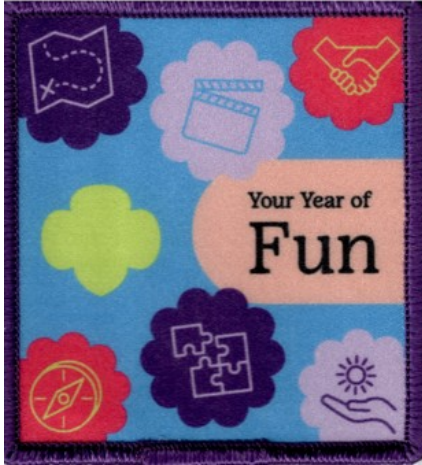


exclusively for leaders and volunteers



Early Bird starts April 10th! Find out how to get this exclusive patch in today's edition of S'more News.

[Trouble viewing? Click here.](#)

March 29, 2023 Edition

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Get Ready for Your Year of Fun!

The First Day of Early Bird is April 10th

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. It all begins on April 10th. You are going to love the benefits available for renewing your membership during Early Bird!

Activities & Incentives on April 10th:

- 1) The first 500 Girl Scouts who renew their membership on the First Day (or before) will get an exclusive First Day patch.
- 2) The first 10 Girl Scout troops (minimum of 5 girls and 2 adults) to

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 GSCV Events & Activities.
- Earn extra Girl Scout swag and gear for Camp.

Renew Today

girlscouts of the commonwealth of virginia

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100% of their members will be given complimentary, early registration to a day event from the 2024 GSCV Program Events & Activities Guide.

3) GSCV staff will be on Facebook throughout the day to give updates & share our excitement for Early Bird.

Other 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.

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 200 Girl Scouts who renew on the First Day (or before) will get a First Day patch.
- The first 20 Girl Scout troops (institutions of 5 girls & 2 adults) to renew 100% of their members will be given complimentary, early registration to a day event from the 2024 GSCV 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 adventures ahead.
- One-time 15% discount at the Retail Shop for two leaders per troop who renew (exp. Sept. 30, 2023)
- Weekly Drawing for One Troop, every Friday from April 21-May 12
 - The Draw Kit with t-shirts for the girls and hoodies in the 2024 Cookie Theme 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 Ganswing, A4 Throwing, Tower Climbing, Archery. (For 90% or more renewal.)
 - A Camping "Survival Kit" including a First Aid Kit, Propane Stove and propane canisters, Canopy 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.comgirlscouts.org and click the "My GS" 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

Questions? Contact the Help Desk: helpdesk@comgirlscouts.org
 804.746.6099 ext. 2224
www.comgirlscouts.org
 1900 Augusta Ave., Suite 200
 Richmond, VA 23220

@comgirlscouts

Girl Scout Scholarship Opportunities

GSCV Scholarship

Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia is happy to recognize several graduating seniors in our Council who exemplify the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and have proven themselves to be leaders in our organization, in academia, and in their community with a **\$1,000 scholarship** to assist with future academic endeavors. Those selected will be presented at our 2023 Inspired by a Girl Celebration! Completed application packets must be received at GSCV no later than Monday, April 3, 2023, at 11:59pm.



[Click here to see if you're eligible to apply!](#)

GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship



Gold Award Girl Scouts who are graduating high school seniors are invited to apply for a chance to be GSCV's national scholarship recipient and receive a \$10,000 scholarship.

Gold Award Girl Scouts are eligible to apply if they are a high school senior or graduate who earned the Gold Award between 4/1/22-3/31/23 and have their final report on file and approved in **GoGold**.

This means:

- *Gold Award Girl Scouts who are not yet in 12th grade will have the opportunity to apply in their senior year.*
- *High school graduates must have earned their Gold Award between 4/1/22-9/30/22.*
- *This year's eligibility starts at 4/1/22 because all Gold Award Girl Scouts (grades 9-12) who earned prior to that date were eligible to apply for the scholarship in prior years.*
- *The deadline to apply is **April 17th**; there will be no exceptions.*

For more information visit [Gold Award Scholarship | Girl Scouts](#)

Calling All Troop Leaders!

We need your feedback. Please take this [short survey](#) and let us know your thoughts on what Girl Scout program events & activities your Girl Scouts love the most, are looking for, and any suggestions to assist us in planning the 2023-2024 Girl Scout year!



GSCV 110th Anniversary

Introducing the 110th Anniversary series of patches. Earn one or earn all three. Each has different requirements and once completed can be found in April in our very own Girl Scout Retail Shop. For more information visit the [110th Anniversary patch](#) on our website.



Past

Visit Hollywood Cemetery and leave daisies at the gravesite featuring the Trefoil and take a picture or identify a location/person in your area to commemorate.

Present

Collect and donate 110 pounds of peanut butter to your local food bank in honor of GSCV.

Future

Host a uniform swap (Juliette's closet) for upcoming Girl Scouts and girls moving up a level.

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 and stay tuned to S'more News for more details and visit the [110th Anniversary page](#) on the GSCV website.



Women's History Month

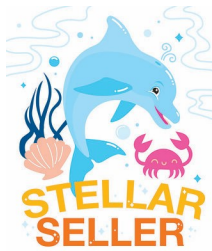


Now that you've completed all of the steps to earn the Suffrage Centennial Patch, let's have some fun. Check out these art projects that take inspiration from what early suffragists did to call attention to their cause. Get creative and put your own twist on these entertaining activities.

Art Projects

You can also use your voice to speak out in support of the *Women's History and Nineteenth Amendment Centennial Quarter Dollar Coin Program Act*. It's easy when you get started with this handy resource. [Take action now](#)

Cookie Program



Save the Date for Stellar Seller

All girls selling over 750 packages of cookies this season will be invited to attend the Stellar Seller event at Pamunkey Ridge Girl Scout Camp on Sunday, June 4th. Details and an electronic invitation to come.

Key Next Steps in the Cookie Program

As the cookie program winds down, there are several key steps that each troop needs to take. In addition to the details provided here, you can also check out this training video.

<https://vimeo.com/528345106>

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.

Check to see if you have direct ship cookies that need to be assigned to a girl.

1) Log in to Smart Cookies, then click on *Orders*, then *Direct Ship Orders*.

2) If you have any orders that say "Pending Distribution", click them, then

3) Click on the button at the bottom that says *Distribute Orders to Girls*.

4) Choose the girls and continue.

5) Click save once all cookies have been distributed.

Transfer cookies to girls.

1) Log in to Smart Cookies.

2) On your dashboard, go to "Orders".

3) Click on *Transfer Order*.

4) Choose *Troop to Girl transfer*.

5) Assign the cookies from your on-hand inventory to the girls who sold them or who participated in booths where the cookies were sold.

6) Be sure to click *save* after you update each girl's record.

Review the reward information.

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) If your troop qualifies for a troop reward based on the per-girl average, then you can enter the number of aprons your troop would like. Two is the maximum.

8) When both the "Main" and "Troop" recognitions are identified as complete, you are finished.

9) You can still edit this information through March 31st.

Final ACH Cookie Payment

The second and final draft will take place on Tuesday, April 4th for cookies picked up after the initial order and the balance of the remaining 50% of the initial order.

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 to adjust the amount being drafted, please contact our help desk at gshelper@comgirlscouts.org no later than Monday, April 3rd at 12:00 p.m.

2023 Important Cookie Dates

As you plan your troop 2022/2023 membership year, these are the most important cookie dates to assist in your planning.

Friday, March 31st

Final day of cupboard operation, last day of program

Tuesday, April 4th

Second ACH draft (balance due) and Reward orders due in Smart Cookies by Troop Leaders

Program Events and Activities

Stratford Hall

Hands-On History Days

Saturday, April 15, 2023

10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Come explore what life was like in Colonial Virginia! Through a cooking demonstration and an African drumming jam session, you will experience the influence Black Virginians have had on our state's history and culture.



April is almost here, and events and activities are filling up fast! Be sure to visit the MyEvents site and sign up!

[4/15 - Wildlife and Forestry Management \(D, B, J, C\)](#)

[4/15 - George Washington Foundation - Lets Dance \(B\)](#)

[4/15 - George Washington Foundation - Numbers in Nature \(J\)](#)

[4/15 - Stratford Hall \(D, B, J\)](#)

[4/15 - Ambassador Climb On \(A\)](#)

[4/15 - Senior Climb On \(S\)](#)

[4/15 - The Valentine Ballot Battle \(J, C, S, A\)](#)

[4/20 - Real Life Academy: The shifting nature of friendships \(C, S, A\)](#)

[4/23 - Camp Pamunkey Ridge Service Day \(D, B, J, C, S, A\)](#)

[4/29 - American Red Cross - Pillowcase Project \(J\)](#)

[4/29 - American Red Cross - Prepare with Pedro \(B\)](#)

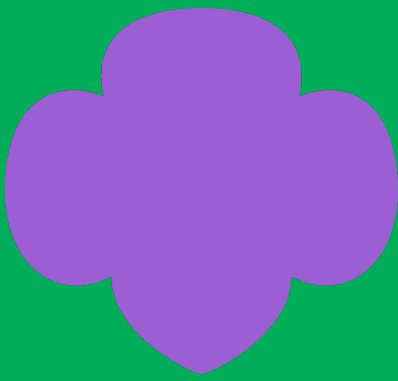
[4/29 - Girl Scout Archery Day 9:00 a.m. \(B, J, C, S, A\)](#)

[4/29 - Girl Scout Archery Day 11:00 a.m. \(B, J, C, S, A\)](#)

[4/29 - Girl Scout Archery Day 2:00 p.m. \(B, J, C, S, A\)](#)

[4/29 - Girl Scout Archery Day 4:00 p.m. \(B, J, C, S, A\)](#)

[4/29 - Richlands Dairy Farm \(D, B, J\)](#)



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 Janna Joyner, our new Director of Marketing & Communications, at jjoyner@comgirlscouts.org

See you over on the 'gram!

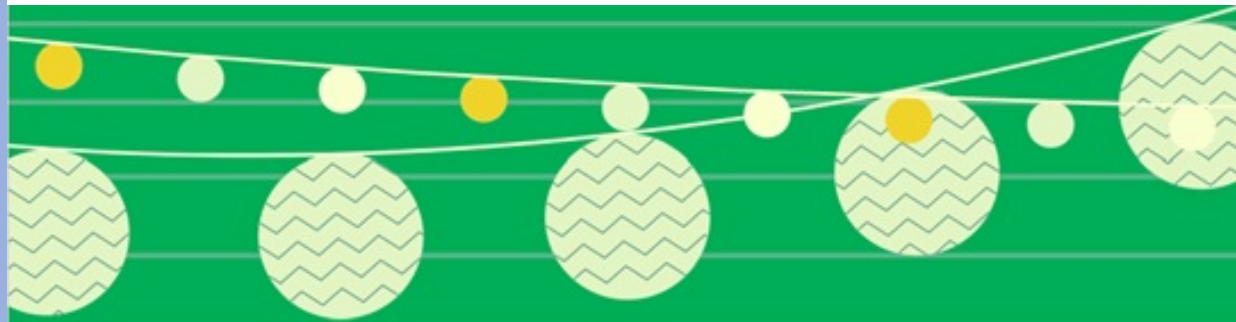


Cheers To Volunteers

Cheers to our Volunteers

We want to recognize our volunteers by hosting two social events as an appreciation for all

your dedication to Girl Scouts. Please plan to join us at the location and date that works best for you. An invitation with the opportunity to RSVP to this **adult only function** is to follow. Make sure you are reading S'more News for the invitation!



Cheers to Volunteers!

Save the date!

Come enjoy a different type of craft with us

**11 MAY 2023 • FREDERICKSBURG
SIX BEARS & A GOAT
6:00-8:00 P.M.**

**18 MAY 2023 • RICHMOND
TRIPLE CROSSING - FULTON
5:00-7:00 P.M.**

Training Opportunities

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

April 15-16, 2023
Pamunkey Ridge
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. both days

Paddlesports training (canoe, kayak, paddle boarding)
Registration closes in 2 days!
One spot left!

April 29, 2023
Pamunkey Ridge
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Paddlesports training (canoe only)
Registration closes Friday, April 14th.

May 6, 2023
Pamunkey Ridge
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Beginning Camping Training
Registration closes Monday, April 24th.

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.

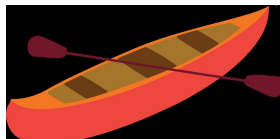
Open 24/7 on-demand



Paddlesports training (canoe, kayak, paddle boarding)

April 15-16, 2023, at Pamunkey Ridge
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. both days

By taking the Canoe, Kayak, and Standup Paddleboard (SUP) 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 SUP. 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!](#) Registration closes Friday, March 31st.



Paddlesports training (canoe only)

April 29, 2023, at Pamunkey Ridge
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

By taking the Canoe 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 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!](#) Registration closes Friday, April 14th.

Beginning Camping Training

Pamunkey Ridge

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:

May 6th | 8:30 a.m.- 3:30 p.m. | Camp Pamunkey Ridge

Registration closes Monday, April 24th.

[Register here!](#)

GSCV Retail Shop



Girl Scout Fun Patches

Shop & discover our wide selection of the latest official Girl Scout iron-on and sew-on fun patches! Show off your unique achievements, troop activities, or your support for parents and Girl Scouts!

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!