

# Volunteer Newsletter

## May - June 2025



### Troop Spotlight

Amanda Hewitt of Service Unit 612, Troop 379 earned her Silver Award by completing over 100 hours making lap blankets for residence at Eden Hill Rehabilitation Center in Dover, De.

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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# May

				1	2 Troop Camping Weekend	3 Troop Camping Weekend
4 Troop Camping Weekend	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 Mother's Day	12	13	14	15	16 +SU 25 Encampment +Leadership Weekend	17 +SU 25 Encampment +Leadership Weekend
18 +SU 25 Encampment +Leadership Weekend +American Red Cross First Aid +Small Craft	19	20 Youth Mental Health First Aid	21 Youth Mental Health First Aid	22	23	24
25	26 Memorial Day  GSCB Offices Closed	27	28	29	30	31 Outdoor Skills Training

# June

1	2	3	4	5	6 +Waterfront Lifeguard Training +Volunteer Getaway Weekend	7 +Waterfront Lifeguard Training +Volunteer Getaway Weekend
8 +Waterfront Lifeguard Training +Volunteer Getaway Weekend	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

# Updates and Happenings

## Early Bird Updates

We've had a great start to our Early Bird campaign and are looking forward to finishing strong! Have you renewed your membership for next year? Check out the great incentives and troop and Service Unit challenges on our [renewal page!](#)

## Extended Year Membership

Are there new Girl Scouts interested in joining your troop? Joining now through July 31st with an Extended Year Membership allows them to participate for the rest of this year and next at a reduced price. Learn more at [www.gscb.org/join](http://www.gscb.org/join)

## Training Opportunities

Registration open! All in-person trainings are being held at Camp Todd - 25012 Beauchamp Branch Rd, Denton, MD 21629 unless stated otherwise. Outdoor Skills, Archery Level 1, and Small Craft are open to Ambassador and adult members.

Thank you to our volunteer instruct who make these trainings possible!

- [Outdoor Skills Training](#) 5/31/2025, Camp Todd
- [Outdoor Skills Training](#) – 8/9/2025, Camp Country Center
- [Virtual Youth Mental Health First Aid](#) 5/20-5/21/2025
- [Virtual Youth Mental Health First Aid](#) 8/12-8/13/2025
- [Waterfront Lifeguard Training](#) 6/6-6/8/2025

Are you interested in becoming an Outdoor Skills Instructor? Outdoor Skills Instructors train facilitators and prepare volunteers for their time outdoors.

Instructor Skills Requirements:

- Complete Outdoor Skills course
- Complete Outdoor Skills Instructor gsLearn
- Apprentice with current training team
- Demonstrate competency in teaching knife, knot, fire, and tent skills

Interested in learning more? Contact [MemberCare@cbgsc.org](mailto:MemberCare@cbgsc.org).

## Upcoming Programs and Events

### Mark your calendars!

Themed overnights, encampments, new Program on the Move topics, and more (chosen by you!) when the 2026 calendar goes live in June at [www.gscb.org/events!](http://www.gscb.org/events!)

## Visit Altalune, the GSCB Moon Tree!

Planning a trip to Camp Todd? Make sure to visit the Moon Tree while you are there. The tote located on the porch of Choptank contains programs for all levels to learn more about the history and significance of Moon Trees. Don't forget to order your "I saw the GSCB Moon Tree" patch! Link to purchase coming soon. Learn more about the Moon Tree and review FAQs [here](#).



## Overnight and Weekend Programming

Have you heard? – overnight and weekend events are drop off! Adult spots for these programs are limited. If you are an adult registering for the program, please be prepared to play an active role in facilitating. Additional information about roles will be included in the email sent the Monday before the program. View our list of overnight and weekend programming on our [calendar](#).

## Gold Award

Do you support Cadette, Senior, or Ambassador Girl Scouts? Review the process, deadlines, rubrics, resources available, and more on our [website](#).

Gold Award training is strongly recommended for any CSA volunteers and caregivers and is required for all Girl Scouts going for Gold. gsLearn option is available at your convenience. Contact [MemberCare@cbgsc.org](mailto:MemberCare@cbgsc.org) to learn more.

\*\*\*Interested in bringing an in-person training to your Service Unit? Please contact [MemberCare@cbgsc.org](mailto:MemberCare@cbgsc.org).



## Community Service and Service to Girl Scouting

Did you know Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts are eligible to earn their Community Service and Service to Girl Scouting Bars? Summer is a great time for Girl Scouts to work on these Service Awards. For more information and to review requirements, check out the [packets](#) and [submission form](#).

## Program Partners

Looking for something to do this summer? Getting a head start on next year's planning? Be sure to check out everything our Program Partners have to offer! View our list of partners [here](#) and our upcoming [Girl Scout Days](#).

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



# Things to Do

## **Volunteer Getaway Weekend**

Phew!!! That was a ton of info! We know just how much you do as a Girl Scout Volunteer from keeping track of all of the information shared above to guiding our Girl Scouts through activities like earning badges and exploring the outdoors and teaching them lasting skills of leadership and empowerment, you truly care for your Girl Scout members.

Now it's time for us to show our appreciation to YOU!

Join us for yet another fun-filled Volunteer Getaway Weekend where WE do the planning, provide the activities, and you have fun with your friends! You can choose to participate in every activity, or just sit back and relax all weekend!

Lodging and food included. Activity details will be provided closer to the event.

Volunteer Getaway Weekend - Camp Todd  
Friday, June 6, 6:00 PM – Sunday, June 8, 12:00 PM  
25012 Beauchamp Branch Rd. Denton, MD 21629  
Cost = \$50 Lodging and meals included.  
[Register today!](#)

## **Save the Date - Volunteer Summit is becoming Volunteer LeadHERship Weekend**

We are so excited to host the 3rd Annual GSCB Volunteer Summit this year, but we're making a few changes! This year, we will be hosting the event as a Volunteer LeadHERship Weekend at our very own Camp Todd in Denton, MD, and are including overnight options with additional activities in the evenings and on Sunday morning! Day Only or Full Weekend options will be available.

Save the Date: August 22 – 24th

Registration and event details coming soon!

This event serves as an opportunity for GSCB Volunteers on all levels to come together to learn about important updates, engage in peer-to-peer learning and discussions, network with other volunteers, and more!

Would you like to help with the planning of this event? We need volunteers to assist in the logistical planning process and to assist on the day of the event. Complete this GSCB Volunteer Leadership Event Committee Interest form asap to join the planning committee!

# Volunteer Resources

## Volunteer ToolKit – Digital Downloadable Badge Booklets are Now Available!

Have you noticed something NEW in Volunteer ToolKit (VTK)? Starting April 1st, badge booklets and badge booklet content are now available for digital download through the VTK! Volunteers will find the full badge booklets for most badges, and pdf word documents for older badge booklets due to digital copyright issues. Check it out today in your [myGS account / Volunteer ToolKit](#).



## Troop Leader Agreement

As we renew our memberships and roles for next year, we have launched our new [GSCB Troop Leader Agreement](#). This agreement serves to review the responsibilities that we entrust our Troop Leaders with as you embark on this awesome journey of fun and leadership! While it is part of the requirements for achieving your Early Bird status, it is also now a basic requirement for all Co Leaders who will serve in that role in MY26. Please be sure to complete that agreement asap for Early Bird, but over-all completion is due by 9/30/2025 in order to serve as a Co Leader in the upcoming year.

## Finance Report Readiness

It's that time of year again where we start getting ready to submit our Service Unit and Troop Annual Finance Reports. As a reminder, this is a requirement for ALL Service Units and Troops to complete between July 1st - July 31st, 2025. If you have any questions regarding this process, please be sure to complete the assigned gsLearn training titled "[200: GSCB Finance and Reporting Learning Path](#)" (access gsLearn via myGS), or email [MemberCare@cbgsc.org](mailto:MemberCare@cbgsc.org).

You will be unable to submit the reports in Volunteer Toolkit (for Troops) or via the Wufoo form (for Service Units) until the submission period begins on July 1st, as your records must reflect the time period between July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2025.

Required submissions for this year include:

- Completion of the submission form
- Attachment of:
  - 12 months bank statements
  - Service Unit or Troop Financial Worksheet (all detailed transactions listed)

\*All SU or Troops should maintain 2 years of receipts and detailed transaction documents at all times

Check out the [GSCB Finance Account Management Guidelines](#) for more information

## **GSUSA Abuse and Neglect Prevention/Mandated Reporter Training Requirement**

There are very strict protocols for all Youth Serving Organizations regarding Child Abuse and Neglect, and as the safety of our Girl Scouts youth members is our top priority, GSUSA has placed the following requirements for all Girl Scout Councils to support this:

- Affirmation by volunteers that they have:
  - Read abuse prevention policies and procedures
  - Understand policies and procedures
  - Agree to adhere to policies and procedures

**Acknowledgement:** This will be completed as an affirmation statement for adult volunteers to acknowledge upon registration or renewal.

- Abuse Prevention Training for:
  - All Volunteers
  - All Staff overseeing children
  - Included with all other mandatory training

**Training:** To be able to provide consistent training across councils, GSUSA has provided a Girl Scout Abuse Prevention Training course for councils to utilize in [gsLearn](#).

For GSCB, this training is now included in our course titled 200: Mandated Reporter and Abuse Prevention, which also includes our GSCB specific policy and procedure.

This Learning Path has been assigned to all Service Unit Managers, Co Leaders, and Outdoor Facilitators; and has been added to the Content Library for all other volunteers to complete. To fulfill the training requirement for councils, this is now an annual requirement for these roles.

# Cookies

**THANK YOU!** Another successful Cookie Program has come to a close and we owe each of you a heartfelt Thank You for all you do to support your Girl Scouts throughout our Product Programs. Because of your efforts, Girl Scouts are learning goal setting, people skills, decision making, money management, and business ethics while powering their meaningful experiences and long-lasting memories.

Compare to last year:

- Packages Sold: 2% Down from 2024
- Per Girl Average: 2% Up from 2024
- Packages Donated via Gift of Caring: 33% DOWN from 2024
- Troop Proceeds: 8% DOWN from 2024
- Highest Seller Packages Sold: 57% UP from 2024
- Number of Girl Scouts participating: 4% DOWN from 2024
- Number of Troops participating: 8% DOWN from 2024
- Number of Girl Scouts using Digital Cookie: 4% DOWN from 2024
- Thin Mint stays on top as our best selling cookie!

Please be aware that these are preliminary numbers and while we are confident they best represent our Cookie Program results, there may be slight changes as financials are finalized.

## Thank You for an amazing Cookie Program!



 <p><b>801,028</b> cookie packages sold</p>	 <p><b>305</b> per girl average</p>	 <p><b>16,648</b> cookie packages donated via Gift of Caring</p>	<p><b>\$682,486.97</b> went back to troops as proceeds</p> 
 <p><b>4,069</b> packages sold by our top seller, Melanie G from Troop 78</p>		 <p><b>2,623</b> Girl Scouts participating</p>	
<p><b>2,305</b> Girl Scouts used Digital Cookie</p> 	<p><b>Thin Mint</b> was our top selling cookie</p> 	<p><b>294</b> troops participating</p> 	

# Governance

## **Annual Meeting Recap**

On April 16th, the 63rd GSCB Annual Meeting was held at the DelOne Conference Center on the grounds of Delaware Technical Community College, in Dover DE. With over 150 in attendance, our members enjoyed the evening with a theme of “You’re the Piece We Need”. We were happy to see all of our volunteers on this special night. Please view our photo album [here](#).

Please join us in thanking the Annual Meeting Committee for their dedication to and organization of the evening.

## **Annual Meeting Committee**

Lauralee Rappleye, Chair

Riva Brown

Tiffanie Chandler

Sheila Koiv

Denise Schrimsher

Tara Petka

Pam Yarborough

Meredith Weiss

Christy Abrams

Kat Weldon

Lauren Wells

Dizza Whaley

Our Voting members voted and approved the following slate of individuals to the Board of Directors, Board Development Committee, and as National Council Delegates and Alternates.

## **Board of Directors – Officers Class of 2028**

Patricia Nash Christel, 2nd Vice Chair (1st Term)

Tavanya Lockett, MPH, PMP, Secretary (1st Term)

## **Members-at-Large Board of Directors – Class of 2028**

Natalie DiCostanza (1st Term)

Danielle Vozzo (1st Term)

Amber Young (2nd Term)

Kimberlee Ziolkowski (1st Term)

## **Board Development Committee Members – Class of 2028**

Erin Knauer (1st Term)

Susan McNeice (1st Term)

Autumn Tuxward (1st Term)

Amber Young (1st Term)

## **National Delegates – Class of 2028**

Olivia Bruno, Delegate

Kelley Ketcham, Delegate

Juliana Morrissette, Delegate

Lauralee Rappleye, Delegate

## **National Alternate Delegates – Class of 2028**

Alexis Abrams, Alternate Delegate  
Kendall Ervin, Alternate Delegate  
Vincenta Parker, Alternate Delegate  
Claudia Peña Porretti, J.D., CFRE, Alternate Delegate

## **Honored during the Annual Meeting were the following recipients of Board Approved Awards:**

### *Appreciation Pin*

Ruth Braden  
Sheena Elliot  
Lisa Leach  
Suzanne Rubino  
Barbara Strauss  
Jennifer Usher

### *Honor Pin*

Elaine Madjeski  
Ann Pollock

### *Evergreen Pin*

Terry Phebus

### *Seagull Pin*

Crystal Wheatly

## **Also recognized that evening were the following recipients of their Years of Service Pins for achieving these amazing milestones as members and active volunteers:**

### *15 years of service*

Tamela Brittingham  
Heather Burket  
Lori Buss-Morton  
Denise Crossley  
Laura D'Antonio  
Lisa Fowler  
Kimberly Klecan  
Lori Lynn  
Amy Patterson  
Holly Powers  
Skye Schmidt Bunting  
Carol Sharkey  
Carrie Straub

*20 years of service*

Tara Myers  
Michelle Sawicki  
Denise Tribeck Smullen  
Keli Witt

*30 years of service*

Barbara Lazenby  
Elizabeth Pierce  
Laura Shorter  
Tammy Snedeker

*35 years of service*

Annmarie Conroe  
Caron Jackson  
Sherie Stiles

*50 years of service*

Terri Mullikin

As Annual Meeting Committee Chair Lauralee Rappleye closed the evening with these words to each and every GSCB member “Thank you to each and every one of you for all that you contribute to our organization. [We] look forward to working together to continue piecing together our puzzle. You—each and every one of you- are the piece we need!”

## Council and Other Updates

### **2024 - 2025 Membership Goals and Update**

During the 2024-2025 membership year we focused on building a strong membership foundation rooted in retention of current members and engagement of new members.

MY25 Girl Membership Goal – 4575    Current Girl Membership\* - 3476  
MY25 Adult Membership Goal – 2000    Current MY25 Adult Membership\* - 1840

Lifetime Membership\* – 1,047

\*Membership data is as of April 25, 2025.

### **2 Days Left: Reimagining Camp Committee Country Center Survey**

During the n February, Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay began meeting with our newly formed Reimagining Camp Committee. The first phase of the committee’s work involves a detailed look at the main buildings at Camp Country Center. Following phases will include focus on outdoor units and activities at Camp Country Center and Camp Todd. Many great ideas have been discussed, and a survey has been created to understand what ideas resonate most with our members. Not every idea will become a reality, but the committee is eager to hear any and all feedback to help guide the next steps.

Please be a part of this important work by completing our [Camp Country Center survey](#) by May 10th.

## Staff Comings and Goings

### Staff Comings

- We are thrilled to welcome two new team members to the GSCB Fund Development team! Crystal Wheatley is our new External Relations and Events Specialist and Jason Burden is our new Associate Director of Fund Development. A big welcome to both of them.

### Job Openings

#### Maintenance Technician

Maintenance Technician is a fast-paced, full-time position, which carries out the efficient daily operations of the Council's (2) camp properties located in Delaware and Maryland. The Maintenance Technician is responsible for cutting and trimming grass, trees, and bushes on large parcels of land and performing light carpentry, electrical and plumbing work of the Council's two camps. Participates in grounds maintenance and landscape projects, cabin maintenance, tree trimming and supporting other camp locations. In addition, the Maintenance Technician works closely with the Property and Facilities Specialist to ensure that troops and day and resident campers have a successful camping experience. This position works various hours/days as business dictates, and the position is a non-traditional work schedule, which will frequently require nights and weekends throughout the year and during summer camp. Apply [here](#).

### GSCB Bridging Ceremony

On Sunday, April 27th, over 150 Girl Scouts gathered for our very first council-wide Bridging and Rededication Ceremony! Girl Scouts from across our entire footprint came together for a momentous event that celebrated every stage of the Girl Scout journey — from brand-new Daisies taking their first steps into scouting to Ambassadors bridging one final time into Adulthood.

Alongside the 150 Girl Scouts, we were joined by more than 100 leaders, volunteers, and family members who helped make the day even more special. We were also honored to have several distinguished guests in attendance, including our CEO, Claudia Pena Porretti, our COO, Ashley Booth, and Shante Hastings, Delaware's Secretary of the Department of Transportation.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this unforgettable day possible. We can't wait to see what the next year holds for our incredible Girl Scouts!



# QR Codes

## General & Programs



Girls in Action  
Form



GSCB  
Events



GSCB  
Website



Employment  
Opportunities



Annual  
Meeting



Camp Committee  
Country Center Survey



## Volunteer Support and Resources



Early Bird



myGS  
Login



Volunteer Getaway  
Weekend



Troop Leader  
Agreement



Finance Account  
Management Guidelines



## Volunteer Programs and Trainings



Youth Mental  
Health Trainings



Small Craft  
Trainings



Archery Level 1  
Trainings



Outdoor Skills  
Trainings



## Program



Visit the  
Moon Tree



Gold  
Award



Community  
Service



Service to  
Girl Scouting



Program  
Partners



Girl Scout  
Days

