

# Volunteer News

*Training • Events • Activities • Tips*

girl scouts  
of the colonial coast



## Girl Scout Volunteer News & Updates for January 2024

Happy New Year! Are you ready to “Unbox the Future”? It’s cookie season, and we’ve gathered all the resources and information you need to help your Girl Scouts master the five skills taught by the Girl Scout Cookie Program® that are essential to leadership, to success, and to life.

From forms to door hangers, information for entrepreneurship pins and badges, family meeting guides, tips and tools from our baker and so much more, visit [gscoc.org](https://gscoc.org) to find everything you need to help your Girl Scouts build their business smarts, earn money for activities they choose, and prepare for amazing adventures that last a lifetime.

January Special Observances:

- **National Mentoring Month**
- **National Thank You Month**
- **Walk Your Dog Month** – Try activities from the Brownies Pets Badge or the new [Cadettes Animal Helpers Badge](#)
- **International Wayfinding Month**
- **January 5:** National Bird Day (Get ready to participate in the [Great Backyard Bird Count](#) next month!)
- **January 7:** Orthodox Christmas
- **January 13:** National Sticker Day
- **January 15:** [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#) – This day of service is also the first fee-free day of the year at national parks across the country! (*GSCCC offices and shop will be closed in observance.*)
- **January 17:** Kid Inventors Day / Benjamin Franklin’s Birthday
- **January 21:** National Hugging Day – When you give one, you get one!



# Activities and Events

## **Winter Fun: Ice Science**

Equipment: Small balloons, bubble solution or other liquid soap, food coloring, sugar or salt.

Procedure: Make use of those freezing temperatures (or use a freezer) and explore the science of ice! Blow bubbles when it's cold out and watch them freeze before they pop. Freeze balloons filled with food coloring and water and open them up to observe the patterns of how ice forms. Explore what happens when you put your ice balloon in a bucket of water, or try adding sugar or salt to your balloons before freezing them!

---

**Last call for the [10th Annual Cookie Classic Run!](#)** Meet us at the Dismal Swamp Trail on Saturday, January 13, 2024.

## **Bouldering – Saturday, January 27**

Can you tackle 100+ boulder problems over 5,500 square feet of bouldering terrain? Join us and learn how to boulder with our community partner Latitude in Virginia Beach. Cost includes shoe rental and pass to stay for the remainder of the day.

Levels: All

Location: Latitude Climbing and Fitness, Virginia Beach

*(Registration deadline: January 18)*

## **Outdoor Skills Day – Saturday, February 10**

Just for Girl Scout Juniors: learn outdoor survival skills specific to cold weather! In this program you'll learn how to build a fire, effectively layer clothes to keep warm, perform some basic emergency techniques, and more.

Location: Virginia Enmeier Program Center, Camp Skimino

Level: Juniors

*(Registration deadline: February 1)*

## **Random Acts of Kindness – Saturday, February 10**

Campus Girl Scouts and the Kappa Delta Sisters will share their ideas on how to make the world a better place and that starts with Girl Scouts! Learn about how small acts of kindness can go a long way for individuals and whole communities. Girl Scouts will participate in hands-on activities, complete a community service project, and much more.

Location: The College of William & Mary, Williamsburg

Levels: All

*(Registration deadline: January 22)*

Download a printable version of the entire calendar of events for January-September 2024: [Program Events Calendar](#) (PDF)

## **Care Packages for the Military**

Now through March 1, GSCCC is collecting health care items to be included in USO care packages for our military members. Learn how your troop can participate and get more information on suggested items at [gscgcc.org](http://gscgcc.org).

*Drop Off Locations:*

- A Place for Girls, 912 Cedar Road, Chesapeake
- Sunshine Quilt Corner, 896 J Clyde Morris Blvd, Newport News



## **Trip/Travel Planning – Saturday, January 20**

Attend this workshop to get the basics on how to prepare for taking a trip with your Girl Scouts! Travel is about fun, exploration and progressive experiences that allow girls to learn to appreciate other cultures, new places and the outdoors.

Location: A Place for Girls, Chesapeake

*(Registration deadline: January 17)*

## **Managing Troop Finances – Saturday, January 20**

Learn more about banking and finances. As a steward of your troop's money, you have a wonderful opportunity to teach Girl Scouts about business and financial literacy skills along with the acceptance of the responsibility of troop funds.

Location: A Place for Girls, Chesapeake  
(Registration deadline: January 17)

## **Risk Management – Monday, January 22**

At Girl Scouts, our number one priority is the safety and well-being of our members and the families and communities we serve. This course will help to prepare you to work with Girl Scouts and keep them safe.

Location: Virtual  
(Registration deadline: January 19)

## **Basic Troop Camping – Saturday, February 17**

We have combined our Outdoor I and II courses into one single course! Join us for this all-day training in outdoor skills at camp. We will cover basic outdoor camping and gear, outdoor cooking and "Leave No Trace." Participants will leave with plenty of tips to help Girl Scouts take the lead in planning their next outdoor overnight.

Location: Camp Darden, Courtland  
(Registration deadline: February 2)

---

We have trainings for outdoor skills such as axe throwing, archery, climbing wall and more coming up in February, so be sure to check the calendar at [gsccc.org/events](https://gsccc.org/events) to find what interests you and sign up!

## **Helpers Needed for Cookie Count-n-Go**

Have fun and lend a hand at our annual Cookie Count-n-Go on February 24. We will distribute approximately 75,000 cases of cookies, which equates to 900,000 boxes of cookies to more than 680 troops! Three locations to choose from: Suffolk, Virginia Beach or Newport News. It's a fun day working alongside other volunteers — and you'll be thanked with a box of Girl Scout Cookies at checkout! Choose a shift or help all day. [Learn more and RSVP by February 5, 2024.](#)

## NEW! Grow Your Troop

Girl Scouts is all about making new friends—and keeping the old! By growing your troop to ten or more members, you can give youth in your community the opportunity to try new things, build forever friendships, take on adventures, dream big and have fun doing it. [Check out the tips and resources on this page](#) for ways you can engage new families, welcome new girls, and expand your network of volunteers!



**Volunteer Spotlight: Georgie Raymond**—For this mom, spending time in nature with her daughter has been “magical.” Georgie is looking forward to becoming more active with GSCCC’s Wild Things and facilitating new outdoor experiences for girls. [Read the full article](#)

**Fall Encampment at Darden**—Troops enjoyed a fun fall weekend of outdoor activities, campfires, and s’mores! [Read the full article](#)

**Volunteer Spotlight: Sandi Ayers**—This co-leader recounts her ten-year Girl Scout journey with her Gold Award daughter. [Read the full article](#)

Browse these and other inspiring stories featuring local Girl Scouts, volunteers, alum, and more at [gsgccc.org/blog](https://gsgccc.org/blog).

## Listen up!

Announcing the official GSCCC Podcast, “Make the World a Better Place” — we’re launching a series of stories all about the highest award in Girl Scouting, the Gold Award. [Check out our first episode](#), where we sit down to chat with long-time volunteer Linda Linke, and hear about the work she’s done with the Highest Awards Committee.

## Nominations open for the Girl Scout Advisory Board

GSUSA is currently accepting applications for ten seats on the National Girl Scout Advisory Board to replace existing advisory board members who have completed their term. Advisory board members serve a two-year term and contribute to key projects with staff at GSUSA, such as program strategy, Highest Awards, cookie marketing, Global Girl Scouting, and more.

Do you know a Cadette, Senior, or Ambassador who would be a great fit for this amazing opportunity? [Learn more at gsgcc.org](https://gsgcc.org). Applications are due by January 19.



## GSCCC Shop Specials

### January 3, 10, 17, 24 and 31: Discount Wednesdays!

Pick a lucky snowflake at checkout and receive a 10% or 15% discount off the entire purchase. *May not be combined with any other offer.*

### Special Hours:

- The GSCCC office and shop will be closed January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.

**Booth in a Bag:** Everything you need to kick-start your cookie booth for 2024, at a big savings! \$55 each.

**Cookie Cart:** Carrying cookie boxes can be a balancing act! This cart is a safer, easier solution to balancing stacks of boxes. Designed just for Girl Scout cookie boxes, it's great for cookie delivery, secure restocking, or transporting to your booth. \$37.50 each.

**Cookie Tote Bag:** This reusable bag is perfect for delivering cookies or other everyday errands, and features everyone's favorite phrase: "Get your Girl Scout Cookies here!" \$3.95 each.

**Cookie Hoodies:** Our cozy hoodies are Girl Scout green with a colorful design on the front that reads "My Girl Scout Cookie Game is Strong" and are available in multiple sizes, \$35 each.

We have everything you need to crush your cookie sales goals this season—[let's go shopping!](#)

## Set it and forget it!

Did you know you can support Girl Scouts just by shopping for groceries? If you have a Kroger loyalty card, you can designate GSCCC as the beneficiary of your Community Rewards—in just 4 easy steps. [View the walkthrough to get started.](#)