

The Colonial Coaster

Monthly Newsletter for Girl Scout Members, Volunteers, and Families

September 2026

Are you ready for more adventures? Another year of Girl Scouts means another year of trying amazing things. Another year of Girl Scouts means deeper friendships, “I can’t believe I did that!” moments, and more chances to discover the power that's been inside you all along. **Be sure to renew your membership before the beginning of the next Girl Scout year on October 1** so you don’t miss a single moment! (And we have some incredible events lined up this fall...)

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

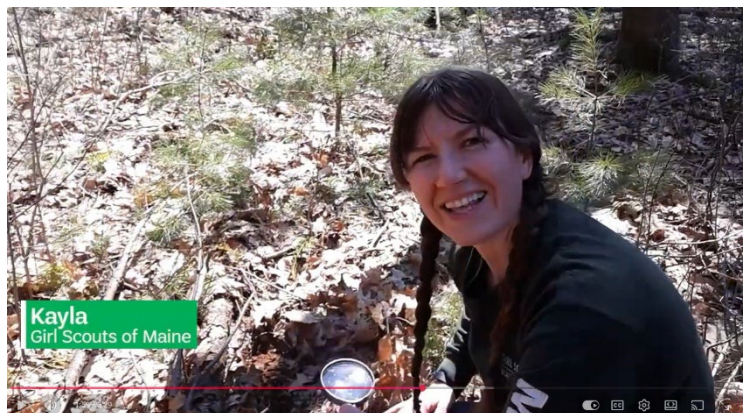
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Activities and Announcements

Featured Activity: Think Like an Eco Friend

Have you ever thought about how different living things in nature make homes for themselves? What materials do they need? How could you make an outdoor space better for the wildlife there? Check out this [video from GSUSA's Activity Zone](#) and start thinking like an Eco Friend!





BONUS: Spread Kindness to the Earth

From the time of our founding, Girl Scouts have cared deeply for nature and the environment. It's where we camp, explore, and grow! From helping animals in need to planting trees or cleaning up beaches, there's no limit to the ways you can spread kindness to the natural world around us. Get out in nature and earn this year's Spread Kindness patch!

Hispanic Heritage Month (Sept. 15–Oct. 15)

Celebrate with your family and friends by recognizing the histories, cultures, and contributions that Hispanic and Latino people have made — and earn a fun patch! (Did you know? GSCCC has a special web page called “[Crece con Girl Scouts](#)” just for Spanish speakers.)

[Fun Patch Activities](#) (PDF)

[Actividades en Español](#) (PDF)



VFW Awards and Scholarships

The Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) sponsors many opportunities for girls to earn awards and scholarships throughout the year. The 2026-27 theme is: “What a Veteran Taught Me About America.”

Voice of Democracy Audio Essay Competition: Students in grades 9-12 compete by writing and recording an audio essay on the theme to win their share of more than \$1.3 million in educational scholarships and incentives.

Patriot's Pen: Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to enter by drafting a 300- to 400-word essay, expressing their views on the theme for a chance to win their share of more than \$1.4 million in state and national awards.

[All entries must be submitted to a sponsoring local VFW Post by midnight, Oct. 31.](#)



Girl Scouts Magazine (Fall 2026)

Check your mailbox for the latest edition of our magazine! Featuring troop news, upcoming events, special announcements, and program information, this glossy print magazine is published twice a year and mailed to all active members. (And you can always read it online at gscgc.org/publications.)

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Featured Events

Girl Scouts Love State Parks – 9/11-13

Every September, Girl Scouts host special weekend events and activities to celebrate and foster a love for our state parks. Troops, groups, families and alum are all invited! Go exploring with the free patch program activity sheet from GSUSA.

Famous Formers Celebration – 9/17

Join us as we honor six 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

This uplifting getaway at Camp Darden - 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!



The Hurrah Players present Suessical – 10/9-11

“Oh, the thinks you can think” when Dr. Seuss’ best-loved characters collide and cavort in an unforgettable musical caper! Bring the whole family for this fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza!

CORE Camp – 10/24-25

Fall is the perfect time for a Girl Scout campout, so come enjoy a fun weekend with us at beautiful Camp Darden! Meals and activities are prepared for you, so you only need to bring yourself and your troop (or just a chaperone). Enjoy outdoor activities like archery, tie dye, and singing songs around a campfire. Open to all Girl Scout levels!

Girl Scout Fest: Friendship, Farms, and Flight – 10/31

Blast off into a new Girl Scout year! Enjoy the Military Aviation Museum, a field full of program partners, fun activities, and even skydivers at this family-friendly event. Be sure to register by October 1 for your exclusive event patch!

But wait, there's more!

Browse *everything* at gscnc.org/events or [download the entire calendar of events through April 2027](#) (PDF) — and don't forget to check the weekly *GSCNC 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.

Gold Award: Red Can Hero: Ignite Awareness

Girl Scout Aliya took action to ignite awareness about fire extinguisher safety.

Girl Scout Destinations: Postcard from Europe

GSECCC took 32 Girl Scouts from across the USA on the trip of a lifetime!

Gold Award: Tranquility in Bloom

Girl Scout Paige created a dedicated space for the families of first responders.

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Volunteer Hub

Get ready to celebrate the incredible leaders who guide our way!

Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast is excited to shine the spotlight on the incredible adults within our Council who go the extra mile to empower girls and make an impact amongst their peers! These special awards are rooted in tradition, bringing a massive sense of pride, achievement, and well-deserved recognition to the leaders who serve as a true compass for our Girl Scouts and community.

Please join us for the 2026 Adult Awards Celebration on Saturday, October 10 at 1pm at A Place for Girls in Chesapeake. Come cheer with us as we present peer-nominated awards to the dedicated leaders who pour their hearts into Girl Scouts.

Our retail shop will be open before and after the ceremony for your convenience.

Attire: Girl Scout Uniform/Professional dress

Desserts will be provided.

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Shop Specials

Stop by our table at the Volunteer Kickoff on September 12 to do a little shopping. Better yet, call the shop now to pre-order items (uniforms, badges, etc.) for pick-up at the event!

Special Hours – Shop will be CLOSED on September 7 in observance of Labor Day.

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.*

NEW! Girl Scout Utility Jacket: Made for everyday wear and perfect for layering in cooler weather, this sleek utility jacket has multiple features for added comfort and durability. Adult sizes, \$62.



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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It's Fall Product Season!

During the Fall Product Program Girl Scouts participate in selling nuts, candy, magazines, and specialty items, all of which go a long way to help with troop start-up funds. This year the program runs from Sept. 11 – Nov. 8. **Don't forget to create your avatar so you can personalize this year's special patch!** Learn more and find some other fun activities at gscgcc.org/fall.

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!](#)