

# Volunteer News

*Training • Events • Activities • Tips*



## Girl Scout Volunteer News & Updates for December 2023

There are plenty of events and activities to enjoy with your troops this month, as well as some amazing adventures to plan ahead for. In this calm before cookie season, we hope you find time to make some beautiful memories with family and friends.

December Special Observances:

- **Read a New Book Month**
- **National Car Donation Month:** Did you know? You can [donate your vehicle](#) to support GSCCC.
- **Learn a Foreign Language Month**
- **December 7:** Pearl Harbor Day of Remembrance
- **December 7 – 15:** Hanukkah
- **December 17:** Wright Brothers Day – Try activities from the [“Discovering Flight” patch program](#) to celebrate!
- **December 21:** Winter Solstice / Yule
- **December 25:** Christmas Day
- **December 26 to January 1:** Kwanzaa
- **December 31:** New Year’s Eve

*(GSCCC offices and shop will be closed December 25 – January 2. We wish you a safe and happy holiday season!)*



# Activities and Events

## **Make a Friendship Tree**

Equipment: Paper and ink, paint, markers, or other art supplies.

Procedure: Each girl draws a tree shape on her own piece of paper (just the branches). Then every girl dips her thumb in ink or paint and leaves a thumbprint “leaf” on every other girl’s tree. The girls can write their names next to the leaf, or leave other uplifting messages. At the end, everyone has a tree of troop friends to take home as a reminder of their Girl Scout sisterhood!

Holiday Variation: Draw or paint an evergreen tree instead and have each girl’s thumbprint become an ornament!



### **Money Matter Basics – Saturday, January 6**

Have fun learning financial skills from older Girl Scouts and earn a badge, too! Our Cookie Captains will lead Girl Scout Daisies and Brownies through multiple money-themed stations to prepare them for real-life situations as well as the upcoming Cookie program. You'll be well on your way to becoming a Cookie CEO! (Girl Scout Daisies will complete their Money Explorer badge while Brownies will complete their Budget Builder badge.)

Levels: D/B

Location: Camp Apasus, Norfolk

*(Registration deadline: December 22)*

### **STEM Club: Automotive Engineering – Saturday, January 13**

Buckle up and explore how automotive designers imagine and make plans for a new vehicle, like a car or truck. Find out how automotive designers come up with ideas for new vehicles. Then, take the wheel and design your own! Learn how automotive manufacturers build and test vehicles to make sure they're ready for the road. Includes all three Automotive badge kits for Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies and Juniors (older girls will receive three patches).

Location: Virginia Enmeier Program Center, Camp Skimino

Levels: All

*(Registration deadline: January 5)*

**Register now for the 10th Annual Cookie Classic Run!** We're heading back to the Dismal Swamp Trail on Saturday, January 13, 2024. *Don't wait, prices will increase after January 1...*

### **Cracks, Crevices and Crawlways – Saturday, January 20 or Sunday, January 21**

Join the Colonial Coast Girl Scout Cavers for a day of climbing, crawling, and scooting through our artificial caves. Plus, we'll enjoy teambuilding exercises as well as games and songs to introduce girls to the high adventure sport of caving and the importance of protecting the delicate ecosystems in caves.

Adults are encouraged to participate, too!

Location: Camp Skimino, Williamsburg

Levels: J/C/S/A, Adults

*(Registration deadline: January 4)*

Download a printable version of the entire calendar of events for the 2023-24 membership year: [Program Events Calendar](#) (PDF)

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## **Save the Date for NCS 2026**

We are excited to share the 2026 Girl Scout National Council Session and Convention will take place in Washington, DC, from Monday, July 20, through Saturday, July 25! Girl Scouts Nation's Capital will be our host council. Convention isn't the only thing to look forward to this triennium. 2026 will also mark the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, and those who choose to attend convention will have the unique opportunity to experience this once-in-a-lifetime event from the heart of our nation's capital. Learn more at [girlscouts.org/convention](https://girlscouts.org/convention).

## **Enjoy these local performances to get into the holiday spirit!**

Some of our community partners offer discounts for Girl Scouts and large groups. Make your reservations today!

**A Merry Christmas Carol – Saturday, December 9** at The Wells Theater, Norfolk. Join us for Girl Scout Night! Enter the phrase “GirlScoutsRock” in the Promo Code box at top right of your screen to apply special discount rates. Learn more and get tickets at [vastage.org](https://vastage.org).

*(Troop 305 will be holding a special pre-performance event that includes carols, festive crafts, treats and a photo with Santa! \$5/per person in advance; [RSVP online](#).)*

**Hurrah for the Holidays – December 8-10** at Susan S Goode Fine & Performing Arts Center, Virginia Wesleyan University. Learn more at [hurrahplayers.com](https://hurrahplayers.com).

**The Best Christmas Pageant Ever – December 15-17** at Hugh R. Copeland Center, Norfolk. Learn more at [hurrahplayers.com](https://hurrahplayers.com).



**American Red Cross Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED Training – Saturday, January 6**

This blended learning course equips you to recognize and care for a variety of first aid, breathing, and cardiac emergencies involving adults, children, and infants. A certificate for Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED is issued upon successful completion.

Levels: C/S/A and Adults

Location: A Place for Girls, Chesapeake

*(Registration deadline: December 23)*

**Basic Troop Camping – Saturday, February 17**

We have combined our Outdoor I and II courses into one single course! Join us for this all-day training in outdoor skills at camp. We will cover basic outdoor camping and gear, outdoor cooking and “Leave No Trace.” Participants will leave with plenty of tips to help Girl Scouts take the lead in planning their next outdoor overnight.

Location: Camp Darden, Courtland

*(Registration deadline: February 2)*

## **Collecting Coats for Families**

From now until December 31, 2023, donations of new and like-new coats will be accepted at select locations in Hampton Roads and Northeast North Carolina. For more than three decades, this community service effort hosted by WAVY-TV 10 has helped people of all ages and sizes. Find coat donation dates and details at [wavy.com](http://wavy.com).



# Our Stories: In the Spotlight

**Feel the Love for Burke's Mill Pond**—Volunteer Jennifer Glaspell shares memories of her time at this beautiful camp. [Read the full article](#)

**Alum Spotlight: Meet Dr. Laura Sass**—This proud third generation Girl Scout has been an active volunteer since 2004. [Read the full article](#)

**Donor Spotlight: Laura Morgan**—This Girl Scout alum and GSCCC Board Member has joined the Juliette Gordon Low Society. [Read the full article](#)

Browse these and other inspiring stories featuring local Girl Scouts, volunteers, alum, and more at [gscgcc.org/blog](https://gscgcc.org/blog).

## Helpers Needed for Cookie Count

Have fun and lend a hand at Cookie Count-n-Go on **February 24**. Cases and cases of Girl Scout Cookies get counted and packed into cars, trucks and trailers and sent on their way for distribution to customers. Three locations to choose from: Suffolk, Virginia Beach or Hampton. It's a fun day working alongside other volunteers!

Interested? **Email [customercare@gscgcc.org](mailto:customercare@gscgcc.org) with your location preference.**



## GSCCC Shop Specials



### December 6, 13, and 20: Discount Wednesdays!

Pick a lucky candy cane at checkout and receive a 10% or 15% discount off the entire purchase. *May not be combined with any other offer.*

### Special Hours:

- The shop will be closing at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, December 8.
- The GSCCC office and shop will be closed December 25 – January 2 in observance of the holidays.

**Fun Patch Ornaments:** These sew-on patches can be hung anywhere that needs a little Girl Scout-style holiday cheer! Three fun designs to choose from, \$6 each.

**Sherpa Fleece Blankets:** Ultra-soft meets warmth in this new blanket that is ideal for cooler days when you want to bundle up and get comfy. Available in Oatmeal (shown above), Navy Heather, Black, or Grey Heather, it measures 50" x 60"; \$40 each.

**Pom-Pom Hats:** On-trend headgear for outdoor adventures! These cute knit hats are topped with a pom-pom and come in assorted colors, \$25 each.

We have the perfect gift for every Girl Scout, volunteer, and special someone on your list—[let's go shopping!](#)

## Nominations open for the Girl Scout Advisory Board

From December 1 to January 19, GSUSA is accepting applications for ten seats on the National Girl Scout Advisory Board to replace existing advisory board members who have completed their term. Advisory board members serve a two-year term and contribute to key projects with staff at GSUSA, such as program strategy, Highest Awards, cookie marketing, Global Girl Scouting, and more. **Do you know a Cadette, Senior, or Ambassador who would be a great fit for this amazing opportunity? Learn more at [gsccc.org](https://gsccc.org).**