



Early Bird Adventures

Cardinal Fun Starts Here!

Just like spotting a cardinal in every season, you'll find something to look forward to in Girl Scouts all year long!

This Early Bird activity packet is your invitation to explore, create, and connect with the outdoors while celebrating one of our favorite feathered friends. As you work your way through these activities, you'll discover how caring for nature, trying new things, and spending time with friends are all part of the Girl Scout experience. Renewing your membership early helps make sure you don't miss out on another year of adventures, from outdoor exploration to hands-on programs and special events.

Ready to keep the fun going? Renew your Girl Scout membership today: www.gskentuckiana.org/renew

Meet the Northern Cardinal

Bright red, bold, and impossible to miss, the Northern Cardinal is one of the most recognizable birds in North America.

Unlike many birds, cardinals don't migrate, which means you can spot them all year long—even in the middle of winter!

Male cardinals are known for their vibrant red feathers, while females are a softer tan with warm red accents. Both have a signature crest (that little feather "mohawk"!) and a thick orange beak perfect for cracking seeds.

Cardinals are also incredible singers—males and females both whistle beautiful, clear songs. They use these calls to communicate, mark territory, and even "talk" to their mates.

Fun Cardinal Facts



The Northern Cardinal is the most popular state bird, representing seven states (IL, IN, KY, NC, OH, VA, WV).

Their bright color comes from pigments in the food they eat, like berries.

Cardinals mate for life and often feed each other—it's called "mate-feeding"!

You're more likely to hear a cardinal before you see one—they love to sing from hidden perches.



Just like cardinals return to the same spaces to nest and thrive, Girl Scouts is a place you can keep coming back to, season after season, for adventure, friendship, and fun!

Snack Like a Cardinal

Cardinals love seeds and fruits! Make a snack inspired by their diet.

Ingredients:

- Apple slices
- Sunflower seed butter or cream cheese or yogurt
- Sunflower seeds or granola (nut-free)
- Optional: raisins or dried cranberries

Instructions:

1. Spread sunflower seed butter, cream cheese, or yogurt onto each apple slice.
2. Sprinkle sunflower seeds, granola, or dried fruit on top.

Enjoy your bird-inspired treat!

Recycled Cardinal Art

Create your own cardinal using materials you already have!

Materials:

- Scrap paper, cardboard, magazines
- Fabric, bottle caps, etc.
- Glue, scissors

Instructions:

1. Gather red, brown, and orange materials.
2. Build your cardinal—realistic or abstract!
3. Add a background like trees, snow, or your backyard.

Bonus: Give your bird a name and write one sentence about where it lives.



Girl Scouts love creating and reusing materials... another way we care for the planet.

Build a Backyard Bird Café

Help cardinals feel at home by creating a simple feeder!

Materials:

- Toilet paper roll or pinecone
- Peanut butter (or sunflower butter)
- Birdseed (especially sunflower seeds!)
- String

Instructions:

1. Spread peanut butter all over your roll or pine cone.
2. Roll it in birdseed until fully coated.
3. Tie a string through or around it.
4. Hang it on a tree branch outside.

Cardinal Connection: Cardinals love seeds, especially sunflower seeds, and prefer feeders that are easy to perch on.



Taking care of wildlife is one way we protect the outdoors, something you'll keep doing all year when you renew your membership!

Make Your Own Binoculars

Perfect for bird watching!

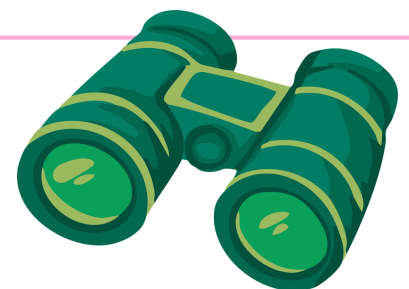
Materials:

- 2 toilet paper rolls
- Tape or glue
- String
- Markers/stickers

Instructions:

1. Tape rolls side by side.
2. Decorate however you like.
3. Attach string to wear around your neck.

Head outside and spot a cardinal!





The Totally True (and Totally Silly) Cardinal Story

One bright _____ morning, a Northern Cardinal with
(adjective)
_____ feathers landed near a group of Girl Scouts at
(color)
_____. The Girl Scouts were busy _____ as part of their
(place) (verb ending in -ing)
latest outdoor adventure. Suddenly, the cardinal let out a _____
(adjective)
chirp, as if it wanted to _____ with them. Curious, the Girl Scouts
(verb)
decided to _____ and follow the bird through the _____.
(verb) (place in nature)
Along the way, they spotted _____ and heard _____
(plural noun) (type of sound)
coming from the trees. The cardinal showed them how to find _____
(type of food)
and build a nest using _____. One Girl Scout said, “This is so
(plural noun)
_____! I love learning about _____.” Together, they
(adjective) (noun)
promised to _____ the environment and help protect
(verb)
_____. Before flying away, the cardinal gave one last
(plural noun)
_____ song that made everyone feel _____. At the end of
(adjective) (emotion)
the day, the Girl Scouts knew they would _____ back soon—because
(verb)
adventures like this are what make Girl Scouts so _____!
(adjective)

Renew Your Membership

2026–2027

Stay connected, active, and inspired.
Renew for another year of Girl Scouts!

Girl Rewards

Girls earn rewards by renewing their membership early. Act fast: these awesome incentives are available only for a limited time! These free rewards are provided to individual girl members who renew during our Early Bird season, through June 10.

June 10

Early Bird
Deadline

Girls who renew
by June 10 receive a
custom GSK renewal
patch & T-shirt!



For New Girls: Extended Year Membership



NEW girls who join during Early Bird season will earn a special welcome from Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana: up to 5 extra months of membership. PLUS, they'll also receive the girl renewal rewards!

The unbeatable benefit of extra membership (Spring 2026–September 30, 2027) is available for new girls who join through June 10 and select extended year membership.

Super Troop Adventures Cookie Reward



Troops that earn the Super Troop Adventures cookie reward, and select the option for membership renewal, will automatically earn all Early Bird incentives for every Girl Scout who participated in the cookie program.

Special Prize Drawings



Watch for special Early Bird prize drawings which we'll announce now through June 10. Renew early to make sure your Girl Scouts are eligible to win fun prizes! Why wait?

May 20

Super
Early Bird
Deadline

Troops that renew 70% + of their
girl members by May 20 receive
\$60 in Kentuckiana Credits!

Troops that renew 20+ girls receive an additional \$30 Kentuckiana Credits. Troops that renew 30+ girls receive another \$30. That means, troops with 30+ girls can receive up to \$120 in Kentuckiana Credits!



Troop Leaders will receive an email with a list of girls who qualified for a T-shirt & will have 2 weeks to submit sizes. This is a firm deadline; no late sizes or additional shirts can be accepted. Shirts will be shipped directly to the Troop Leader and are expected to arrive in September.

Troop Rewards

Troops benefit from Early Bird renewal rewards through Kentuckiana Credits, which can be used to cover your own adult membership as a Troop or Co-Leader. They can also be used for things like events, uniforms, and more!

Renew at

www.gskentuckiana.org/renew

girlscouts
of kentuckiana