - **new date**
- 22 Date Knight Dance 6-8pm
- 28 **NO SCHOOL** – Holy Thursday - **new**
- 29 **NO SCHOOL** – Good Friday
- 31 Easter Sunday

APRIL '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

- 1-8 **NO SCHOOL: Easter Recess**
- 12 Christian Witness Mass: 8:30 am
- 19 Meat Raffle  
Doors open @ 5:30  
1<sup>st</sup> Spin @ 7

MAY '24						
S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
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5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

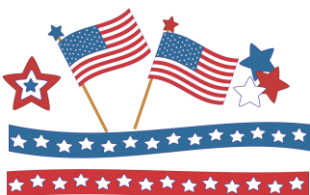
- 2 Art Show 6-8pm, Spring Book Fair
- 3 Christian Witness Mass (Ap.): 8:30 am, Spring Book Fair
- 8 PR3 Upload: K-8
- 9 Ascension Thursday Mass: 8:30
- 10 May Crowning Mass: 8:30
- 10 Penny Fair:  
K-8 10:00-1:30  
Pre-K 5:30-7 - **new**
- 17 Hope Ribbon Mass: 8:30
- 23 Walk-a-Thon
- 24 **NO SCHOOL**
- 27 **NO SCHOOL: Memorial Day**
- 31 Christian Witness Mass (May): 8:30

\* More Details to come on this exciting addition!

JUNE '24						
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						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

- 6 Spring Concert 9:00am
- 7 Pre-K Moving Up/Graduations, Mega Raffle 7pm
- 10-13 Final Exams
- 12 Kindergarten Graduation, 9:00am
- 14 Christian Witness Mass: 8:30am, School Picnic 9:30
- 18 Gr 1-8 Last day of school
- 19 **NO SCHOOL:** Juneteenth
- 20 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Graduation, 4:00pm  
MP3 Report Card Upload: K-8

Save the date & walk with us in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July Parade!



SME Office Summer Hours:  
Monday – Thursday  
8:00 – 12:00

Secure lockbox available  
24/7



# SAINT JOSEPH'S DAY TABLE



*Celebrate a wonderful TRADITION with us!*

According to legend, villagers in Sicily many centuries ago prayed to St. Joseph, foster-father of the Infant Savior, and asked his intercession before the throne of God to end a dreadful famine. Their prayers were answered, and a special feast was held in commemoration of St. Joseph. His feast day was set as March 19th and on this day a tradition started.

Please join the *Beloved Disciples of Christ the Lord* family of Parishes  
for a special meatless potluck dinner.

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**TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024 AT 6:30PM**

**ST. MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION PARISH CENTER**

Everyone is invited to this free family event! If you would like to participate in the potluck, we ask, if you can, bring a dish to pass that consists of a dessert or fruit; salad or vegetable dish; or a meatless main dish casserole or pasta. Fish/seafood is acceptable.

Please bring hot dishes **HOT** and cold dishes **COLD**.

.....

So we can plan accordingly, let us know if you will be attending by March 1, 2024, by completing the response section below and dropping it at your Parish Office.

I will attend the St. Joseph's Day Table Dinner on Tuesday, March 19, 2024

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Attending: # Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ #Children: \_\_\_\_\_

If bringing a dish, please list name \_\_\_\_\_

(please indicate if dish is gluten free)

# Play. Grow. Explore. Girl Scouts.



The Girl Scout program can start early for Pre-K girls who are registered from April to September before entering Kindergarten in the Fall. Pre-K girls are welcome to invite friends and attend. If you cannot attend in person, we welcome parents to jump on to virtual aspect to learn about Daisy program.

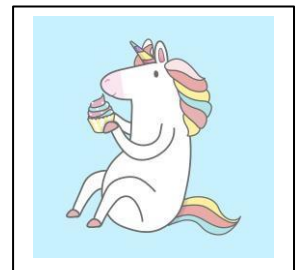
## We are hosting an exclusive Free Unicorn Party

**Date: Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024 Location:  
Lancaster Library**

**Time: 6-7 PM**

Can't attend in-person event? Virtual parent information night below! Zoom link will be sent once you RSVP using QR code

**Virtual night: Thursday, April 11th Time: 8-  
8:45 PM**



**girl scouts**   
of western new york

Contact Ashley Ayers for questions,  
Ashley.Ayers@gswny.org |716-310-8250



## What can I expect to do as a Girl Scout?

Girl Scouts is all about fun, friendship and new adventures. You will make friends, challenge yourself, write your own story, and learn how to change the world for the better. Some Girl Scouts love to camp, some love to build things, some love to read, some love to learn, and so much more - the great thing is they get to do it with new friends!

## What is the time commitment?

Most girls spend a few hours (3-4) every month working on badge projects and attending troop meetings/events.

## What is the financial commitment?

The annual dues to join Girl Scouts is \$25. There may also be small fees for activities and troop dues throughout the year. We want every girl to participate and the organization is deeply committed to ensuring that all girls are able to participate. Financial assistance is available to families in need. If you join April 1<sup>st</sup> through extended year program, the cost will be \$35 for your first year.

## Who can be a Girl Scout?

Girls in Kindergarten through grade 12 can join Girl Scouts. Girls progress through programming levels and each level offers challenges and opportunities for girls to learn and achieve.

## Is it necessary to be part of a troop?

Not all Girl Scouts choose to be part of a troop. Some instead choose to be Juliettes, independent Girl Scouts who do not belong to a specific troop but do participate in activities, badge programs, camp, and cookie selling based on their interests.

## How do I join?

Visit [gswny.org/join](http://gswny.org/join) to sign up for Girl Scouts. In addition, you can call Customer Care at 1-888-837-6410 and they will assist you with the membership process,

## Do I get to sell Girl Scout cookies?

Yes! You can be part of the largest girl-led business in the United States. You'll learn five important skills: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics. Together as a team, you'll earn valuable proceeds that will support your troop's activities. While it is a great experience, cookie selling is not required.