

Alum News



Quarterly Newsletter for GSCCC Girl Scout Alums

Autumn 2026

Thank you for keeping the Girl Scout Movement as such an important part of your life. We hope you will join us at an upcoming event this fall to celebrate our incredible sisterhood! Read on for details, and to hear what some of our other alum have been up to.

As always, you can find even more feature stories, resources and other information at gscgcc.org/alum.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Girl Scout Famous Formers – Sept. 17

Last call for our annual celebration, where we will recognize the significant achievements of local women who started their leadership journey as Girl Scouts. Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres from Taste Unlimited and beverages including wine selections from Williamsburg Winery. [Learn more at gscgcc.org/famous](https://gscgcc.org/famous).

Women's Camping Retreat – Oct. 3-4

Camp Darden offers lodges, cabins, platform tents, and 105 acres of beauty! This is your chance to unplug, breathe in that crisp fall air, and dive back into the camp traditions you've always loved—archery, canoeing, crafts, campfire songs, and more. Pack your sleeping bag, grab your favorite flannel, and get ready for a weekend that fills your cup and reminds you why camp has always felt like home. Register now at gscgcc.org/retreat.

Adult Awards Celebration – Oct. 10

We are excited to shine the spotlight on the incredible adults within our Council who go the extra mile to empower girls and make an impact amongst their peers! These special awards are rooted in tradition, bringing a massive sense of pride, achievement, and well-deserved recognition to the leaders who serve as a true compass for our Girl Scouts and community. Join us at A Place for Girls in Chesapeake. (Our retail shop will be open before and after the ceremony for your convenience.) [Registration is free!](#)

A Place for Girls 30th Anniversary – Oct. 29

Join us for a milestone celebration marking 30 incredible years of A Place for Girls—the regional program center and headquarters for Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast, and the home of our Camp Outback. We invite alum, families, volunteers, donors, and community partners to honor the past with us and celebrate the present as we look ahead to the next chapter of friendship, leadership development, and outdoor adventure that can be found at A Place for Girls. Your ticket includes activities and light bites. [Registration is free!](#)

13th Annual Cookie Classic Run – Jan. 16

This multi-distance family friendly run/walk event is a great way to launch the 2027 cookie season and start runners off on their 2027 running year. All distances are out and back, on flat asphalt at Chesapeake's Dismal Swamp Canal Trail, with Girl Scout Cookies waiting for you at the finish! Register by 10/16 for guaranteed selection of your box of cookies and guaranteed race T-shirt sizing! Register now at gscoc.org/cookieclassic.

Alum Stories



Tracy Keller Named as a Virginia Business 2026 Women in Leadership Awards Recipient

Virginia Business has selected Tracy Keller, CEO of the Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast, as one of their 2026 Women in Leadership Award recipients. The Women in Leadership Awards celebrate top women executives for their overall professional accomplishments, civic engagement, mentorship, and breaking glass ceilings. The honorees, selected by the Virginia Business leadership team, have consistently demonstrated remarkable leadership and integrity and make an impact on their community and Virginia as a whole.

“The 2026 Women in Leadership honorees are exemplary executives who are making significant contributions to their organizations and communities as trailblazing mentors who are encouraging future generations of professional women to pursue their own paths and ambitions,” said Richard Foster, associate publisher and editor of Virginia Business. “We at Virginia Business are pleased to recognize these transformational leaders.”

Tracy Keller has been a member of the staff at Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast for more than 30 years and has served as the Chief Executive Officer since 2005. An active leader within the Hampton Roads region, she has served on several boards throughout her career and is currently a board member with The Friends of Foster Care, the Girl Scout Staff Association, the Great Bridge Rotary, P.R.A.Y. (Programs for Religious Activities for Youth) (president), the Virginia Council on Women (vice chair, Governor appointed), and the Chesapeake Environmental Improvement Council with the City of Chesapeake (Mayor appointed). She is a strong advocate for girls and women and acts to direct change for good in her community and within the Commonwealth.

Women in Leadership honorees will be recognized at an October 6 awards banquet at the Science Museum of Virginia's Dewey Gottwald Center in Richmond. Registration and networking begin at 5:30 p.m. followed by dinner and the awards program starting at 6:15 p.m. Honorees will also be recognized in the October issue of Virginia Business and online at virginiabusiness.com.



Girl Scout Destinations: Postcard from Europe

Girl Scout Alum and GSCCC Council Partnerships & Events Manager, Sarah Peterson, helped to chaperone a Girl Scout Destinations trip to Europe for 32 high school Girl Scouts from 18 councils across 16 states! The group traveled across the Netherlands, Belgium, France, and England (where they visited Pax Lodge in London, of course) during a fantastic heat wave this summer. Sarah praised everyone for their positive attitudes, saying, “Our group of Girl Scouts for this trip were resilient despite changes caused by the weather, kind to each other and the people they met, and engaged with the history and culture they encountered. We are proud of them for pushing their boundaries and carrying the Girl Scout spirit with them around the world!” Read the full recap and see photos at gscucc.org/blog.



Past Presidents Luncheon at A Place for Girls

The annual Past Presidents Luncheon was held on Friday, August 14, hosted by GSCCC CEO Tracy Keller. She welcomed Carole Stockberger who was board president of the Heritage Girl Scout Council from 1977-1980, and Belon Parks who served in that role from 1980-1981, along with Cheryle Thorne-Harris, past board chair from Girl Scouts of Colonial Coast from 2015-2017. They and guests enjoyed being updated on Girl Scout news, meeting some of our Camp Outback campers, and sharing stories from our Council's history. You can learn more about our Council's history by reading the [Historical Highlights](#) prepared by GSCCC's volunteer archive team!

Paying it Forward

Many thanks to Girl Scout alums Deb Larkin and Carla Washinko for their sponsorship of the luncheon at our Volunteer Kickoff event held on September 12! Check out photos from the day on our [Facebook page](#).



Celebrating 50 Years of Girl Scout Cavers

The Colonial Coast Girl Scout Cavers will celebrate their 50th anniversary in 2027, marking five decades of adventure, leadership, and exploration. Founded by Melanie Ustick in 1977, the Colonial Coast Cavers group was created to give Girl Scouts the unique opportunity to experience high adventure while building lasting friendships with other girls from across the Council. Through caving trips to West Virginia, participants develop their confidence, leadership, teamwork, and problem-solving skills in a supportive environment.

Since its beginning, one of the group's guiding principles has been a strong commitment to conservation through the Leave No Trace ethic. Girl Scout Cavers are taught to respect and protect the fragile cave environment by taking only pictures, leaving only footprints, and ensuring these remarkable places remain preserved for future generations. Read the full feature story and see more photos at gscoc.org/blog.

Workplace Giving Campaigns

Many employers participate in an annual giving campaign, which allows employees to contribute to a charity of choice through payroll deduction. When donating during your workplace campaign, you can designate to Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast! Your generosity is counted toward your company's goals while creating opportunities for girls to reach their full potential.

Your donation stays local and helps all Girl Scouts succeed!

501(c)3 Nonprofit Information: Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast, 912 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA 23322 EIN 54-1158412



Girl Scouts Magazine (Fall 2026)

Check your mailbox for the latest edition of our magazine! We have some amazing stories on YOU, our Girl Scout Alum, in this edition, along with our regular features on troop news, upcoming events, and exciting announcements. (You can also read it online at gscoc.org/publications.)



It's time to renew your Girl Scout membership! This year, become a member for life.

When you renew as a lifetime member, \$25 of your contribution helps fund membership dues for a Girl Scout in an underserved community in your area; plus, you will enjoy benefits such as discounts and invitations to special events. (And there is a collection of new Lifetime Member swag to show off your Girl Scout pride!)

[Learn more at gscoc.org.](https://gscoc.org)

Spread the impact of Girl Scouts. Be a Community Champion!

You are one of our strongest champions and your voice matters. As an Alum, you are uniquely suited to help build awareness, grow support, and open doors for more girls and families to experience the benefits of Girl Scouts. Together, we can reach more neighbors, schools, and local organizations to highlight the opportunities Girl Scouts offers.

Making an impact only takes a moment. Explore our resources at gsccc.org/impact and use the ones that resonate with you!

Nuts, Candies, Magazines and More: Support Our Girl Scouts!

Support local Girl Scouts by purchasing nuts, candies, chocolates, magazines, tumblers, and more! Girl Scouts here at Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast are selling BarkBoxes with themed toy options, plus richly scented candles, Tervis Tumblers, collectible tins filled with snacks, and so much more!

Girl Scouts raise start-up money for their troop and earn cool patches and other recognitions, too! Every purchase from the Fall Product Program helps Girl Scouts explore new adventures.

The sale runs from September 11 - November 8, 2026.

Don't know a Girl Scout to buy from? We can make that happen! [Contact us and we will help to connect you with a Girl Scout in your area!](#)

Let us share your good news!

We know Girl Scouts make the world a better place well into adulthood, and your stories can inspire us all to keep going. **Send your professional honors, awards, recognitions, promotions, news and other announcements to marcomm@gsccc.org.** We will include them in a future edition of this newsletter!