

# S'more News

exclusively for leaders and volunteers



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



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**January 17, 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024.

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

[Register Here!](#)

## World Thinking Day 2024



### World Thinking Day 2024 Activity Guide

Our World, Our Thriving Future:  
The environment and global poverty

Fun activities for Girl Scout Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors.

On February 22 of each year, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides celebrate World Thinking Day. Each year has its own theme, such as helping the environment, fighting poverty, achieving gender equality, or making sure everyone has access to education. On this day, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere will honor their global community by doing activities around this special theme.

Here are the four steps to earn your World Thinking Day award.

1. Explore World Thinking Day.
2. Experience World Thinking Day with purpose.
3. Investigate this year's World Thinking Day theme.
4. Share what you learned and commit to a better future.

Ready to think big and explore meaningful issues in your community and beyond? Get started with our World Thinking Day Facilitator Guide!

[Download the Guide](#)

## 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. Since we are picking up cookies in mid-February, why are customers being given a March delivery date?*

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](#).

***How will troops take payment at booths this year?***

Girls will be able to take payment at booths using the Digital Cookie mobile app, but only if the booth is added to the Smart Cookies system. Girls can also take orders for individual sales using the mobile app.

***I can't pick up my cookies the day that the drive-thru is going to be held. What should I do?***

If you are picking up your cookies at one of the three drive-thru locations February 15th, 16th, or 17th, you have several options.

- You can choose to come to any of the three locations that best meet your needs.
- You can have a parent or Troop Cookie Manager pick up the cookies on behalf of your troop.
- If you still don't have any way of getting the cookies, please contact our HelpDesk, at [gshelper@comgirlscouts.org](mailto:gshelper@comgirlscouts.org) and they will connect you with someone who can arrange to meet you at our warehouse in Chesterfield the following week to pick up your cookies.

## **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, Troop Leaders or parents 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. Troop leaders will see a screen like the sample below detailing the girl initial order (not yet paid for) and her girl delivery orders (already paid for). 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 button saying Ready for Review, and in some cases, select the cookie drive-thru time and location for pick up.

Below is a sample screen for Troop Leaders placing or reviewing a girl's initial order.

Flows automatically from parent manual entry in DC. This amount can be changed by the troop leader in SC. These fields are editable.

Flows automatically from DC pre-orders

Item	Inv. Pkgs	Pre Sale Pkgs	Total Pkgs
Cookie Share	0	0	0
Adventurefuls	0	0	0
Toast-Yay	0	0	0
Lemonades	0	0	0
Tie-Die	0	0	0
Thin Mints	10	120	130
Peanut Butter Patties	10	0	10
Caramel deLites	0	0	0
Peanut Butter Sandwich	0	0	0
Caramel Chocolate Chip	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>140</b>

## 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 <b>Troops Can Contact</b> to set up cookie booths	Stores who are currently not allowing booths to be scheduled – <b>Troops should not contact them</b>	Stores working with the council for booth opportunities- <b>Troops should not contact them</b>
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](mailto:gshelper@comgirlscouts.org)

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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 \(comgirlscouts.org\)](#)

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**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.

**2024 Cookie Phone Backgrounds are Here!**



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

March 9, 2024  
Pamunkey Ridge

Outdoor Cooking

April 28, 2024  
Pamunkey Ridge

Archery Level I

Open 24/7  
on-demand

gsLearn 

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

### 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!](#)

## **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!](#)

**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 **Janna Joyner** at **[jjoyner@comgirlscouts.org](mailto:jjoyner@comgirlscouts.org)**. We can't wait to feature them!

## Retail Shop



### **Carrying cookie boxes can be a balancing act!**

This cart is a safer, easier solution to balancing stacks of boxes. Designed just for Girl Scout cookie boxes, it's great for cookie delivery, secure restocking, or transporting to your booth. Heavy-duty polyester cookie tote slips onto the cart frame and Velcro into place. The cart features clear vinyl with a double zip opening on the side and multiple pockets with side pockets and a large back pocket.

**Grab Your Cart Today!**

**Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia**

804-746-0590 • 800-4SCOUT4 toll-free

[gshelper@comgirlscouts.org](mailto:gshelper@comgirlscouts.org) • [www.comgirlscouts.org](http://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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23230

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