



The Colonial Coaster

Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Members, Volunteers, and Families

July 2026

Happy Birthday, America! This Independence Day is special, as it marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Girl Scouts has partnered with America250 to offer a commemorative five-patch collection that you can earn with your family, friends, or troop. Download the free activity guide at gscgcc.org/250 and get started celebrating!

(GSCCC office and shop will be closed July 3-4.)



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

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Activities and Announcements

Featured Activity: Patriotic SWAPS

Girl Scout SWAPS (Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere) are small tokens traded at camps and events. For the 4th of July, you can celebrate the holiday by making and trading festive SWAPS with patriotic themes. Try to replicate the ones shown here or dream up your own! (Find instructions for select SWAPS at gscgcc.org/family.)



New Leadership Awards and Last Chance for Journeys

GSUSA has expanded the options for Highest Award pre-requisites; Girl Scout Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors can earn [Leadership Awards](#) and use one to fulfill their Highest Award pre-requisite or use Journeys for one more year, but Journey programs will retire this October. GSCCC is offering [Last Chance Journey Programs on September 19](#) at Tidewater Collegiate Academy in Virginia Beach. Join us for an amazing day covering your choice of six different Journeys, for all Girl Scout levels!

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Featured Events

[Wonder Wednesdays at the Chrysler – 7/1, 8, 15, 22, 29](#)

Back by popular demand, the Chrysler Museum of Art's Wonder Wednesdays are wonder-filled days for all ages (and, yes, adults too) that take visitors on fun adventures throughout the Museum. There are lots of hands-on art-making, experimentation, multisensory activities, and, most of all, imagination at play.



The Hurrah Players present...

Disney's Newsies! – 7/17-19

Set in turn-of-the century New York City, Newsies is the rousing tale of Jack Kelly, a charismatic newsboy and leader of a band of teenaged “newsies.” When titans of publishing raise distribution prices at the newsboys’ expense, Jack rallies newsies from across the city to strike against the unfair conditions and fight for what’s right!

The SpongeBob Musical – 8/6-7

When the citizens of Bikini Bottom discover that a volcano will soon erupt and destroy their humble home, SpongeBob and his friends must come together to save the fate of their undersea world. With lives hanging in the balance and all hope lost, a most unexpected hero rises up. The power of optimism really can save the world!

Girl Scout Night at APEX Entertainment – 8/14

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!

Explore Camp – 8/29

Calling all Girl Scout Daisies and Brownies! Come explore Camp Darden to discover all the camping fun that Girl Scouts has to offer, and meet some new friends, too. You'll make tie dye, go canoeing, and roast a classic camp s'more!

Girl Scouts Love State Parks – 9/11-13

Every September, Girl Scouts host special weekend events and provide activities to celebrate and foster a love for our state parks. Troops, groups, families and alum are all invited to celebrate the seventh annual Girl Scouts Love State Parks weekend together! You can go exploring on your own with the [free patch program activity sheet from GSUSA](#), or choose from the events at gscgcc.org/stateparks and register today!

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 gscgcc.org/events or [download the entire calendar of events through November 2026](#) (PDF) — and don't forget to check the weekly *GSCCC GO!* email delivered to families and volunteers every Tuesday.

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Blog Spotlights

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

Girl Scouts Adopt a Tall Ship at Sail250

GSECCC's Norfolk Service Unit welcomed the Colombian ship ARK GLORIA.

Bronze Award: Flood-Ready Norfolk

Troop 45's reference card gives local drivers an easy way to check flood levels, and encourages them to "Turn Around, Don't Drown!"

Taking Flight with The 99s

Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors explored aviation at Hampton Roads Executive Airport in Chesapeake.

Leadership in Action: Girl Scout Awards Celebration

GSECCC was proud to honor Girl Scouts earning Gold, Silver, Bronze, and Summit Awards, as well as scholarship winners and other special honorees on June 6.

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Volunteer Hub

Volunteer Power Unleashed!

Jumpstart another amazing Girl Scouts year at the 2026 Volunteer Kickoff, GSECCC's annual volunteer event. This day is dedicated entirely to you! Whether you are a brand new troop leader, an experienced veteran, or part of a VST team for your service unit, there is something for everyone, so come ready to learn, connect, and be inspired!

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

Location: Oak Grove United Methodist Church, Chesapeake

Cost: \$10 (includes lunch)

Canoe Facilitator Trainings – 8/23 – Get ready to take your troop or group out on the water with this training session at beautiful Camp Darden.

Register by 8/13

Basic Troop Camping – 8/22 Join us for this all-day training in outdoor skills at Camp Darden, with an optional overnight.
Register by 7/30

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

Axes/Archery Facilitator Training – 8/23 Join us at Camp Darden for certification in axe throwing and archery on GSCCC sites.
Register by 8/13

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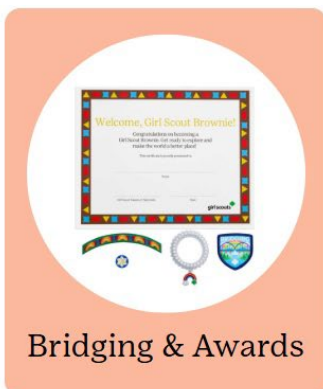
Shop Specials

Special Summer Hours – Shop will be CLOSED on the following dates:

- July 3-4 (Independence Day), 7, 14, and 21
- 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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Free Supplies for New Daisy and Brownie Troops

When you start a new troop for Daisies or Brownies, you can get great support through the [Girl Scout Experience Box™](#)! Delivered monthly, each free box includes simple scripts, easy instructions, and ready-to-use supplies for fun, stress-free meetings. **Boxes start shipping in August, don't wait to sign up!**

Announcing the 2026 Girl Scout Famous Formers Honorees

Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast is proud to introduce the 2026 class of Girl Scout Famous Formers—six extraordinary women whose journeys began in Girl Scouting and whose leadership, service, and achievements continue to make our world brighter.

- **Patrice Covington**, Broadway, TV and Film Actor, Vocalist, and TV Host
- **Dr. Brittny Gainey, LCSW**, Adjunct Professor in the Ethelyn R. Strong School of Social Work at Norfolk State University
- **Nicole Livas**, Chief Communication and Community Engagement Officer for City of Virginia Beach Public Schools
- **Heidi Salway**, Director, Human Resources Business Partnerships at Sentara Health
- **Elizabeth Vaughn**, Deputy Director of Public Communications for the City of Chesapeake
- **Susan Vitale**, Sr. Managing Director, Federal Customer Optimization and Response (CORE) - Microsoft Corporation

Join us as we honor these remarkable alum at the 2026 Girl Scout Famous Formers Celebration on **September 17**, 5:30–7:30 p.m. at Woman's Club of Portsmouth. Learn more and register at gsccc.org/famous.

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!](#)