

Volunteer Newsletter

November - December 2025



Girls in Action Form

SU Spotlight

Service Unit 14 held a spook-tacular Halloween Encampment in October with many Girl Scouts from across our council in attendance. Shout out to all involved in the planning and execution of such a fantastic event.

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!

What's Inside:

[Calendar of Events \(Pg 2\)](#)

Governance

[Fall Association Meeting Recap \(Pg 6\)](#)

[Annual Meeting Save the Date \(Pg 6\)](#)

Volunteer Resources Highlight

[Update your Household Profile and](#)

[Communications Opt-Ins \(Pg 3\)](#)

[Troop Minimum Requirements \(Pg 3 - 4\)](#)

[Troop Roster Review \(Pg 4\)](#)

[Recruiter Patch Program \(Pg 4\)](#)

[Board Approved Recognition Committee Interest Form \(Pg 5\)](#)

[Board Approved Recognitions Deadline \(Pg 5\)](#)

[Volunteer Trainings \(Pg 5\)](#)

[Update to Facilitator Trainings \(Pg 6\)](#)

Program Opportunities

[2025-26 Program Guide \(Pg 9\)](#)

[Program Partners \(Pg 9\)](#)

[V.I.C. Program \(Pg 9\)](#)

[Founder's Day Recap \(Pg 9\)](#)

[Gold Award Resources \(Pg 10\)](#)

Product Program

[Fall Product Wrap Up \(Pg 7\)](#)

[Cookie Upload Information \(Pg 7\)](#)

[Cookie Program Prep \(Pg 8\)](#)

Membership and Other Updates

[Membership Goals and Update \(Pg 6\)](#)

[Giving Tuesday \(Pg 6\)](#)

[Board of Directors and Board Development](#)

[Committee Opportunity \(Pg 11\)](#)

[Staff Comings/Goings \(pg 10\)](#)

[Property Updates \(Pg 10\)](#)

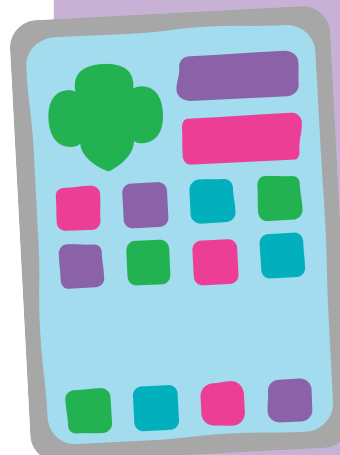
NEW!

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

NOVEMBER

			1 + Youth Mental Health First Aid Training + Night Hike at Camp Grove Point	2	3	1 + Founder's Day Feature Event
2 + First Aid/CPR Training	3	4	5	6	7	8 +Gold Award Training
9	10	11	12	13	14 +Cookie Captain Weekend	15
16 + Outdoor Skills Training + Cookie Pro Day	17	18 + Virtual Youth Mental Health First Aid Training	19	20	21 +V.I.C. Night Hike	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29 +Gold Award Ceremony
				GSCB Offices Closed		

DECEMBER

30	1 + Senior Collage Artist Badge Workshop	2 + Giving Tuesday + Exploremores Launch Event (invite only)	3	4	5 +Treasure Hunt Overnight	6 +Treasure Hunt Overnight
7	8	9	10	11	12 +Troop Camping Overnight	13 + Troop Camping Overnight
14 + V.I.C. Virtual Craft Workshop	15 +Holiday Volunteer Social - Salisbury	16 +Holiday Volunteer Social - Dover	17 +Holiday Volunteer Social - Hockessin	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
			GSCB Offices Closed			
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
GSCB Offices Closed						

Welcome to Membership Year '26 (MY26)!

Let's Start the Year with Accurate Information

The new Membership Year is a great time to check your profile and troops 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, your family members, and your troop members.

Household Profiles and Opt-Ins (to ensure you hear the great things happening at GSCB)

- To review your profile, follow these steps:
 1. Visit www.gscb.org, click on MyGS, and login to your account
 2. On the left hand side, select My Household
 3. Next to your name, select Edit Profile
 4. Carefully review your details including:
 - Volunteer roles
 - Phone number
 - Email address
 - Mailing address
 - Communications opt-ins (especially email and photo)
 5. Repeat for all of your household members

Troop Minimum Requirements

For the safety of all Girl Scouts and Volunteers, GSUSA has requirements and Troop Safety rules as listed in the Safety Activity Checkpoints document. Here is a summary of what is required:

- **2 Co Leaders** - A registered and approved adult volunteer is one who has passed a background check and has been through the council's volunteer onboarding and training process.

Girl Scouts has a strict standard that whenever Girl Scouts meet, whether in person or virtually, there are to be at least two unrelated, registered, and Girl Scout-approved adults (Co Leaders) who have been background checked, and one of whom is female, supervising Girl Scout members. The two Co Leaders must not be related to each other and cannot live in the same residence. This requirement applies to every Girl Scout gathering including troop meetings (in person and virtual), day trips, camp, sleep-away travel, special events, activities, and projects. *Additional Troop Support Volunteers (also registered and background checked) may provide additional support in meeting troop adult volunteer-to-youth ratios.

- **Troop Support Volunteers** - (also registered and background checked – training coming soon!) may provide additional support in meeting troop adult volunteer-to-youth ratios, be signers on bank accounts, assist with driving to events, managing Cookie Booths, etc.
- **Adult Participants and Chaperones** - All adults who regularly attend or participate in regular troop meetings, and all adult chaperones who accompany on overnights must be registered members with a current eligible background check.
- **Troop Bank Accounts** - 2 registered background checked adults on every bank account (Must be in Co Leader or Troop Support Volunteer roles).
 - Accurate records must be kept at all times (including keeping receipts)
 - Annual Financial Reports must be submitted within the Council-determined timeframe
 - Financial transparency of troop/SU balance must be maintained for all caregivers upon request

- **Troop Size** - GSUSA states a minimum of 5 Girl Scout youth members per troop
 - GSCB support staff will work with all troops with less than 5 to reach the GSUSA minimum. Less than 2 is in dire violation.
 - If these troops are unable to recruit, we will assist you in transferring girl members to another troop experience or can help them transfer to participation as a Juliette Girl Scout.
- **Required Troop Forms**
 - [Health History Form for Youth and Adults](#) - This form is required to be completed at the beginning of the Girl Scout year for Youth and Adult participants in order to attend troop meetings and for domestic travel. The Troop Leader must retain a copy of the GSCB Health History Form for each troop member and keep ALL information CONFIDENTIAL.
 - [Permission Waiver Form for Activities and Trips](#) - This form is required for all participating youth and adult members for high-risk activities, field trips/day trips, and travel.

Troop Roster Review

Troop Leaders, it is important that this is completed ASAP so we have the most accurate rosters going into Cookie season.

- Login to your MyGS account to view your Troop Roster
- Review both the Girl Scouts and adult participants for accuracy
 - As a Troop Leader, you can check for accuracy on address and personal info but cannot edit this
 - You CAN update and edit school information - this is important for our records and is frequently overlooked from year to year

New! Recruiter Patch

Thank you for the amazing response to our Recruiter Patch program! Since August, we've awarded over 70 patches to Girl Scouts who have shared their Girl Scout story, hosted events, and invited friends to join. Keep spreading the Girl Scout spirit—every conversation and event helps grow our Girl Scout community!

There are two fun ways for Girl Scouts to earn the patch:

1. Recruit a new Girl Scout (they can join any troop in any service unit—just needs to be someone brand new to Girl Scouts!)
2. Participate in a recruitment event

Volunteers—We Didn't Forget You!

We know many of you are passionate about growing our movement, and now you can earn the patch too!

1. Recruit a new adult volunteer member
2. Participate in a recruitment event— coordinate with your region's New Member Engagement Specialist

Let's grow Girl Scouts together—one recruit at a time!

[Request your Recruiter Patch](#)
[Recruiter Patch Flyer](#)



Board Approved Recognitions Committee is Looking for Committee 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 Feb. and Mar.

[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".

Board Approved Recognitions Deadline Reminder

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, 2025.

- 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](#).

Pro Tips!

- When completing your nominations and endorsements, don't be vague - include all the details about how wonderful that volunteer is and why you feel they deserve that award!
- Reference the [GSCB Volunteer Appreciation and Recognition Handbook](#) for details – in addition to the initial nomination, each Board Approved Award has a different number of required Endorsements from peers. Be sure to check how many are needed and follow up to be sure they are all completed.

Volunteer Events and Trainings

Registration is open! Check out upcoming trainings on our [Events Calendar](#). Additional trainings are in the works (High Ropes/Zip, Low Ropes, and Small Craft) and will be shared via newsletter and social media when they are added to the calendar.

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

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.

Updates to Volunteer Facilitator Training

Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay is changing our process for training outdoor programming facilitators. These changes go into effect October 1, 2025. Facilitator trainings will now have a registration fee. However, the facilitation requirement will be waived. You may elect to facilitate for Girl Scout troops/groups you are not affiliated with for the opportunity to earn credits towards property reservations at Camp Country Center or Camp Todd. Learn more [HERE](#).

2025 - 2026 Membership Goals and Update

MY26 Girl Membership Goal – 4,500 Current MY26 Girl Membership* - 2,891

MY26 Adult Membership Goal – 2,000 Current MY26 Adult Membership* - 1,434

Lifetime Membership* – 1,091

*Membership data is as of October 30, 2025

Fall Association Meeting Recap

WOW! What a turnout we had for our GSCB Fall Association Meetings which were held on 10/13, 10/14, and 10/15. With over 130 GSCB Members in attendance between the three meetings, we discussed the difference between governance and operational issues, and the role and power that each of you have in the process of influencing GSCB Policy.

Here are some links to resources that we discussed in the meetings:

- [Governance and Financials webpage](#)
- [GSCB Association and Service Unit Delegate Guidebook](#)
- gsLearn Training titled [“200: GSCB Association and Service Unit Delegate Orientation”](#)
- [GSCB Bylaws](#)
- [GSUSA Blue Book of Basic Documents](#)
- Influencing GSCB Policy – Proposal Management
 - [GSCB Proposal Management Process](#)
 - [GSCB Proposal Identification Worksheet](#)

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!

Giving Tuesday is December 2nd!

Whether or not you are able to make a financial contribution to Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay, you can make an impact by being a GSCB Giving Tuesday Advocate! This free, easy way to support fundraising efforts reminds those in your network who were already planning to give about your personal connection to Girl Scouts. That meaningful story about the impact Girl Scouts has had on your life makes all the difference.

Not sure how to ask? We’ve done the work for you. We will be providing a Giving Tuesday Toolkit in the coming days so you can proudly share your commitment to building girls of courage, confidence, and character on December 2nd!

Product Programs

Wrapping Up Fall Product

Here are some important dates to remember:

- **11/15** – Product and Rewards start to ship to the Troop Fall Product Champion. The TFPC needs to coordinate pick up times with Girl Scouts to pick up there in person delivered product.
- **11/30** – Product delivery for Girl Scouts customers must be completed.
- **12/8 or sooner** – Damages/discrepancies for in-person delivery orders and/or troop rewards should be submitted to M2's Customer Service team.
 - Online: support.gsnutsandmags.com
 - Phone: 800-372-8520
- **12/8** - All troop deposits must be made into troop bank account. ACH Extension Requests and Caregiver Debt forms due.
 - [ACH Extension Request Form](#)
 - [Caregiver Debt Form](#)
- **12/12** - ACH Debit/Credit for Fall Product

BRAVE.
FIERCE.
FUN!

Cookie Program Information

Notice of Holiday Closure and Important Deadlines

Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay (GSCB) offices will be closed from Wednesday, December 24, 2025, through Monday, January 5, 2026. During this period, no uploads or system updates will occur.

Year-End Upload Deadlines

The final Girl Scout upload of the year will take place on **Friday, December 19, 2025**. Please ensure that all [GSCB Family Product Agreements](#) are submitted by **8:00 a.m. on December 19** to ensure your Girl Scout—or the Girl Scouts in your troop—are ready to participate when the program begins on **January 3, 2026**.

For Juliette Girl Scouts, the same deadline applies, along with submission of a [GSCB Juliette Product Program Agreement](#) (if not previously completed for the Fall Product Program).

Troop Cookie Champions

To gain system access:

- gsLearn training must be assigned and completed by December 16, 2025.
- If training is not completed by that date, access will not be available until after January 5, 2026.
- Champions must have:
 - Current Girl Scout membership
 - A completed background check
 - A signed [GSCB Product Program Champion Agreement](#)

We appreciate your attention to these important deadlines and wish you and your families a joyful holiday season!

Get Excited for Cookies! Brave. Fierce. Fun. That's who we are!

Our cookie adventure is right around the corner, and we're ready to launch with bold energy, unstoppable excitement, and our fearless mascot, Shirley the Black-Footed Ferret, leading the charge. Let's make this cookie season the fiercest—and most fun—yet!

Reminder: As announced in our August 25 communication and the September/October newsletter, all cookies (core and specialty varieties) will be \$6.00 per package for the 2026 Cookie Program.



Stay strong and complete the following steps before the end of November:

1. Meet all your Troop Cookie Champion Requirements:
 - Current Girl Scout membership
 - A completed background check
 - A signed [GSCB Product Program Champion Agreement](#) (required before gsLearn training modules can be assigned)
2. Complete your required trainings:
 - Cookie training will be assigned in **gsLearn by mid-November**.
 - Training must be completed and uploaded into **eBudde by December 16, 2025**.
 - Any training not completed by that date will be processed **after January 5, 2026**.
3. Collect Girl Scout and Caregiver Agreements
 - Each caregiver must complete the [GSCB Family Product Agreements](#) (covers both the Fall and Cookie Programs) - only if not previously submitted.
 - Individually Registered Girl Scouts (Juliettes) must complete the [Juliette Product Program Agreement](#), if not already done for the Fall Product Program.

Cookie Dates

Mid-November 2025	Cookie Training assigned in gsLearn
December 15th, 2025	Access to eBudde and Digital Cookie for Service Unit Cookie Champions and Troop Cookie Champions
December 22nd, 2025	Access to eBudde and Digital Cookie for caregivers
January 3rd, 2026	Cookie Program Begins (Order Card & Digital Cookie)
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. 6th, 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

Let's make this cookie season the best one yet — filled with growth, courage, and of course, fun! Thank you for being the fierce, fantastic leaders who empower and inspire our Girl Scouts every step of the way. We couldn't do it without you!

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@cbsc.org or share your troop's story via the [Girls in Action form](#).

Very Invested Camper (V.I.C.)

The BEST outdoor Girl Scout club this side of the Delmarva Peninsula - Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay Very Invested Camper (V.I.C.) program- is back! This program will run all year long and is exclusively for GSCB members. V.I.C.s get access to 4 exclusive outdoor events, quarterly newsletter, free SWAG, and opportunities to give their input on camp and outdoor program decisions.

Ever considered signing your troop up for V.I.C.? Think about it...4 troop activities PLUS t-shirts and additional perks for just \$25 a Girl Scout? We know you know a deal when you see one. Don't miss this opportunity to foster a love of camping and outdoors within your troop.

Registration closes November 30th.

[Sign Up for V.I.C.](#)

Founder's Day Event Recap

On Saturday, November 1st, over 100 Girl Scouts from across our footprint gathered at the Delaware Aerospace Education Foundation in Smyrna for Mission: Sisterhood, A Day of Space Exploration. Highlights from the day include a video message from a real astronaut, hands-on activities that helped attendees earn their Space Science Exploration badges, and lots of smiles and fun all around!

[Check out the photos](#)



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

Staff Comings and Goings

- **Staff Goings**

Niki Martin, former Program Specialist, has moved on from the GSCB team as of Monday, October 6th.

Amanda Ackerly, former Marketing and Communications Coordinator, has moved on from the GSCB team as of Monday, October 6th.

Property Updates

- **Camp Todd**

We are excited to share that a new oven has been installed in the Program Center kitchen at Camp Todd!

- **Camp Country Center**

Next time you're at Camp Country Center, the GSCB Archives Committee invites you to explore their display cases. Can you find all the artifacts for Fall 2025 in their [Scavenger Hunt Booklet](#)? Print, cut in half, fold, and bring it with you!

Board of Directors and Board Development Committee Opportunity

Calling All Leaders, Changemakers, and Community Builders!

Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay is seeking passionate and purpose-driven individuals to join our Board of Directors and/or Board Development Committee!

If you believe in empowering local Girl Scouts to lead with courage, confidence, and character and want to help shape the future of one of our region's most impactful youth organizations, we'd love to hear from you! Serving on our board or one of our committees is more than a leadership role - it's an opportunity to make a lasting difference across Delaware and the eastern shores of Maryland and Virginia.



We're looking for individuals who bring:

- A commitment to equity, inclusion, and community impact
- Experience in leadership, governance, or strategic planning
- A passion for the Girl Scout mission and values

If that sounds like you, or someone you know, please take a moment to complete our [Interest Form](#) and help us continue building a brighter future.

Volunteer Name Tags

Look polished and proud at your next Girl Scout function with a volunteer nametag!

New this year, GSCB will be covering the cost for 1 name tag per volunteer, per membership year.

Nametag orders will be placed on a rolling basis and will be delivered to the earliest possible Service Unit Leader Meeting following receipt. No name tags will be shipped directly. Production time for name tags varies. Please be patient and contact Emily Urbanik (eurbanik@cbgsc.org) for questions about your order.

[Order Your Name Tag](#)