

Volunteer News

Training • Events • Activities • Tips



Girl Scout Volunteer News & Updates for October 2024

Welcome to the start of a new Girl Scout year! In this edition of your newsletter, you'll find information on some vital new training and first aid courses, our Spread Kindness program, updates to some forms and guidelines, and some fun activities and events you can share with your troop. Let's go!

October Special Observances:

- **Bullying Prevention Month**
- **National Fire Prevention Month**
- **Filipino-American History Month**
- **October 10: World Mental Health Day** – Try activities from GSUSA's [Mental Wellness patch programs](#).
- **October 11: International Day of the Girl** – Read below for ways you can celebrate with us and earn a patch!
- **October 13: U.S. Navy Birthday** – Celebrate these brave men and women by [earning a Military Pride patch](#) today!
- **October 31: Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday** – There are so many fun ways to observe [Founder's Day](#) with your troop!



Activities and Events

Here is a fun game to start your troop year, break the ice, and help each Girl Scout get to know their new friends!

Blanket Name Game

- Divide the troop into two groups, and have them sit on the floor facing each other (but not too close together).
- Hold up a blanket between the groups so that each team cannot see the other.
- A member of each team is quietly selected to move up to the blanket.
- On the count of three, drop the blanket so that each of the selected members are facing each other.
- Whoever says the other person's name first, wins! Whoever loses, goes to the other team.

Girl Scouts can do this activity with their troop, or at home with their families!

Celebrate Founder's Day with Flat Juliette

Girl Scouts' founder, Juliette Gordon Low, was born on October 31, and so we observe this special holiday each year. Juliette Low started Girl Scouting with 18 girls, teaching them skills for life, the outdoors, and more. Today, Girl Scouts continue in that spirit, adding even more skills in areas like entrepreneurship and STEM, embracing diversity and connecting globally — while keeping it all girl-led!

Participate in your own Founder's Day celebration by traveling with [Flat Juliette](#)! Whether you are going to the park, the museum, or on a camping

trip, you can print and color [Flat Juliette](#) so she can go with you. Include her in photos of your adventures and tag us @girlscoutscolonialcoast or #gsccc, or send your pictures to marcomm@gscce.org.

Volunteer Awards Celebration – Saturday, October 12

Each year, Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast formally recognizes those adult volunteers who have made significant accomplishments and gone above and beyond to empower girls. Girl Scout awards are deeply rooted in tradition and confer a great sense of gratification and achievement. Join us for our presentation of peer-nominated, formal recognitions honoring our volunteers' above and beyond service to Girl Scouts!!

Location: A Place for Girls, Chesapeake

Levels: All

Registration Deadline: October 9

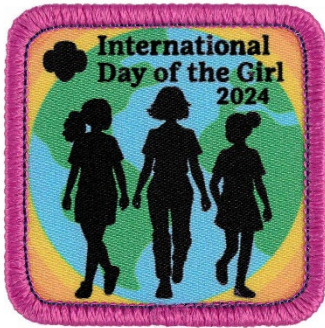
Silver Award Information Sessions (multiple dates)

These sessions are designed for Girl Scout Cadettes and their caregivers, leaders, or mentors to learn more about earning the Girl Scout Silver Award. This session offers an opportunity for individuals to connect with the Highest Awards Committee and ask questions related to the awards process. This interactive Q&A session is a companion piece to the GSUSA Earning the Silver Award: Your Guide to the Requirements and Process which can be found on gsLearn.

Town Hall Meetings (multiple dates)

Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast invites all troop leaders to attend one of our upcoming Town Hall meetings. Hear from CEO Tracy Keller on issues that impact YOU as a volunteer. Ask questions and give input. This is an opportunity for open dialogue that ensures everyone is well-informed and their voices heard. How can we better serve our youth members? How can we best serve our parents, caregivers, and volunteers in their roles? We want to hear from YOU!

International Day of the Girl is October 11



Join the global community to celebrate the power of girls! [Download the Activity Guide](#) for fun ways to engage with this year's theme and earn this patch; then, make plans to join GSCCC for two International Girls' Day Out events coming up next month.

International Girls' Day Out – November 9

Everyone faces their own struggles at some point. Whether navigating the ebbs and flows of challenging emotions or learning how to resolve conflicts with friends, life inevitably presents us with a variety of surprises. The Alpha Pi Chapter of Kappa Delta, working with the GSUSA Mental Wellness patch program, will provide tips and activities to assist Girl Scouts on their mental wellness journey.

Location: The College of William & Mary, Williamsburg

Levels: All

Registration Deadline: November 1

International Girls' Day Out – November 10

The Theta Eta Chapter of Kappa Delta invites all Girl Scouts to participate in this amazing day! Let's talk about girlhood and confidence as we learn to lift each other up, make a friendship craft, and so much more!

Location: Webb University Center at ODU, Norfolk

Levels: D/B/J

Registration Deadline: October 27



Upcoming Adult Trainings

NEW: Affirmation to Adhere to Abuse Prevention Policies and Procedures

All registering adults will be asked to agree to abide by Girl Scout Child Abuse Prevention Policy(s) and Procedures as part of the registration and/or renewal process. A new affirmation statement created by GSUSA has been added to the membership form. In addition, a new training on Child Abuse Prevention and Awareness has been assigned to all registered adults. All appointed volunteers must take the training no later than October 31, 2024.

Youth Mental Health First Aid – Saturday, November 2

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. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disruptive behavior disorders, and eating disorders. NOTE: This is a blended learning course with a required online portion that must be completed prior to the in-person portion.

Location: A Place for Girls, Chesapeake

Level: Adults

Registration deadline: October 17

American Red Cross Adult & Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED – Saturday, November 16

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 2-year digital certificate for Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED is issued.

Location: A Place for Girls, Chesapeake

Levels: C/S/A, Adults

Registration deadline: October 31

Wilderness First Aid – Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8

Designed for Girl Scout leaders, outdoor enthusiasts and anyone who works or spends time in remote environments, this course teaches advanced first aid skills to be used in emergencies when help from professional first responders may be far away. This course is required by Safety Activity Checkpoints for any camping trip that is 30 minutes or more from emergency medical services. NOTE: A current CPR/AED certification is a pre-requisite for this course.

Location: A Place for Girls, Chesapeake

Levels: Adults

Registration deadline: November 21



Spread Kindness Patch Program

Let's spread kindness to our four-legged friends! October is National Adopt-a-Pet Month, and Girl Scouts are encouraged to take action to help animals in our communities and to learn more about pet care. Plus, all Girl Scouts are invited to draw their pets and enter the Chalk Art Contest! Learn more at gscucc.org/kindness.

Promote the Vote

GSUSA and the League of Women Voters have long histories of empowering girls, advocating for civil rights, and advancing policies that support girls and women. Girl Scouts are encouraged to participate in the current national partnership, Promote the Vote. Learn more about how your troop can promote the vote and find resources at girlscouts.org.

National Delegates: Apply by October 31

Last call to join your fellow delegates, voting members and other attendees from across every council and overseas at the **2026 Girl Scout National Council Session and Convention**. It will be a memory-making experience where you'll meet to discuss, debate, and vote on issues important to the Girl Scout Movement, and elect national leaders for the next triennium.

Any registered member who will be 14 years of age by January 23, 2025, may apply. For the application, FAQs, and more, please visit gsccl.org/delegates.



The Nature Bus for Girl Scouts—TA former Girl Guide drives this award-winning outdoor classroom on wheels! [Read the full article](#)

Mei Stukes to Serve on GSUSA Group—GSCCC's own Mei Stukes was one of 18 Girl Scout volunteers from across the Movement (out of more than 2,000 applicants) selected for the new Volunteer Advisory Committee. [Read the full article](#)

A Girl Scout Story—Volunteer Cheryl McGrenra looks back at her life through a Girl Scout lens. [Read the full article](#)

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

Forms Updates

Troop/Group Financial Report – This new form replaces all other previous versions. Please make sure you are using this updated report when submitting to your service unit finance coordinator. [Download Form](#) (XLS)

Money-Earning Guidelines – The guidelines for money-earning activities have been updated to better serve our troops and service units. Our new, 12-page, full-color booklet contains checklists, FAQs, “dos and dont’s” examples, and so much more! [Download Guidelines](#) (PDF)



Thank you to our Day of Caring Volunteers!

Day of Caring brings volunteers from across the Hampton Roads area together to create a positive impact for nonprofits, like GSCCC, and other neighbors in need. On Friday, September 20, we were lucky to benefit from a partnership with several organizations who completed projects around our Chesapeake, Norfolk, and Williamsburg camp properties.

Volunteers from PRA Group, Sentara Health, and TowneBank completed several projects at A Place for Girls and The Lodge to include mulching, landscaping pathways, and planting native plants outside of the main office.

At Camp Apasus in Norfolk, Titan America volunteers led efforts to renew the landscaping along our fence line with pollinator-friendly bushes and flowers, cut back overgrowth, and touch up paint.

In Williamsburg at Camp Skimino, volunteers from Eaton and The Pavilion of Williamsburg built a staircase using repurposed railroad ties, replaced roofing, installed fencing, and more.

[Check out this video](#) for a glimpse into the day's activities!



GSCCC Shop Specials

October 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30: Discount Wednesdays!

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

Special Shop Hours:

- Saturday, October 12, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
- Saturday, October 19, 12 – 4 p.m. at Girl Scout Fest

Supermix Kiosk: As seen on Shark Tank, you now have the ability to create and customize your own Girl Scout gear! You will love all the fun options and Girl Scouts will love the interactive interface.

ChattySnaps: Women-owned business with a mission! We carry buttons, tales, and mini backpacks, designed to let you express yourself and start a real conversation. Come in to see them all!

Proud Girl Scout Volunteer T-Shirt: Celebrate being a Girl Scout volunteer

and all you do for Girl Scouts! This t-shirt was designed especially for you. In heathered light olive green with whimsical outdoor screenprint and solid trefoil; \$23.

Juliette Low's Birthday, October 31: Celebrate Founder's Day this month with [fun activities](#) and a Juliette Low Birthday fun patch!

For all this plus uniforms, awards, badges and more, [visit the shop!](#)