



# The Colonial Coaster

Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Members, Volunteers, and Families

## April 2026

We have a lot of spring in our step this month! April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month, as well as Month of the Military Child, and Early Bird Renewal Incentives are in effect from now until the end of May. Details on all of these can be found below, as well as some incredible upcoming events, fun activities, and some very special awards for Girl Scouts and Volunteers!

As a reminder, *The Colonial Coaster* will hit your inbox on the first Thursday of each month, and be archived at [gscoc.org/publications](https://gscoc.org/publications).

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## Activities and Announcements



### Featured Activity: Get Creative with Volunteer Appreciation

April is National Volunteer Appreciation Month, so we've gathered some resources you can use to brighten their day! Whether it's your troop leader, a cookie cupboard volunteer, or the parent who always helps out when needed, show them some love this month with these [fun things you can craft and customize!](#)

## Early Bird Renewal Incentives

Early Renewal is the renewal of your Girl Scout membership before the end of the Girl Scout year in September, with a focus on Early Bird Renewal time from April 1 to May 31. Members who renew during the Early Bird season are offered some very special incentives — don't miss out on the fun! Learn more at [gscgg.org/renew](https://gscgg.org/renew).



### Military Children and Youth: Strength in Every Story

GSCCC Girl Scouts who are military family dependents are invited to submit their story for a chance to win a \$20 Girl Scout Shop gift certificate or two tickets to a local Cinema Cafe! Winners will also be spotlighted on GSCCC social media. Deadline to submit is April 30. Find contest details at [gscgg.org/military](https://gscgg.org/military) — as well as information on special scholarships, spotlights on our members who serve, and the new Hampton Roads Chapter of Blue Star Families!

## All About Girl Scout Awards

Join us on **June 6** for **Girl Scouts Leader in Action Celebration**, GSCCC's annual youth awards event, to honor Girl Scouts who have made a meaningful impact through their [Gold](#), [Silver](#), and [Bronze](#) Award projects. We will also recognize this year's [Buck Harris Award](#) honoree, [Summit](#) awardees, [scholarship](#) recipients, Product Program entrepreneurs, and our graduating high school seniors. **The event is free** and we invite you to bring your friends and family to cheer with you!

Graduating Girl Scouts: There is still time to get your applications in for these amazing recognitions!

- [Girl Scouts of Courage, Confidence, and Character Scholarship](#) – Open to graduating high school seniors. *Due by May 1*
- [She Believes She Can, So She Does Scholarship](#) – Open to graduating high school seniors. *Due by May 1*
- [Maylea Brockington Beasley Love & Laughter Scholarship](#) – Open to graduating high school seniors who have earned their Gold Award. *Due by May 1*

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## Featured Events

Are you signed up to “Explore More” this year at [Girl Scout Summer Camp](#)? Sessions are filling up fast! Registration will close on June 1.



### **Peppa Pig: My First Concert – 4/12**

Peppa Pig, along with Mummy Pig, Daddy Pig, George and new baby sister Evie, are coming to Chrysler Hall in Norfolk. Join Peppa and George to learn all about the different sounds that instruments make together! Enjoy some of your favorite music from the show played by a live orchestra and discover some other exciting orchestral pieces perfect for children. Plus, some little piggies can join Peppa and her family to make music of their own!

### **Norfolk NATO Festival: The Parade of Nations – 4/18**

Girl Scouts are invited to participate in this annual event! Choose to be a Girl Scout selected to ride on a float (D,B,J); be a flag bearer and carry a flag; or be a promoter and hand out stickers to those visiting a GSCCC-hosted tent. Contact volunteer coordinator Mara Bates at [marinemara@yahoo.com](mailto:marinemara@yahoo.com) to learn more and sign up!



### **Girl Scout Night with the Norfolk Tides – 4/24**

Join your sister Girl Scouts, family, and friends for a fun night of baseball and Girl Scout activities with the Norfolk Tides at Harbor Park. Bonus: Spend the night under the stars at Harbor Park after the game with optional overnight tickets (must purchase by 4/15). Troop and family camping are available!

### **STEM Club: Math in Nature – 4/25**

Let's master the 'M' in STEM as we look for Math in nature! Identify patterns, take measurements, and discover the intricate details of plants and animals. How can we use math in

'real life' and out in nature? We will learn the age of trees, how to identify plants and animals, how to draw a map, and more!



### **Elephant & Piggie's We Are in a Play Workshop - 5/30**

Join The Hurrah Players for an exciting theater workshop where you'll learn stage skills from professional performers, followed by a special performance of Elephant & Piggie's: We Are In A Play!

### **Girl Scouts Unite: 2026 National Convention**

Join us as we celebrate all the ways that Girls Make History at the Girl Scouts Unite event from July 23–July 25 in Washington, DC. (What better way to observe [America250](#) than with Girl Scouts in our nation's capital?)

### **But wait, there's more!**

Browse *everything* at [gsgcc.org/events](https://gsgcc.org/events) or [download the entire calendar of events through September 2026](#) (PDF) — and don't forget to check the weekly *GSGCC GO!* delivered to families and volunteers every Tuesday.

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## **Blog and Podcast Spotlights**

Find these inspiring stories and many more at [gsgcc.org/blog](https://gsgcc.org/blog).

### **Silver Award: Saving Sandbridge Sea Turtles**

Girl Scout Cadettes from Troop 18 took action to protect vital nesting habitats in heavy tourist areas.

### [“Cookie Lady” Celebrates 45 Years of Sweet Memories](#)

Cathy French’s home becomes a busy cookie cupboard each year, making sweet memories.

### [Jay Johnson, History-Maker](#)

This amazing alum pioneered many firsts for African Americans in Girl Scouts and beyond.

### **The GSCCC Podcast: Let’s “Make the World a Better Place”**

New episodes will be posted at [gscce.org/podcast](https://gscce.org/podcast) as well as on [Spotify](#) and our [YouTube](#) channel, so be sure to subscribe!

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Thank you to **Macaroni KID** [Williamsburg-Hampton, Norfolk,](#) and [Virginia Beach](#) for spreading the word about friendship, and our Make New Friends events series. GSCCC is holding these events all across Hampton Roads to help introduce families to Girl Scouts. Do you know someone who might like to join in the fun? Pass this along!

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## Volunteer Hub



### **Nominate Your Volunteer Superstars!**

Girl Scout Adult Awards recognize our volunteers and other adult members who go above and beyond to make a real difference, both for the girls we serve and for each other. [Anyone can submit a nomination](#), for themselves or someone else! Get yours in by May 31.

## Get Paid to Have Fun at Summer Camp

The perfect job is waiting for you at Girl Scout camp! We offer career skills to build up your resume, leadership experience, training/certifications, and more! [View available positions and apply online today.](#)

## American Red Cross Adult & Pediatric First Aid – 4/25

Recognize and care for a variety of first aid, breathing and cardiac emergencies for people of all ages.

*Register by 4/23*

## Backpacking Training – 6/5-6

Learn how to plan, prepare, and lead a backpacking trip with your troop.

*Register by 4/9*

## Canoe Facilitator Training – 7/26

Get ready to take your troop or group out on the water!

*Register by 7/16*

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## Shop Specials

**Discount Wednesdays!** Spin the lucky wheel at checkout and receive a 5%, 10% or 15% discount off the entire purchase, or score a special surprise item! *May not be combined with any other offer.*



**What are you doing during spring break?** [Earn special fun patches by exploring our cities, attractions and military branches.](#) The activities can be completed with family or their Girl Scout

friends. Patches are available for purchase in our shop for \$4.00 each, or can be shipped for an additional fee; email [shop@gsgccc.org](mailto:shop@gsgccc.org) for more information. Start exploring!

**“Proud Girl Scout Volunteer”** April is Volunteer Appreciation Month and we have the perfect gift for the volunteer in your life! Show them your gratitude with our new long-sleeved T-shirt. \$26.

**I'm a Girl Scout, what's your superpower?** Our new summer tee is here! Available in both youth and adult sizes. \$20.

**Supermix Studio:** Create and customize your own gear with Girl Scout designs and more! Use the interactive kiosk at A Place for Girls or shop from home at [supermixstudio.com/gsgccc](http://supermixstudio.com/gsgccc) — either way, all items ship direct to you.

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## Party in The Outback for Adults 21+

Adults 21+ are invited to this event in an urban oasis along Bells Mill Creek on **Saturday, April 18**. Your ticket is good for all the food, drinks, games, swag, and other experiences on tap for this amazing party.

Camp is Calling: Badge Bash is a fun, casual take on your typical fundraising gala:

- **Fire N Rice Teriyaki Truck** will be serving bold flavors of Japanese hibachi with an American twist, including vegan-friendly options.
- **Williamsburg Winery** will be on hand to pour your favorite reds and whites.
- Enjoy cookie-themed specialty cocktails: Mint Condition, Mellow Limoncello, and Caribbean Colada!
- And so much more — [get your tickets now!](#)

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## Share Your Story

Girl Scouts do amazing things every single day and we want to hear about it. Did you earn an award or participate in a special project? Maybe you earned a new badge or took a fun trip — whatever your news is, [we can't wait to hear from you!](#)