

S'more News

exclusively for leaders and volunteers



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**February 28, 2024
Edition**

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2024 Cookie Program



First Troop Cookie Payment

Your troop's first payment for cookies will be drafted from your troop bank

account on Wednesday, March 13th.

The Smart Cookies system calculates the payment amount by pulling the balance due from your initial order placed in January and subtracting the amount of money that was collected electronically from online payments. The balance is split in half for this first payment. Two days prior to the draft, you will receive an email detailing the amount to be drafted. If your troop is unable to accommodate the scheduled draft, please notify the help desk at gshelper@comgirlscouts.org or by calling (804)746-0590 x316 **no later than Tuesday, March 12th by 10:00 A.M.**

If your troop currently doesn't have a Girl Scout bank account, please let us know by emailing the Help Desk at gshelper@comgirlscouts.org or calling (804) 746-0590 x316.

Special Leap Year Cookie Promotion on February 29th

One extra day in 2024 means everyone will need extra cookies!

Any girl selling 29 or more packages of cookies through direct ship or girl delivery on Thursday, February 29th will be entered into a drawing for an axolotl charm and bracelet from Charm IT.

Thirty girl winners will be chosen at random among those who qualify. Remember: at the 115 reward level, you can add your second axolotl charm hugging its favorite cookie, the Lemonade.

Winners will be announced in March.



Looking for Cookie Training? A recorded version of our online cookie training is available on our website under Helpful Videos: [For Volunteers | Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia \(comgirlscouts.org\)](https://www.comgirlscouts.org)



Parent/Guardian agreement
(pdf option)

Don't forget to have the parents/caregivers in your troop sign the parent/guardian agreement.

Keep these on file for your troop and only submit if there is an outstanding balance at the end of the program.

Parent/Guardian agreement
(digital option - complete online)



Correction in the *How to Guide for Troop Leaders and Troop Cookie Managers*

Under Options for customers on page 9 in the guide it refers to being able to order online and pay at the time of delivery. This season all cookies ordered online will be paid for at the time of the order. The only orders that are not paid for at the time of ordering are the orders taken on the hard copy order card.

VOTE: Bling Your Booth!



Our first entry into the 2024 #BlingYourBooth Contest is Girl Scout Troop 1220! ☐

They kicked off their first cookie booth at Petersburg Trading with this super fun Cookie Hut theme.

Girl Scouts are getting creative with their booths, and we want to celebrate some of our superstar troops with cookie merch and spotlights on our social media channels.

TO ENTER THE #BLINGYOURBOOTH CONTEST:

- Decide on a fun theme for your cookie booths.
- Snap photos of your troop and their creative booth in action.
- Submit photos to our Director of Marketing, Janna Joyner, at jjoyner@comgirlscouts.org.
- Photos will be shared on our Facebook page and in S'more News.
- Have friends and family vote on your troop's photo by "Liking" it on Facebook.
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place prizes will go to the photos with the most likes.

Winners will be selected on Wednesday, March 20th.

Sweet Success: Share the Impact of Your Girl Scout Cookie Proceeds



Have a unique idea for how to use your Cookie proceeds? Share your plans with us! We are thrilled to announce an exciting new initiative that celebrates the incredible impact your hard work during the Girl Scout Cookie Program can have on your communities and personal growth. We invite all troops and individual girls to share their stories of how they are using their Girl Scout Cookie proceeds to make a positive impact.

Whether it's giving back to the community, supporting Gold Award projects, or engaging in other meaningful initiatives, we want to celebrate your efforts. Starting on March 10th, coinciding with the beginning of Girl

Scout Week, simply **fill out this submission form** detailing your troop or individual contributions and provide any supporting materials. The form will be open until April 10th.

Three outstanding troops or individuals will be honored at our "Inspired by a Girl" ceremony.

We believe *every* Girl Scout has the power to create positive change, and we can't wait to hear about the incredible ways you're making a difference. Thank you for being a part of this inspiring journey!

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

Girl Scout Week: March 10-16, 2024



In honor of the anniversary of the founding of Girl Scouts on March 12, 1912, we've got 12 fun ways to celebrate. One day just isn't enough! Celebrate with us all week, from March 10th through 16th.

Spirit Week

1. Sunday: Faith-Filled Sunday

Faith is not just a word; it's at the core of our Girl Scouting journey, instilled in us since the founding of the organization in 1912. Wear your Girl Scout uniform proudly as you attend a religious service, symbolizing our unity in faith and service. Collaborate with your house of worship to actively contribute to the **week's worship service**, embodying the Girl Scout promise. Take this opportunity to explore and work towards earning the **"My Promise/My Faith"** Girl Scout pin, delving into the rich connections between your faith and the principles of Girl Scouting. And let's extend the spirit of service by participating in a service project that supports members of our religious community. Let Faith-Filled Monday be a day of unity, reflection, and Girl Scout values shining bright. *Inserts for worship service bulletins are available from the Council office upon request.*

Girl Scout Sunday: March 10, 2024

Girl Scout Jummah: March 15, 2024

Girl Scout Sabbath/Shabbat: March 15-16, 2024

2. Monday: Cookie Costume Day

Dress up in costumes inspired by your favorite Girl Scout Cookies. Whether it's a Thin Mint fairy, a Peanut Butter Sandwich superhero, a Toast-Yay cheerleader, or an Adventurous explorer, this day will be filled with sweet and imaginative outfits.

3. Tuesday: Birthday Bash

Let's turn March 12th into a fantastic Birthday Bash Spirit Day to celebrate the founding of the Girl Scouts! Wear your Girl Scout gear, troop colors, or anything that sparkles with Girl Scout pride. Create birthday-themed accessories, like DIY crowns or party hats! You could even host your own birthday party, complete with cake decorating, games, and of course, singing Happy Birthday to the Girl Scouts.

4. Wednesday: Wacky Hair Day

Show off your wild and wacky hairstyles! Use colorful hair accessories or even temporary hair color to express your creativity.

5. Thursday: Eras Day

Did you know Taylor Swift was a Girl Scout? On this day, celebrate both the timeless charm of Taylor Swift's music and the rich history of Girl Scouts. Pick a Girl Scout era that resonates with you – from the vintage uniforms of the past to the modern styles of today! Just like Taylor Swift's musical evolution, Girl Scouts have their own unique journeys through the different Girl Scout eras.

6. Friday: Axolotl Adventure Day

Channel your inner axolotl spirit by wearing shades of pink and sporting

axolotl-themed accessories, like headbands or pins! Get creative by hosting your own Axolotl Art Contest, where you can showcase your artistic talents in drawing, painting, or crafting axolotl-inspired masterpieces.

More Ways to Celebrate Girl Scout Week

Girl Scout Week Shop Discount Drawing

Is your troop hosting a cookie booth during Girl Scout Week? If so, you will be automatically entered into a drawing for a GSCV Shop discount. Booths must be approved in Smart Cookies or be a Council Sponsored Booth.

Speaking of booths, **on February 28th at 6:00 P.M., the number of council sponsored booths will become unlimited.** Your troop can sign up for as many council sponsored booths as possible.

- Five lucky troops will win a one-time 30% discount for the GSCV Shop, to be used by May 31st, 2024.
- Another five troops will win a one-time 15% discount for the GSCV shop to be used by May 31st, 2024.

Speaking of Cookie Booths during Girl Scout Week...

All troops hosting two cookie booths on March 9th through March 17th will be automatically entered into a drawing for a pizza and movie night! Five lucky troops will win pizza and a list of recommended Girl Scout-themed movies to stream.

You'll need cookies for those booths!

If your troop is placing a planned order of 100 or more cases the week of March 10th-16th, sit back and relax; we will have them delivered to you.

First Cookie Booth?

Attention all new troops! If this is your FIRST season participating in the Girl Scout Cookie Program, send us a photo of your troop at their booth and we will send you a free "My First Cookie Booth" patch.

Send photos to jjoyner@comgirlscouts.org. Be sure to include the best mailing address for the troop and the number of girls participating in the Cookie Program.

Share your Girl Scout pride with the world.

Post on Instagram detailing the impact Girl Scouting has had on your life and tag [@girlscoutsofva](https://www.instagram.com/girlscoutsofva). Two girl winners will receive a Girl Scout backpack.

**Girls under the age of 13 should work with a parent or guardian to post on social media.*

Girl Scout Science Day at VCU



WOMEN IN SCIENCE @ VCU PRESENTS



GIRL SCOUT SCIENCE DAY



We're introducing young women to an array of exciting career possibilities in the sciences through a fun-filled day of hands-on workshops, facilitated by **REAL** scientists!

Date: Saturday, March 16th, 2024

Time: 9 A.M. - 2 P.M.

Cost: \$20 for Girls & Adults (Lunch Included)

Location: Sanger Hall

Medical College of Virginia (MCV) Campus

Virginia Commonwealth University

1101 East Marshall Street

Parking: Visitor Parking Deck @ 529 N. 12th street

Girl Scout Science Day Stations May Include:

- **Make no bones about it:** Construct bones and perform a 3-point stress test to see how they break!
- **How the brain works:** Analyze real brain samples for disease and learn what areas of the brain control what human activity!
- **Crime scene investigation:** Learn about forensic science and investigate a crime scene!
- **Clinical lab sciences:** Look at different specimens, blood smears, and parasites under the microscope!
- **DNA structure and function:** Learn about the molecule that makes us all unique - DNA - and even extract some to take home!

Register Today!

GSCV Scholarship Registration is Now Open!



Calling all exceptional Girl Scout Ambassadors!

Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia is delighted to offer \$1,000 scholarships to graduating seniors who embody the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and have demonstrated outstanding leadership in our organization, academia, and their communities.

Eligibility Criteria:

- Registered member of Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia for a minimum of three consecutive years, including the current membership year.
- Graduating high school senior with a minimum GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale.
- Planning to attend an institute of higher education, such as a college, university, business school, trade school, or technical school.

Key Details:

- Application deadline: Sunday, March 3rd at 11:59pm.

Don't miss this fantastic opportunity to support your academic journey! Take the first step towards a brighter future. The link to the application is below. Good luck to all aspiring Girl Scout leaders!

Questions? Contact our Director of Program, Cierra Hall, at [**chall@comgirlscouts.org**](mailto:chall@comgirlscouts.org).

Apply Today

Training Opportunities

March 9, 2024
Pamunkey Ridge

Outdoor Cooking

March 23, 2024
Pamunkey Ridge

Beginning Camping

April 28, 2024
Pamunkey Ridge

Archery Level I

September 27-28, 2024
Pamunkey Ridge

TREK Weekend

Open 24/7
on-demand



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

Girl Scout Outdoor Cooking Course

Have you ever cooked in
a box oven?

Saturday, March 9, 2024
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Camp Pamunkey Ridge
Cost: \$10.00
Registration closes March 1,
2024

Tired of cooking the same old meals each time your troop goes camping? Join experienced GSCV Outdoor Trainers for a day of cooking and eating! You will have the opportunity to try out a variety of cooking techniques, as well as sample what you cook. Included will be the use of a Dutch Oven, Box Oven, Foil Packs, Stick Cooking, as well as just-for-fun methods such as baking rolls in a flowerpot. Participants will receive copies of recipes cooked during the session.

Please note that course participation space is limited, so please consider one



adult volunteer from your troop attending.

[Register here!](#)



Beginning Camping training

Girl Scouts are ready to go camping, are you?

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:

March 23rd | 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. | Camp Pamunkey Ridge
registration closes March 9, 2024

[Register here!](#)

Are you ready to hit the mark?

Level 1 Archery Training
Sunday, April 28th
9:00a.m.- 4:00p.m. Camp
Pamunkey Ridge | \$40



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, April 28th.

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

TREK Weekend 2024... Save the Date!



September 27-28, 2024

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.

Retail Shop

Girl Scout Week is March 10-16th!

This exciting annual event builds on the rich history of the Girl Scouts, and girls will want to show their Girl Scout pride!

Place your order in time for Girl Scout Week!



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!

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