

Volunteer News

Training • Events • Activities • Tips



Girl Scout Volunteer News & Updates for January 2025

Happy New Year, amazing volunteer! We want 2025 to be the year that you truly feel how appreciated you are. We could not possibly say “thank you” enough! Read on for news you can use, activities, trainings, inspiration, and more to help you continue doing the incredible work of building Girl Scouts of courage, confidence, and character.

January Special Observances:

- **National Mentoring Month** (Thank you for all that you do!)
 - **National Thank You Month** (We mean it; thank you!)
 - **National Hot Tea Month**
 - **January 5:** National Bird Day - Check out our [Birding Guide to the Outback](#) and see how many you can spot.
 - **January 7:** Orthodox Christmas
 - **January 20:** Martin Luther King Jr. Day – This day of service is also the first fee-free day of the year at national parks across the country! (*GSCCC offices and shop will be closed in observance.*)
 - **January 21:** National Hugging Day – When you give one, you get one!
-



Activities and Events

Winter Inspiration

Listen to “winter” music. (This could be a song about being cold, a song about snow or ice, or a classical piece with a wintry name like Winter Morning from The Children’s Album by Tchaikovsky or Vivaldi’s Winter Concerto.) Respond to the music by drawing a picture, writing a poem or story, or making up and performing a dance to the song.

Brainstorm a list of occupations that are dependent on winter climates and talk about them. Use the list to play Win, Lose or Draw or charades!

Cookie season kicks off on January 11, are you ready? Visit the [Volunteer Cookie Resources page](#) to find everything you need to help Girl Scouts become successful Cookie Entrepreneurs!

Climbing Wall / Bouldering – January 25

Daisies: Discuss basic climbing skills, practice stretches to get ready for your climb, and participate in some fun games. Brownies and Juniors: Challenge yourself to see how high — and how fast — you can climb our indoor rock wall! Explore your limits and reach new heights.

Location: Camp Skimino, Williamsburg

Levels: D/B/J

Registration Deadline: January 16

Last call for the [11th Annual Cookie Classic Run!](#) We’re heading back to the Dismal Swamp Trail on Saturday, January 18, 2025.

NCIS Norfolk – February 1

NCIS (Naval Criminal Investigative Service) is the primary investigative law enforcement agency of the U.S. Department of the Navy. They have a broad mandate including national security, counterintelligence, counter terrorism and cyberwarfare. Norfolk-based special agents will help you learn fingerprinting/forensics, polygraph, and officer response tactics, then hold a question and answer session regarding their careers.

Location: Naval Station Norfolk

Levels: C/S/A

Registration Deadline: January 15

It's Your Planet, Love It! – February 8

Learn about how and where food is grown, harvested, processed, distributed, and consumed, and why that matters. Plan a Take Action Project to share your knowledge with others. Tidewater Collegiate Academy staff will be on hand to teach girls the importance of caring for our planet from earth to sky!

Location: Virginia Wesleyan University, Virginia Beach

Levels: All

Registration Deadline: January 22

World Thinking Day is February 22

Join your fellow Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from over 150 countries around the world to celebrate World Thinking Day! The best part is, you don't need to wait until February to get started. Start learning about World Thinking Day and embracing perspectives outside your own! Dive into this year's focus of "Our Story: Reflecting the symbolism and values of our Movement" and explore how you can build the confidence to know you can make a real difference, in your community and beyond. Think about the issues that contribute to problems near or far, and about the little things you can do to make a big difference! Download the FREE Girl Scouts World Thinking Day activity guides and see how your thoughts are more powerful than you think!

- [D/B/J Activity Guide](#)
 - [C/S/A Activity Guide](#)
-



Upcoming Adult Trainings

American Red Cross Adult & Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED – February 8

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. An online link will be sent to the participants prior to the course. The online portion (accessed via mobile, desktop or tablet) must be completed prior to attending the instructor-led skills session. Upon successful completion of the online course and in-person skills session a valid two-year digital certificate for Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED is issued.

Location: Camp Skimino, Williamsburg

Levels: C/S/A, Adults

Registration deadline: January 22

Youth Mental Health First Aid – February 9

Designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (ages 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addiction challenge or is in crisis, this course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a 5-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations.

Location: A Place for Girls, Chesapeake

Level: Adults

Registration deadline: January 30

Basic Troop Camping – February 15

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. All food and supplies will be provided for this training. The optional overnight will include night activities to do with your girls, additional fire skills and Girl Scout ceremonies/traditions.

Location: Camp Darden, Courtland

Level: Adults

Registration deadline: January 29

Climbing Wall Facilitator Training – February 16

Learn how to set up and take down the climbing wall at Camp Darden, as well as some knot-tying and belaying skills. Once you have completed this training, you and one other instructor will be able to host your troop or groups at the climbing wall.

Location: Camp Darden, Courtland

Level: Adults

Registration deadline: February 5

Archery / Axe Throwing Training – February 16

Join us for this combination training at Camp Darden, where you will learn to empower participants to do their best while sticking the axe in a bullseye as well as basic steps of shooting and the safety measures you must take while instructing participants on GSCCC's archery ranges. In addition, you will learn how to set up and take down the archery range itself. Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to facilitate their troop or group on axe throwing and archery on GSCCC sites.

Location: Camp Darden, Courtland

Level: Adults

Registration deadline: February 5



Camp Young Reunion—Girl Scout alum were guests at a special celebration of a historic Norfolk camp. [Read the full article](#)

Girl Scout Puts CPR Skills to Use—Girl Scout Junior Vada took action to help save her father during a heart attack [Read the full article](#)

Gold Award Spotlight: Bringing Awareness to Crisis Boarding Program & Resources—Girl Scout Justina partnered with the Chesapeake Humane Society to educate local veterinarians, first responders, and others in her community about these critical resources [Read the full article](#)

Browse these and other inspiring stories featuring local Girl Scouts, volunteers, alum, and more at gsc.org/blog.

BONUS: Check out the latest episode of our [podcast](#), and meet Girl Scout alum Cameron “Cami” Hart!

Last Call for Famous Formers Nominations

Do you know someone who has made a difference in your personal or professional life? Was she a Girl Scout? (Is it you?) **[Nominate yourself or someone else by January 20](#)**; an announcement of the 2025 honorees will be released in early February. Save the date to join us for the awards event on May 1, 2025!

Earn Badges at CODE NINJAS

Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, Juniors and Cadettes can earn all three badges in a series in one workshop! [Coding, Cybersecurity, and Robotics](#) offered at locations in Chesapeake and Virginia Beach.



GSCCC Shop Specials

January 8, 15, 22 and 29: Discount Wednesdays!

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

Pom-Pom Hats: These cute knit hats are topped with a pom-pom, and excel at keeping you toasty warm! Assorted colors, \$25.

Cookie Squad Hoodie: Let everyone know you're part of the sweetest team around! Make a bold statement and celebrate our cookie community. Available in youth and adult sizes, \$35.

Cookie Cart: Are you ready for all the cookies? This cart is designed to safely and easily carry stacks of Girl Scout cookie boxes, great for delivery, secure restocking, or transporting to your booth. Red (shown): \$35; Green: \$38.

Cookie Feather Flag: This colorful, double-sided flag is sure to draw attention to your cookie booth! UV inks resist fading; includes premium base for sturdy display. *Must order by January 24.* \$275.

Get everything you need to make your cookie season a success — [let's go shopping!](#)

[SHOP](#)