

Volunteer Newsletter

January - February 2026



SU Spotlight

Service Unit 45 recently launched their Girl Advisory Board, giving Girl Scouts in their area even more opportunity to have their voices heard and practice valuable leadership skills. The Girl Advisory Board planned and facilitated a successful “Bob Ross Paint Night” - complete with a Bob Ross wig! 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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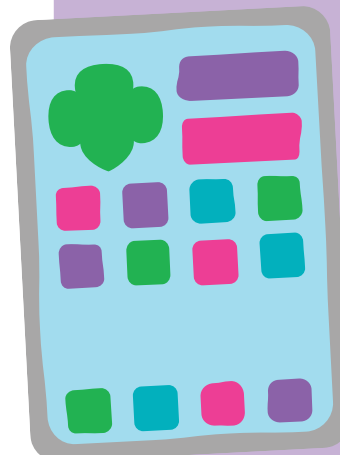
Stay Up to Date!

Sign up now to get text updates
Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake
Bay!

Text **GSCBUPDATE** to 302-200-4074.
Standard text messaging rates apply.

Interested in getting alerts about
camp properties
(recommended
if you have a
camp property
reservation)?

Text **CAMPALERT**
to 302-200-4074.





GSCB Events
Calendar

JANUARY

				1 Happy New Year!	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 + Virtual Summer Camp Info Session	14	15	16	17
18	19 MLK Jr. Day of Service GSCB Offices Closed	20	21 + New Leader Support Call	22	23 +Going for Gold Weekend	24 + Going for Gold Day
25	26	27	28 +Virtual Summer Camp Info Session	29	30 + Cookie Booth Selection opens in eBudde	31 + Cookie Delivery Week

FEBRUARY

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Happy Valentine's Day!
15	16 President's Day GSCB Offices Closed	17	18 + New Leader Support Call	19	20	21
22 Happy World Thinking Day! + Virtual Craft and Tinker Badge Workshop	23	24	25	26	27	28 + Virtual Collage Artist Badge Workshop

Happy New Year, Volunteers!

Troop Roster Checks

Do it now before you find Girl Scouts missing in eBudde!

It is important that Troop Leaders are checking their troop rosters NOW in myGS to ensure that all Girl Scouts who are participating in your troop this year are registered. This is to ensure that every Girl Scout has the opportunity to participate in the Cookie Program as well as to ensure that we have accurate records. Please contact MemberCare@cbgsc.org if you have any questions.

Financial Tracking and Resource Reminder

As we head into Cookie Season, it's a great time to be sure that your Troop's Financial Tracker is up to date! Here are some tips and reminders:

- The [GSCB Troop Financial Worksheet](#) should have your detailed finance recorded from 7/1/25 through today.
- **Best practice is to enter Cookie payments from caregivers and deposits from booths on separate lines in case you need to reference them at a later date.**
- **BE SURE TO WRITE RECEIPTS** to caregivers when giving cookies or receiving payments.
- Keep all receipts and financial records for 2 years in case a detailed audit is required.

If you haven't started tracking your troop finances using the [GSCB Troop Financial Worksheet](#), it's not too late! Start now so that you are ready for end of year submission next July. If you have questions, start by completing the gsLearn training titled: 200 GSCB Finance and Reporting Learning Path.

GSCB Board Approved Recognitions Committee is Looking for Members

The Board Approved Recognitions Committee is a group of volunteers who care deeply about the recognition of volunteer's outstanding contributions to Girl Scouting. They are overseen by the Board Approved Recognitions Chair member of the Board of Directors. This opportunity is right for you if you are passionate about the advancement of Girl Scouting, skilled in discerning if the achievements match the award criteria and are able to commit seasonally in February and March.

[Board Approved Recognitions Committee Member Position Description](#)

If you are interested, complete this [GSCB Volunteer Interest Form](#), select "Committee Member", then select "Board Approved Recognitions Committee".

2025 - 2026 Membership Goals and Update

MY26 Girl Membership Goal – 4,500 Current MY26 Girl Membership* - 3,137

MY26 Adult Membership Goal – 2,000 Current MY26 Adult Membership* - 1,593

Lifetime Membership* – 1,093

*Membership data is as of January 13, 2026

GSCB 64th Annual Meeting – Save the Date!

We're excited to announce a notable change to the Annual Meeting for this upcoming year.

- **Save the Date for Saturday, May 2nd, 2026!**
- Time: 10:00am – 3:00pm
- Location: Del-One Conference Center, Delaware Technical Community College, Terry Campus, 100 Campus Dr, Dover, DE
- Registration and more information coming soon!

Teen Representative to the Board of Directors

Application Deadline EXTENDED!

Each year, two Girl Scouts Seniors or Ambassadors are selected through an interview process to represent the girls in our council by serving a one-year term as a non-voting member on the GSCB Board of Directors. This is a great opportunity for them to showcase their leadership skills by serving as part of the GSCB Board of Directors. Interested Girl Scouts should apply [HERE](#). Applications will be accepted by the extended deadline of 2/28/26.

Opportunity to Attend Girl Scouts UNITE this July for Cadettes - Ambassadors!



We are excited to offer this opportunity to Girl Scouts who demonstrate leadership, service, and a passion for personal growth and community impact. The Girl Scouts Unite Conference will take place on July 23-25, 2026 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. There's no better time and place to celebrate the incredible impact of Girl Scouts than on the 250th anniversary of the U.S. in our nation's capital. We invite any CSA Girl Scout to complete the application by February 16th, 2026. An interview process will follow and 5 applicants will be selected for an all-expense paid trip to the conference. Girl Scouts will travel, dine, and explore with GSCB staff chaperones.

[Apply now via the Girl Scouts Unite Conference Application](#). Note that the application includes writing prompts that should be prepared prior to submitting the electronic form. View the prompts in advance [HERE](#).

Winter Association Meetings - Dates and Locations Coming Soon

Winter Association Meetings are open to all GSCB adult members and girl members 14 years and older. Here, you'll have the opportunity to receive updates, provide input and feedback, and help set and support strategic goals of the council. We hope you will join us in person or virtually at one of our three upcoming meetings. Registration and location details will be available the week of January 18th.

- **Association Chair Nominations** - Our council is made up of geographic subdivisions which we call Associations. Each Association is led by an Association Chair whose responsibility is to plan and execute Association Meetings, to communicate with Girl Scout members within their Association, and to manage proposals as they are submitted.

This February, we will be accepting nominations for new Association Chairs in each Association as their terms have come to completion. Be on the lookout for when the nomination period begins, but in the meantime, if you are interested in this position or know someone who might be interested, please check out the [Association Chair Position Description](#) to read more about the role and responsibilities.

A special thank you to our current Association Chairs who have served their terms in this role and have led our Associations through the past two years: Carrie Straub, Lesley Czocho, Tracie Bruno, and Suzanne Rubino. Thank you for your leadership!



girl scouts
of the chesapeake bay

Fall Product Program 2025 Results

Total Troop Proceeds:

\$41,440.90



Participating Troops:

195

Personalized Patches:

309

Participating
Girl Scouts:

899

Girl Scouts Achieving
\$1000+:

23



Product Programs

Cookie Program Information

Thank you for a strong start to the Cookie Program! We appreciate all our volunteers for being Brave, Fierce, and Fun!

Support and Resources

- The [Volunteer Site](#) is available 24/7 with tools, links, and guidance
- Questions or Issues? Contact MemberCare@cbgsc.org.

Digital Cookie

- The Digital Cookie website is live now.
- Digital Cookie App launches January 31st, 2026 (used for in-hand payments only once cookies arrive)



Initial Order (IO) Deadline

- **January 20th, 8AM** - Digital Cookie pauses for IO transfer to eBudde
- **January 20th, 11:59PM** - Troop Cookie Champions must submit Initial Order and Rewards in eBudde
- **January 21st, 11:59PM** - Service Unit Initial Orders and Rewards due

IMPORTANT:

- Do NOT duplicate Digital Cookie orders in paper/Initial Orders
- Submit Initial Order first, then Rewards (updates may take up to 20 minutes)
- Troops opting out of rewards still earn Initial Order rewards; opt out deadline is February 9th!

Digital Cookie Orders After IO

- Orders placed after January 20th (8:01 AM) require TCC assignment in eBudde for girl delivery and in-hand orders
- Payments transfer automatically. Cookie packages do not transfer automatically (with the exception of donations and direct shipping orders). See eBudde messages for more details.

Troop Digital Cookie Link

- TCCs should set up the Troop Link now for booths and in-hand payments
- Published troop links appear in the GSUSA Cookie Finder starting January 31st
- Booth distribution is easier using the *Booth Recorder function* in eBudde

Cookie Booth Selection

- Opens January 30th at 8:00PM in eBudde
- Limit: 3 booth slots per council-sponsored business through February 4th at 8:00AM
- After February 4th (8:01 AM), all booths open with no slot limit
- Previously selected booths remain unless released by the troop

Cookie Cupboards - Staff-Run Locations

- Locations:
 - **Hebron, MD** (Bates moving)
 - **Newark, DE** (American Van & Storage)
- Hours:
 - Both locations open **Fridays starting Feb. 6th 9AM - 4PM** (last pickup 3:45PM)

- Cupboard Reminders
 - Pending cupboard orders must be entered in eBudde **at least 1 hour before pickup**
 - Pickup person **must have their own eBudde login** (see Troop Pickup Only User Request Form for details)
 - Cookies are **not returnable** at any time

ACH (Automatic Clearing House) for Troops

- February 13th - TCCs are notified of amount due to council for 1st ACH
- February 16th - ACH Extension Request and Caregiver Debt Form deadlines
- February 20th - 1st ACH facilitated

January 20th, 2026	Digital Cookie/eBudde Pause (8AM) & Troop Initial Orders Due (11:59PM)
January 21st, 2026	Service Unit Initial Orders Due (11:59PM)
Jan. 31st - Feb. 5th, 2026	Service Unit Cookie Deliveries
February 6th, 2026	Booth Sales Begin
February 20th, 2026	ACH Payment Facilitation
March 8th, 2026	Cookie Program Ends (Final Day for Booths & Digital Cookie)
March 17th, 2026	Troop Final Rewards due (11:59PM - troops locked out)
March 18th, 2026	Service Unit Final Rewards due (11:59PM - SU locked out)
May 4th, 2026	Final Rewards Begin Shipping to SU Cookie Champions

Upcoming Programs and Events

Registration for all 2025-2026 program offerings opened September 1st.

Please keep in mind that we work with new and existing Program Partners throughout the year to bring unique program experiences, exclusive opportunities, discounts and more to our members. As these opportunities are scheduled, they will be shared in the monthly program email, social media, and events calendar.

[2025-26 Program Guide](#)

[Events Calendar](#)

Program Partners

Is your troop planning your year? Deciding how to use troop funds? Be sure to check out everything our Program Partners have to offer!

[Program Partner List](#)

[Girl Scout Days](#)

Have you used a Program Partner recently? Tell us about it! Send us a comment at MemberCare@cbgsc.org or share your troop's story via the [Girls in Action form](#).

Explore More this Summer - Camp Registration is OPEN!

We hope you will encourage your Girl Scouts to attend a summer camp session with GSCB. We are offering both Overnight (Camp Todd) and Day (Country Center) camps this year with exciting themes like culinary creations, theatre, games, and more.

Do you or your troop caregivers want to learn more about summer camp? Join us for a virtual Summer Camp Information Session or an in-person Summer Camp “Drop In” Session.

Virtual Info Session: [Wednesday, January 28 | 6:30PM - 7:30PM](#)

In-Person Drop In Session at Camp Todd:

- [Friday, March 20 | 5:30PM - 7:30PM](#)
- [Sunday, May 3 | 2PM - 4PM](#)
- [Sunday, June 14th | 2PM - 4PM](#)

In-Person Drop In Session at Camp Country Center:

- [Saturday, April 18 | 2PM - 4PM](#)



Tents Up Days

Help us get camp ready for the busy spring and summer seasons. Volunteers will support our properties team in getting the platform tents up, units cleaned up, and other service projects. Attendees should pack a water bottle and lunch. Snack and fun patch provided.

[Camp Country Center | Saturday, March 21 | 9AM - 3PM](#)

[Camp Todd | Saturday, March 28 | 9AM - 3PM](#)

Peninsula Day of Service - Save the Date!

Join us April 11-12, 2026 at various sites across our footprint! Troops or individual Girl Scouts will have the opportunity to plan their own service project in their local community during the weekend to earn the PDOS 2026 patch!

Registration opens January 26th

Gold Award Resources

Gold Award Training for Girl Scouts - Open to Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors interested in earning their Gold Award. This training is a Gold Award requirement. It is available in-person throughout the footprint and on-demand via gsLearn.

[Find an Upcoming Training](#)

Did you know: gsLearn 200: Gold Award is also open to any caregiver or volunteer who wants to learn more?

Volunteer Gold Award Information Session - Have or know a Girl Scout going for Gold? Want to know how to better support them through the process? Join us for an information session about the Gold Award process. The session will cover the steps of the Gold Award process and provide an opportunity to ask questions on how to support any Girl Scout during the process. It is available in-person throughout the footprint and virtually.

[Find an Upcoming Information Session](#)

gsLearn: GSUSA How to Support a Gold Award Girl Scout - Calling all troop leaders, parents/caregivers, project advisors, and supportive adults! Get ready to support the Seniors and Ambassadors in your life pursuing the Gold Award, the highest Award in Girl Scouting. Unlock the benefits, basic project elements, the Gold Award process, real project examples and your role as a supportive adult. You'll leave inspired to encourage Girl Scouts to earn the Gold Award! Plan on 20 minutes for this course. *This covers GSUSA requirements but does not cover the GSCB process.*

Visit our [Gold Award page](#) to learn about the process, view rubrics, guidebooks for Girl Scouts and adults, and more!

Other

Philanthropy Updates

- We are deeply grateful to Crystal Trust in Delaware for their generous grant of \$100,000 for critical repairs at Camp Country Center. Work has already begun. On January 13, 2026, we started repairing the rear deck of the STEM Lodge and expect this to be completed soon. Efforts also are moving forward to construct a new footbridge over the stream as well as develop a 2nd footbridge. Planning for additional repairs are underway.
- Our sincere thanks to everyone who generously gave to our End of Year Appeal, which reached \$24,797.
- Three events celebrating the 85th Anniversary of Camp Country Center and the 75th Anniversary of Camp Todd are being planned. Look for coming news about events on June 13 at Camp Todd; September 17 at Camp Country Center; and October 16 for a breakfast fundraiser at DuPont Country Club. Details on these projects and many more will be in the new quarterly Philanthropy newsletter coming out in February.

Staff Comings and Goings

• Staff Goings

Carrie Bryant, former Member Care Specialist, left the GSCB team in December. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors!

Rory Waynant, former Maintenance Technician, left the GSCB in November. We wish him all the best as he pursues an exciting new opportunity.

Emily Courter, former Volunteer Engagement Specialist, has transitioned to Community Engagement Specialist. We are excited to have Emily remain on the GSCB team in this new capacity and we look forward to supporting her success!

Employment Opportunities

Visit www.gsrb.org/careers for more information and to apply.

• Camp Staff

If you or anyone 17+ in your network is interested in an amazing opportunity to support Girl Scouts as they EXPLORE MORE this summer, please consider applying to one of our open camp positions!

• Camp Ranger

We are bringing a live on-site ranger back to Camp Country Center and are seeking someone who is ready to ensure a safe, welcoming, and well-maintained environment for visitors.

• Volunteer Engagement Specialist (Region 2)

Help us deliver exceptional member support to your fellow volunteers. This position serves southern New Castle County, Kent County (DE), and Queen Anne's Counties (MD).

Celebrate World Thinking Day!



What is World Thinking Day?

There's strength in the unity of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the globe, and on World Thinking Day, celebrated every February 22, we honor that mighty global sisterhood. The day is, of course, about more than just thinking: it's about taking action, knowing that every girl has the power to make a positive impact on her world. 2026 marks 100 years of World Thinking Day!

World Thinking Day is the perfect opportunity for you as a troop leader to get your girls to think big; you might learn some new things along the way too! By exploring meaningful issues beyond their local communities, girls cultivate the big-picture thinking, empathy, and determination that help them better connect to the world around them... and play major roles in making it better.

How you can celebrate with your troop:

1. **Explore the theme** - This year's special theme is Our Friendship. Celebrate the friendships that connect us all around the globe!
2. **Attend a World Thinking Day event** - Many Service Units plan World Thinking Day events. We encourage you to get in touch with your Service Unit Manager to find out if there's an event happening near you.
3. **Bring World Thinking Day to your troop** by encouraging Girl Scouts to think globally, start a pen pal program with Girl Scouts from another country, discover the cultures, traditions, topography and wildlife of other countries, learn about issues that impact girls around the world, or invite a guest with a global perspective.
4. **Utilize the [free Activity Guides](#)** provided by GSUSA
5. Access meeting tools and activity plans in **Volunteer Toolkit**

Order Your World Thinking Day Awards

If you're planning to complete the requirements for the World Thinking Day award with your troop and would like to purchase the award patch, you can [order online](#) OR contact Emily Urbanik (eurbanik@cbgsc.org) to place an order for pickup at your local Service Unit meeting (this option skips the shipping costs).

Note: We recommend placing your orders ASAP as the awards historically sell out.