

Volunteer Newsletter

September - October 2023

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Troop Spotlight

In August, Troop 333 visited Washington D.C. and saw the Capital Building, Library of Congress, The White House, Franklin D Roosevelt Memorial (which they visited on a 4 hour night hike!), The Mansion on O Street, The Museum of Illusions, The Artechouse, The Washington Monument - what a packed trip!

Want your troop or Service Unit to be spotlighted in a future newsletter or on social media? Submit your troop activities using the [Girls in Action](#) form!

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SEPTEMBER

| | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|-----------------------------|--|--|
| | | | | | 1 + Program Guide Live and gsEvents open + VIC Enrollment begins | 2 |
| 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 + Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend |
| 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 + Outdoor Skills Training Experience Day |
| 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 + Family Camp at Camp Todd | 23 |
| 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 + SU Networking Night | 29 + Fall Product Program Begins | 30 + End of Membership Year 22-23 |

OCTOBER

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|----------------------|----|-------------------|---|--|
| 1 + Start of Membership Year 23-24 + Virtual Fall Product Rally | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 + Night Hike | 6 | 7 + PEACE Health and Wellness Summit |
| 8 + Archery for VICs | 9 + Girl Scout Voices Count Deep Dive | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 + Out of School Day + Adventurer Overnight (DBJ) | 14 + Adventurer Overnight (JCSA) + Journey in a Day (Brownie) |
| 15 + Archery Level 1 Facilitator Training | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 + Volunteer Getaway Weekend | 21 + Archery/ Slingshot + Archives Fun and Games + Archives Juliette Low Tea + High Ropes/ Zip |
| 22 + Outdoor Skill | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 + Journey in a Day (Daisy) + High Ropes/ Zipline + Founders Day Program |
| 29 | 30 | 31 Founder's Day! | | | | |

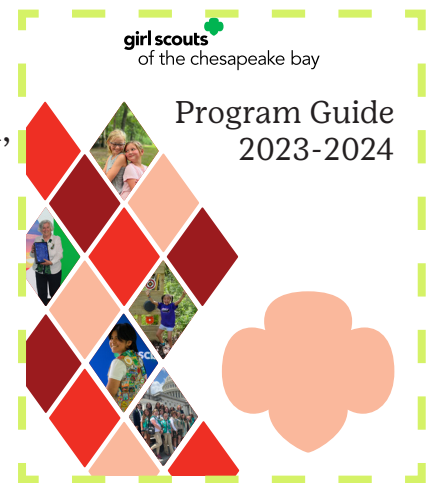
Updates and Happenings

Time to Get Ready for a New Girl Scout Year

As we get ready to plan a new Girl Scout year, we want to make sure that you have all the resources you need at your fingertips! Here are some great places to start!

Program Guide available now!

All of our currently planned GSCB programs are laid out in our 2023-24 Program Guide. The guide has a printer-friendly design, is broken down by program level, and is lean on content so you can find what you need quickly and easily. [View Program Guide](#)



Check out our Program Partners

Did you know GSCB has a list of Program Partners you can contact for programming opportunities, badge-earning programs and events, special Girl Scout discounts and more? Visit www.gscb.org/programpartner to learn more.

Know a local business, organization or individual who may be willing to partner with us? Fill out our [Community Program Partners Submission Form](#).

Volunteer Essentials

Be sure to keep the [Volunteer Essentials](#) page of our website bookmarked! Girl Scout program resources, guideline for running your troop or service unit, and more can be found here. Navigate to [Troop Leader Central](#) or [Service Unit Central](#) for specific troop or service unit information, respectively.

New Leader Onboarding (Not just for New Leaders!)

Calling all Leaders! Have you heard about our New Leader Training Series in gsLearn? This is a collection of valuable trainings that have great information to get a Leader started on their journey. If you are a New Troop Leader, these Learning Paths will be a required part of your onboarding. If you're not a new leader, these courses are a great refresher.

- New to gsLearn? As a Member of GSCB, you can access any required trainings and all of the great content available to you on gsLearn via your MyGS account! Check out our short video tutorial ["How to Access gsLearn"](#).

Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) - *New features!*

As you get ready to plan your Girl Scout year, we want to share these exciting changes to the Volunteer Toolkit!

- Troop Product Program Champions, both Fall and Cookie, now have access to the full details of the My Troop Tab so that they have easy access to troop member information to use during their respective programs.
- GSCB has launched the VTK Finance Tab which will be utilized beginning October 1st to help troop track finances throughout the year, submit an annual Troop Finance Report, and support financial transparency between troop leaders and caregivers.
- **Are you new to VTK?** - VTK is a digital resource that supports volunteers in delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and Juliettes (individually registered girls) in managing their own experience with their caregiver, ensuring every Girl

Scout has the opportunity she deserves to build a lifetime of leadership, success, and adventure.

- ▶ The caregiver view for troops, leaders and caregivers can communicate easily about upcoming meetings, what girls will be doing/learning, attendance and any help needed for the troop meeting.
- ▶ Want to learn more about using VTK for your Troop or Juliette? Check out these trainings in gsLearn today:
 - * GSUSA 2022 New and Updated Program
 - * GSUSA Volunteer Toolkit - Caregiver View
 - * GSUSA Volunteer Toolkit - Individual Registered Girl (IRG) Caregiver View
 - * GSUSA Volunteer Toolkit - Troop Leader View
 - * GSUSA Volunteer Toolkit - Finance Tab

Recruitment Readiness

As volunteers, you are an important part of getting more girls involved in Girl Scouts. By opening your troop to new girls, sharing your experience with Girl Scouts with your friends and family, volunteering to represent GSCB at local events, hosting your own recruitment events, etc., YOU are the key to a successful recruitment season.

- Sampler Troops - A popular way to introduce Girl Scouts is to host a sampler troop. After a set number of meetings with both girls and caregivers, the goal of the sampler troop is to convert into a traditional troop. If successful, caregivers will step up to become troop volunteers after seeing the role demonstrated first hand, or GSCB and the volunteers running the sampler troop will have recruited other adults to lead the troop. If you're interested in learning more or hosting a sampler troop, contact your Volunteer Support Specialist.
- Recruitment Resources for Service Units:
 - ▶ Service Units can use the [Service Unit Recruitment Supplies Request Form](#) to get marketing materials like flyers, giveaways and more to support their recruitment or community events.
 - ▶ NEW!!! Service Unit Lead Forms and QR Codes: To improve our follow up and placement of future Girls Scouts, each Service Unit has been issued their very own SU Lead form to capture information at recruitment events, as well as a QR Code image to include on flyers and signage at events! Connect with your Volunteer Support Specialist for more information.
 - ▶ Recruitment supplies available now on ShopGSCB - including heavyweight fabric tablecloths, pop up signage, wheeled totes, yard signs, volunteer t-shirts and bookmarks! Visit [ShopGSCB](#) to shop now.
 - ▶ GSCB has refreshed the evergreen recruitment flyers for both younger and older girls on the SU Central Page: [Younger Girl](#) | [Older Girl](#) to include an area where you can now upload your new QR Code directly to your flyer! (Be sure to download/open in Adobe for best functionality!)

Data Quality

To support the migration to gsEvents and drive accuracy in our troop data, we'll be making changes to troop accounts related to grades accepted. Any troop who previously had grades accepted that differed from the current grades of their troop members have been pulled into alignment to only reflect the grades of their current members.

Why? Being open to this many levels can be misleading to prospective members searching

for a troop. Additionally, gsEvents is structured, by GSUSA, to only show events applicable to the levels of your troop and household members. Therefore, by having only Brownies but being listed as accepting grades K-3, you would also see Daisy events – creating noise in your event searches and giving a false impression of events available for registration. You are still able to see all events via the events calendar on our website or in gsEvents when you are not actively logged in to your myGS.

This change gives us a clearer picture of our troops and supports more intentional recruitment efforts and thoughtful placement of Girl Scouts.

If your troop was affected by this, we have not lost your commitment to making Girl Scouts available to all girls and have captured elsewhere on your troop profile that you are open to girl members at other levels not currently in your troop.

GSCB Board Approved Recognitions

Board Approved Recognitions are an esteemed way to recognize your peers that leave you in awe. Volunteers nominated for these recognitions are gamechangers, not just for their Troops but also for their Service Unit and maybe neighboring Service Unit(s) too!

- Review the recognitions and understand their requirements using the [GSCB Volunteer Appreciation and Recognition Handbook](#).
- Submit nominations through the [GSCB Board Approved Recognition Nomination Form](#).
- Submit required endorsements through the [GSCB Board Approved Recognition Endorsement Form](#).

All nominations and endorsements are due by December 31, 2023.

2022-2023 Girl Scout Voices Count Survey Deep Dive

Please join Ashley Bulley, virtually, on October 19, 2023, at 7:00 pm for a review of the 2022-2023 GSUSA Voices Count Survey results. The discussion will include Girl, Caregivers, Troop Volunteer, and Service Unit Volunteer feedback. [Register to attend](#)

gsEvents live now!

Browse our event calendar to see upcoming events or login to your MyGS account and search for opportunities there. gsEvents is a platform provided by GSUSA that will enable you to complete program registrations from your MyGS account. In this new platform, you will be able to see and register for other council's events, notify the members you're registering just by completing registration and look back at your event history from one place!

View our [gsEvents Quick Reference Guide and FAQs](#), and stay tuned for more training resources coming soon.

Program Passports Due Sept. 30th

Have your Girl Scouts been working on their Program Passports? In order to get their free scrunchie bracelet and entry to win a free week at camp, they must submit their completed passport via the [GSCB Passport Form](#) no later than September 30th!

NEW Camp Country Center Map

The new map for Camp Country Center has been posted! [Check it out](#)

Membership and On Time Renewal Update

The 2022-2023 membership year is coming to an end, and we are fully focused on building a strong membership foundation for the 23-24 year rooted in retention of current members and engagement of new members.

MY23 Girl Membership
4,322

MY23 Adult Membership
1,838

MY23 Lifetime Membership
1,000

MY24 Girl Membership
2,553

MY24 Adult Membership
1,193

MY24 Lifetime Membership
1,038

*Membership data is as of August 30th, 2023.

New Items Available for Preorder!

You asked for a zippered hoodie! In the interest of being transparent, we have been working hard on finding an affordable option. In order to gauge interest, we are holding a preorder now through September 20th. If we reach the minimum order of 24pcs by the 20th, we will place that order. If we do not, we will table the zippered hoodie for another time. [Preorder Now](#)

Additionally, we would like to offer the opportunity to preorder a volunteer polo through September 20th as well. A minimum of 24pcs ordered will need to be reached for the order to be placed. Available in ladies and mens cuts. [Preorder Ladies](#) | [Preorder Mens](#)



Fall Product & Cookie Programs

gsLearn for Fall Product went live on Wednesday, August 16th. All volunteers either at the Service Unit level or Troop level that had their Product Program Agreement and Membership Year 24 registered completed, are being uploaded to the modules.

Own Your Magic Fall Product Program begins on Friday, September 29. Make sure your Troop Fall Product Champion is registered or has renewed for the 23-24 year, current background check, completed the Fall Product Champion Agreement and has taken the gsLearn modules assigned. We also have a robust volunteer Fall Product site for additional support.

- [Product Program Agreement](#)
- [Fall Product Volunteer Site](#)
 - * *Add key dates to your preferred calendar!* Navigate to the [Calendar](#), then scroll to the bottom and select “Subscribe to Calendar”. Select your preferred link (i.e. Google Calendar, iCalendar, Outlook calendar)

Fall Product Key Dates:

- September 29 - Program start
- November 5 - Program End
- November 28 – November 30 - Deliveries to Service Unit Fall Product Champion
- December 8 - ACH (Automated Clearing House)

Cookie Program Key Dates:

- January 6, 2024 – *New this year*, both the order card and Digital Cookie Cloud will begin
- January 24 – Troop Initial Orders due
- February 3 – February 9– Service Unit Initial Order Cookie deliveries
- February 9 – March 10 – Booth period
- February 23– Initial Order ACH
- March 10 – Cookie program ends
- March 22– Final ACH

Product Program A.C.E.S.

Help your Girl Scouts obtain the status of Product Program A.C.E.S. These are an exclusive group of Girl Scouts who go above and beyond during the GSCB Product Programs. They reach new goals and gain access to a special A.C.E.S. fun patch, a Business Review from Little Brownie Bakers May 2024, GSCB Product Programs vendor rewards (first to vote) and are given the first opportunity to represent GSCB to the press or in news media segments about the GSCB Product Programs, and more! Each (membership) year a Girl Scout is part of the A.C.E.S. group, she will earn a rocker in addition to the A.C.E.S. fun patch!

- What does A.C.E.S. stand for? Ambition, Creativity, Entrepreneurial Spirit
- Eligibility requirements for the A.C.E.S. program:
 - ▶ Sell \$125+ worth of products during the 2023 Fall Product Program
 - ▶ Sell 600+ packages of cookies during the 23-24 Cookie Program

Cookie Captain In-person Trainings - Save the Date(s)!

- ▶ November 18th - 2pm - 4pm - Camp Country Center
- ▶ December 2nd - 10am - 12pm - Camp Todd

Cookie Cupboards

Does your Service Unit have a cupboard within their area? If not, would you be interested in becoming a Cookie Cupboard Champion? If so, please contact Renee Naughton at rnaughton@cbgsc.org so that we can discuss the possibility. Remember, the sooner the better so that we can get you all set for the MY24 Cookie Program.

Things to Do

New Volunteer Opportunities

Have you seen our new volunteer roles? Check out our [Become a Volunteer](#) page to see the new ways we're tapping into your talents and engaging communities that may have thought supporting Girl Scouts was limited to troops and cookie sales. All roles have a job description and can be found on the catalog using the zip code 19702 (they're council wide roles meant to support the whole peninsula). If you know someone who would be a great fit for more than one, but wants to take on the greatest need, have them submit the Volunteer Interest Form and we'll connect with them to find the best fit.

Coming soon! Share these roles with a friend by reposting a Facebook or LinkedIn feature from GSCB.

Volunteer Summit Recap

We were so excited to host the inaugural GSCB Volunteer Summit this year on Saturday, August 19. Attendees came together to learn about important updates, engaged in peer-to-peer learning and discussions, networked with other volunteers, and more!

A huge thank you to this year's Volunteer Summit Committee:

Carrie Straub

Crystal Wheatley

Deb Petka

Esther Wales

Sharron Cannella

If you are interested in joining the committee to help plan next year, please let us know by completing the [GSCB Volunteer Summit Committee Interest Form](#).

Fall School - Somewhere Over the Rainbow

Looking for a chance to learn some new skills while having fun? Make plans now to attend the volunteer run Fall School at Camp Todd, September 29-October 1 -registration is now open. Have a skill you'd like to share? The Fall School Committee is looking for instructors as well! Visit the [Fall School website](#) to learn more.

Volunteer Getaway Weekends - Save the Date!

We're still reminiscing about how much fun we had at our last Volunteer Getaway Weekend! We kayaked, we painted, we made crafts, and most importantly we laughed and spent time together. We are looking forward to planning our getaway which will be held October 20 - 22 at Camp Todd, AND we're announcing that we'll have a 2nd on this year to be held June 14-16! Registration information will be coming soon!

Until then, check out our [Getaway Photo Album](#) here to relive the memories!

P.E.A.C.E. Girl Health and Wellness Summit

On **October 7th, 2023** at Early College School in Dover (ECS at Delaware State University), GSCB will be hosting it's first ever Girl Health and Wellness Summit! Our theme is P.E.A.C.E., and we invite all Girl Scouts to attend to - learn the **P**ower of their physicality, **E**mbrace their inner beauty, appreciate their **A**uthentic self, **C**elebrate what makes them unique, and **E**volve into the best version of themselves!

Open to all Girl Scouts

Cost: \$30/Girl, \$5/Adult

Lunch, fun patch and swag item included.

[Register Now](#)

V.I.C. (Very Invested Camper) Program Enrollment is Open

Become a member of the BEST outdoor Girl Scout club this side of the Delmarva Peninsula - the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay Very Invested Camper (V.I.C.) program! This program will run all year long and is exclusively for GSCB members.

Open to all Girl Scouts

Cost: \$25/yr

Fun patch, exclusive access to 4 VIC events, and swag item included.

[Enroll Now](#)

* V.I.C. memberships are non-refundable and non-transferable. V.I.C. memberships are currently not available via Financial Assistance. In order to be eligible for the V.I.C. program, girls must have a valid 2023-2024 Girl Scout Membership.

Program on the Move

Our FREE mobile programming is back for another year! Reserve a returning favorite or try out one of our new offerings. [Schedule your program](#)

Girl Scouts Love the State Parks Weekend

Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend is THIS weekend - September 9th and 10th! Visit state parks in Delaware, Maryland and Virginia for special events. To learn more about upcoming Girl Scouts Love State Parks events, visit our [Event Calendar](#).

A [Girl Scouts Love State Parks patch](#) is available for purchase for participating Girl Scouts.

Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge

Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge is coming to an end soon! Girl Scouts who complete the required number of activities prior to Sept. 10th can purchase the Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge patch.

Visit www.gscb.org/arl for the challenge worksheet and instructions for purchasing your patch. Completing the Girl Scouts Love the Outdoors Challenge is also a stamp opportunity in your GSCB Program Passport. Don't forget to [request your stamp](#) upon completion!

NEW/Updated Animal Badges!

Nature, the environment, and the fascinating creatures that inhabit them hold significant importance for Girl Scouts. Recognizing and prioritizing the deep affection girls have for animals and the outdoors, resulted in the optimization of the Animals program in 2022 with an updated Brownie Pets badge. In 2023, we are expanding our Animals program by adding a Daisy badge (Animal Observer) and modernizing our Junior (Animal Habitats) and Cadette (Animal Helpers) badges to provide Girl Scouts with even more valuable experiences to better aid them in understanding how animals shape our world.



Governance

Girl Scout Convention

In July, our four National Delegates will be traveled to Orlando, Florida for the 56th National Council Session and Girl Scout Phenom, where delegates from every council across the nation and USA Girl Scouts Overseas meet to discuss, debate, and vote on issues important to the Girl Scout Movement, and elect national leaders for the next triennium. [Check out photos from their adventures!](#)

You can read about the National Council Session Actions Taken on our [Governance](#) page, or join our National Delegates on a call to discuss National Council Session and the results on (DATE). Our GSCB National Delegates can't wait to share their experience on that call, but until then, here's a few of their thoughts:



Ellie Davis: "Going to the 56th National Girl Scout Convention was extremely eye opening and moving for me. As I walked around the convention center, I met Girl Scouts young and old from all over the country (and overseas) with uniforms covered head to toe in badges. Seeing the involvement of thousands of girls, hearing stories of their accomplishments and community impact, and sharing stories about swaps, really proved to me that everyone has a place in Girl Scouts, and how important it is for us to keep supporting the movement."

Tracie Bruno: "The 56th National Council Session has ended, but the memories, and inspirational moments are with me forever.

The democratic process was fully utilized, where each delegate had an opportunity to speak and be heard, before we came together as a group to vote on proposals. I was especially impressed with the girl delegates, who were a little reserved at the beginning of the session but were full of confidence and passion as the spoke on proposals that were dear to their hearts. While the business was serious, the breaks allowed us to meet Girl Scouts from across the world, exchange swaps and stories, and feel pride in being part of the Girl Scout movement."



Denise Matz: "It was a great honor to attend the National Council Session as a delegate for our council. I was so impressed with the girl delegates and how they spoke and handled themselves in a room of 900 people! I really enjoyed talking to other volunteers from around the world. It was a great experience that I would love to repeat!"



Heather Burket: "The National Council Session was a heartwarming and motivating experience to be a part of. I witnessed Girl Scouts of all ages participating in leadership opportunities at developmentally appropriate levels and experienced the opportunity to see public speaking skills flourish in the teen delegates whom felt passionate enough to represent their and their councils beliefs

about the proposals for change. It was exciting and sometimes daunting to see parliamentary procedure at work, but it was effective and most left the meetings content with the fairness of our collective decisions. I was also motivated and comforted after meeting and speaking with some of the incoming board of directors and leadership of GSUSA. I had the pleasure of participating in some Girl Scout fellowship and traditions during Phenom and NCS that brought feelings of positive GS nostalgia to me, which were extra special while shared with my daughter, a 3rd grade Brownie who also attended Phenom for a day. Both my daughter and I came home invigorated for the new GS season, with ideas to share with our troop, Service Unit, and council; memories to last a lifetime; and excitement for future involvement in the GS movement."



Other

Event and Program Financial Assistance - New this year!

We believe finances should never stand in the way of a girl experiencing all Girl Scouts has to offer. Thanks to generous funding, we will be able to provide Financial Assistance for girls who need it to participate in programs and events with cost associated up to \$120.00 per girl. This financial assistance opportunity will be available Oct. 1st, 2023 - June 30th, 2024, or until the funds are used up.

For more information about Event and Program Financial Assistance, visit our [Event Calendar](#).

Summer Camp Recap

Summer is OVER! We can't believe how fast it went, but we'll cherish the memories we made at Overnight and Day camp forever and ever. This year, 70 campers joined us at Overnight Camp at Camp Todd and 171 campers joined us for Day Camp at Camp Country Center.

Check out this quote from an overnight camper's caregiver that really gave us goosebumps!

"[She] had the best time. She loves it so much. I hope to send her next summer for two weeks. [She] has had a tough year and this wasn't just restorative, it gave her hope that life can be fun again."

Making a positive impact on girls is what it's all about! Thank you to all of our volunteers who helped spread the word about summer camp and encouraged their Girl Scouts to join us this summer. We can't wait to see you all next year!

Staff Comings and Goings

• Staff Goings

Stephany Nistad, former Program Specialist left the GSCB team on August 25th, 2023. We wish her all the best.

GSCB Employment Opportunities

Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay is seeking passionate, driven, and engaged individuals to join our team. To review all open positions, visit our career page, [here](#).

- [Outdoor Program Specialist](#)
- [Community Initiatives Specialist \(PT\)](#)
- [New Troop Engagement Specialist](#)
- [Fundraising Coordinator](#)
- [Program Specialist](#)
- [Human Resource & Administrative Coordinator](#)
- [Marketing Inventory Specialist \(PT\)](#)