



The Colonial Coaster

Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Members, Volunteers, and Families

August 2026

We're expanding the ways Girl Scouts can explore, discover, and lead. Beginning in spring 2027, Girl Scouts of the USA will launch the first wave of new and updated programs, along with the new Program Library! This is the beginning of a multiyear evolution that blends Girl Scouts' favorite experiences and activities with exciting new ones. Additional updates are planned for 2028 and beyond! Read more about it at girlscouts.org.

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

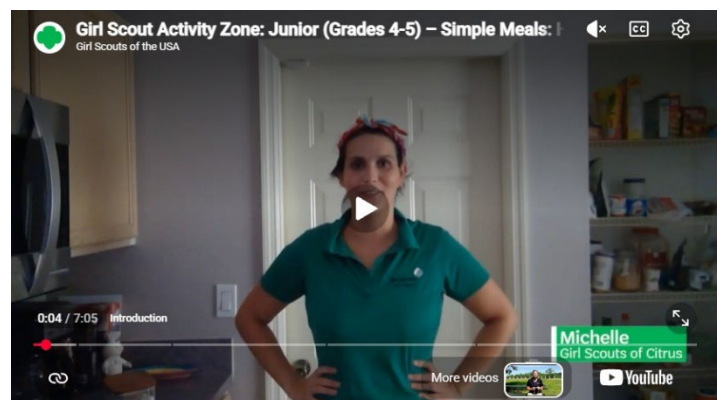
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Activities and Announcements

Featured Activity: Make a Healthier S'more

August 10 is National S'mores Day, and we're ready to celebrate! No one knows for sure who invented the s'more, but the first published recipe for "some mores" was in a 1927 publication called *Tramping and Trailing with the Girl Scouts*. Check out this [video from GSUSA's Activity Zone](#) to learn how to make a healthier version of the s'more: an apple-more!



BONUS: S'more Fun and S'more Friends!

Troop leaders can [download a toolkit](#) for a s'more-themed meeting to celebrate National S'mores Day, or throw a great back-to-troop party in September. Another sweet way to grow your troop and make s'more friends is to [refer other girls you know](#) to one of our S'mores Day events this month, where they can get a taste of what Girl Scouts do and learn how to join!

Women's Equality Day is August 26

This month, we celebrate the anniversary of the 1920 certification of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, granting women the right to vote. Girl Scouts of all levels can earn civics and democracy badges, and learn more about voting, public policy and more at gscgcc.org/advocacy.

Let this be the year you step into *your* power!

GSCCC is seeking Girl Scouts ages 14-17 (or who will be at least 14 as of October 1, 2026) to serve on the Council's Board of Directors and the Girl Scout Advisory Board. This is an exciting way to take an active role in the critical decisions that impact our members and have a forum to share your ideas! **Applications close August 31.**

- [Girl Board Member Application](#)
- [Girl Scout Advisory Board Application](#)



August is National Make-a-Will Month

Take a few minutes now to ensure peace of mind for your loved ones later. Girl Scouts has partnered with FreeWill, a completely FREE online platform that creates a valid will in either Virginia or North Carolina. The guided site asks all of the necessary questions, and you fill in the blanks based upon the state where you live. Learn more at gscgcc.org/legacy.

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Featured Events



Cookie Queens and Girl Scouts

Celebrate the inspiring new documentary *Cookie Queens* with Cinema Café and Girl Scouts! Join GSCCC at Cinema Café in Edinburgh on **August 7** for the 3pm showing. Check out the [GSCCC Facebook page](#) for details on how you can win the ultimate *Cookie Queens* Movie Basket!

Girl Scout Night at APEX Entertainment – 8/14

LAST CALL! End your awesome summer with a discounted bundle of games at APEX Entertainment like laser tag, bumper cars, mini golf and more. Girl Scouts can bring their family and friends to play the night away!

Registration deadline: 8/7

Last Chance Journey Programs – 9/19

Girl Scout Journey programs are retiring on September 30, 2026, but if you're one away from earning your Summit Award or excited to explore one of these topics, please join us as we work to complete our final Journeys together.

Registration deadline: 8/31

Outdoor Fun at Camp Darden – 9/19 and 9/26

Choose your weekend adventure! Tackle the Climbing Wall or Low Ropes Course on September 19, or get out on the water with canoes, kayaks and stand-up paddleboards on September 26.

[Climbing Wall or Low Ropes](#)

[Paddles Away or Canoeing](#)

Famous Formers Celebration – 9/17

We are proud to honor the 2026 class of Girl Scout Famous Formers! Join us as we honor these remarkable alum at the beautiful Woman's Club of Portsmouth. Enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres from Taste Unlimited (such as Virginia ham biscuits and Chesapeake bay crab dip) and beverages including wine selections from Williamsburg Winery.

Women's Camping Retreat – 10/3-4

Escape to the pines for a weekend that feels like pure magic at Camp Darden. This uplifting getaway just for adults will feature your favorite Girl Scout activities like kayaking, paddle boarding, tie-dye, friendship bracelets, s'mores around the campfire, a giant Jenga tournament, wine tasting with Girl Scout cookie pairings, and much more!

But wait, there's more!

Browse *everything* at gsgccc.org/events or [download the entire calendar of events through April 2027](#) (PDF) — and don't forget to check the weekly *GSGCCC GO!* email delivered to families and volunteers every Tuesday.

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Blog Spotlights

Find these inspiring stories and many more at gsgccc.org/blog.

Troop 726 Keeps Community Service in Focus

Girl Scout Troop 726 from Isle of Wight looks back on an inspiring year of community service, Take Action projects, and fun adventures.

Queens of the River: Blazing Blue Herons Canoe Team

GSGCCC's award-winning Blazing Blue Herons canoe team had a busy spring and summer race season that ended with a day of service at Camp Apasus.

Silver Award: Project Protect

Girl Scout Cadettes from Troop 1385 took action to protect marine life from discarded fishing line.

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Volunteer Hub

2026 Volunteer Kickoff: Volunteer Power Unleashed!

This day is entirely dedicated to you! Come ready to learn, connect, and be inspired. You'll leave with helpful answers, a supportive network, and the ultimate confidence to take on your exciting

Girl Scout year ahead.

Date: **Saturday, September 12**, 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Oak Grove United Methodist Church, Chesapeake

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch)

Register by 8/31

Grow Your Troop with GSCCC Resources

Looking for flyers, invitations, and other downloads to help grow your troop? Join us on Rallyhood! The [Marketing & Communications Rally](#) has tons of fun activities, printables and shareables, as well as helpful information on brand guidelines and other rules (think troop T-shirts).

Climbing Wall Facilitator Training – 8/23 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 8/13

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Shop Specials

Special Summer Hours – Shop will be CLOSED August 20-21.

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.*



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/gscgc — either way, all items ship direct to you.

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The research is in:

Today's girls are “Yes, *and*” girls

But what does that mean?



[**VIEW REPORT**](#)

State of the Girl 2026

As we look ahead to September and back-to-school preparations, we invite you to check out this new report from GSUSA. Drawing on research and national data, the report explores the realities girls face, from loneliness and body image concerns to pressures tied to technology and adolescence. Share it with your child's new teachers and other school personnel, and let's team up to support all of our girls through the year ahead.

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!](#)