

Volunteer Newsletter

November - December 2024



Troop Spotlight

Troop 66 used their cookie money to camp in Shenandoah National Park and visit Luray Caverns. The girls completed their first Back Country hike, clocking over 5 miles on the trails in the park and elevation changes of over 500ft!

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!

Whats inside:

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

[Governance](#) (Pg 9)

Volunteer Resources Highlight

[Accuracy Check](#) (Pg 3)

[Household Profiles and Opt-Ins](#) (Pg 3)

[Troop Minimum Requirements](#) (Pg 3)

[Abuse and Neglect Prevention Update](#) (Pg 4)

[GSCB Board Approved Recognitions](#) (Pg 5)

[Volunteer Training Opportunities](#) (Pg 5 & 6)

Program Opportunities

[Program on the Move](#) (Pg 8)

[American Red Cross CPR-First Aid-Babysitting](#) (Pg 8)

Product Program

[Cookies](#) (Pg 7)

[Fall Product](#) (Pg 6)

Membership and Other Updates

[Membership Goals and Update](#) (Pg 9)

[Staff Comings/Goings](#) (Pg 9)

[Giving Tuesday](#) (Pg 9)

November

					1	2 +American Red Cross/Babysitting First Aid +Legacy Badge Day +Journey in a Day +Camping and Crock Pot Cooking
3 +American Red Cross/Babysitting First Aid +Camping and Crock Pot Cooking	4	5 Election Day	6	7	8 Volunteer Getaway Weekend	9 +Volunteer Getaway Weekend +Cookie Captain Training
10 Volunteer Getaway Weekend	11 Veterans Day	12	13	14	15	16 +Journey in a Day +IFF We are Scientists +Outdoor Skills Trainings +Archery Level 1 Training
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28 Thanksgiving	29 +Black Friday +Dover Skate	30 Gold Award Ceremony
				GSCB Offices Closed	GSCB Offices Closed	

December

1	2 Youth Mental Health First Aid Training	3 Youth Mental Health First Aid Training	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Hanukkah	26 Kwanzaa	27	28
29	30	31	GSCB Offices Closed			
GSCB Offices Closed						

Updates and Happenings

Let's Start the New Membership Year with Accurate Information!

As we get ready to plan a new Girl Scout year, we want to make sure that you have all the resources you need at your fingertips! Here are some great places to start!

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 be sure you hear the great things going on at GSCB!)

To review your profile, follow these simple steps:

- 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: 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
- 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.
 - » 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.

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
 - ▶ 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

NEW! GSUSA Abuse and Neglect Prevention Update

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 we have:
 - » Read abuse prevention policies and procedures
 - » Understand policies and procedures
 - » Agree to adhere to policies and procedures

This will be completed as an affirmation statement for adult volunteers to acknowledgement upon registration or renewal.

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

ACTION: 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 fulfil the training requirement for councils, this is now an annual requirement for all volunteer roles.

Read [GSUSA's Child Abuse Prevention Policies and Procedures](#).

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, 2024.

- Review all the ways to recognize your fellow volunteers on our [Volunteer Recognitions page of gscb.org](#).
- 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.

Training Opportunities

Registration open! All in-person trainings are being held at Camp Todd - 25012 Beauchamp Branch Rd, Denton, MD 21629. Outdoor Skills, Archery Level 1, and Small Craft are open to Ambassador and adult members. Additional trainings, such as High Ropes and Zipline, are in the works 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!

- [Virtual Youth Mental Health First Aid](#) 12/2-3/2024
- [Virtual Youth Mental Health First Aid](#) 2/8/2025
- [Outdoor Skills Training](#) 11/16/2024
- [Outdoor Skills Training](#) 1/22/2025
- [Outdoor Skills Training](#) 2/17/2025
- [Outdoor Skills Training](#) 3/8/2025
- [Outdoor Skills Training](#) 5/31/2025
- [Archery Level 1 Training AM](#) 4/5/2025
- [Archery Level 1 Training PM](#) 4/5/2025
- [Small Craft Facilitator Training](#) 4/13/2025

GSCB is looking for a Challenge Course Supervisor! To learn more, check out the [Volunteer Description](#). Those interested should contact Member Care at MemberCare@cbgsc.org.

Product Programs

Product Program Agreement

All Girl Scouts who wish to participate in the upcoming cookie program, must have a [GSCB Family Product Program Agreement](#) completed to be uploaded into eBudde. If they participated in the Fall Product Program and already completed the agreement, they're all set if they have an active 2025 Membership.

Fall Product Updates

Thank you for a successful program. As the Fall Product program ends, we want to provide some key dates and other important reminders.

- December 2, 2024 – Deliveries of girl delivery products and rewards to the Troop Fall Product Champion (TFPC) begin
- December 8, 2024 – Girl delivery products to be delivered to girl's customers deadline
- December 13, 2024 – ACH Communication to TFPC sent out
- December 16, 2024 – [ACH Extension Request](#) by 5 pm deadline
- December 16, 2024 (or sooner) - [Parent Debt Form](#) by 5 pm deadline
- December 20, 2024 – ACH for debits and credits occur

New this year - Missing or damaged products or rewards that were delivered to the Troop Fall Product Champions' home that were ordered for in-person girl-delivery should be immediately reported to M2's Customer Service Team the day of the delivery. GSCB no longer facilitates issues with TFPC deliveries.

- M2 Customer Service Phone: 800-372-8520
- M2 Customer Service Webpage: support.gsnutsandmags.com

Volunteers do not need to be present at the time products and rewards are delivered but should be careful not to leave their deliveries from UPS outdoors for extended periods of time due to weather and/or potential for theft.

Each receiving party is responsible for verifying and signing the received products and rewards when they receive them with their troop volunteer. If any party reports missing/damaged after December 8, 2024, M2 Customer Service may not be able to support missing/damaged replacements.

Remember to print your troop and girl delivery tickets in the M2 troop account to have your troop caregivers sign for their Girl Scout's orders and rewards. (Delivery tickets become available after November 6th).



The Cookie Program

We are pleased to announce that the price of our beloved Girl Scout Cookies will remain the same for MY25 and we have restructured our troop proceeds to make things simpler and more rewarding.

Despite a rise in the price per box from Little Brownie Bakers, which will continue through 2026, we have streamlined our approach to troop profits:

- **Standard Troop Profit:** Every troop will earn \$0.75 for each package sold.
- **Bonus for High Achievement:** Troops achieving a final per-girl average (PGA) of 325+ packages will earn an additional \$0.15 per package as reported at the end of the program.
- **Extra Incentive for Older Troops:** Junior through Ambassador troops that choose to opt out of rewards will receive an additional \$0.05 per package.

We are committed to supporting our troops and making this year's cookie program a sweet success for everyone involved!

Important Upcoming Dates

- November 2024 – Cookie gsLearn modules available for all Cookie Champion volunteers who have a valid background check, current membership and an [agreement](#) on file.
- December 17, 2024, 7 – 8 pm – [Open Office Hours](#) with Product Program team (add to your calendar and bring your questions about the Cookie Program)
- December 16, 2024 – Access to Digital Cookie begins for Cookie Champions
- December 18, 2024 – Access to Digital Cookie begins for Families
- January 4, 2025 – Digital Cookie and Order Cards Begins
- January 21, 2025 – 11:59 PM Troop Initial Order and Reward Size Deadline in eBudde
- January 22, 2025 – 11:59 PM Service Unit Initial Order and Reward Size Deadline in eBudde
- February 1-7, 2025 – Service Unit Cookie Deliveries
- February 7, 2025 – Booth Period Begins
- February 21, 2025 – First ACH



Things to Do

Program on The Move

The program of your choice, delivered to your meeting place...**FREE!**

Ready for your next Girl Scout adventure? All signs point to Program on the Move! Program on the Move will be the primary source of program delivery for membership year 2024-25.

What does that mean? It means this is your first stop for exceptional Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay programming! Our dedicated staff are standing by to help you create the hands-on, badge-earning program experience you've been wanting, at the time and place that works best for your troop/group, completely free.

Review [Program on the Move offerings and FAQs](#)

American Red Cross CPR-First Aid-Babysitting Options Available

We are thrilled to offer our Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts opportunities around the footprint. In-person and blended options available. Cost is \$65. For more details and dates, visit the [events calendar](#).



Babysitting and First Aid Courses



In person Adult and Pediatric First Aid/ CPR & AED

Cadette, Senior & Ambassador

January 25
9AM - 3PM
Camp Country Center
Hockessin, DE

February 22
9AM - 3PM
Camp Todd,
Denton, MD

In- Person Babysitter and First Aid

Cadette, Senior & Ambassador

October 26
9AM - 5PM
Island Community House
Chincoteague, VA

November 2
9AM - 5PM
St. Polycarp Church
Smyrna, DE

March 8
9AM - 5PM
Salisbury Community Foundation
of the Eastern Shore
Salisbury, MD

April 5
9AM - 5PM
Camp Country Center
Hockessin, DE

Skills Session First Aid/CPR

Senior & Ambassador

November 3
5PM - 8PM
Camp Country Center
Hockessin, DE

January 26
1PM - 4PM
Camp Todd
Denton, MD

February 23
12PM - 3PM
St. Polycarp Church
Smyrna, DE

March 9
10AM - 2PM
Island Community House
Chincoteague, VA

April 6
10AM - 2PM
Salisbury Community Foundation
of the Eastern Shore
Salisbury, MD

May 18th
5PM - 8PM
Camp Country Center
Hockessin, DE



Governance

All regularly scheduled board meetings occur from 6PM - 7:30PM. Meeting Summaries are approved at the following month's meeting and will be posted after approval. Our next board meeting is January 22nd, 2025.

Other

2023 - 2024 Membership Goals and Update

During the 2023-2024 membership year we focused on building a strong membership foundation rooted in retention of current members and engagement of new members.

MY24 Girl Membership Goal – 4,500 Current Girl Membership* - 4,038

MY24 Adult Membership Goal – 1,900 Current MY23 Adult Membership* - 1,978

Lifetime Membership* – 1,008

*Membership data is as of September 30, 2024

Staff Comings and Goings

Staff Comings

- Carol Moneymaker, previous New Troop Engagement Specialist, has joined the Program Team as the Girl Experience Coordinator/Camp Director.
- Lauren Bullins joined GSCB in October and Niki Martin joined GSCB earlier this month. They are excited to get started in their roles with the Program Team as Girl Experience Specialists.
- Emily Courter and KC Anderson joined GSCB in late September as Volunteer Support Specialists. They are both excited to work with our Girl Scout volunteers and we are proud to have them on the team!

Giving Tuesday – Tuesday, December 3rd

Giving Tuesday is right around the corner, and we need your help to make it our best one yet! This Global Day of Giving is the perfect opportunity to rally behind our girls and ensure that every girl in our community has access to life-changing experiences—whether it's discovering her passion for STEM, building confidence through outdoor adventures, or learning how to be a leader in her own unique way. You already make such a powerful difference as a volunteer; now imagine the impact you can have by giving or encouraging others to support GSCB! Together, we can open doors for more girls and help them reach their fullest potential. Let's show the world the power of the Girl Scout spirit!

To empower our girls and make a difference today, visit our [website](#).

QR Codes

General & Programs



Girls in Action
Form



GSCB
Events



GSCB
Website



Program on
the Move



CPR-First
Aid-Babysitting



Giving
Tuesday

Volunteer Support and Resources



Safety Activity
Checkpoints



gsLearn
Login



Child Abuse
Prevention



Volunteer
Recognition &
Handbook



Board Approved
Nomination Form



Board Approved
Endorsement Form

Volunteer Programs and Trainings



Youth Mental
Health Trainings



Small Craft
Trainings



Archery Level 1
Trainings



Outdoor Skills
Trainings



Product Program



Family Product
Program
Agreement



ACH Extension
Request



Debt
Form



M2 Customer
Support



Open Office
Hours

