



Alum News

*Quarterly Newsletter for
GSCCC Alums*

Spring 2025

We are so excited to announce the 2025 class of Famous Formers! Congratulations to these amazing women. This issue of Alum News is packed with all the details on the upcoming Famous Formers celebration, plus announcements, travel opportunities, and spotlights on our Girl Scout alum.

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

Celebrating our Famous Formers

Join us on **Thursday, May 1 at the d'Art Center in Norfolk from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.** to celebrate Girl Scouting and its legacy of leadership. Sponsors, guests, and honorees will share the excitement of dreamers and doers who come from the Girl Scout ranks and have excelled in their fields as female leaders, trendsetters, and visionaries.

Congratulations to our 2025 Honorees!

- **Javaune Adams-Gaston, Ph.D.**, President of Norfolk State University
- **Tonya Byrd**, Senior Policy Director (Community Engagement) at Dominion Energy

- **Sierrah Chavis**, Director Youth Opportunities at United Way South Hampton Roads; Founder/CEO of Bossy Girl a 501(c)(3), and children's author
- **CDR Heidi Koski**, Commanding Officer of US Coast Guard Base, Elizabeth City
- **Wendy Scott, Ph.D.**, Founder and Director of Tidewater Collegiate Academy at Virginia Wesleyan University

Journalist Rae Pearson Benn with WTVZ and host of Our Issues Hampton Roads will be our emcee for the evening. Guests will enjoy valet parking, culinary delights to suit every palette, two beer/wine tickets, tile pour art class, and a "Leave your mark" canvas group art project.

Register today and plan to have a fun and inspiring time celebrating with these amazing women!

Juliette Gordon Low is part of the American Women Quarters™ Program



Get ready to celebrate because history is in the making! Our very own trailblazer, Juliette Gordon Low, is among the five women being honored in 2025 by the [United States Mint](#). The official release of Juliette's quarter will take place in late March, which is Women's History Month. A special reception recognizing the historical significance will be held on March 26 at the Smithsonian's Women's History Museum. Collector sets will be available for purchase from the Mint.

According to the United States Mint: "The American Women Quarters™ Program is a four-year program that celebrates the accomplishments and contributions made by women of the United States. Beginning in 2022, and continuing through 2025, the U.S. Mint is issuing up to five new reverse designs each year." These quarters pay tribute to women from diverse backgrounds who have made their mark on suffrage, civil rights, abolition, government, humanities, science, space, the arts, and more. It's a powerful recognition of the incredible impact women have had on our nation's history. The

trailblazers who've graced these quarters to date: Maya Angelou, Bessie Coleman, Celia Cruz, and Eleanor Roosevelt are just a few examples. Now, Juliette Gordon Low is joining their esteemed company, and we couldn't be prouder.

The selection of Juliette Gordon Low for this prestigious honor on the national stage serves as a powerful reminder that her visionary spirit and the Movement she founded are beacons of hope for every girl. And today, the world needs Girl Scouts more than ever. Low's legacy comes to life in every Girl Scout and alum who speaks up for what they believe in, leaves the world better than they found it, and blazes a trail of their very own.

Let's dive into the design elements and their significance on the new quarter featuring Juliette Gordon Low. The design captures Juliette's spirit and strength. Juliette is rocking her 1920s Girl Scout uniform, complete with trefoils on her hat, lapels, belt buckle, and pin. Check out the Thanks Badge over her heart—it's the highest adult award in Girl Scouting! And that Silver Fish around her neck? It's the top honor in UK Girl Guiding, symbolizing swimming upstream and overcoming obstacles. This quarter design is packed with history and Girl Scout pride.

The unveiling of the Juliette Gordon Low quarter design marks a monumental milestone not only for Girl Scouts but for everyone. It's a reminder that the vision and determination of one person can change the course of history. Juliette Gordon Low's journey from trailblazing leader to a face on our nation's currency is a testament to the power of girls and women everywhere.

GSCCC Set Sail on a Memorable Caribbean Adventure

Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast (GSCCC) recently embarked on an extraordinary journey aboard the Carnival Sunshine, a voyage filled with camaraderie, adventure, and meaningful celebrations. Aptly named "Cruising with GSCCC" the trip brought together adult Girl Scouts and their friends/families for an unforgettable experience, with picturesque ports of call that included the vibrant Dominican Republic and the serene shores of Grand Turk.

This unique getaway was more than just a cruise—it was an opportunity for Girl Scouts to connect, explore, and celebrate the remarkable legacy of their organization. Throughout the trip, participants immersed themselves in the rich cultures and breathtaking beauty of the Caribbean, creating lifelong memories along the way.



One of the most poignant moments aboard the Carnival Sunshine was the [Juliette Gordon Low Society \(JGLS\)](#) ceremony, a heartfelt tradition honoring those who demonstrate exceptional commitment to the Girl Scouts' mission. During this special event, current JGLS members proudly welcomed two new JGLS members, Nancy Staples and Anne Dinterman. Their contributions and dedication serve as an inspiration to all, embodying the spirit of Girl Scouting and ensuring its sustainability for future generations.

As the Carnival Sunshine cruised through turquoise waters, the ship transformed into a floating venue for Girl Scouts to bond and learn. From engaging activities to shared meals at the Chef's Table, every moment reinforced the values of leadership, community, and adventure that are at the heart of Girl Scouting.

"Cruising with GSCCC" was more than just a cruise—it was a celebration of resilience, service, and sisterhood. Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast returned home not only with souvenirs and snapshots but also with a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper connection to their mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character.

Do you wish that you had joined in on the Girl Scout fun? The next adult trip will visit Greece, touring its iconic and historic sites in October 2026. Only six spaces remain for our personal tour group. (Read on for details!)



Spend a Week in Greece, October 6 – 14, 2026

Join GSCCC's "Travel Queen" Eileen Livick for this amazing adventure, just for adults. Walk through ancient history and open-air museums in the capital, Athens. Revel in the serenity and diversity of the Greek Islands on the isles of Mykonos and Santorini—daydreams come to life in a hundred shades of blue. Watch the setting sun from hilltops and black sand beaches. See the full itinerary and reserve your spot today! (Payment plans are available.)

LEARN MORE

Great Mingling at Cocktails for a Cause

On March 5, GSCCC hosted our Cocktails for a Cause event at the Town Point Club in Norfolk, where adult Girl Scouts and other supporters enjoyed good fun, a specialty crafted cocktail inspired by a famous Girl Scout cookie, and great mingling for a great cause. The evening was graced by the presence of Norfolk's mayor, Kenny Alexander, who joined his community in supporting a worthy mission. A highlight of the night was the reverse raffle, adding some excitement to the festivities, all aimed at raising funds to provide membership opportunities for Girl Scouts in need. This event was the perfect

way to ring in the 113th birthday of Girl Scouts while reinforcing our community's commitment to empower youth. Thanks to all who came out, we loved seeing you!



“Make the World a Better Place” Podcast

Meet leaders with connections to Girl Scouts serving in our community and beyond! Together, we will hear inspiring stories from Girl Scout Alum and adult supporters of Girl Scouts who use their courage, confidence, and character to make the world around them a better place.

Current episodes feature Girl Guide alum Georgia Lyons, who is from the United Kingdom, and Deputy Director of Public Communications for the City of Chesapeake Elizabeth Vaughn, an active Girl Scout alum and volunteer.

[Listen now](#) on Spotify or YouTube!

Be a Lifeguard at Girl Scout Summer Camp

Attention outdoor enthusiasts! We are hiring lifeguards for summer camp! We offer FREE lifeguard training, with a pre-requisite test coming up on May 18 and training sessions from June 3-5. Join us for an unforgettable summer and help create a safe and fun environment for our campers! Apply today and SPLASH into your summer plans! To learn more and apply online, visit: www.gsccc.org/campjobs

Alum Spotlight: Honoring Nellie Hayse



Lifetime Girl Scout and former Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast Chief Executive Officer Nellie Hayse passed away on December 14, 2024.

As a girl, Nellie received the highest award one could earn in Girl Scouts at the time, the Curved Bar, and she received the highest national Girl Scout award as an adult, the Thanks Badge. In addition, she was presented the highest Council award for an adult, the Dorothy Barber Lifetime Achievement Award.

Nellie's work as a professional was also recognized by the community, earning the Virginia Volunteer Administrator Award in 2001 and the Hampton Roads Woman of the Year award in 2002.

Nellie believed strongly in paying it forward and in helping girls and women become empowered. There were many lives Nellie touched, including countless staff and volunteers she mentored.

"This is a great loss to Girl Scouts and the Hampton Roads community," said Colonial Coast CEO Tracy Keller, who was mentored by Nellie and took her place when Nellie retired. "Nellie found her passion early in life, helping others and making a difference in

the lives of girls and women. That legacy will continue through the work of all she touched.”

Read the full article at gscgcc.org/blog.

TAX DAY: Make a Difference for Girls!

Do you want to reduce your taxes? There's plenty of time to plan your charitable contributions deduction for next year's tax season. Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast is an IRS qualified organization, #54-1158412, and we can help. Here are some different ways to reduce your tax liability.

Monthly Donation: Determine the total amount that will help you reduce your taxes and divide it by the remaining months of the year. GSCCC's [easy monthly donation system](#) can help you with automatic payments. *For example:* \$4,500 (estimate needed to reduce your tax liability) / 9 months remaining in 2025 = \$500 monthly donation

Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD): If you're 70 ½ or over, you can transfer your GSCCC donation tax-free each year from your Individual Retirement Account. A married couple, if both spouses are age 70 ½ or over, have a limit of \$100,000 per year. Ask the company that holds your IRA for their assistance since it must come directly from them to GSCCC.

GSCCC is with you every step of the way, and your impact stays here in our local Girl Scout Council. You are an important part of Girl Scouts' mission of serving girls well into the future, and you have the power to make a big difference. Start that process today to make your tax time next year easier. Need more details? Contact Sally Swanson, 757-549-0641 or email sallys@gscgcc.org.

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!