girl scouts of the colonial coast

The Colonial Coaster

Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Members, Volunteers, and Families

November 2026

As our Fall Product Program wraps up, we're looking ahead to the holiday season, and we have some very special events coming up for all Girl Scouts to share with their friends and families, so be sure to check our calendar listings! (And there are still plenty of skill-building, badge-earning, fun-with-friends Council events, too!)

Please note, the GSCCC office and shop will be closed November 26-27 for the Thanksgiving holiday.

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

Contents:

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Activities and Announcements



Featured Activity: Native American Heritage Month

Throughout November, Native American Heritage Month celebrates the cultures, histories, and countless contributions that Native American communities have provided to the United States. Take this opportunity to learn more about the cultures of the Indian Nations in your state and across the country. With plenty of activities to choose from you can make new discoveries and have tons of fun learning while earning a patch!

Bonus Activity: Explore the Francis Land House



This new GSCCC patch program, in partnership with Virginia Beach History Museums, gives Girl Scouts the chance to explore history, architecture, and more with tours and special activities at the Francis Land House, also known as Rose Hall, a historic brick house near Princess Anne Plaza in Virginia Beach.

We have so many fun patches you can earn, on your own, with your troop, or with your family. Go out and explore your world!



Cookie Classic Coloring Contest!

Open to Girl Scouts of all ages — use your imagination to create a background for our Cookie Classic Runner and you could win a ticket to run the Samoa Stroll 1 Miler, plus a fun patch! Download the sheet and get your entry in by November 15, 2026. Good luck!

Girl Scout Destinations 2027

Girl Scout Destinations are the ultimate adventure for individual Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts! Whether it's exploring cultures in Asia or learning about water conservation in Texas, there's a Girl Scout Destination waiting for you. (Have you heard about USAGO's Paris Unlocked at the Spring Program Summit?) Get your application in for new 2027 trips by the early-bird deadline of Nov. 15.

Summer Camp Survey

Summer Camp 2027 planning is in full swing, and GSCCC would like to gauge interest in bringing back overnight and day camp programming to Camp Darden! Please fill out this survey by November 15 to let us know if your family would be interested in sending your Girl Scouts to summer camp at Darden.

Located in Courtland, VA, Camp Darden is closer to GSCCC families who live in North Carolina and the Suffolk/Portsmouth area. It offers more cabin camping options, a climbing

wall with challenging rope ladders to tackle, axe throwing for Cadettes and up, and a beautiful lake for canoeing, kayaking, and paddleboarding! All the same programming you love at Camp Skimino will be offered, from swimming, to earning badges, to singing songs around a campfire with s'mores!

Community Service Opportunity

Join us in helping restock The Family Wellness and Welcome Center. With winter coming soon, let's provide them with gloves and/or mittens in sizes for all family members. (These items must be new.) This center serves Title 1 Norfolk Public Schools and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act. We are collecting items from now until December 17 — there is a box in the lobby at A Place for Girls, or you may drop off at any of GSCCC's weekend programs or events. Learn more on our Rallyhood's Council-Wide Hub.

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Featured Events



PB&J Family Series: Jingle Bell Jam
With a visit from Santa Claus, the beloved Jingle Bell Jam rings in the magic of the season with the holiday tunes you know and love! Choose your show: December 5 in Newport News or December 19 in Virginia Beach. **Get $2 off your tickets with promo code PBJPARTNER2627** (Girl Scout group discounts are available!)

Holiday Shows with the Hurrah Players in December
Guaranteed to get you in the holiday spirit! The season kicks off with "Hurrah for the Holidays" playing Dec. 4-6, followed by "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" the weekend of Dec. 11-13. Don't miss these family-friendly, feel-good shows presented by the Hurrah Players.



Cookie Puck Drop: Prepare for Cookie Season! – 12/13
Girl Scouts will craft a cute, portable QR code for their Digital Cookie website to take to family gatherings, school events, or perhaps our Cookies on Ice night with the Norfolk Admirals in January! Then, we'll learn how to give our sales pitch and tell others about our big goals!
Registration deadline: 12/2

Sandbox VR Girl Scout Family Day – 12/19
Girl Scouts and their family and friends are invited to experience a socially immersive virtual reality gaming center. Gather your team and transport into your own action movie!
Registration deadline: 12/11

But wait, there's more!
Browse *everything* at gsccc.org/events or download the entire calendar of events through May 2027 (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 others, with photos, videos, and more at gsccc.org/blog.

Silver Award: Rolling Racks
Girl Scouts from Troop 396 have made it easier for Norfolk's homeless population to find winter clothing.

Silver Award: Hero Kids Goat Playground
Troop 132 helped furry residents at Hero Kids Foundation's animal-assisted therapy center.

Silver Award: Beautifully You
Girl Scout Ryan from Troop 388 created a confidence-building wall at Strawbridge Elementary School.

Silver Award: Pollinator Gardens
Many Girl Scouts are addressing pollinator decline through their award projects, including Girl Scout Cadette Bailey from Troop 1307 and Girl Scout Cadettes Avery S. and Adrienne S. from Troop 396.

30 Years at A Place for Girls
Do you remember 1996? What milestones happened that year in your life? On October 29, we gathered to celebrate the dedication of our regional program center!

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Volunteer Hub



Nina Magaldi is Leading with Experience Boxes

Meet Girl Scout alum Nina Magaldi, leader of Troop 636 in Virginia Beach. She spent the majority of her Girl Scout years growing up in the Greater New York Council.

“Girl Scouting was always my safe space and a place to make friends,” she said. “I moved a lot as a kid, and regardless of where we moved, I was able to stay connected to my troop and my friends. Having that consistency meant so much to me.”

Nina wants that same experience for Camila, her daughter. When she said yes to volunteering, she was thrilled to learn about the Experience Boxes that were made available

to new leaders. Complimentary Experience Boxes are delivered monthly right to the troop leader's door. Each box includes simple scripts, easy instructions, and ready-to-use supplies for fun, stress-free meetings.

Read more about Nina's journey in Girl Scouting on our blog!

Congratulations to Our Awardees

The annual Adult Awards Celebration was held on October 10 at A Place for Girls, where we recognized those amazing people who give of their time and talent to help bring Girl Scouting to the youth of our community. View the program booklet online and start working on your nominations for next year!

Volunteer Call: Explore What's Next for Girl Scouts

Building on the excitement around the Program Modernization preview at convention, GSUSA is hosting a virtual preview for Girl Scout volunteers to get an early look at the exciting things ahead. Learn how feedback from girls, families, and volunteers continues to help shape the future of the Girl Scout experience. Register now for Saturday, November 7, 1:00–2:00 p.m.

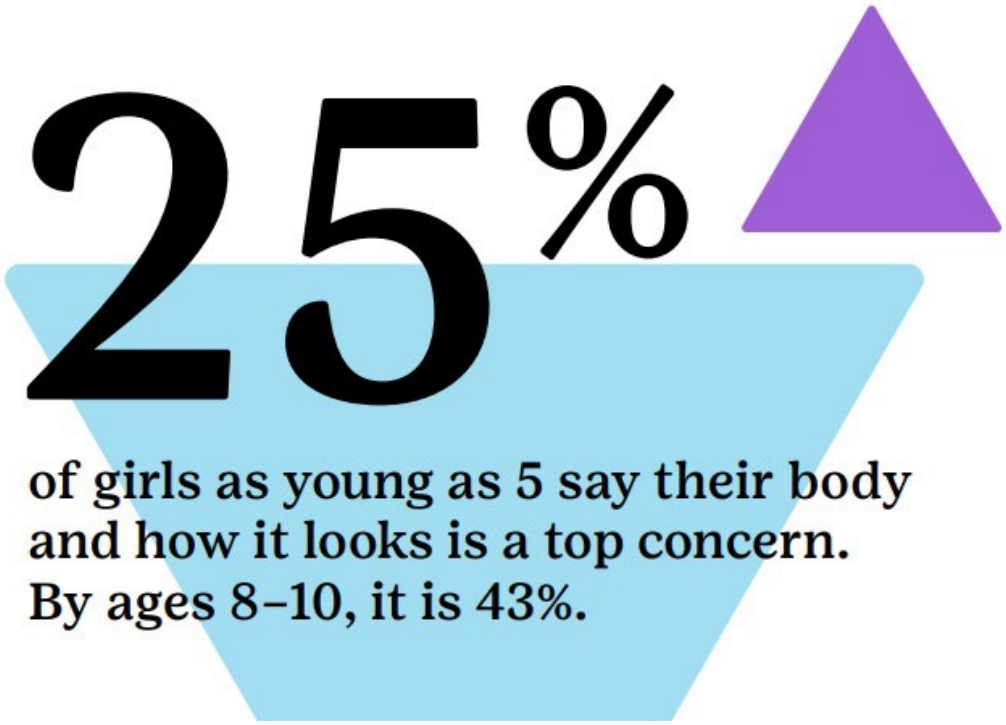


Grow Your Troop!

You have until November 30, 2026, to use your imagination to reach out to new friends — and win big! By adding more girls to your troop you could earn program credits and get this fun patch for your Girl Scouts! Learn more at gsccc.org/troop.

American Red Cross Adult & Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED – 12/12
This blended learning course equips you to recognize and care for a variety of first aid, breathing and cardiac emergencies for people of all ages. Upon successful completion of the online course and in-person skills session a valid 2-year digital certificate for Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED is issued.
Levels: J/C/S/A, Volunteers
Location: A Place for Girls
Registration deadline: 12/7

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Yes, *and*

Girl Scouts is where confidence blooms from the inside and shines on the outside. Our goal is to make sure every girl feels seen, valued, and supported—never compared or judged. With research-backed programs like the Body Appreciation badge line, Girl Scouts learn how to set healthy boundaries and handle pressures from society, media, and peers, while building confidence, courage, and character.

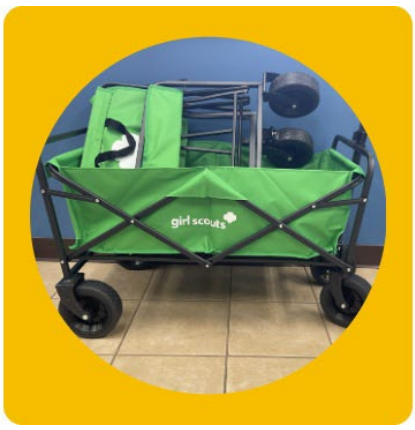
View this and other findings from Girl Scouts of the USA published in the national State of the Girl 2026 report.

Shop Specials

Shop Hours: Closed Nov. 26-27 for the Thanksgiving Holiday.

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.*







Cookie Hoodie: Why wait until cookie season to proclaim your love? “Powered by: Confidence, Adventure, Courage, Character” this cozy hoodie is available in adult and youth sizes, $35.

Collapsible Wagon: Make every adventure easier with a Girl Scout-branded wagon! Perfect for troop meetings, campouts, community events, cookie season, and family outings, this handy wagon makes it easy to transport supplies, snacks, and gear wherever your Girl Scout adventures take you. Capacity 150 lbs; approx. 30 inches long. $75.

Scarf and Gloves: We’ve got a fun and festive way to keep you warm this season! Check out the new Girl Scout Cookie scarf ($26) and matching gloves ($14 youth, $16 adult).

Seasonal Fun Patches: Check out all the ways you can commemorate your celebrations, from Veterans Day parades to Friendsgiving and beyond! $2.50 each.

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

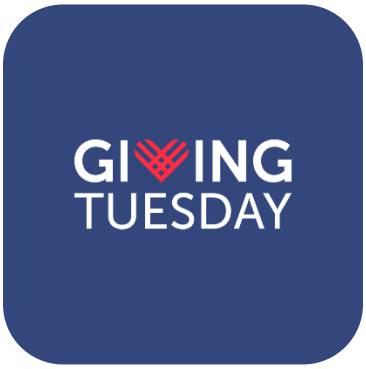
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Whether you have a girl in Girl Scouts or are a dedicated volunteer, so much has been accomplished, discovered, and explored over the past year. And there's even more ahead—more opportunities to try new things and to remain part of something truly special, supportive, and inspiring year after year.

It's not too late to renew your membership. Keep building your courage, confidence, and character, and let's make the world a better place together!

RENEW NOW



Tuesday, December 1

Join millions in this global generosity movement. Make your year-end gift to Girl Scouts of Colonial Coast on Giving Tuesday — every dollar stays right here in our Council. Visit gsccc.org/donate to see all the different (and easy!) ways there are to support what you love.

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!