

S'more News

exclusively for leaders and volunteers

The GSCV Shop will be closed on Saturday, April 27, 2024 for the Annual Meeting.

[Trouble viewing? Click here.](#)

**April 10th, 2024
Edition**

In this issue:

- Early Bird Spring Renewal
- Countdown to Girl Scout Camp
- 2024 Cookie Program
- Program Events & Activities
- Training Opportunities
- Retail Shop



Early Bird Renewal Has Begun!



It's time to renew your Girl Scout memberships! Early Bird has begun and goes until May 17th.

This is a time to renew your troop Girl Scout memberships while earning incentives and planning for a wonderful year ahead. Remember that troop funds can be used to purchase your 2024-2025 Girl Scout memberships.

Check out all the exciting incentives we've got for girls, troops, and service units.

Incentives for girls:

- Every girl who renews during Early Bird will receive a 2025 Early Bird patch.
- Each girl's family will receive a one-time-use 10% discount to the GSCV Shop.

Incentives for troops:

- Four troops that renew 100% of their memberships (at least 5 girls and 2 adults) by April 21st will receive a one-time-use 50% discount to the GSCV Shop. A drawing to determine the four winning troops will be held on April 22nd.
- Two leaders per troop who renew will receive a one-time-use 15% discount to the GSCV Shop.
- All troops that renew 75% or more of their girls (at least 5 girls and 2 adults) will receive a \$25 voucher for a Program Event or Activity hosted by GSCV for Membership Year 2025 (list of options will be provided).
- Weekly drawings for prizes will be held on Fridays from April 19th-May 10th for troops that have renewed at least 75% of their girls and two adults (one troop wins each week). Prizes include a Slime-Making STEM kit; a Tie-Dye Kit & Cookie-themed hoodies for the troop leaders; a troop experience at Camp Pamunkey; and a Camping Survival Kit.

Incentives for service units:

- Service units receive \$1.25 per girl who renews during Early Bird.
- Service units that renew 75% or more of their girl memberships will receive a parade banner.

*Discounts cannot be combined.

Countdown to Girl Scout Camp!



Girl Scout Summer Camp kicks off **Sunday, June 7, 2024!**

We've got a summer *filled* with sessions for every Girl Scout level. Whether your Girl Scout is a first-time camper who wants a Little Bit 'o Camp or a resident camp regular, we're excited to welcome her to Pamunkey Ridge Girl Scout Camp for a summer she'll never forget.

Check out our full Summer Camp 2024 book for a detailed list of camp sessions, summer camp FAQs, instructions on how to register, and hear from "Almond", our Summer Camp Director.

[View/Download the 2024 Summer Camp Book](#)

Bring a Buddy to Girl Scout Camp!



Not a Girl Scout? Not a problem!

We understand that sometimes, having a bestie by your side makes camp memories *that* much sweeter. That's why we're welcoming ALL GIRLS to Girl Scout camp, even if they're not a registered member!

If a girl is not a registered Girl Scout, add \$35 to your registration. It's that easy!

We can't wait to see your Girl Scout--and her crew--at Pamunkey Ridge Girl Scout Camp this summer!

Girl Scout Camp Roll Call: We Want to Hear from You!

Is your girl attending Girl Scout Camp this summer?

Yep, we're all signed up!

Not yet, but we plan to register.

We don't plan on registering for Girl Scout Camp this season.

We're still undecided on Girl Scout Camp.

Important Camp Staff Update

Josh Swatzell, our Outdoor and Property Manager, is moving to Minnesota with his family for an exciting new chapter in their life.

Josh has agreed to work with us during a brief transition period; however, effective immediately, he will *not* be the point of contact for troop camping and resident camp.

To get the quickest and most up-to-date information, the council contacts are as follows:

Service Unit/Troop Camping (with confirmed reservations) planning and questions

Anne Dupuis, Summer Camp Director

- Email: adupuis@comgirlscouts.org
- Phone: (804) 746-0590 Ext. 150

Summer Resident Camp questions

Anne Dupuis, Summer Camp Director

- Email: adupuis@comgirlscouts.org
- Phone: (804) 746-0590 Ext. 150

Service Unit/Troop Camping Reservations (once the 2024-25 dates are released)

Kathleen Sestak, Senior Director of Member Services

- Email: ksestak@comgirlscouts.org
- Phone: (804) 746-0590 Ext. 388

Summer Resident Camp registration is through MyEvents.

2024 Cookie Program



Bling Your Booth Winners Announced!

You submitted, you voted, and now we're thrilled to announce the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place winners of this year's Bling Your Booth contest! Our three winners will receive a Girl Scout prize pack filled with goodies and merch from this year's Girl Scout Cookie Season.

3rd Place

Troop 632's Cookie Zone Ahead! Booth



2nd Place

Girl Scout Daisy Troop 22's FIRST cookie booth



1st Place

Girl Scout Haley's Last Cookie Booth



Congratulations to our winners, and thank you all for participating in the 2024 Bling Your Booth contest!

We received so many awesome submissions of blinged out cookie booths this season. What a creative bunch of Girl Scouts we have here at Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia...The. Best. Council. Ever!

***All participants** will receive a Bling Your Booth fun patch, so if you haven't already, email Janna Joyner at jjoyner@comgirlscouts.org with your mailing address and number of girls who participated in Bling Your Booth this year.*

See you next year!

Cookie Rewards

Girls who earn entrance to these events should get them on the calendar now!

Girls who sell 500 packages or more will receive admission for two to the Night at the Diamond date of their choice and a \$25 Pathway Pass.

- Night at the Diamond in Fredericksburg: Thursday, May 2nd
- Night at the Diamond in Richmond: Friday, May 31st

Girls who sell 750 packages or more will be invited to bring the entire family to

the **Stellar Seller** celebration at Pamunkey Ridge Girl Scout Camp on Sunday, June 9th.

Girls who earn admission to **Stellar Seller** will receive an email invitation with the ability to RSVP in April.

Please be aware that girls who sell at least 1,250 packages who select the **Build-a-Bear** reward will have that experience on June 9th at the Stellar Seller event.

Make sure your troop's rewards are current in Smart Cookies!

To update troop rewards:

1. Log in to Smart Cookies.
 2. Click on Rewards.
 3. Click on Manage Recognition Orders.
 4. You will see two different types of recognitions: "Troop" and "Main".
 5. If the section on the right says complete, then you do not need to do anything. If it's incomplete, then you need to click on the edit icon (the pencil) and review the needed information.
 6. If there are reward choices that a girl needs to make, then you should contact her family for her preferences.
 7. When both the "Main" and "Troop" recognitions are identified as complete, you are finished.
 8. You can still edit this information through April 10th.
-

Older Girl Opt Out Troops

If your troop is made up of all older girls (Cadette - Ambassador), they are still eligible to earn patches. You will need to make sure you have clicked on "opt out of rewards" on the troop information page.

Girl Scout Night at the Diamond

Girls not attending the baseball games as a cookie reward or families who want to attend are welcome to purchase tickets on their own.

Parents and caregivers of the "Night at the Diamond" cookie reward (selling over 500 packages of cookies) should be on the lookout for an email in April asking them to select the game they wish to attend.

Fredericksburg Nats: May 2nd

Tickets are \$14.84 and include participation in the pre-game parade and a patch for registered Girl Scouts. Girls who earned the "Night at the Diamond" reward through cookies will receive admission for two.

Richmond Flying Squirrels Girl Scout Night: May 31st

Richmond Flying Squirrels May 31st tickets are \$13 per person. Girls who earned the Night at the Diamond reward through cookies will receive admission for two. The ticket also includes participation in the pre-game parade and a patch for registered Girl Scouts.

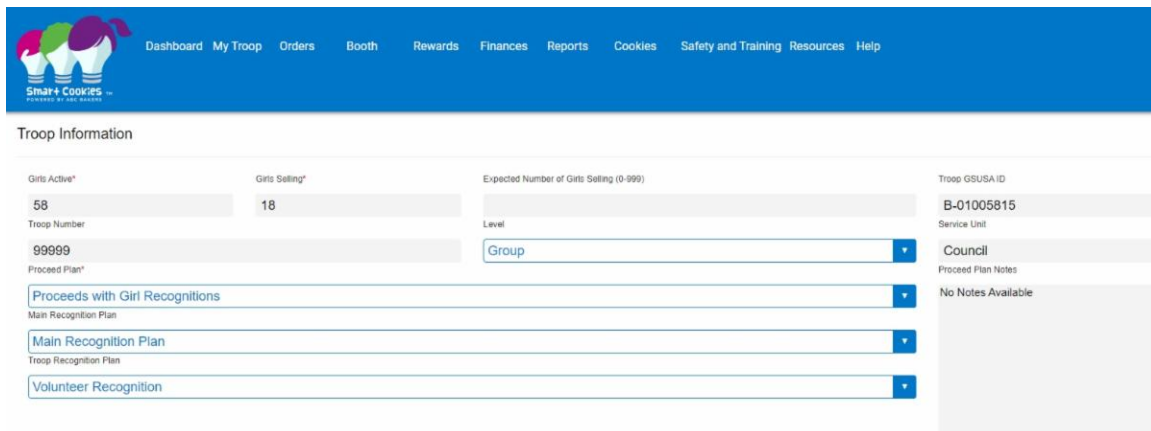
New this year: Girls and families attending the game at the Flying Squirrels will be invited to stay for a post-game kid-friendly movie with Kona Ice included.

Claim Your Cookie Oven Mitt!

Troops with a per girl average of 250 packages are eligible to earn two oven mitts. Follow the steps below to make sure you've placed your order.

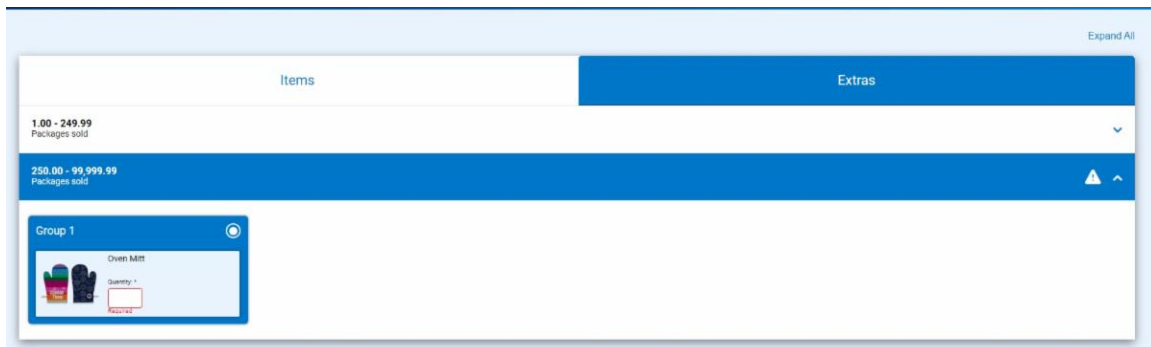
Log into Smart Cookies:

1. Click on My Troop/Troop Information
2. Make sure you have Proceed Plan, Main Recognition, and Volunteer Recognition showing
3. Go back to your dashboard and select Rewards
4. Under Rewards select Recognition Order
5. Choose Troop
6. Add 2 as the number of oven mitts your troop has earned. Two is the maximum
7. Click Save



The screenshot shows the Smart Cookies dashboard with a navigation menu at the top: Dashboard, My Troop, Orders, Booth, Rewards, Finances, Reports, Cookies, Safety and Training, Resources, Help. The main content area is titled "Troop Information" and contains several input fields and dropdown menus. The "Girls Active" field is set to 58, and "Girls Selling" is set to 18. The "Expected Number of Girls Selling (0-999)" field is empty. The "Troop Number" is 99999. The "Level" dropdown menu is set to "Group". The "Proceed Plan" dropdown menu is set to "Proceeds with Girl Recognitions". The "Main Recognition Plan" dropdown menu is set to "Main Recognition Plan". The "Troop Recognition Plan" dropdown menu is set to "Volunteer Recognition". The "Troop GSUSA ID" is B-01005815. The "Service Unit" field is empty. The "Council" dropdown menu is empty. The "Proceed Plan Notes" field contains "No Notes Available".

Select Troop from Drop Down



The screenshot shows the Smart Cookies dashboard with the "Rewards" section selected. The "Items" tab is active, and the "Extras" tab is also visible. The "Items" section shows a total of 1,002,249.99 packages sold. The "Extras" section shows a total of 250.00 - 99,999.99 packages sold. A "Group 1" dropdown menu is open, showing an "Oven Mitt" item with a quantity of 1 and a price of \$13.00.

Key Next Steps in the Cookie Program

As the Cookie Program winds down, there are several key steps that each troop needs to take.

Check your on-hand inventory.

- 1) Log in to Smart Cookies
- 2) Click on Reports
- 3) From the column on the left, choose Inventory & Delivery
- 4) From the column on the right, choose Troop On Hand Inventory
- 5) Click Go to Report, then View Report
- 6) This report shows the cookies your troop owns that have not yet been assigned to girls. This means no one is currently getting credit for those cookies.
- 7) The next step is to transfer those cookies to girls.

Program Events & Activities



2024 events are open for registration.
Sign up now!

**Program Events & Activities for all
Program Age Levels**

Daisy (D) grades K-1

Brownie (B) grades 2-3

Junior (J) grades 4-5

Cadette (C) grades 6-8

Senior (S) grades 9-10

Ambassador (A) grades 11-12

2024 GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship

Gold Award Girl Scouts can apply for a **\$5,000 scholarship!**



Girl Scout Gold Award recipients change the world every day, and now you can share a chance to change theirs. Encourage them to apply NOW!

Applications are OPEN and close on April 17, 2024.

One Gold Award Girl Scout per council will receive a \$5,000 scholarship!

Learn more and apply today. girlscouts.org/goldawardscholarship

Girl Scout Night at the FredNats

Fredericksburg Nationals

Girl Scout Night at the FredNats

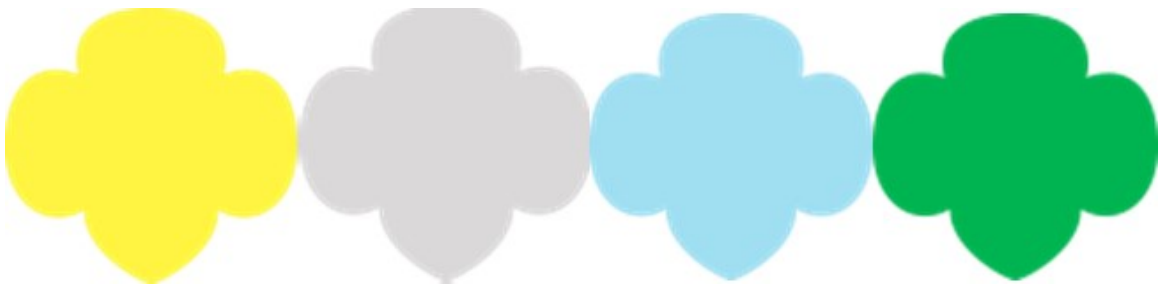
FredNats are Fredericksburg's newest team and an affiliate of the Washington Nationals. See you at the ball park!



Join us on Thursday, May 2nd for the Girl Scout Parade! The game begins at 7:05 P.M.

[Get Tickets](#)

Training Opportunities



April 28, 2024
Pamunkey Ridge

Archery Level I - course full

May 4, 2024
Pamunkey Ridge

Beginning Camping

May 12, 2024
Pamunkey Ridge

Archery Level I

June 6-7, 2024
Pamunkey Ridge
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Paddlesports training (canoe, kayak,
paddle board)

Open 24/7
on-demand



Questions about training? Need assistance registering for a training course?
Contact the GSCV help desk: gshelper@comgirlscouts.org



Beginning Camping training

****Time to train now if you are planning a fall camping adventure with your troop!****

Let's get your troop outside! The Beginning Camping course is designed for leaders and troops who have little camping experience and want to take their troop camping. Upon completion of this course, you will be certified to take your Girl Scout Troop on a camping trip in the backyard, in a permanent structure such as a cabin at a state park, or Girl Scout Camp. The course follows progression in the outdoors and is specifically designed for Daisy, Brownie and Junior Leaders. We can't wait to see you at training! This course takes place in a single day with a required prep video to watch prior to training. You will be sent the video after registration is completed and processed.

Beginning Camping Training:

May 4th | 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. | Camp Pamunkey Ridge
registration closes April 21, 2024

[Register here!](#)

Prepare to learn & aim for fun!



**Level 1 Archery Training
Sunday, May 12th
9:00a.m.- 4:00p.m. Camp
Pamunkey Ridge | \$40
Registration closes April 25th**

Archery is a Girl Scout staple and a confidence boosting experience for girls. The Level 1 Archery Training is for instructors and those interested in becoming an instructor. In this training you will become certified to bring this experience to girls in your troop, service unit, and special events! Adult instructors are required for Girl Scout archery activities.

Certification for GSCV's archery program is provided through USA Archery. USA Archery offers Level I Instructor courses in a blended learning format. Volunteers will need to complete the knowledge portion of the course online prior to completing the in-person session at Camp Pamunkey Ridge.

USA Archery Level I Instructor certification is a required course for volunteers who wish to teach beginning archery skills to Brownies through Ambassadors. In Level 1, participants learn about range safety, range setup, the steps of shooting, equipment, and equipment repair. Girls 16 years of age and older are welcome to participate. This USA Archery certification is valid for three years and renewable online through USA Archery.

Registration for USA Archery Level I starts at the link below. You will receive the information to complete the required online course, then attend the in-person course on Sunday, May 12th.

[Register for Archery Level I here!](#)



Paddlesports training (canoe, kayak, paddle board)

Thursday & Friday, June 6-7, 2024, at
Pamunkey Ridge Camp
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. (both days)

By taking the Canoe|Kayak|Paddle board Certification, you will become certified to bring this experience to girls in your troop, service unit, and special events! Certified adult instructors are required for Girl Scout canoeing, kayaking, and paddle boarding activities.

Space is limited, so be sure to register right away! You will receive an email from the trainer with details regarding what you will need to bring the day of the training.

Register today!

Limited space, registration closes Thursday, May 23rd.

Retail Shop

Earth Day is Monday, April 24th!

Earth Day is an annual celebration that honors the achievements of the environmental movement and raises awareness of the need to protect Earth's natural resources for future generations.

Here are a few simple things you can do to help protect the earth: clean up plastic in your local neighborhood or local park, conserve water, plant a tree, and Reduce, Reuse, & Recycle.



Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia

804-746-0590 • 800-4SCOUT4 toll-free

gshelper@comgirlscouts.org • www.comgirlscouts.org

office hours: Monday - Friday | 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

shop hours: Monday - Friday | 10:00 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.
Saturday | 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Sunday | closed

S'more News is an e-publication for troop leaders and other volunteers of Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia.



Girls and volunteers can text NEXT to 59618 to join!

Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia | 4900 Augusta Ave., Suite 200, Richmond, VA 23230

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