

Alum News



Quarterly Newsletter for GSCCC Girl Scout Alums

Winter 2025

In this time of gratitude, giving, and celebrations, we are thankful, as always, for the support and passion of our Girl Scout Alum, who continue to set amazing examples through their acts of service, kindness, and more. We're celebrating many of you in this edition!

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



Magical Christmas Tree Tour: Support GSCCC and Families in Need

Step into a winter wonderland at the Suffolk Center for Cultural Arts, where local businesses and organizations have come together to decorate dazzling Christmas trees for the annual Magical Christmas Tree Tour.

Visitors are invited to stroll through the festive display and cast their vote for the most creative tree by placing non-perishable food donations under the tree of their choice. Each donation not only helps decide the winner but also supports families in need through the ForKids food pantry.

Of course, we know the brightest and best tree will be the GSCCC tree! With your support, GSCCC will earn well-deserved bragging rights while making a meaningful impact.

Come vote for us and enjoy the exhibit, which runs through December 27 and is free and open to the public. Learn more at suffolkcenter.org.

UPCOMING EVENTS



12th Annual Cookie Classic Run – Jan. 17

Run, jog, roll or stroll down a paved trail into the Great Dismal Swamp in Chesapeake for this classic 1 mile, 5K, and 10K experience. Prizes for finishers and lots of other goodies, too! Learn more and sign up at gscgcc.org/cookieclassic.

Camp is Calling Badge Bash! – Apr. 18

Fun, food, friendship — upon arrival you'll be welcomed like a true Girl Scout and receive an honorary sash. Sip on cocktails, enjoy camp snacks, and keep the party going while participating in “badge” stations to add bling to your sash. Badge Bash is the next gen of our Camp is Calling event. The in-person silent auction will raise funds for GSCCC camps. Badge Bash is your chance to relive or experience the magic of summer camp with a grown-up twist! Register now at gscgcc.org/bash!

Girl Scout Famous Formers – Sept. 26, 2026

At our annual celebration, we will recognize the significant achievements of local women who started their leadership journey as Girl Scouts. The nomination process for the class of 2026 honorees will open in April 2026; stay tuned to your GSCCC emails for details!

Hey there, Girl Scout Cookie Fan!

SAVE THE DATE: The 2026 cookie season begins on **January 9**, and this year we welcome a new cookie to the lineup! Exploremores® are sandwich cookies with chocolate, marshmallow, and almond flavored creme, and are sure to become a new favorite. All proceeds stay local to help fuel amazing experiences for Girl Scouts in our Council all year long. (If you don't know a Girl Scout to buy from, you can reach out to customercare@gscgc.org.)

Tracy Keller Appointed P.R.A.Y. Board President

Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast CEO Tracy Keller has been appointed as Board President of the Programs of Religious Activities with Youth (P.R.A.Y.) Board of Directors. P.R.A.Y. is a non-profit organization aimed at fostering the Christian growth of children, youth, and families through churches and youth serving agencies. Their national board of directors includes representatives from Protestant and Independent Christian Churches and the national youth agencies. Tracy will serve as Board President for 2025-26. She has served the organization for five years including two terms each as Secretary/Treasurer and Vice-President as well as a liaison to P.R.A.Y.'s Girl Scout partners nationwide.

Tracy generously shares her leadership talents on several boards that include as a Governor appointed member of the Virginia's Council on Women, and as the Great Bridge Rotary Club's Board President. She is a lifetime Girl Scout who earned the Gold Award as a youth and the Girl Scout Thanks Badge as an adult. She has also been recognized with many awards within the community that include the 2008 Top Forty Under Forty by Inside Business, the 2016 Woman of Distinction by the YWCA of South Hampton Roads, the 2018 Women in Business Award by Inside Business, the four-time recipient of the Great Bridge Rotary Club Rotarian of the Year and was a 2018 Angels in Adoption Honoree by Senator Warner through the Congressional Coalition Adoption Institute. Tracy was also named on the 2024 'Serve Virginia' Honor Roll for Volunteerism and Community Service.

Remembering Ann Stenberg



We are saddened to share that Dr. Ann Stenberg passed away on October 16, 2025. Dr. Stenberg was a lifetime member of Girl Scouting who had a lifelong dedication to the Girl Scout Mission. From her time as a girl in the program, to serving as a member of GSCCC's Board of Directors (2017 until 2022), Dr. Stenberg emphasized diversity and creative problem solving in the face of challenges and opportunities.

During her time on the Board of Directors, Dr. Stenberg led the GSCCC Board's Sustainability Task Group. During this venture, Dr. Stenberg had a unique approach to engaging new prospects. She emphasized the importance of diversity when recruiting each potential new board member and focused on building ethnic and geographic representation that is representative of girl members in Girl Scouts. Dr. Stenberg built a framework for committee rotations and diversity development the board can use in future processes. In 2023, Dr. Stenberg was recognized with the Thanks Badge, the highest award given to volunteers in Girl Scouts. The Thanks Badge is reserved for individual members whose service to Girl Scouts has been

truly outstanding. This award is designated to recognize a volunteer who provides exceptional service that benefits the total council, or the entire Girl Scout movement, while making a measurable impact on the Council meeting mission delivery goals.

[View her obituary.](#)

Alum Spotlights

Women in Business

GSCCC wants to congratulate all the women leaders being recognized with the 2025 Women in Business Award from Inside Business! This award aims to encourage women to trust their abilities, strengthen their self-confidence and become thought leaders and trailblazers in our region. In addition to an in-person award celebration, there will be a special themed-edition of Inside Business featuring the honorees. A special shoutout to Girl Scouts being honored:

- GSUSA National Board member and past GSCCC Board Chair Carolyn Pittman
- GSCCC Board Member and Girl Scout Alum Latonya English
- GSCCC Philanthropy Committee Chair and Gold Award Girl Scout Alum Sarah Linden-Brooks
- Girl Scout Volunteer Nicole Newsome

Read more at virginiamedia.com.



Brittany Henderson

Many thanks to Girl Scout alum Brittany Henderson who served as the vocalist on behalf of GSCCC and sang the national anthem at a Veterans Day breakfast program held at the Chrysler Museum of Art and hosted by Mission United, a United Way of South Hampton Roads project. Brittany grew up in Virginia Beach and has fond memories of being a Girl Scout Brownie and Junior!



Eileen Livick

Girl Scout alum and Girl Scout Daisy leader Eileen Livick is a member of the Juliette Gordon Low Society and took part in a Society birthday celebration to honor the founder of Girl Scouts, Juliette Gordon Low! Several alums who are JGLS members were in attendance and enjoyed activities that included testing your knowledge of Juliette with a trivia game and posing alongside a Juliette cutout. Learn more about how you can join the JGLS at gsccl.org/legacy.



Chris Ramos-Smith

Many Girl Scout alums came out to volunteer at Girl Scout Fest, the Council's annual fall event that kicks off the new membership year. Among them was Chris Ramos-Smith, who served as a Senior Director at GSCCC before moving on to a job with Little Brownie Bakers. This lifetime Girl Scout remains active at GSCCC and loves helping at events where she can share her skills and love for the outdoors. You can lend a hand at upcoming GSCCC events and have fun with other alums, too! Visit gsccl.org/volunteer to learn more.



Give the Gift of a Lifetime

A Girl Scout lifetime membership is a one-time purchase and costs \$400 (and is tax-deductible as allowed by law). Alums under 30 or volunteers with ten or more years of service can purchase a lifetime membership for just \$200. Your lifetime membership also includes benefits, such as discounts and invitations to special events!

[LEARN MORE](#)



Edith Macy Center

For nearly a century, the Edith Macy Center in Briarcliff Manor, New York, has been a treasured part of the Girl Scout story. Generations of volunteers, council leaders, and staff have come together there to learn, connect, and advance the Girl Scout mission. From the “University in the Woods” that Edith Macy, chair of the Girl Scout National Board of Directors from 1919 – 1925, first envisioned to the conferences, trainings, and celebrations that have taken place since, Macy has been a place where ideas—and friendships—have flourished.

As Girl Scouts continues to evolve to meet the needs of today’s girls and tomorrow’s leaders, we’re reimagining how we train, connect, and collaborate across our Movement. That includes taking a thoughtful look at how we use and steward our properties to ensure they serve the needs of the Movement now and in the future.

As part of this process, Girl Scouts of the USA will begin planning for a full sale of the Edith Macy property at some point in 2026. This decision was made after careful consideration by the National Board and other key stakeholders as part of a broader property strategy to ensure that every asset supports our long-term

mission and vision. While Macy holds deep historical significance, ultimately, the full sale of the property is the most mission-aligned, financially responsible, and sustainable path forward. [Read more on the GSUSA blog.](#)

Training and Certifications

Did you know? Many adult training courses offered at GSCCC are also open to non-members! If you or someone you know needs help with registration, please reach out to customercare@gscccc.org.

Youth Mental Health First Aid – 1/17 Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disruptive behavior disorders, and eating disorders.
Register by 1/2

Basic Troop Camping – 2/7 Join us for this all-day training in outdoor skills at Camp Darden.
Register by 1/15

Climbing Wall Facilitator Training – 2/8 Learn how to set up and take down the climbing wall at Camp Darden, as well as some knot-tying and belaying skills.
Register by 1/29

Axes/Archery Facilitator Training – 2/8 Join us for this combination training at Camp Darden. By taking this course you will be certified as a facilitator in both areas.
Register by 1/29

Advanced Troop Camping – 2/27 - 3/1 Join us for this weekend training in outdoor skills at Camp Darden.
Register by 2/5



Composting at APFG

The benefits of composting go far beyond your backyard garden. Live the “use resources wisely” part of the Girl Scout Law and get started today! GSCCC has partnered with Tidewater Compost to offer a convenient drop-off location for their residential service. Visit tidewatercompost.com to sign up.

Be the Reason

You’ve seen the impact—girls gaining confidence, leading service projects, and speaking up with pride. Now, you can be part of the reason she thrives. As the year ends, we invite you to make a gift to Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast. Your support helps girls explore STEM, earn badges, and discover their inner leader.

Join Daisy’s Circle, our monthly giving program starting at just \$5, or make a one-time donation. Every gift helps launch programs and build the Gold Award Scholarship Endowment. [Give by December 31 and invest in her future.](#)

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@gseccc.org.** We will include them in a future edition of this newsletter!