

S'more News

exclusively for leaders and volunteers

The GSCV office and retail shop will be closed
Thursday, May 4th and Friday, May 5th.
The staff will be offsite attending a staff retreat. We
apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



[Trouble viewing? Click here.](#)

April 26, 2023 Edition

In this issue

- Get Ready for Your Year of Fun!
- Cookie Program
- Program Events & Activities
- 2023 Summer Camp
- Feature Your Troop
- Voices Count Survey
- Cheers To Our Volunteers
- Training Opportunities
- GSCV Retail Shop

Thank you to Chesterfield County for the generous support of the Girl Scout Cookie Program. Girls from troop 409 met Chesterfield County Administrator Dr. Joseph Casey to assist in the delivery of cookies purchased for county employees.

Get Ready for Your Year of Fun!

Congratulations to Troop 5045 from Colonial Stafford! They've won the first drawing for a Troop Prize for Early Bird 2024, receiving a Tie-Dye Kit (with T-shirts) for the girls and Cookie-themed hoodies for the leaders.

A total of 35 troops qualified for the drawing by having 50% or more of their girls and at least 2 adults renewed for the 2024 Membership Year. To qualify for this week's drawing for a Troop Ice Cream Party, renew at least 70% of your troop girls

and 2 adults by this Friday!



Early Bird is April 10th - May 19th

Your Year of Friendship

- ✓ Cheer on your Troop's successes.
- ✓ Bond during a troop sleepover.
- ✓ Find new ways to spread joy.

Celebrate the big moments and look ahead to even more extraordinary ones with your Troop. Join us for another exciting year in Girl Scouts!

Renew between April 10th and May 19th to...

- Start planning ahead with your Girl Scout Troop.
- Get exclusive access to GSNV Events & Activities.
- Earn extra Girl Scout swag and gear for Camp.

Renew Today

girlscouts of the commonwealth of virginia

Renew now for Girl Scout membership year starting this fall!

Early Bird starts April 10th for Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia. You're going to love this year's Early Bird benefits! Renew between April 10th and May 19th for the next membership year that starts on Oct. 1, 2023.

This is a great way to use your troop's funds and secure your place in your troop.

Activities & Incentives for April 10th:

- The first 100 Girl Scouts who renew on the First Day (or before) will get a First Day patch.
- The first 10 Girl Scout troops (consisting of 3 girls & 2 adults) to renew 100% of their members will be given complimentary, early registration to a day event from the 2023 GSNV Events & Activities Guide.
- We will be on Facebook throughout the day to share our excitement for Early Bird with everyone!

For Girls:

- Girls secure their place in their troops for the next membership year.
- Early Bird patch for girls renewed between April 10th to May 19th.
- One-time 10% discount at the Retail Shop per girl renewed. (Expires on Sept. 30, 2023.)

For Troops:

- Early Bird Leaders head into summer knowing their girls will return in the fall and they can begin planning for the adventure ahead.
- One-time 15% discount at the Retail Shop for two leaders per troop who renew (exp. Sept. 30, 2023).
- Weekly Drawing for the Troop, every Friday from April 21-May 12.
- The Day Kit with cubies for the girls and Bookies for the Leaders. (For 50% or more renewal.)
- Ice Cream Party! Delivered by a staff member to your troop meeting. (For 70% or more renewal.)
- Choose a complimentary experience at Camp: Canoeing, At-Threshold, Tower Climbing, Archery. (For 90% or more renewal.)
- A Camping "Survival Kit" including a First Aid Kit, Propane Stove and propane canisters, Camp Tent, and Cooking Menu Kit. (For 100% renewal.)

For Service Units:

- Service Units receive \$1.25 for each girl who renews their membership during Early Bird.
- The Service Unit with the highest renewal rate of girl members by May 19, 2023, will receive first choice of weekend for Service Unit Camping for the 2023-24 Membership Year.

Renewing is Quick and Easy!

It's quick and easy to renew your entire troop. Visit www.girlscoutsofva.org and click the "My Girl Scout" link at the top of the page to login to your Girl Scout Account. Select "My Troop" to see a list of your current troop members. Scroll down through them, and with just a few clicks you can renew them all. Also, parents can take the same easy steps to renew their family members. Just select "My Household" in your Girl Scout Account to access all your family members and complete their renewals. Please visit our Early Bird Renewal page on our website for more details. Remember Pathway Passes earned during the 2023 Cookie Program can be used for Membership renewal.

girlscouts of the commonwealth of virginia

Overnight Contact the Help Desk: helpdesk@girlscoutsofva.org
 1-800-734-7634
www.girlscoutsofva.org
 1819 Sunrise Ave., 10th Fl.
 Richmond, VA 23220

Early Bird now for MY24

Early Bird is your first opportunity to renew your Girl Scout membership. Celebrate the big moments and look ahead to even more extraordinary ones with your troop. Join us for another exciting year at GSCV. You are going to love the benefits available for renewing your membership during Early Bird!

Amazing incentives are available throughout the Early Bird season from April 10th-May 19th.

- 1) Early Bird patch for every Girl Scout who renews.
 - 2) Discounts in the GSCV Retail Shop.
 - 3) Weekly drawings for troops that renew their memberships.
- And many more. See them all by clicking on the flyer or Early Bird patch.

...and the winners are!



Mechanicsville resident Narisa was one of our lucky winners of our 5 for 5 contest. Congratulations Narisa!



Ken was one of our lucky winners of our 5 for 5 contest. Congratulations Ken!

Cookie Rewards: here is what you need to know

Girls who sold 30-400 packages of cookies.

Rewards (including all patches) up to and including the t-shirt at the 400 level will be delivered to your local Service Unit Product Program Manager (SUPPM).

Normally it takes several weeks to deliver, so expect them in mid-to-late May. Once the SUPPMs have the rewards, they will contact troop leaders to arrange a pick-up or delivery time.



Girls who sold 500 or more packages of cookies

Pathway Passes will be mailed to girls' homes. If you have moved in the last year, please check your account in **MyGS to make sure your mailing address is correct**. Pathway Passes expire on Friday, September 30, 2023. Passes can be used to renew a girl's membership, to obtain discounts in the GSCV Retail Shop, or towards events and camp registration fees.

Girls who earned tickets and acorn bucks for the **Cookie Boss** event (500 packages or more) at the *Night at the Diamond* in Richmond or Fredericksburg Nationals have received an electronic invitation with information on how to RSVP. **Fredericksburg Nationals tickets have all been spoken for and no more are available.** Girls who did not earn the Cookie Boss event can still attend by purchasing tickets through Flying Squirrels or Nat's websites. The Fredericksburg Nationals game is on **Wednesday, May 3rd**. The Flying Squirrels game in Richmond is on **Friday, June 2nd**.

Girls who sold 750 or more packages of cookies

Girls who earned an invitation to the **Stellar Seller** event (750 Packages) have received an electronic invitation with information on how to RSVP. This event will be held at Camp Pamunkey Ridge on Sunday, June 4th.

Girls who earned the **Mini Instant Printer** will receive it at the Stellar Seller Event.

Girls earning the cookie-themed **Hoodie** will receive it with their patches and other rewards through their local SUPPM.

Girls who sold 1,000 or more packages

Girls who earned a Camp Session (1,000 packages or more) will receive an electronic invitation with instructions on how to register for camp.

Girls who earned the **Sports bag and Baseball hat** will receive them from their SUPPM.

Girls who earned a **Brick on Cookie Lane** will be able to view their brick at the Stellar Seller event on June 4th.

Girls who earned rewards at the 1,250 level and above will pick up their rewards at the Stellar Seller event on Sunday, June 4th. They will receive an electronic invitation with instructions on how to RSVP.

Girls who earned the **American Girl Doll** (1,250 packages) have received an electronic communication allowing the girl to select one of four doll choices. Girls who do not respond will receive the American Girl Doll of the Year.

Girls who earned the **Nike Air Force Ones or Fjallraven Backpack** will receive a gift card and instructions on how to purchase. The gift card will be handed out at the Stellar Seller event.

Girls who earned a **Kayak or Nintendo Switch Lite** will receive their reward at the Stellar Seller event June 4th.

Girls earning the **Rafting Adventure** will receive electronic communication to assist with arrangements.

Girls who received **Great Wolf Lodge** overnight will receive a gift card at the Stellar Seller event.

The **Volunteer Apron** for the troops that earned them (PGA of 200+) will be distributed with the other rewards through local Service Unit Product Program Manager.

The **Fall Product/Cookie Crossover patch** earned by girls who sent 15 emails during the Fall Product Program and sold at least 275 packages of cookies will be mailed directly to the girls' homes. You should expect this patch in June.



Program Events and Activities

Asian American Pacific Islander Fun Patch

May is Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month, an annual celebration of the achievements and contributions of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders in the United States. It's a time where we join in paying tribute to the generations of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who have enriched the history of the United States and are instrumental in its future success. Following are the many countries included in the Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month celebrations as defined by the U.S. Census Bureau.



⇒ East Asians refers to people from China in addition to Macau, Hong Kong, Korea, Japan, Okinawa, Taiwan, and Mongolia.

⇒ South Asians refers to people from the following countries: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Ethnic groups include Sindhi, Gujarati, Punjabi, Tamil, and many others.

⇒ Southeast Asians refers to people from the following countries and ethnic groups: Burma, Brunei, Cambodia (Khmer, Cham, KhmerLoeu), Indonesia, Laos (Hmong, Lao, Lao Loum, Iu Mien, Khmu, Tai Dam, Tai Leu, and many other ethnic groups), Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Philippines, and Vietnam (Vietnamese, Khmer Kampuchea Krom, Montagnards).

⇒ Pacific Islanders refers to those whose origins are the original peoples of Polynesia, Micronesia, and Melanesia. Polynesia includes Hawaii, Samoa, American Samoa, Tokelau, Tahiti, and Tonga. Micronesia includes Guam, Mariana Islands, Saipan, Palau, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Marshall Islands, and Kiribati. Melanesia includes Fiji (Fijian), Papau New Guinea, Solomon Islands, and Vanuatu.

We've got plenty of activities for you to choose from as you join the AAPI Heritage Month celebration this May so stick around for weekly options from the [patch program](#)!

READY. SET. RALLY. 110

The countdown is on for GSCV's 110 Rally! Bring your water bottle, your siblings, parents, and your troop to Pamunkey Ridge Girl Scout Camp on June 10th to celebrate our council's 110th anniversary. Come ready to sing along, trade S.W.A.P.S., and have some good Ol' Girl Scout fun!



P.S. Don't forget your sunscreen!

[Register here](#) for the 110 rally and visit the [110th Anniversary page](#) on the GSCV website for more information.

The weather is warming up and May is just around the corner. Don't miss your chance to attend our ultra fun events. Be sure to sign up soon!

- [5/13 - Birds of Kerr Reservoir \(D, B, J, C\)](#)
- [5/13 - George Washington Foundation \(B\)](#)
- [5/13 - Brownie Archery Day - 10:00 a.m. \(B\)](#)
- [5/13 - Brownie Archery Day - 1:00 p.m. \(B\)](#)
- [5/13 - Senior Climb On \(S\)](#)
- [5/13 - Ambassador Climb On \(A\)](#)
- [5/19-5/21 - Service Weekend at Camp Kitty \(D, B, J, C, S, A\)](#)
- [5/20 - I-Spy: Virginia's Hidden Histories \(J\)](#)
- [5/20 - I-Spy: Virginia's Hidden Histories \(C\)](#)



Girl Scout Program Age levels welcome to register for each program activity featured are indicated by a letter for the level.

- D - Girl Scout Daisy (K-1)
- B - Girl Scout Brownie (2-3)
- J - Girl Scout Junior (4-5)
- C - Girl Scout Cadette (6-8)
- S - Girl Scout Senior (9-10)
- A - Girl Scout Ambassador (11-12)

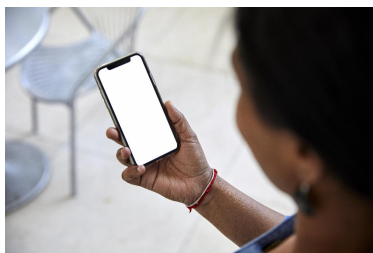
2023 Summer Camp

Summer Camp registration is open!

2023 is here and you know what that means – camp season is fast approaching! We are excited to share with you the [2023 Camp Book](#), filled with exciting new offerings and classic camp fun. As you plan your summer break this year, consider giving the gift of summer camp! Each session is a chance for campers to learn new skills, make new friends, and gain self-confidence all while having boatloads of unplugged fun in the great outdoors.



Feature Your Troop on Social Media



Want to see your Girl Scout Troop featured on our social media? Share your photos with us! We know Girl Scouts in our Council are making MAJOR waves in their community, and we're excited to show the world just what a girl can do. Send in your photos with a short description, and we'll spread the love on our Facebook & Instagram.

Submit all photos to Jenna Joyner, our new Director of Marketing & Communications, at jjoyner@comgirlscouts.org

See you over on the 'gram!

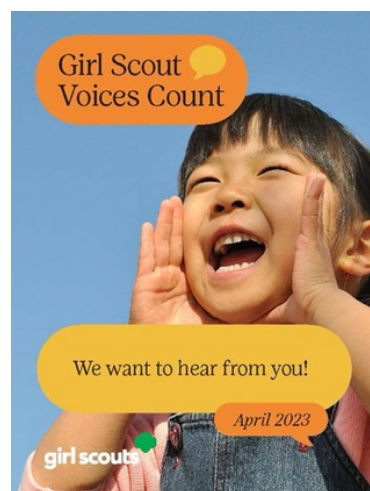
Girl Scout Voices Count survey is here!

You spoke. We listened.

Last year, nearly 100,000 members completed our annual Girl Scout Voices Count survey to tell us about their experiences in Girl Scouts. Your feedback is used to make national programs more engaging, inclusive, and hands-on, and to create new resources to support troop leaders. Your voice matters and makes Girl Scouts better for everyone—so we want to hear from you!

In April, we'll be conducting our Girl Scout Voices Count national survey of Girl Scouts, parents/caregivers, and troop leaders (service unit volunteers will be surveyed in May). The feedback you provide is so important as it helps us improve Girl Scouts programs and services.

The surveys have been sent to your email. Be sure to check your email for an invitation to participate. We're looking forward to hearing from you! If you have any questions, please email GSVoicesCount@girlscouts.org



Cheers To Our Volunteers



Come and enjoy a different type of craft with us

We are excited to host events at two locations for our volunteers to drop in, enjoy a beverage with friends and staff. Please attend the location and date that will work best for you. **Kindly RSVP** to this **adult only function** by filling out the form linked [here](#) by





Training Opportunities

June 8-9, 2023
Pamunkey Ridge
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Paddlesports training (canoe, kayak, paddle board)
Registration closes Friday, May 26th.

Archery Level I - one day course
Archery Level 2 - two day course

Dates for these courses are coming soon!
Watch S'more News right here in the training opportunities column for course details and registration.

September 29-30, 2023
Pamunkey Ridge

TREK Weekend 2023
Watch S'more News for workshop details and registration.

Open 24/7
on-demand



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

Paddlesports training (canoe, kayak, paddle board)

Thursday & Friday, June 8-9, 2023, 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 Friday, May 26th.



Join us for a **TREK Through Georgia** at Pamunkey Ridge Girl Scout Camp!

- Learn about The Birthplace, Girl Scout travel and more
- Experience the highlights of camp
- Network with fellow leaders
- Take away new troop ideas

This adult-only training weekend is for new and seasoned leaders alike. Make memories and new friends. Do not miss out on this weekend of fun!



Join us for TREK Weekend 2023!
Friday, September 29, 6:00 p.m. (optional overnight)
Saturday, September 30, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
\$40 (includes meals, class supplies, and event patch)
Watch S'more News for list of classes and registration link.



TREK Weekend 2023...save the date! September 29-30, 2023

TREK Weekend is for volunteers, by volunteers. Our theme this year is *TREK Through Georgia*, held at Pamunkey Ridge Girl Scout Camp. So, save the date and join us for exciting Girl Scout leader focused workshops, a chance to explore Pamunkey Ridge Camp, and a Georgia inspired menu. This adult only weekend is just for you! Watch S'more News for more details and the link to register.

Congratulations Girl Scout graduates!



Personalize your graduation day look with a finishing touch that represents all the

adventures and achievements of your Girl Scout experience. Shop in store or online at

girlscoutshop.com

The graduation cord is \$31.00, and the Tassel is 15.00.

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!