

Volunteer Newsletter

September - October 2025



Troop Spotlight

Trailblazer Troop 280 visited Alaska! From hiking rugged trails to camping under the midnight sun, our Girl Scouts had the ultimate Alaska adventure!

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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October

			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13 GSCB Fall Association Meeting - Eden, MD	14 +Youth Mental Health First Aid Training GSCB Fall Association Meeting - Camp Country Center	15 +Youth Mental Health First Aid Training +New Leader Call +GSCB Fall Association Meeting - Camp Todd	16	17 + Halloweekend Ghoul Scout Encampment +Smores and Star Gazing Overnight	18 + Halloweekend Ghoul Scout Encampment +Smores and Star Gazing Overnight
19 +Smores and Star Gazing Overnight +Archery Level 1 Training	20	21	22	23	24	25 American Red Cross - Babysitting and First Aid
26	27	28	29 Volunteer Gold Award Information Session	30	31 +Founder's Day +Halloween	

	1 Labor Day GSCB Closed	2	3	4	5 Troop Camping Weekend	6 Troop Camping Weekend
7 Troop Camping Weekend	8	9	10	11	12	13 +Girl Scouts Love State Parks +CPR/AED/First Aid
14 +Girl Scouts Love State Parks	15	16	17 New Leader Support Call	18	19 Troop Camping Weekend	20 Troop Camping Weekend
21 Troop Camping Weekend	22 Rosh Hashanah	23 Rosh Hashanah	24 Rosh Hashanah	25	26	27
28	29	30				

September

Other

Governance

Things to Do

Updates & Happenings

Volunteer Support and Resources

Welcome Back to Girl Scouts!

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!

Volunteer Actions Items – be sure to complete the following:

Troop Roster Checks

Troop Leaders – be sure to log into myGS to check your Troop Rosters! Do you have girls that haven't renewed for the new membership year yet? Let's be sure that everyone is all set as we kick off the new year! Reach out to MemberCare@cbgsc.org with any questions.

Back to Troop Safety Checks

- **Troop Supervision 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.
 - **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 Co-Leader Agreements** If you haven't completed the [GSCB Troop Co-Leader Agreement](#), please do so as soon as possible to continue in your role as Co-Leader! This agreement is meant to help you understand what is expected of you in your role and how to be accountable for doing your part. There you will find the GSCB Troop Co-Leader guidelines and resources to support you in this role. Completion of this form is required prior to beginning your role in each Membership Year. Please let your Volunteer Support Specialist know if you have any questions.
- **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.
- **Mandated Reporter Training** - To fulfil the training requirement by GSUSA, this is now an annual requirement for all volunteer roles which must be completed by 9/30/25 in order to be placed/renewed into a volunteer role for the MY26 year.
 - [200: Mandated Reporter and Abuse Prevention](#)

Volunteer Essentials

Be sure to keep the [Volunteer Essentials page](#) of our website bookmarked! From Girl Scout Program resources to all of your guidelines to running your Troop or Service Unit, find all that you need here!

Volunteer ToolKit

The Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) is a customizable digital planning tool that will help you power a fun-filled—and super organized—Girl Scout year. You can use it to find suggested meeting plans for badges, access activity guides, see badge requirements, track your Girl Scouts' achievements, and so much more.

Find the Volunteer Toolkit via the left menu bar of [myGS](#) in My Account. It's accessible from any desktop, tablet, or mobile device. If you haven't already, simply log in or create a member account from myGS. Once you log in, from the left navigation menu, choose "Volunteer Toolkit." See the [step-by-step access instructions](#).

NEW Travel Resources

It's time to start planning your Girl Scout year, and we're excited to share new travel and activity resources! Be sure to check out the [Travel Support and Resources webpage](#), as well as the new [GSCB Travel Guidelines](#) document, which is available to download!

NEW! Recruiter Patch

Exciting news! GSCB is launching a Recruiter Patch Program, open to Girl Scouts of all ages across our council.

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

1. Recruit a new Girl Scout (they don't have to join your troop, 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



RECRUITER  gscb

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 (they don't need to join your troop or service unit)
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!

*This program officially launched on August 1, 2025. To qualify for the patch, new members and recruitment event participation must occur on or after that date. [Request your Recruiter Patch here](#) and for additional details view our [Recruiter Patch Flyer](#).

Volunteer Events and Trainings

Volunteer LeadHERship Summit recap

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us for the GSCB LeadHERship Summit on Saturday, August 23! From inspiring conversations and meaningful networking to plenty of laughter and fun, the day was truly unforgettable. We're so grateful to our incredible volunteers and members who made it special. Relive the moments and check out the photos [here](#).

Volunteer Fall School

Join GSCB Volunteers at Camp Todd October 3rd - October 5th for our annual Volunteer led Fall School! For more than 60 years Girl Scout leaders and adult volunteers have been gathering to share their favorite crafts, games and skills to share with your troops or just to have fun with friends! Cost is \$65 per person and includes meals, lodging, classes, activities and a patch! Learn more and sign up [here](#).

New Leader Calls (not just for new leaders!)

This informal, supportive call is designed just for new Girl Scout leaders. We'll walk through the basics, answer your questions, and help you feel confident as you get started. Whether you're unsure where to begin or just want to connect with other new leaders, this is the perfect place to start. Join us to learn helpful tips, discover available resources, and meet your local support team-because you're never leading alone!

Mark your calendar - this call occurs on the third Wednesday of every month at 12PM.

No need to register - just join the call via this link: [New Leader Support Call](#)

For any questions, comments or concerns, email MemberCare@cbgsc.org.

Volunteer 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](#).

Upcoming Programs & Events

Registration for all 2025-2026 program offerings is now open!

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. View our 2025-2026 Program Guide [here](#) and see our events calendar to register.

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! 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](#). Check out our [Girl Scout Days](#) for more opportunities for your Girl Scouts.

Save the Date - Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend

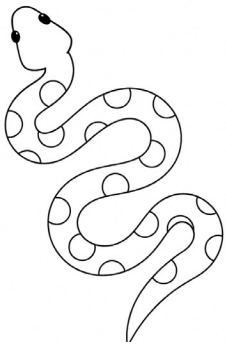
Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend is back! As always, we encourage you to visit our local state parks anytime, but especially during the weekend of September 13th - 14th. You can participate in self-guided tours and patch programs, family hikes, special events led by park staff, or virtual exploration. However you choose to be a part of Girl Scouts Love State Parks Weekend, you can [download the FREE passport activity sheet](#) to guide your adventure!



[Delaware State Parks](#)

[Maryland State Parks](#)

[Virginia State Parks](#)



Kalpana the Snake Activity Sheet

Meet Kalpana, our Early Bird mascot and an Eastern Hognose Snake you might spot at Camp Todd! Take her along when you visit a state or national park, just color her in and bring her on your adventure. Don't forget to snap a photo and share it with us using the [Girls in Action form](#). And here's a fun bonus: you can even earn the [GSCB State Park Expert](#) patch during your visit! Print yours [here](#) and order your patch at our [Girl Scout store](#).

Very Invested Camper

Have your Girl Scouts become members of the BEST outdoor Girl Scout club this side of the Delmarva Peninsula - the Girl Scouts of the Chesapeake Bay Very Invested Camper (V.I.C.) program! 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. [Registration](#) opened September 1st.

Founder's Day Feature Event - SOLD OUT

Prepare for blast off....Mission: Sisterhood, A Day of Space Exploration is set to launch November 1st at the Delaware Aerospace Education Foundation! Our second annual Founder's Day Feature event invites Girl Scouts of all levels to soar into space for a day of hands-on learning, out of this world experiences, and a guest speaker sent straight from the stars. Speaker to be announced. Each Girl Scout in attendance will earn and receive the Space Science Exploration badge for their program level. This event is now SOLD OUT.

Fall Product

Brave. Fierce. Fun!

That's what the Fall Product Program is all about, just like Honey, the Grizzly Bear mascot!

This program is as easy as 1, 2, 3 – seriously!

All Girl Scouts need to do is:

1. Have a 2026 Girl Scout Membership
2. Complete the [GSCB Family Product Program Agreement](#) (covers both the Fall Product and Cookie Programs for the 2025-2026 year) - Juliettes (or Individually Registered Girl Scouts), see below for Juliette Product Program Agreement
3. Register on the M2 platform on October 1st
4. Create their custom avatar and enter customer email addresses



Products and rewards will be shipped directly to the Troop Fall Product Champion (TFPC) in mid-November. Once everything arrives, the TFPC will distribute it all at once; easy and efficient!

Need Forms?

We've got you covered with both Fall Product & Cookie Programs:

- [GSCB Product Program Champion Agreement](#)
- [GSCB Family Product Program Agreement](#)
- [GSCB Juliette Product Program Agreement](#) (for Individually Registered Juliettes Only)

Did you know?

Troops earn proceeds from this program that help fund more adventures and activities—without needing to ask families for funds right away. Base proceeds are 15% of all sales and GSCB offers an Opt-Out of rewards to Junior and older troops.

Troop Volunteers

- Identify your TFPC, then make sure they:
- Register for the 2026 Membership Year
- Complete a current background check
- Complete the [TFPC Agreement](#)
- Take the online training (whenever it's convenient!)

Important Dates to Remember

- September 24 – Volunteer early access to M2 system begins
- October 1 – Fall Product Program kicks off
- October 31 – Program wraps up
- November 15 – Products & rewards begin to arrive to TFPCs
- December 12 – Troop ACH occurs

Let's make this fall season brave, fierce, and FUN—just like our Girl Scouts!

Cookies

A Claw-some Cookie Season Awaits!

Brave. Fierce. Fun. That's the theme — and that's us! Our cookie adventure is right around the corner, and we're kicking off with energy, excitement, and our fearless mascot, Shirley the Black-Footed Ferret leading the way!

Whether you're a new volunteer or a seasoned cookie champ, get ready for another amazing year of supporting Girl Scouts as they build skills, confidence, and friendships that last a lifetime.

Important Cookie Update

As shared in our August 25th communications, all cookies — core and specialty — will be \$6.00 per package for the 2026 season.

Get Troop-Ready – Your Checklist for Success

Start strong by completing the following steps before mid-November:

- Identify a Troop Cookie Champion — Must have current membership, background check, and a signed GSCB Product Program Champion Agreement
- Complete Training — Cookie training will be assigned in gsLearn by mid-November.
- GSCB Family Product Program Agreement — Have each caregiver complete this form (covers both Fall and Cookie Programs). Only if the caregiver did not complete it during the Fall Product Program. Or, for Individually Registered Girl Scouts, complete the Juliette Product Program Agreement.

Key Cookie Program Dates

- Mid-November - Cookie Training Assigned in gsLearn
- December TBD - Access to eBudde & Digital Cookie Opens
- January 3, 2026 - Cookie Program Begins (Order Card + Digital Cookie!)
- January 20 - Digital Cookie/eBudde Pause (8 AM) & Troop Initial Orders Due (11:59 PM)
- January 21 - Service Unit Initial Orders Due (11:59 PM)
- January 31 – February 6 - Service Unit Cookie Deliveries
- February 6 - Booth Sales Begin
- February 20 - ACH Payment Facilitation
- March 8 - Cookie Program Ends (Final Day for Booths & Digital Cookie)
- March 17 - Troop Final Rewards Due (11:59 PM – Troops Locked Out)
- March 18 - Service Unit Final Rewards Due (11:59 PM – SU Locked Out)
- May 4 - Final Rewards Begin Shipping to SU Cookie Champions

Let's make this cookie season the best one yet — full of growth, courage, and of course, fun! Thanks to each of you for being the fierce and fantastic leaders behind our Girl Scouts.



Governance

Fall Association Meetings

This year, we're hosting Fall Association Meetings. These meetings provide a time where members (adult members and Girl Scouts 14 years and older) receive updates, provide input into council policy and governance decisions, provide feedback, and participate in important discussions to help shape and support strategic goals of the council. Our Interim CEO, Helen Wronski, will be present to answer any questions, comments or concerns at each meeting.

During these Fall Association meetings, we will focus on recognizing the difference between governance and operational issues, and the role and power that each of you have in the process of influencing GSCB Policy. Virtual Options will be available. We hope to see you there!

- [Monday, 10/13/25, 6:00pm – 8:00pm](#)
Hazel Outdoor Discovery Center, Eden, MD
- [Tuesday, 10/14/25, 6:00pm - 8:00pm](#)
GSCB Camp Todd, Denton, MD
- [Wednesday, 10/15/25, 6:00pm - 8:00pm](#)
GSCB Camp Country Center, Hockessin, DE

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* - 3858

MY25 Adult Membership Goal – 2000 Current MY25 Adult Membership* - 1936

Lifetime Membership* – 1,045

*Membership data is as of September 2, 2025.

Staff Comings and Goings

Staff Goings

Vivian Guyton, Girl Experience Specialist, left the GSCB team on August 28th. We wish her all the best!

QR Codes

General



Girls in Action
Form



GSCB
Events



GSCB
Website



Employment
Opportunities



Program
Guide



myGS
Login



Volunteer Support, Resources and Programs



Recruiter
Patch



Travel
Resources



Volunteer
Essentials



Fall
School



Product Program



Volunteer
Site



Fall
Product



For Cookie
Sellers



Programs



GS Love
State Parks



Snake
Coloring Sheet



Founder's Day
Event



V.I.C.
Registration



Program
Partners



Girl Scout
Days

