

Volunteer Newsletter

November-December 2023

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Troop Spotlight

In October, Troop 599 was visited by the “STEM Queen” and Miss Philadelphia 2023, Jackie Means. Together they completed some exciting science experiments!

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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NOVEMBER

			1	2	3 +Leadership Weekend at Country Center	4 + Cadette Journey in a Day at Country Center
5	6	7 +Breaking the Silence with Byrnes Health Education Center	8 + Night Hike at Country Center	9	10	11 + Gold Award Ceremony + Archery/Sling-shot +Outdoor Skills Training Day +Outdoor Skills Training Overnight Archery Level 1 Facilitator Training
12 +UD Biomedical Engineering Exploration Day	13 + Work Day at Country Center	14 + Work Day at Sandy Pines +Gold Award Training at Lewes Library	15 +Breaking the Silence with Byrnes Health Education Center	16 +SU Networking Night	17 + Adventurer Weekend at Todd + Work Day at Todd	18 + Virtual Native American Heritage Month Program + High Ropes + Cookie Captain Training
19 +Work Day at Grove Point	20	21	22	23 Happy Thanksgiving! GSCB Offices Closed	24	25
26	27	28 +Giving Tuesday	29	30 +Deadline to Enroll in VIC Program		

DECEMBER

					1 +Adventurer Overnight at Todd	2 +Democracy Badge Workshop +Cookie Captain Training +Adventurer Overnight at Todd
3 +Leadership Basics at Country Center	4	5 + VIC Night Hike and Campfire Deserts at Todd	6	7 Happy Hanukkah!	8	9 +Democracy Badge Workshop +Fall Product Reward Program + Virtual Outdoor Skill + Gold Award Training
10 +Night Hike at Camp Todd	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25 Merry Christmas!	26 Happy Kwanzaa!	27	28	29	30
GSCB Offices Closed						
						31 +Deadline for National Girl Advisory Board Applications

Updates and Happenings

Update Your Information

The new Membership Year is a great time to check your profile for accuracy! We want to be sure that you don't miss a thing, so that means making sure that your information is correct for you and your family members. To review your profile, follow these simple steps:

1. Go to www.gscb.org, click on MyGS in the top right corner, and then login to your account.
2. On the left hand side, select "My Household".
3. Next to your name, select "Edit Profile", then carefully review your details including:
 - Volunteer Roles
 - Phone Number
 - Email Address
 - Mailing Address
 - Communications Opt-ins (especially email and photo!)
4. Repeat for all of your household members.

GSCB and Zoom Update

GSUSA has ended their subscription with Zoom. Due to this, all previously licensed accounts will now be returned to Basic account plans. You will not lose access to your account or any previous meeting data. However, with the basic plan, you will now have a 40-minute meeting limit with a cap of 100 attendees. You can read more about plans or [resubscribe](#) at your own cost, learn more by clicking the link. Additionally, GSCB (Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay) staff will be hosting all meetings via Teams going forward. Please reach out to membercare@cbgsc.org with any questions.

Additional Insurance Update

Beginning October 1, 2023, Additional Insurance will no longer be required for Girl Scout activities, meetings or events, including domestic travel. Additional insurance can still be purchased for accidents plus sickness coverage if volunteers/staff would like to add on the sickness coverage, otherwise every participant whether they are members or non-members will be covered for accidents. International travel will still require additional insurance to be purchased and remains the same.

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 their Service Unit and maybe even neighboring Service Units as well! All nominations or endorsements are due by December 31st, 2023.

- Review all the ways to recognize your fellow volunteers on our [Volunteer Recognitions page](#)
- Learn more in [gsLearn](#) by taking the "200 Adult Recognition and Appreciation" course
- 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](#)

New! Guides to earning your Silver Award.

Become a Silver Award Girl Scout with our new step-by-step resources.



New Silver Award Suite

Calling all Cadette Leaders and Caregivers! Supporting your Girl Scout Cadette(s) in their Silver Award will help them to create positive change, learn leadership skills that will last a lifetime and prepare to earn their Gold Award! Earning the Silver Award is an incredible achievement - We're here to support them by making the process as simple as possible. Our new workbooks and resources will guide them every step of the way! These new guides to earning the Silver Award feature:

- Step-by-step instructions for earning the Silver Award
- Helpful resources and guidance for both Cadette(s) and supporting adults
- Prerequisites and requirements
- Ready-to-use templates for the Proposal and Final Reports
- Checklists to keep you on track
- Simplified submission process

Additionally, check out these other great resources:

- Silver Award Meeting Plans in VTK
- NEW gsLearn Learning Path titled "GSUSA Earning the Silver Award: Your Guide to the Requirements and Process" (this is a great training to share with your Cadette(s))

You can access all of these great new guides and resources on our [Silver Award page](#).

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.
- Cadette Leaders and Juliette Caregivers - check out the NEW Silver Award meeting plans in VTK

New Annual Finance Report and Tracking Tools

We all know that financial transparency builds strong and invested troops. So GSCB has launched a new Annual Finance Report process as well as new Finance Tracking Tools for both Service Units and Troops! These new tracking tools (downloadable Excel worksheets) make it easy to track your SU or Troop’s daily transactions and help prepare you for submission of the Annual Finance Report. We will be hosting live training throughout the year, as well as a gsLearn training (coming soon) to help guide you through this, and check out this visual below.

Task	Service Units	Troops
Transparency Expectation	All SU Volunteers and members	All troop volunteers, caregivers, and Girl Scouts
What documents to retain? (per GSCB Financial Account Guidance)	SUs and Troops must maintain documentation of purchases and account maintenance records for a minimum of two years. This includes all receipts, statements, and proof of electronic transactions.	SUs and Troops must maintain documentation of purchases and account maintenance records for a minimum of two years. This includes all receipts, statements, and proof of electronic transactions.
Transaction Detail Tracking	<u>GSCB Service Unit Financial Worksheet</u>	<u>GSCB Troop Financial Worksheet</u>
Annual Finance Report Submission	<u>GSCB Service Unit Annual Finance Report Submission Form</u>	“Finance” tab of the Volunteer Toolkit (find this under MyGS on www.gscb.org)
What documents to submit?	12 months statements (July - June)	12 months statements (July - June)
Submission Deadline	The report is due by July 31st of each membership year.	The report is due by July 31st of each membership year.

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at membercare@cbgsc.org.

New Volunteer Opportunities

We’ve got some big news to share... There are new ways to volunteer with Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay! You suggested that we need innovative ways to engage NEW volunteers and for young alum to stay involved. So, we did some research and we recognized that there are some niche opportunities that we can offer as volunteer roles that can reduce the number of hats you wear as well as engage more of our communities with Girl Scouts. Visit the [Become a Volunteer](#) page for more details & to apply.



Product Programs

Fall Product

Thank you for your support during the Fall Product Program! With your support, the Girl Scouts have met and exceeded their goals.

Important dates for Fall Product:

- November 28-30 – Service Unit Girl Delivery Nut/Candy Deliveries Occur
- December 1 – Troops notified of ACH (Automated Clearing House)
- December 4 – Deadline to submit Caregiver Debt and ACH Extension form
- December 8 – ACH Facilitated

Cookies

IMPORTANT for all Cookie Program Champions and Caregivers: If you are planning to participate in the 2024 Cookie Program, you will need to update your membership account (in MYGS) with the correct email address you want to use in the eBudde and/or Digital Cookie platforms. Due to the changes in the connection between eBudde and Digital Cookie, volunteers will no longer be able to use more than 1 email address.

Cookie Cupboard Volunteer Opportunity

Open to Girl Scouts 8th grade and up, and adults! Volunteer alongside GSCB Staff in the two GSCB Cupboards, Newark, DE and Salisbury, MD! If you are a Girl Scout, we can approve Service Hours.

Volunteer Responsibilities Include:

- Arrive at cupboard half an hour early from when the cupboard opens
- Write Pending Orders down for pick ups
- Pull Pending Orders for Troop Cookie Champions (TCC) or Juliette Caregivers
- Have TCC or Juliette Caregiver count order
- After TCC or Juliette Caregiver confirms order in eBudde, release order on our end
- Assist with loading of cookies in the TCC/Juliette Caregiver vehicle
- Inventory prior to start of shift and end of shift

Dates available: February 8th - March 9th

Location	Day of the Week	Hours available
PRC (Peninsula Resource Center) - Salisbury, MD	Tuesday	12PM - 7PM
	Thursday	12PM - 7PM
	Saturday	9AM - 1PM
NRC (Northern Resource Center) - Newark, DE	Wednesday	12PM - 7PM
	Friday	12PM - 7PM
	Saturday	9AM - 1PM
	Sunday	9AM - 12PM

If you would like to volunteer at either cupboard, please email Renee Naughton at rnaughton@cbgsc.org by November 30th of your availability (location/date/time) so you can be included on the schedule.

Upcoming Cookie Dates

- December 4 – gsLearn goes live to volunteers who have their agreement completed
- December 18 – Volunteer access into Digital Cookie and eBudde if above has been completed
- December 20 – Girl Scout access into Digital Cookie
- January 6 – Start of Cookie Program (order card and Digital Cookie)
- January 22 – Initial order card period ends – Digital Cookie Orders are Paused for Troop IO submission
- January 24 – Initial order and rewards due to Service Unit Cookie Champion
- January 26 – GSCB Virtual Cookie Rally
- February 3-9 – Service Unit Cookie Deliveries
- February 9 – March 10 – Cookie Booths
- February 16 – Notification of First ACH
- February 23 – ACH Facilitated

Cookie Captain In-person Trainings

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

This training is for Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors. Think you've mastered the Cookie Program? Show us what you've got! Become a Cookie Captain and educate younger Girl Scouts about how to succeed in selling cookies.

By completing the Cookie Captain Training Program, you'll learn the skills to help mentor younger cookie sellers, help at cookie events and booths, and provide valuable assistance to the Cookie Champion in your Service Unit.

Product Program A.C.E.S.

Congratulations to those Girl Scouts who sold \$125 during the Fall Product Program, you are halfway to earning your Program A.C.E.S. patch (or rocker if you have met the criteria in previous years), only 600+ boxes of cookies to go!

Cookie Price Updates

GSCB will not be increasing cookie prices for the upcoming program. Core cookies will remain at \$5 per box and \$6 for specialty cookies. As the market continues to change, we will be analyzing the program for Membership Year 2025.

Cookie Resources

- Family Product Program Agreement
- Product Program Champion Agreement
- Product Program Volunteer Site - will be updated for Cookie following the close of the Fall Product Program

Things to Do

View November - December Programs in the Program Guide

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](#)



Program Financial Assistance

We believe finances should never stand in the way of a girl experiencing all Girl Scouts has to offer. Thanks to generous funding for Outdoor and STEM programming, we will be able to provide Financial Assistance for girls who need it to participate in programs and events with costs 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. [Learn more about the policy.](#)

V.I.C. (Very Invested Camper) Program Enrollment Closes November 30

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](#)

New! GSCB State Park Expert Patch

We really love Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend, but wish it happened more than once a year - thus, we created the GSCB State Park Expert Patch. Girl Scouts can earn this patch multiple times - for multiple state parks! They'll choose a state park - in our footprint, or far away - research and discover what kind of environment they might find there. Then, they're challenged to make their own state park!

[View the Requirements](#)

[Purchase Your Patch](#)



Governance

National Girl Scout Advisory Board - Call for Nominations

GSUSA is accepting nominations for up to ten members to join the National Girl Scout Advisory Board to GSUSA. Girl Scouts in grades 7-11 in fall 2024 are eligible to join. Additional information detailing the opportunity can be found by reviewing the [National Girl Scout Advisory Board to Girl Scouts of the USA Position Description Information Sheet](#).

Girl Scouts must complete the [Girl Scout Advisory Board to Girl Scouts of the USA Application](#) by **December 31, 2023**, to be considered for nomination to GSUSA.

Other

Updates to Gold Award Deadlines

*Updated October 1st, 2023

- September 30th - Deadline to submit Gold Award Final Report to be included in upcoming Gold Award Ceremony. Girls who submit after 9/30 will be invited to the following year's ceremony.

For Graduating Seniors:

- April 1 - Recommended last day for graduating seniors to submit their Gold Award Project Proposal. Proposals will NOT be accepted from high school graduates after June 1st.
- September 15th of their graduation year - High school graduates must turn in their Gold Award Final Report to their Gold Award Mentor for approval. This will allow for review and revisions prior to September 30th.

Visit our [Gold Award page](#) to learn more about the Gold Award process, required training, resources for Troop Leaders and Caregivers, and more.

Staff Comings and Goings

• Staff Comings

Carol Moneymaker, New Troop Support Specialist, joined the GSCB team on October 23, 2023. Welcome, Carol!

Emily Urbanik, Marketing Inventory Specialist, joined the GSCB team on October 16, 2023. Welcome, Emily!

• Staff Goings

Dawn Love, former Staff Accountant, left the GSCB team on October 20, 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](#).

- [Associate Director of Fund Development](#)
- [Staff Accountant](#)
- [Program Specialist](#)
- [Human Resource & Administrative Coordinator](#)
- [Volunteer Support Specialist - Upper Eastern Shore of Maryland](#)