

# Buck Harris Award

This award was established upon the retirement of Buck Harris, a former executive director of the Virginia Tidewater Girl Scout Council. Buck dedicated her life to providing the finest in camping and outdoor camping education programs, and her friends felt that this award would be an appropriate way to honor her. The Buck Harris fund was established with the understanding that the principal is never to be used, only the interest that is accrued.

The award is presented at Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast's Girl Awards Celebration and consists of a framed certificate and a certificate towards attending a GSCCC sponsored summer camp. One Girl Scout will be selected and honored in this manner; all other nominees will receive a nominee certificate locally. A girl must be nominated by the girls in her troop, group or service unit or by someone familiar with the qualifications of the nominee. (See criteria below.) If girls are selecting a nominee, help them understand this is more than a popularity contest.

## **Nominators should see the Girl Scout nominee as a person who:**

- has an awareness of herself as a unique person of worth;
- relates to others with a sensitivity and respect for their needs, feelings and contributions;
- has developed values that give meaning and direction to her life;
- uses her skills and talents to serve the community in some way; and
- has demonstrated a love for the outdoors.

## **To qualify for the award, the girl must:**

1. Be a currently registered Girl Scout with Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast.
2. Have helped make troop/group meetings and/or activities more enjoyable during the past two years.
3. Have participated in or helped make service unit events, Council events or other events serving girls better during the past two years. Special consideration will be given to girls who have participated in or assisted with outdoor events.
4. Have been active in school, community and/or church, synagogue, temple activities during the past two years.
5. Have participated in Council events.

## **Nominating Procedure:**

1. Complete the [Buck Harris Award Nomination Form](#).
  - a. Type or print all information. As an alternative to a print nomination, a recording will be accepted.
  - b. Nominator writes a fair and objective account of at least 200 words about why the girl deserves the award.
  - c. Girl Scout writes, in her own words, what the Girl Scout Promise and Law mean to her. She may need help if she is young. If she prefers, she may send a recording instead of writing.
2. Submit nomination by **March 31** via one of the following:
  - a. Email to [customercare@gscoc.org](mailto:customercare@gscoc.org).
  - b. Deliver in-person or mail to: Buck Harris Award, Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast, 912 Cedar Road, Chesapeake, VA 23322
  - c. Fax to 757-547-1872



## Georgie “Buck” Harris

Since the early 1930’s, Buck Harris was involved with Girl Scouts in Hampton Roads. She graduated from Randolph-Macon Women’s College in the late 1920’s with a goal of becoming a teacher. Upon graduation, she became a substitute teacher and during the summer months was employed as a counselor at Camp Matoaka in Suffolk, Virginia.

In 1934, she accepted a position as a Girl Scout field director for Norfolk, Portsmouth and Princess Anne County. In this position, she trained and recruited volunteers for Girl Scouts. In 1937, she was named the executive director of the Virginia-Tidewater Area Girl Scout Council. She held this position for almost 30 years, during which time she championed the growth of Girl Scouting in the area and the renaming of the council as Greater Tidewater Girl Scout Council. Buck Harris continued to volunteer with Girl Scouts as a trainer and an advisor after retiring.

It was said of her, “A person strong in the spirit and the adventure of Girl Scouting, Buck Harris has left a legacy to our Council. Her gentleness, love and stewardship of our land and campsites, her infinite store of nature’s knowledge have been given freely for the Girl Scouting she loves.”

Buck died on September 26, 2006. She will always be remembered and honored for her work with Girl Scouts.

**Read more about her at [gscvc.org](https://gscvc.org).**

### **The Girl Scout Promise**

On my honor, I will try  
To serve God and my country,  
To help people at all times,  
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

### **The Girl Scout Law**

I will do my best to be  
honest and fair, friendly and helpful,  
considerate and caring, courageous and strong,  
and responsible for what I say and do,  
and to  
respect myself and others, respect authority,  
use resources wisely, make the world a better place,  
and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

### **The Girl Scout Mission Statement**

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.