Volunteer Newsletter
November - December 2026

Girls in Action Form



Troop Spotlight

The Girl Scouts of Troop 454 spent their afternoon volunteering at the Georgetown Public Library, lending a helping hand and making a positive impact in their community. Way to go, Girl Scouts!

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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Big News!

Camp Todd and Camp Country Center are now ACA Accredited.

We're excited to share that our camps are now accredited by the American Camp Association (ACA)! This prestigious accreditation reflects our commitment to providing a safe, high-quality, and enriching camp experience for every camper.

ACA accreditation means our programs have undergone a thorough review of nationally recognized standards for health, safety, and program quality, giving families added confidence and peace of mind when choosing camp. View more details here.

GSCB Events Calendar

November

1	2	3	4	5	6 +Going for Gold Weekend +Going for Gold Overnight	7 + Going for Gold Day, Weekend, Overnight + Outdoor Skills Training
8 + Going for Gold Weekend + Archery Level 1 Training	9	10	11 + Veterans Day +Gold Award Volunteer Info Session	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21 American Red Cross First Aid/ CPR Training
22	23	24	25	26 Thanksgiving GSCB Offices Closed	27	28
29	30					

December

		1	2	3 First Night of Hanukkah	4 Cookie Coach	5 Cookie Coach
6 +Cookie Coach +Cookie Rally	7	8	9	10	11	12 Last Night of Hanukkah
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas	26 Kwanzaa
				GSCB Offices Closed		
27	28	29	30	31 New Years Eve		
GSCB Offices Closed						

Let's Start the New Membership 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.

Troop Roster Review

Troop Leaders - It is important that this is completed asap so that rosters are correct prior to cookie season

- Log into your myGS account to view your Troop Roster
- Review both the Girl Scouts and Adult participants for accuracy
  - *Have all of your Girl Scouts renewed their memberships?
  - *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
- Correct or communicate any updates needed through MemberCare@cbgsc.org

Household Profiles and Opt-Ins

- Go to gscb.org, click on myGS, and log into your account
- On the left-hand side, select My Household
- Next to your name, select, "Edit Profile"
- Carefully review your details including:
  - Volunteer roles
  - Phone number
  - Email address
  - Mailing address
  - Communications Opt-Ins (especially Email and Photo!)
- 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.
- 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 (Crowded or local): 2 registered background checked adults on every account
  - Must maintain active membership, eligible background check, and complete required trainings

- Accurate records must be kept at all times (including keeping receipts)

Financial Transparency of troop/SU balance must be maintained for all caregivers upon request

- GSUSA states a minimum of 5 Girl Scout youth members per Troop
  - Volunteer Support Specialists will work with all troops with less than 5 to reach the GSUSA minimum of 5.

Volunteer Facilitator 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.

- Outdoor Skills Training - February 27, 2027 - Camp Todd
- Archery Level 1 Training - April 3, 2027 - Camp Todd
- Archery Level 1 Training - June 6, 2027 - Camp Country Center

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

Volunteer Facilitator Training has been updated as of October 1, 2025, including a credit earning system for facilitations. Learn more about the updates. Check your credit balance and expiration anytime by contacting MemberCare@cbgsc.org.

Safety Activity Checkpoints Updates

FA/CPR/AED

In recognition of GSUSA's updated Safety Activity Checkpoints, we have revisited and reevaluated the need for all troops/groups to have a certified First Aid/CPR/AED trained volunteer present at troop meetings, camping trips, events, and on day or overnight trips. We are working towards providing accessible training opportunities within the footprint to support getting volunteers trained to meet this requirement. If you have a local FA/CPR/AED Training company that you or your Service Unit works with who might be interested in coordinating with us for consistent trainings, please email their information to membercare@cbgsc.org.

Outdoor Skills Facilitator Requirements

Similarly, we will be moving forward with the expectation that all troops/groups will need to have an Outdoor Skills Facilitator trained volunteer at all camping trips both on and off properties.

Both of these changes are to support stronger risk prevention, more cohesively align with Safety Activity Checkpoint expectations and also align with the American Camp Association's processes and procedures.

We recognize, that while Safety Activity Checkpoints can be interpreted vaguely at times, GSCB remains committed to upholding the utmost safe environments for our Girl Scouts to engage within.

Outdoor Skills Instructors Needed

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 in gsLearn
- Apprentice with current training team
- Demonstrate competency in teaching knife, knot, fire, and tent skills

Service Unit and Troop Finance – Crowded Resources and Next Steps

- General Resources
  - FAQs
  - GSCB Crowded Fee Schedule for SU and Troops
  - gsLearn: 200 Crowded Trainings
- Getting Started – Accounts must be activated and linked to Crowded by 11/20/26
  - GSCB Crowded Account Setup Guide
  - Linking Bank Accounts With Plaid
- How To's
  - What are the Options to Make Cash Deposits FAQ
  - Girl Scouts Chesapeake Bay Mobile Check Deposit
  - Issuing a Check with Crowded
  - Managing Transactions
-
- Getting Help
  - Updating signers (local bank or Crowded): GSCB Troop/Service Unit Banking Request
  - Closing local bank accounts: GSCB Troop/Service Unit Banking Request Form (all local bank accounts must be closed by 6/30/27)
  - Customer Support Routing Guide (Council or Crowded)
  - Crowded Support Guide for Troops - How to Reach Crowded

GSCB 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 February and March.
Board Approved Recognitions Committee Member Position Description

If you are interested, complete this GSCB Volunteer Interest form, select Committee Member, and then select Board Approved Awards Committee in the comment box.

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, 2026.

- Review all the ways to recognize your fellow volunteers on our Volunteer Recognitions page of gscb.org
- 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.

Upcoming Programs and Events

2026-27 Program Guide

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.

Don't miss out on early bird pricing! Save $5 by registering for overnight or weekend

Program Partner Activity of the Month

November - Habitat for Humanity New Castle
1920 Hutton Street, Wilmington, DE 19802
November 14th and November 21st, 2026
*limited spots available

No experience needed. Safety Hard hats, safety goggles, masks, gloves, and other safety-related gear will be supplied on site. No one under the age of 16 is allowed on site. We recommend that you dress appropriately for the weather and wear clothes that you don't mind getting dirty. Must have Closed toed/heel shoes, or you will not be allowed at the build site.

Schedule
- Arrive at 7:45 am to ensure we begin our day by 8:00 am.
- 8:00 am - 8:15 am HFHNCC Orientation and Safety briefing
- 8:15 am-8:30 am Travel to site(carpooling encouraged)
- 12:00pm-12:30pm Lunch and Fellowship. (We discourage leaving the site for lunch due to time constraints)
- 2:30pm - 3:00pm Clean-up and Tool/Equipment Storage.

Register here by the Monday the week of each event. Questions? Contact Keilah at KHanley@habitatncc.org.

December - Lasagna Love
The holiday season is a great time to give back to those in your community. Lasagna Love is a global nonprofit and grassroots movement that aims to positively impact communities by connecting neighbors with neighbors through homemade meal delivery. They also seek to eliminate stigmas associated with asking for help when it is needed most.

Lasagna Love aims to share the importance of spreading kindness, strengthening communities, and ending the stigma associated with asking for help. Learn why it is important to help others and learn new ways to make a difference in your communities with this patch program.

Patch Requirements
Order Your Patch

Did you miss out on October? Learn more below.
October – Explore the Magic of Motion
October was Nation Physical Therapy Month so we highled Explore the Magic of Motion. Explore the Magic of Motion is a series of patches developed by Program Partner and former Girl Scout, Dr. Jazmine Tooles.

Learn more and order your patch HERE

Product Programs

Fall Product Program

A heartfelt thank you to all of our amazing volunteers for your time, dedication, and support throughout the Fall Product Program! Your hard work, encouragement, and commitment helped make this program a success.

We truly appreciate everything you do to support our Girl Scouts as they build confidence, develop valuable skills, and learn the importance of teamwork and entrepreneurship.

Thank you for being such an important part of our Girl Scout community and for helping our girls grow, learn, and shine!

Cookie Program

We're excited as we embark on the 2026-2027 Cookie Program.

Cookie-Related Programming for Girl Scouts

» Cookie Coach Weekend (formerly "Cookie Captain Weekend")
Camp Todd, Dec. 4th - 6th, 2026
Open to Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors This training weekend invites Girl Scouts to step into a fun, hands-on leadership role during the Cookie Season, guiding younger girls through an unforgettable cookie experience.

» Cookie Rally
Camp Todd, Dec. 6th, 2026
Open to Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors
Kick off Cookie Season with fellow Girl Scouts! Join us for games, hands-on activities, and tips to help you reach your goals.



Important Cookie Dates

The Cookie Program is upon us. Save these dates to your calendar:

Dec. 2	gsLearn training available for volunteers with current membership, current background check, and completed Product Program Agreement for their role
Dec. 15	Volunteer early access to Digital Cookie
Dec. 21	Caregiver early access to Digital Cookie
Jan. 2	Cookie Program begins
Jan. 19 at 8 AM	Digital Cookie pause
Jan. 19 at 11:59 PM	Deadline for troop initial cookie and reward orders
Jan. 20 at 11:59 PM	Deadline for SU initial cookie and reward orders
Jan. 29 at 8 PM	Additional booth selection opens
Jan. 30–Feb. 5	Cookie delivery week

READY TO EXPLORE

Other

Philanthropy Updates

You are Invited to Join the 1912 Society!

- Make a lasting impact with a convenient monthly gift.
- Help provide life-changing Girl Scout experiences year-round.
- Receive an exclusive 1912 Society membership pin.
- Be recognized at the GSCB Annual Meeting.
- Receive recognition in the Annual Report (unless you choose to remain anonymous)

A gift of at least $19.12 a month, less than $0.65 a day, makes you a member of the 1912 Society and helps ensure every girl has the opportunity to discover her Courage, Confidence, and Character. Click the image or learn more at www.gscb.org/1912.

Join the 1912 Society Today

A special thank you from us!

On behalf of Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay, thank you to everyone who joined us for our State of the Girl Breakfast. The morning was filled with thoughtful conversation, community, and a shared commitment to supporting girls across our region. We're grateful to everyone who took the time to listen, share perspectives, and be part of this important conversation. We hope the insights and connections from the breakfast continue to inspire meaningful action for girls' futures.

A special shout-out goes to our Archives Committee. Their dedication and hard work in support of this event made a meaningful difference, and we're so grateful for all they contributed. Thank you for helping make the morning a success.

State of the Delmarva Girl Report: Turning Research into Action!

The State of the Delmarva Girl Report is just the beginning! Over the next year, watch for regional conversations throughout the Peninsula as we bring communities together to explore the findings, share ideas, and identify opportunities to better support girls across Delmarva.

Want to be part of the action? If you or someone you know would like to connect, collaborate, or help us turn research into meaningful action for girls, we'd love to hear from you! Contact us at funddevelopment@cbgsc.org.

Explore the findings: Download the State of the Delmarva Girl Report.

Coming in 2027! Keep an eye out for our interactive State of the Delmarva Girl Dashboard, making local research and insights even more accessible to our communities.

Governance and Operations

Association Meetings
Thank you to everyone who attended our Association Meetings on October 13th, 14th, & 15th! We look forward to announcing the Winter Association Meeting dates and details soon!

Annual Meeting - SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, April 17, 2027 - We're looking forward to a great day of peer-to-peer networking, a State of the Council address, official report updates, and to honor those volunteers who have been awarded higher adult volunteer recognitions. This Annual Meeting plays an essential role in our Governing process as GSCB's voting members of the Corporation elect Officers, Directors-at-Large, incoming board members, and more.

More information and registration coming soon!

Girl Representatives to the Board – Applications Open on 12/1/26!
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 open on 12/1/26 and are due January 10th, 2027.

Board and Staff Leadership Retreat
Following the State of the Girl Breakfast on October 16, GSCB Board members, Board Development Committee members, Girl Representatives, and staff leadership came together for a Leadership Retreat. The gathering provided an opportunity to strengthen collaboration, discuss Council priorities, and focus on the path forward. Bringing together individuals who contribute to Council governance, organizational leadership, and girl representation reinforced a shared commitment to advancing the Girl Scout mission.

2025 - 2026 Membership Goals and Update (Oct. 1, 2025 - Sept. 30, 2026)

MY26 Girl Membership Goal - 4,500

Current MY26 Girl Membership* - 3,812

MY26 Adult Membership Goal - 2,000

Current MY26 Adult Membership* - 1,1940

Lifetime Membership* - 1,049

*Membership data is as of 10/19/26

2026 - 2027 Membership Goals and Update (Oct. 1, 2026 - Sept. 30, 2027)

Time to get renewed and grow your troop!

MY27 Girl Membership Goal - 4,028

Current MY27 Girl Membership* - 2,634

MY27 Adult Membership Goal - 2,000

Current MY27 Adult Membership* - 1,402

Lifetime Membership* - 1,147

*Membership data is as of 10/19/26

Employment Opportunities

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