



# The Colonial Coaster

*Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Members, Volunteers, and Families*

## January 2026

Happy New Year, Girl Scouts! We're starting 2026 with an attitude of gratitude. Thank you for being here. Thank you for believing in the power of girls to change the world. We hope you are ready for all the amazing adventures we have coming up this year — starting with the launch of the Girl Scout Cookie Program® on January 9th!

*Note: We are closed through January 4. The shop will be open for normal Saturday hours on January 10.*

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

### Contents:

- [Activities and Announcements](#)
- [Featured Events](#)
- [Blog and Podcast Spotlights](#)
- [Volunteer Hub](#)
- [Shop Specials](#)

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## Activities and Announcements

### Featured Activity: Cookie Vision Board

The 2026 cookie season is here and we know Girl Scouts are setting big goals and making plans for their proceeds. Let's help bring those plans to life with an [activity](#) from the Junior "My Cookie Team" badge, and create a cookie vision board!



Selling Girl Scout Cookies® is one of the most iconic activities Girl Scouts engage in. But that's just one piece of the story. As participants in the Girl Scout Cookie Program®—the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world—Girl Scouts also gain important life skills as they build their business smarts, earn money for activities they choose, and prepare for amazing adventures that last a lifetime.



- Program Begins: January 9
- Cookie Booths Start: February 22
- Program Ends: March 29

New this year: Exploremores® are joining the lineup! Find more information, including resources for [Cookie Entrepreneurs](#) and [Volunteers](#), at [gsccc.org/cookies](http://gsccc.org/cookies).



## America250 Celebrations

2026 is a year of milestones! It marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, and it is the 100th anniversary of World Thinking Day. There are several ways for you to add America250 celebrations to your troop year.

**America250**, the bipartisan organization charged by Congress to lead the 250th celebrations, has formed a national partnership with Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) for this special celebration year. Coming soon: the official Girl Scout America250 patch! Earning Girl Scout Civic badges is another great way to add to the celebration and learning experience.

**America's Field Trip** – This nationwide contest invites students across the country in grades 3–12 to be part of our nation's 250th anniversary by sharing their perspectives on what America means to them — with the chance to earn an unforgettable field trip experience at some of the nation's most iconic historic and cultural landmarks.

**Sail250 Virginia** – The Adopt-A-Ship program allows youth groups in Virginia, such as Girl Scout troops, to directly engage with the international sailors of the visiting ships. Participating organizations can “adopt” a specific ship and become ambassadors for Virginia — learning about the country from which their ship hails, communicating with the ship’s crew before their arrival, and even welcoming their ship to Norfolk in June 2026.

**2026 is also the 100th Anniversary of World Thinking Day!** This year's special theme is Our Friendship. Explore our worldwide Girl Scout/Girl Guide community and celebrate the friendships that connect us all around the globe.

These are just a few of the programs and events that Girl Scouts can

participate in to celebrate this special year. Visit [gscccc.org/250](https://gscccc.org/250) for more information, and stay tuned for updates!



## 2026 Summer Camp

Early-bird registration opens **Feb. 12** at [gscccc.org/camp](https://gscccc.org/camp). Check out the Camp Guide and choose your sessions now! (New this year: a week-long day camp for horse lovers at Grubb Grove Horse Farm!)

Get paid to have fun this summer at Girl Scout camp! We offer career skills to build up your resume, leadership experience, training/certifications, and the chance to work with a diverse team including international staff. View available positions and apply online at [gscccc.org/careers](https://gscccc.org/careers).

## New! Scholarships for North Carolina Girl Scouts

More than 130 college scholarships administered by the North Carolina Community Foundation are now [open for applications](#)! Scholarships are available for students from all 100 counties, including for non-traditional students, and for students attending all types of institutions, including community colleges.

In 2025, we awarded over \$3 million in scholarships to over 500 students, including \$1.3 million to 110 students in western NC through our Disaster Relief and Resilience Scholarship.

Interested students and guardians may [sign up to attend](#) an optional virtual information session at 6 p.m. on Jan. 13 to learn more about the application process. (*Applications close on March 3, 2026.*)

Find this and other amazing opportunities at [gscccc.org/scholarships](https://gscccc.org/scholarships).

[Back to Top](#)

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## Featured Events



### **Cookie Classic Run - 1/17**

We welcome runners of all abilities to join us for this family-friendly event. Participants will receive T-shirts, goodie bags and more! 5K and 10K finishers will receive a medal and a special gift.

Levels: All/Family-friendly

### **Girl Scout Night at ODU Women's Basketball - 1/17**

Girl Scouts, their friends and families can cheer on the ODU Monarchs women's basketball team, and enjoy a meet-and-greet with players!

Levels: All/Family-friendly

*Register by 1/16*

### **Cracks, Crevices & Crawlways - 1/25**

Join the Colonial Coast Girl Scout Cavers at Camp Skimino for a day of climbing, crawling, and scooting through our artificial caves!

Levels: B/J/C/S/A

*Register by 1/15*

### **Body Appreciation Badges with the Kappa Deltas - 2/8**

Join the Kappa Delta sisters to earn the new Body Appreciation badge! See your body in a new way and celebrate all it can do, from breathing and thinking to running, dancing, and creating.

Levels: All

*Register by 2/1*

### **Sandbox VR Girl Scout Day - 2/15**

Girl Scouts and their family and friends are invited to experience a new socially immersive virtual reality gaming center. Gather your team of six and

transport into your own action movie!

Levels: All

*Register by 2/1*

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

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

[Back to Top](#)

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## Blog and Podcast Spotlights

**Prepare to be inspired!** You can find these stories and more at [gsccc.org/blog](https://gsccc.org/blog).

**Gold Award: Uplifting Children Through Positive Art**

Girl Scout Sarah held creative workshops for homeless children with For Kids.

**Gold Award: I wish the world knew**

Girl Scout Marley's unique book and art show embraced neurodiversity.

**Spotlight on Food Insecurity**

Girl Scouts are taking action to help our neighbors in need, and you can, too!

**Are you subscribed to our podcast?** Listen on [YouTube](#) or [Spotify](#)

[Back to Top](#)

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## Volunteer Hub

### **Grow Your Troop!**

**Incentives for troops from now through January 31** — You could earn program credits and a free patch just for adding Girl Scouts to your circle of friends!

### **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*

[Back to Top](#)

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## Shop Specials

**Holiday Hours:** The shop will be closed through January 4. We will be open for normal Saturday hours on January 10.

**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.*

**Running in the Cookie Classic Race this month?** Come by the shop first for super warm and cozy cookie hats, gloves and scarves!



**Get your cookie merch now!** Be ready to kick off Girl Scout Cookie Season in style. Come by the shop or [order online](#) for pick up at Cookie Count n Go locations on February 21.

**Supermix Studio:** Create and customize your own gear with Girl Scout designs and more! Choose from girls' and boys' youth and adult sizes, hoodies, joggers, zip ups, backpacks and more. Use the interactive kiosk at A Place for Girls or shop from home at [supermixstudio.com/gsccc](http://supermixstudio.com/gsccc) — either way, all items ship direct to you.

[Back to Top](#)

**GIRL SCOUTS  
UNITE**

July 23-25, 2026 | Washington, DC

Interactive Workshops

Exploration & Inspiration

Make New Besties

Epic Celebrations

Mentorship & Connection

Our vision for 2026? An epic gathering of Girl Scouts making history together! Don't miss out on unforgettable experiences at the **Girl Scouts Unite** event, like:

- Interactive skill-building workshops for adults and girls in grades four and above
- Connecting with Girl Scouts who are taking action in their communities
- Incredible live performances and epic celebrations
- Exploring 100+ booths and activities available in the Hall of Experiences

**Save 15%\* on All Access 3-Day tickets when purchased by 11:59 p.m. ET on January 4, 2026.** Groups of four can save up to \$300. No code required. Take advantage of early savings and secure your spot today.

[\*\*BUY YOUR TICKET\*\*](#)

*\*Discount automatically applied at checkout. Offer valid through 11:59 p.m. ET on January 4, 2026. Excludes taxes and fees. Full payment is required at checkout.*

## **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!](#)