

2025-2026 GSNEO MEMBER & VOLUNTEER POLICIES: CHANGES MEMO

As of August 1, 2025, Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO) has made annual revisions to our [2025-2026 GSNEO Member & Volunteer Policies](#).

Highlights of specific policy changes include:

General Membership

- **Membership (page 7):** Girl members may not participate as an Individually Registered Girl and as a troop or group member concurrently.
- **Volunteer Role (page 8):** Added information about Volunteers who become GSNEO Staff who still which to maintain a Volunteer role concurrently.

Volunteer Status

- **Volunteer Restrictions (p 14):** Funds handling restrictions expanded to include a possible restriction on any Volunteer/Caregiver/Financially responsible adult in a household with outstanding Product Program debt. Restoration of volunteer restrictions, driving restrictions to include OVI offenses in the past ten (10) years.

Communication

- **Adult-to-Youth Communications (p.17) *NEW POLICY*:** New policy outlining that adult volunteers are not to electronically communicate one-on-one with any youth member. Another adult, who is unrelated to the volunteer must be included in all communications (e.g. another troop volunteer, Girl Scout Caregiver, etc.)

Behavior and Safety

- **Smoking/Vaping/Tobacco (p25):** Beginning January 1, 2026, Girl Scouts of North East Ohio will be a tobacco and smoke-free environment. Please see the policy for additional details.
- **Trips/Travel - Council Approval (p27):** Per GSUSA after October 1, 2025 all Additional Activity Insurance will automatically be included for all members of Girl Scouts including Extended and International Travel. Any trip prior to this date must still file for additional activity insurance.

Financial

- **Bank Accounts (p34):** Clarified that a third signer is need if first two signers are related.. One additional savings account per troop/group is permitted, which must be authorized in writing by GSNEO.
- **Bank Account – Bank Account Management (p35):** GSNEO's preferred banks include Huntington, KeyBank, Fifth Third Bank and Citizen's Bank. Storing of troop bank card information with online vendors is not permitted.
- **Bank Accounts – Appropriate Use of Funds (p35):** Additional restrictions on appropriate use of funds.

- **Bank Accounts – Deposit of Funds (p36):** Petty Cash adjustment: if a troop is having concurrent Product Program booths it is permitted to carry \$100 petty cash per booth if needed. All funds should be returned to the bank account within 72 hours.
- **Bank Accounts – Funds Collection (p37):** Additional instructions on how to dispute charges through GSNEO's preferred Third-Party Service Organizations.
- **Financial Accountability (p38):** Bank account signers must complete all required GSNEO finance training within three months of accepting the volunteer role. Signers are also expected to hold each other accountable by reviewing bank statements or account activity monthly.
- **Financial Accountability – Reimbursement (p38):** Volunteers are not permitted to issue reimbursements to themselves (e.g., writing a check to themselves, electronic fund transfers, cash withdrawals, or making personal purchases with group account funds to reimburse for previous expenditures are not allowed). The second bank signer should issue all reimbursements.
- **Financial Misconduct (p39):** If restitution is not paid within 30 days, GSNEO retains the right to turn delinquent account information over to our third-party collection agency and/or pursue legal action. Additionally, a funds restriction may be added (see [Volunteer Restriction](#)).
- **GSUSA Sponsored Product Programs – Non-Council-Sponsored (p40):** Expanded definition of participation in Product Program required for a SU to submit a money earning application.; the SU must have at least 45% of troops participation in the Fall Product Program (FPP) and 60% in the Cookie Program (CP).
- **GSUSA Sponsored Product Programs (p43):** Expanded product program debt responsibility to all adults residing in a household.
- **Product Program Purchase Price (p43) *NEW POLICY:** Defining requirements of selling products at council-set purchase prices and consequences of violation.
- **Stewardship of Girl Scouts Funds and Product Program Debt (p44) *NEW POLICY:** Outlines parameters of consequences and appeals process parameters for Caregivers/Households that result in the OBR process.
- **Gift Acceptance/Fundraising/Donations to Girl Scouts (p44):** Clarification regarding groups like Veterans Organizations, Social, or Service Clubs making donations to Girl Scouts troops or Service Units processing.
- **Donations from Girl Scouts to other Organizations (p45) *NEW POLICY:** Troop/group chooses to donate left over Product Program products it is important to document the process and include this information in annual finance report.
- **Disbanding/Retiring Troops (p46):** Clarification on distribution of troop funds to returning girls, IRGs, troop transfers, etc.

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Customer Care at 800-852-4474, customercare@gsneo.org, or via Live Chat.