

S'more News

exclusively for leaders and volunteers

The GSCV Office & Shop will be closed Monday, January 15, 2024, in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day.



Got Digital Cookie questions?
Our expert Axolotl is ready with answers
in this edition of
S'more News.



[Trouble viewing? Click here.](#)

January 10, 2024
Edition

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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

We're going to... Wintergreen!

Grab your snow gear and get ready
for two exciting sessions on The
Plunge, the ultimate snow tubing
experience, on **Monday**,

February 19, 2024.

Bus pickup will be at our Service Center, 4900 Augusta Avenue, at 9:30 a.m. You'll arrive back safely by 6:30 p.m.

After conquering The Plunge, we'll refuel with lunch in a cozy area near the slopes. Following our action-packed day, the bus will safely bring you back to our Service Center by 6:30 p.m.



Don't miss out on this action-packed day and frosty-fun opportunity to make the most of the winter season with your Girl Scout friends. Reserve your spot now and let the winter adventure begin!

Tickets are \$80 per person. This includes a spot on a Passenger Coach Bus and two tubing sessions.

We ask that you bring your own lunch. Snacks will be provided.

Registration is currently OPEN and closes on February 1st, 2024.

This event is open to Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors. This is not a drop-off event.

[Register Here!](#)

Real-Life Academy: What to Do When You Get Pulled Over?



You see the red and blue lights in your rearview mirror. How do you stay calm?

Register for this virtual Real-Life Academy to hear from an officer from the Chesterfield Police Department, the Chief Judge of the Chesterfield Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, and our very own Erin Ranney, a criminal and traffic defense attorney.

You won't want to miss this!

This event is taking place virtually on January 16th, 2024 from 6:00pm-7:00pm.

[Register Here!](#)

Congratulations to Perly C., a Brownie Girl Scout from Troop 377, for being the second winner in our Fall Product Program magazine contest. Perly was thrilled to take this giant Ocelot home with her!



2024 Cookie Program



Digital Cookie Q&A

A friend purchased cookies from my daughter, and they received an email saying the cookies would be ready for delivery March 2nd. Why is that the date in the email when we are picking up cookies in mid- February?

When a customer purchases cookies through the Digital Cookie site, they receive an email telling them the cookies will be available for delivery March 2nd or 3rd. Most likely, you will have your cookies in-hand prior to that date since the cookie deliveries and drive thru will be happening mid-February. The system naturally adds two weeks to the deliveries date to give girls enough time to secure cookies from the troop leadership. Girls and parents can let customers know if they plan to deliver the cookies

prior to that date.

My troop is showing as opting out of rewards in Digital Cookie, but we want the rewards and are too young to opt out.

Troops Cadette-Ambassador who want to opt out of cookie rewards will need to do that through Smart Cookies under the Troop Information tab. Because GSCV is not using the rewards portion of Digital Cookie this year (we are waiting on some improvements), all troops show in Digital Cookie as having opted out. It simply means the Council has opted out of the rewards tab, not that the troop has opted out of rewards.

When I try to use the mobile app I'm getting an error message. What am I doing wrong?

In order for the mobile app to work, the troop must first set up its virtual booth in Digital Cookie. Once this is completed, the app will allow troops to take orders and collect payments through the mobile app.

For more information on setting up your troop virtual booth, check out [this helpful tip sheet](#).

For more information on setting up the mobile app, check out [this tip sheet](#).

Placing the Initial Cookie Order

Parents/caregivers will have until January 21st to enter their Girl Scout's in-person orders in Digital Cookie. In some cases, the Troop Leader may have asked them not to enter them and have a different system for collecting that information. If parents are entering orders, they should follow the steps outlined in [this helpful tip sheet](#).

As a reminder, they are only entering orders from the order card and not entering orders purchased through Digital Cookie, as those cookies are already accounted for and paid for.

Troop Leaders and Troop Cookie Managers will have until January 25th to either edit, approve, or enter orders. Once the troop order is correct, they will slide the Ready for Review button and the order will be submitted. Remember: this portion of the ordering will be completed in Smart Cookies and the cookies girls have sold through Digital Cookie (that are paid for) will automatically populate in a special column. Once all girls' orders are complete, the troop leader will slide the Ready for Review button, and in some cases, select the cookie drive-thru time and location for pick up.

General Cookie Questions

Cookies & Social Media

Our social media guidelines have evolved over the past few years as new tools are available for girls to use. With the addition of troop links and girl links, it's become rather confusing. Consider the guidelines below when wondering what can be posted where.

- **Girl Links**- This is a direct link to a specific girl's orders. These can be posted on social media, but **only to family and friends**. This allows people your family has a personal relationship with to order cookies directly from your daughter.

- **Troop Links**- This is a direct link to a troop's order and benefits the entire troop, not one specific girl. These can be posted on social media to **family and friends**. For example, a Troop Leader without a daughter in the troop may want to share this link. Remember, after the sale, the cookies need to be allocated to a girl in the troop to get credit.

- **Booth Sales**- Can be posted to public sites if it's simply informative. Posting links to virtual booths in public groups (such as a neighborhood or PTA group) is not allowed, but you can let them know about an upcoming cookie booth.

Cookie Booths –Smart Cookies

Are you scheduling booths on your own for your troop? Remember to enter those in Smart Cookies so they will show up on the Cookie Finder app. Listing them in Smart Cookies enables your troop to use Smart Cookie credit card processing for electronic payments at your booth. When scheduling your troop's booths, keep in mind this guidance from Girl Scouts of the USA:

"Certain locations may be inappropriate for young girls based on the standards of your local community, may negatively impact the cookie program experience for girls, and/or may negatively impact our brand in your community. For clarity, girls should not sell in or in front of establishments that they themselves cannot legally patronize."

For this reason, GSCV does not approve cookie booths at breweries, wineries, and dispensaries.

To enter your troop's secured booth in Smart Cookies, follow the steps below:

- Log into Smart Cookies
- Click on Booth at the top of your dashboard
- Click on Troop Secured Booths
- Enter the location with the complete address
- Enter the day and time of the booth
- Click Save

These booths will need to be approved by a member of the GSCV staff before they show in the Cookie Finder app or as a booth in your troop listing. Booths are approved weekly prior to cookies arriving and daily once booth season begins.

The first come, first serve cookie booths will go live in Smart Cookies on January 22 at 7pm for all troops. We will continue to add more booth locations as they become available so be sure to check back with Smart Cookies regularly. Initially we will limit troops to one booth so everyone has a chance of getting one. Later in the program we will expand the number of booths a troop can sign up for as we add more opportunities.

To register for one of these booths, follow the steps below:

- **Log into Smart Cookies**
- Click on Booth at the top of your dashboard
- Click on Schedule Booth
- Select a booth out of the available opportunities

Below is an update on the status of some of our community partners and cookie booths.


Stores Troops Can Contact to set up cookie booths	Stores who are currently not allowing booths to be scheduled – Troops should not contact them	Stores working with the council for booth opportunities- Troops should not contact them
Kroger (except Willow Lawn)	Wawa	Walmart
Dunkin Donuts	Kohls	GNC
Sam's Club	Target	Food Lion
Tractor Supply	Publix	Willow Lawn Shopping Center

Opting out of Cookie Rewards – Older Girl Troops Only

If your troop is made up of just Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors, and your girls have decided to opt out of recognitions, it is important you do this prior to placing your initial order. Follow these steps to complete this process:

- On your Troop Dashboard, click on My Troop
- Click on Troop Information
- Click on Main Recognition Plan and choose Opt Out. This will change to opt out in both the main recognition line and the troop recognition line.
- If Opt Out doesn't appear and you can't make the choice, it may mean your troop isn't strictly older girls and is not eligible to opt out, or you may have already created a recognition order and will need the Help Desk to assist you. You can contact the Help Desk at gshelper@comgirlscouts.org

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 \(comgirlscouts.org\)](#)



[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.



Celebrate Cookie Season in style with our cool new phone backgrounds! Jazz up your device with images of the cookies that change the world.

[Download them here.](#)

Training Opportunities

January 20, 2024
Chester, VA

Growing Up WILD and Flying WILD

March 9, 2024
Pamunkey Ridge

Outdoor Cooking

Open 24/7
on-demand

gsLearn 

Coming Soon!

Archery training

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



Looking for activities that enhance and support the outdoor and environmental badges?

If so, join us for a hands-on training session. Leaders attending will receive personal copies of both Flying WILD and Growing up WILD activity



guides from the Virginia Department of Wildlife Resources.

**Saturday, January 20, 2024
9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.**

**Chester United Methodist Church
12132 Percival St, Chester, VA 23831**

Registration closes Friday, January 12, 2024

The Flying WILD guide contains 43 activities about birds, their habitat and issues facing birds worldwide. The guide includes activities suitable for developing a Wide Game based on birds. Growing Up WILD contains 27 activities that include crafts and songs on a wide range of wildlife species and their habitats. The Growing Up WILD program is perfect for Daisy and Brownie leaders and is a useful resource for Junior and other levels.

This workshop is suitable for Daisy through Ambassador Leaders. Participants must attend the entire workshop to receive the guides. Please bring a bag lunch | Minimum 12 – Maximum 25
Cost: \$5.00 to offset cost of supplies

[Register here!](#)

Girl Scout Outdoor Cooking course

Calling all Girl Scout culinary pioneers - what will your troop cook for dinner at your next camping adventure?

**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!](#)

Feature Your Troop on Social Media!

**WE WANT TO FEATURE YOUR
GIRL SCOUT TROOP ON OUR
SOCIAL MEDIA!**



Has your Girl Scout troop completed a project, taken a trip, or done something worthy of a shout out? Let us know!

**We're looking for more
incredible Girl Scouts to feature
on our social media.**

Submit your photos and a short description to our **Janna Joyner** at jjoyner@comgirlscouts.org. We can't wait to feature them!

Retail Shop



January is all about Cookie, Cold Weather, and Back to Basics!

Time to purchase cold weather accessories and basic Girl Scout items that are great for wearing at Cookie Booths with uniforms.

Shop Cold Weather Essentials Now!

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
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