

# S'more News

exclusively for leaders and volunteers



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**March 27, 2024  
Edition**

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## **2024 Cookie Program**



## **Extension of the 2024 Cookie Program**

**Based on popular request, we've extended the**

# Cookie Program through April 8th.

## What does this mean for you?

- Troops will have one additional week to host cookie booths and use the credit card function in the Digital Cookie app. Make sure those booths are submitted in Smart Cookies and approved ahead of time.
- Girls who haven't yet reached their goals will have the ability to pick up additional cookies and reach the goal they aspired to.
- Troop Leaders have until April 10th to ensure the girl rewards are correct in the Smart Cookies system.
- The second ACH on April 5th will still take place with an additional one for any troop extending their sale to take place on April 18th.
- If your troop has completed its cookie program, there's no need to do anything additional. You have the ability to turn off your girl delivered orders in Digital Cookie.
- The majority of our cookie cupboards will remain in operation for one additional week, giving troops the ability to pick up additional cookies through the first week in April. Call to check on the availability of cookies at your local cupboard.
- The GSCV cookie cupboard located at Augusta Avenue will be open this Saturday, March 30th from 9am-noon and will be open Tuesday - Friday April 2nd-5th from 10am-6pm. The Whitepine cookie cupboard located at Dunmar Moving and Storage will be open Tuesday, April 2nd from 3-5pm and Friday, April 5th from 2-5 pm.

## Cookie Rewards



### Introducing two additional rewards:

Any girl who sells 50 packages or more between March 31st and April 8th will be entered into a drawing for a 3-foot stuffed axolotl.

Any girl who sells at least 25 packages (in the total sale) in the **care to share** category will be entered into a drawing for a 3-foot stuffed axolotl.

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## **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.

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## **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 5th.

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## **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.

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## **Final ACH Cookie Payment**

The second draft will take place on Friday, April 5th for cookies picked up after the initial order. An additional draft will take place on Thursday, April 18th for troops that extend their sale.

To determine the balance due:

1. Log into Smart Cookies
2. Click on Reports
3. From the left column, choose Finance
4. From the right column, choose Troop Balance Summary
5. Click View Report
6. Scroll to the bottom of the report and you will see the balance to be drafted.

If you see a negative number, funds will be transferred back to your troop through ACH. If for some reason you need additional time or need to adjust the amount being drafted, please contact our help desk at [gshelper@comgirlscouts.org](mailto:gshelper@comgirlscouts.org) no later than Monday, April 1st at 12:00 p.m.

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### **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.

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### **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 'Troop Information' section of the Smart Cookies website. The navigation bar at the top includes: Dashboard, My Troop, Orders, Booth, Rewards, Finances, Reports, Cookies, Safety and Training, Resources, and Help. The Troop Information form contains the following fields:

- Girls Active\*: 58
- Girls Selling\*: 18
- Expected Number of Girls Selling (0-999):
- Troop GSUSA ID: B-01005815
- Troop Number: 99999
- Level: Group
- Service Unit:
- Proceed Plan\*: Proceeds with Girl Recognitions
- Council: No Notes Available
- Main Recognition Plan: Main Recognition Plan
- Troop Recognition Plan: Main Recognition Plan
- Volunteer Recognition: Volunteer Recognition

Select Troop from Drop Down

The screenshot shows a list of items and extras. The 'Extras' tab is selected. The list includes:

- 1.00 - 249.99 Packages sold
- 250.00 - 99,999.99 Packages sold
- Group 1: Oven Mitt (Quantity: 1)

## 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.

### Cookie Booth Patches

Girls participating in two or more cookie booths are eligible for the Cookie Booth patch. If the troop used the Smart Booth Divider, then the patches are automatically added to the girls' rewards. If the troop did not use the Smart Booth Divider, then the booth patches need to be added under the "Extra" tab

in the rewards section.

## Special Cookie Cupboard Closeout

The week of April 1st is the final week of cookie cupboard operations.

All cookie cupboards close Friday, April 5th. In celebration of the last week of cupboard operations, GSCV will offer a special cupboard promotion.

Beginning Monday, March 25th through Friday, April 5th, any troop picking up three cases or more of cookies will receive one case at no charge to the troop. The troop will be charged for three cases but may take four. This extra case can be used for troop celebrations, thank-you gifts or as a special donation to the organization of their choice.

The extra cases of cookies **will not** be eligible to credit towards girl rewards, as they will not show in your troop inventory.

## Thank You to our Dedicated Cookie Cupboard Managers

It's time to thank your local cookie cupboard manager!

We have so many dedicated volunteers hosting cookie cupboards in their homes, storage units, and even in trailers. This week is the time to thank them publicly for all they do to support the cookie program. Post a photo of your local cookie cupboard manager and tag us on Facebook, or send in a photo for us to share on our page. Email photos with a short note of appreciation to Janna Joyner at [jjoyner@comgirlscouts.org](mailto:jjoyner@comgirlscouts.org).

Two lucky volunteers who post or submit will win a special Girl Scout goodie in the mail.

Let's show them the love they deserve after a busy cookie season!

## Bling Your Booth Deadline Extended!

**Exciting News: We've extended the Bling Your Booth deadline to Friday, April 5th and will now announce the winning booth on Wednesday, April 10th!**

There are so many awesome submissions from creative troops in our council. Vote on the latest entries!

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**Vote for Haley's LAST Cookie Booth after 13 Years in Girl Scouts!**

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**Vote for Lea's Axolotl-themed booth!**

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**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](mailto: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 announced on Wednesday, April 10th.**

**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!

**Make Next Year a Year of Wonder.**



Your Year of

Wonder



@girlscouts



Get ready to renew your Girl Scout memberships during Early Bird from April 8th-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.

**First Day excitement:**

- The first 550 girls who renew their memberships by the end of April 8th will receive an exclusive First Day patch.
- Check-in to Facebook throughout the day for live updates and fun announcements from the GSCV staff.

**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.

## New Staff Announcement



We're thrilled to welcome Zenobia Cardwell to the GSCV family as a Community Engagement Manager!

Known as "Zee" to some, Zenobia is a Southside Richmond native and Old Dominion University Monarch. She comes to GSCV with a background in finance and mental health, and has community management experience as an Executive Administrator and Lead Programmer for Key Independent Development Services Adult Day Support.

Outside of her work, she refers to herself as “a creative, connector, curator, and catalyst, but still just a girl from the city.” Zenobia most recently hosted the 2024 Teen Summit, a partnership between the counties of Henrico, Chesterfield, and the City of Richmond. You will often catch her out in the Richmond community enjoying a bite to eat at a locally owned restaurant, volunteering with The Life Church RVA and their youth ministry, or enjoying a hip-hop show right in the heart of Richmond.

Zenobia prides herself on being “a girl’s girl”, and is beyond thrilled to serve our girl members as part of the GSCV family.

## 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!**



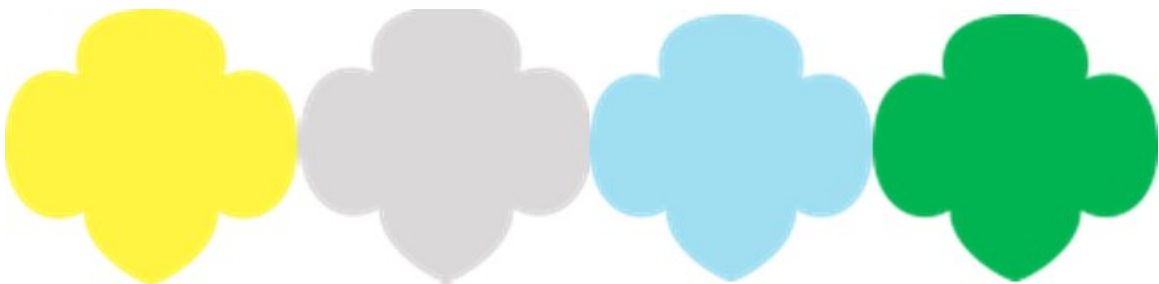
Girl Scout Gold Award recipients change the world every day, and now you can share a chance to change theirs. Encourage them to apply NOW!

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](https://girlscouts.org/goldawardscholarship)

## Training Opportunities



May 4, 2024  
Pamunkey Ridge

Beginning Camping

May 12, 2024

Archery Level I

Pamunkey Ridge

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

Paddlesports training (canoe, kayak,  
paddle board)

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](mailto: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:**

[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.

# 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

## Moving on Up!

With Bridging Season on the horizon and girls ready to move up, a great way for them to celebrate is to show off their new grade level on a t-shirt. The Cadette, Senior and Ambassador t-shirts are a great new fit and are "officially" official apparel. Stop in and shop our selection at the retail store.







## 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!

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

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