

## Alum News – Fall 2023

*Quarterly Newsletter for GSCCC Alums*

In this edition you'll find spotlights from our blog on two of our Girl Scout Alum as well as a convention wrap-up, information on upcoming events, and more.

More stories, resources and other information can be found at [gscoc.org/alum](https://gscoc.org/alum).

### In the Spotlight: stories from our blog

Have you seen all the great [featured stories](#) on our website? From highest awards to volunteers and alum like you, no two Girl Scout stories are the same, but every single one will inspire you.



Alum Spotlight:  
Gabi Kinney



2023 National Girl Scout  
Convention



Alum Spotlight:  
Dr. Wendy Scott

### Alum Spotlight: Gabi Kinney

Meet Girl Scout alum Gabi Kinney, community engagement project manager for [Wetlands Watch](#), an organization that's all about preserving our environment. She grew up in Vermont where she spent many years as a Girl Scout and learned to love the outdoors. Those early years in Girl Scouting where she became a "protector of the environment" made an impression on her, and helped her choose her path in life. She studied Marine Biology in college where she became inspired by coastal ecosystems and how much humans depend on wetlands, oysters,

and other sea life to survive and endure climate change. She says being a Girl Scout helped her connect with nature and care about the environment.

Her role at Wetlands Watch includes running their community science program called Catch the King, where volunteers (youth and adults) are invited to use a Sea Level Rise app to collect data about where it floods during the annual king tide in the fall. As sea levels rise, local planners and decision-makers need more data about where it floods so that they can put plans and projects in place that help protect communities and the people within. That's where Girl Scouts can help.

Wetlands Watch has helped train Girl Scout troops in the Hampton Roads region to participate in Catch the King by joining in on troop meetings and teaching girls how to collect data using the Sea Level Rise app. They also help troops get registered for the event, provide training guides and yard signs for volunteers, and award stickers and t-shirts for participating.

"I envision a partnership with the Girl Scouts to extend to every coastal troop in Virginia and North Carolina," she said.

[Read the full article](#)

## **Convention Wrap-Up from GSCCC Alum and Volunteer Eileen Livick**

And... that's a wrap! NCS 2023 is in the books.

The Hall of Experiences was packed with excited Girl Scouts of all ages. Participants had the opportunity to learn about many aspects of Florida wildlife and state parks. They participated in axe throwing, crafting projects, cookie tasting, space exploration and even search and rescue techniques with the United States Coast Guard.

Girl Scouts had many photo opportunities with National Board members as well as sister Girl Scouts from around the Nation.

Everywhere you looked, in every corner of the resort, you could see Girl Scouts swapping their homemade trinkets. I must admit, I enjoyed receiving SWAPS just as much as the girls did!

Closing ceremonies were filled with music, and singing "Make New Friends" in rounds. Although the 2026 NCS location was not announced, Bonnie Barczykowski did promise to announce it by the end of the year.

On a personal note, I was able to visit my six grandchildren for a quick lunch. In just three years the next generation of Girl Scouts will join our family.

[Read more stories from NCS/Phenom](#)

## Alum Spotlight: Dr. Wendy Scott

Dr. Wendy Scott, a lifetime Girl Scout and Gold Award recipient, uses her talents as a STEM professional to help Girl Scouts explore their unique skills and make the world a better place! On May 20, Dr. Scott facilitated an event for Girl Scouts at Virginia Wesleyan University in Virginia Beach. Activities during the event challenged Girl Scouts to identify obstacles in their communities and brainstorm ways to make positive change while completing the “It’s Your World, Change It!” Girl Scout Journey.

Dr. Scott was a public school teacher for 10 years before earning a Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Old Dominion University. Currently, she is director of the laboratory school and the assistant professor of education at Virginia Wesleyan, as well as the founder and director of Tidewater Collegiate Academy (TCA) in Virginia Beach, which Dr. Scott describes as “an innovative homeschool for diverse Pre-K-12th grade students.” TCA’s mission is “to facilitate the development of global citizens equipped with 21st century skills ready to make the world a better place,” which aligns with the mission of Girl Scouts.

[Read the full article](#)

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Do you have a story to tell? We’d love to hear it. [Submit it online at gsvcc.org.](#)

## National Opportunities for Alums: Join the Girl Scout Network

Become a part of a community of advocates—both alums and supporters from across the country—who are passionate about championing Girl Scouts and each other. You’ll receive invitations to special events, discounts, and more. [Sign up online at gsvcc.org.](#)

## Upcoming Adult Events

Mark your calendar for this new series of educational and networking events, just for our adult members!

**Future Finances: Preparing for Tomorrow & Beyond – October 17, 6:30 – 7:30 p.m.**

Don't miss this free online learning opportunity with a financial planner and financial

attorney. Learn about financial trends, retirement plans, will preparation, legacy planning and more. (You'll receive the Zoom link via email.) [Register](#)

### **Juliette Gordon Low Society Social – November 30, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.**

Spend a fun and relaxing evening with fellow Girl Scouts who believe in creating a future legacy for all girls. We'll enjoy food, adult beverages, and fellowship. This free event is open to all adult GSCCC members and JGL Society members. (*Location TBA*)

[RSVP to philanthropy@gscce.org](mailto:philanthropy@gscce.org)

### **Meet the Authors – December 3, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**

*Location/Registration information TBA*

### **Save the Date: All-Camp Weekend of Fun – September 21-22, 2024**

Join us at Camp Darden — just for GSCCC Adult Members! *Registration will open in early 2024.*



## **Girl Scouts Magazine: Fall 2023**

The Fall edition of our Girl Scouts magazine is out now. Don't see it in your mailbox yet? You can always read it online from our Publications page, along with an archive of past issues. Check page 26 for a special feature on our Alum!

[READ NOW](#)

## **Become a Member of the Juliette Gordon Low Society**

Girl Scouts celebrates the [Juliette Gordon Low Society](#) members who have selected to make Girl Scouts a part of their legacy by including Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast in their estate plans. Juliette Gordon Low's vision to create an organization that serves girls and further the Movement was matched by her stewardship when she converted the carriage house of her home into the first Girl Scout national headquarters, and afterwards, bestowed the property upon Girl Scouts in her will. Juliette's bequest was the beginning of planned giving to Girl Scouts. When you place GSCCC in your will, you have the opportunity to become part of the JGL Society!

*Did you know...?*

- Over 70% of adults don't have a valid will.
- If you moved to Virginia, your previous will is invalid.
- If you've added any assets like purchasing a home, buying a car, or opening new retirement accounts, you need a new will.
- A birth of a child, an adoption or other family changes require a new will.

Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast has partnered with [FreeWill](#), a completely FREE online platform that creates a valid Virginia Will. Its step-by-step process is easy to use. The tool also provides an optional opportunity to leave a gift to charity. Please consider the future of girls as you create your will. **GSCCC, ID# 54-1158412, is an eligible charity.**

"I recently moved to Virginia and needed to update my will. FreeWill was so simple, and I feel much better knowing that my family is protected. I also left a donation to Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast, so my love of Girl Scouting will continue," shared Sally Swanson, "and I'm now a proud member of the Juliette Gordon Low Society."

A valid will protects your family and protects your assets. Take action today!

**Questions?** Email [philanthropy@gscce.org](mailto:philanthropy@gscce.org).



## **Make this your last renewal!**

If you have not already renewed your membership for next year, consider upgrading to a Lifetime Membership. When you join as a lifetime member, \$25 of your one-time membership fee will fund a year of Girl Scouting for a member in your local community. [Learn more about the great benefits enjoyed by lifetime members.](#)