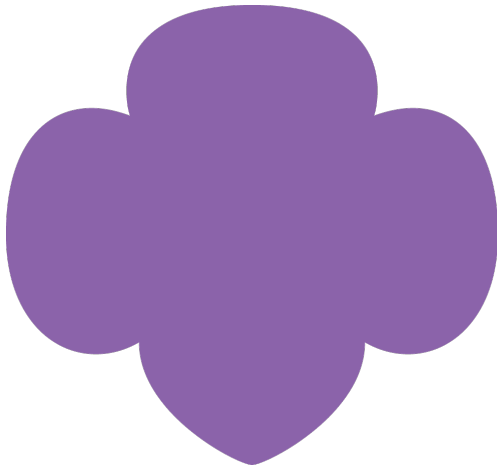


S'more News

exclusively for leaders and volunteers



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October 23, 2024 Edition

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Membership Dues Increase Update

On Saturday, October 19, over 800 delegates from across the country—including six from our very own council—convened virtually to discuss, debate, and decide on our path forward at the Special 57th National Council Session.

The National Council engaged in robust and constructive debate regarding two proposals to increase annual dues for girl and adult members, and ultimately voted to raise girl membership dues to \$65, phased in at \$45 for Membership Year 2026 and \$65 for Membership Year 2027. Additionally, adult dues were raised to \$30, effective Membership Year 2026.

Our research tells us that now more than ever, the world needs happy, confident, and capable girls who will make an impact on their families, their communities, their country, and the world. Raising those competent and fulfilled girls in today's world takes more than a village—it takes a Movement. Girl Scouting is that Movement.

We have what parents and caregivers want for their girls, and we have what girls need. These investments will help us serve our current girls and support our current volunteers and reach more girls and engage more volunteers.

Our council is preparing a set of talking points to help guide conversations with families and ensure that everyone understands the benefits of this change. If you have any questions or need further clarification, please don't hesitate to

reach out to our Help Desk at gshelper@comgirlscouts.org.

To learn more about the Special 57th National Council Session, click the button below.

[Learn More](#)

Election Year Guidance

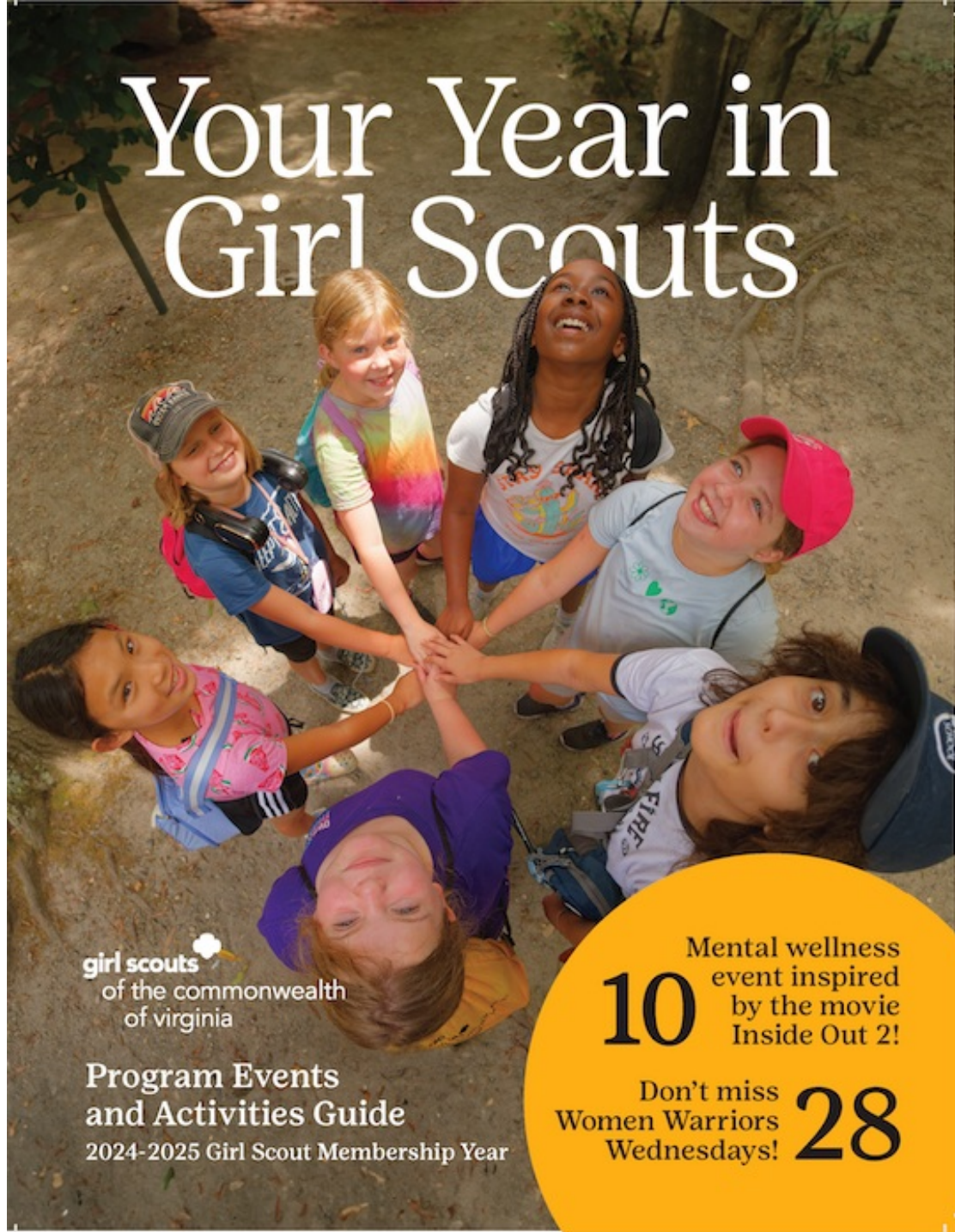


As tax-exempt, 501(c)(3) organizations, GSUSA and Girl Scout councils have some limitations that prevent them from supporting individual candidates or engaging in other, specific partisan actions that could influence an election. However, there are many activities that are allowable.

The guide linked below serves as a reference for how Girl Scout councils, board, staff, and volunteers can safely navigate participation in the 2024 election season while respecting the restrictions on tax-exempt charitable organizations.

[Access the Guide to Election Season Participation](#)

The 2024-2025 Program Events & Activities Guide is Here!



It's here! Our 2024-2025 Program Events and Activities Guide has arrived, and it's packed with excitement for EVERY Girl Scout! Be on the lookout for your copy in the mail.

We gathered and incorporated valuable feedback from our Operational Advisory Task Groups to create a guide like never before. Whether your troop is ready to explore the great outdoors, dive into STEM, level up their entrepreneurship skills, or bond over family-friendly events, we've got it all. This year's guide is our best one yet, and it's ready for you to dive in and start planning your epic Girl Scout year.

Registration is NOW OPEN. Start mapping out your year of fun, growth, and adventure TODAY!

[Access the Guide Here!](#)

Register for Events Here!

Pathway Pass Expiration Date has been Extended through October 31, 2024.

This extension allows girls to use any remaining Pathway Pass to register for activities in the forthcoming Program Events and Activities Guide. To use your pass to register for an event, please contact our Help Desk at gshelper@comgirlscouts.org.

Passes can also be used in the GSCV Retail Shop, but only through October.

Fall Product Program



We have two adorable extra-large elephants looking for a home. How can your girl be one of the lucky ones to take one home?

All girls who sell **at least 40 magazines** in the Fall Product Program will be entered into a special drawing. One will take this giant stuffy home!

In addition, all girls who sell **at least three BarkBoxes** will be entered into a

drawing. One will win our second elephant.

Second Chance for Fall Product

Missed getting your Fall Product order into the M2 System? Received an order too late to enter last week? Never fear, you can still place a second chance order.

Use this link to order the items to help your troop reach its goals.

Second Chance orders submitted after October 15th and beyond will be available for pick up:

- Richmond: Thursday, October 24th – GSCV Headquarters, 4900 Augusta Ave, Richmond, VA 23230
- Chesterfield: Thursday, October 24th - Dunmar Moving and Storage 8030 Whitepine Rd, Richmond, VA 23237.

Program Events & Activities

Curtains Up, Light Out Overnight



Friday, November 1st, 2024, 5:00 P.M. to Saturday, November 2nd, 2024, 11:30 A.M.

Virginia Repertory Theatre, Richmond, VA
(Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Juliettes)

Join us for an exciting overnight event at the Virginia Rep Center for Arts and Education. Enjoy engaging theatre workshops and activities, a sleepover in the theatre, a G-rated movie night, and a delicious continental breakfast. The experience concludes with tickets to the family season show, *Grace for President*, featuring a GSCV Gold Award Girl Scout Alum as a member of the cast! Don't miss this unique and fun-filled theatre adventure!

\$75/Girl Scout | \$0/Adult
Min/Max: 15/35 youth | 2/35 adults

Register by October 25th, 2024

[Register Here!](#)

Autumn Bliss Bash



Saturday, October 26th, 2024, 2:30 P.M. – 6:00 P.M.

Camp Pamunkey Ridge
(All Levels, Juliettes, Families, Tagalongs)

Fall into FUN at this year's Autumn Bliss Bash. Make the most of the day by gathering with your fellow Girl Scouts, family, and friends before the Juliette Gordon Low Campfire! Enjoy games, pumpkin decorating, sack races, and more. We'll also have delicious fall-themed food and drinks to keep you energized. Have a friend that you want to join Girl Scouts? Bring her! This event is open to ALL and girls can even signup for the new membership year right at the event. Start the season off right at Autumn Bliss Bash!

You'll receive: Autumn Bliss patch

\$5/Girl Scout | \$0/ Family Member | \$0/Adult Min/Max: All Welcome
Register by October 25th, 2024

[Register Here!](#)

Juliette Gordon Low Campfire



Saturday, October 26th, 2024, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Camp Pamunkey Ridge

(All Levels, Juliettes, Families, Tagalongs)

End the evening with us at the J.Glow Campfire, now featuring a brand-new Glow-in-the-Dark Dance! Before the campfire starts, you'll get to create your own glowing gear, like cool lanterns, wands, and headbands. We'll dance and glow 'round the campfire to roast marshmallows, sing Girl Scout songs, make SWAPs, and share in the excitement of the upcoming year!

\$0/Girl Scout | \$0/ Family Member | \$0/Adult

Min/Max: All Welcome

[Register Here!](#)

Join Us on Cookie Lane!



Attention to all girls who sold 1,000 or more packages of cookies in 2024!

We will have a professional photographer at Pamunkey Ridge Girl Scout Camp during our Autumn Bliss Bash on **Saturday, October 26th between 4:00 P.M. - 6:00 P.M.**

Join us at Cookie Lane to celebrate your accomplishment! Photos will be sent to girls following the event.

In the Spotlight: Improv & Screenwriting



Tuesday, October 29th, 2024, 6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

Augusta Avenue Service Center
(Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, Juliettes)

Lights, camera, ACTION! Get ready to take center stage at our In the Spotlight theater workshop series! From stage makeup to singing and improv, you will have the opportunity to engage in hands-on activities to discover and cultivate the performer in you, on AND off stage. No experience needed—just bring your enthusiasm! Don't miss out on this chance to shine!

You'll Gain: Girl Scouts will gain confidence, creativity, and teamwork skills as they explore various aspects of musical theater, including stage presence, vocal performance, and improvisation. Participants may even discover a new passion and/or career path.

You'll earn: Brownie Dancer Badge (Workshop 4), Junior Practice with Purpose Badge (Workshop 2), Cadette Screenwriter Badge (Workshop 1)

\$10/Girl Scout | \$0/Adult
Min/Max: 10/40 youth | 2/15 adults

Registration is still open!

[Register Here!](#)

Richlands Dairy Farm



Saturday, November 2nd, 2024, 10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

Richlands Dairy Farm, Blackstone, VA
(Daisies, Brownies, Juniors, Juliettes)

Try your hand at milking a cow! This family-owned farm provides the best possible care for their cows, practices good environmental stewardship, and provides an open and honest look into dairy farming. Stop by the creamery and purchase delicious ice cream!

You'll gain: Girl Scouts will learn about farm life, sustainable practices, and the importance of caring for animals and the environment.

\$13/Girl Scout | \$10/Adult
Min/Max: 10/25 youth | 2/10 adults

Register by October 26th, 2024

[Register Here!](#)

Ballot Battle Walking Tour



Sunday, November 3rd, 2024, 12:30 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.

Bolling-Haxall House, Richmond, VA
(Juniors, Cadettes, Juliettes)

Step back in time and explore a battle that divided Richmond social circles and families. Between 1909 and 1920, both pro-suffrage and anti-suffrage activists struggled tenaciously to persuade the public and the legislature of their views on women's right to vote. On this downtown walking tour, Richmond's most experienced tour guides will show you the iconic sites that were key to the fight, while exploring the diverse figures and perspectives that influenced the Richmond suffrage movement. Please wear comfortable walking shoes and bring water.

You'll gain: Girl Scouts will gain a deeper understanding of the historic struggle for women's suffrage. This tour will help girls appreciate the power of activism and inspire them to appreciate and contribute to ongoing efforts for equality and justice.

\$16/Girl Scout | \$4/Adult
Min/Max: 10/25 youth | 2/5 adults

Register by October 24th, 2024

[Register Here!](#)

Women Warriors



Wednesday, November 6th, 2024, 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.

Virtual
(All Welcome)

Join us for “Women Warriors,” a monthly event celebrating the strength and contributions of women throughout history and today. Each month, we’ll spotlight women from that month’s awareness focus. Through storytelling, discussions, and activities, we’ll honor their achievements, resilience, and impact on our world. We’ll learn about Famous Girl Scout Alums and women that have made impacts in our four pillars—Life Skills, STEM, Entrepreneurship, and Outdoors. This is a chance to learn, share, and celebrate the diverse and powerful women who have shaped history and continue to inspire us all. Don’t miss out on this empowering journey with Women Warriors!

\$0/Girl Scout | \$0/Non-member | \$0/Adult Min/Max: All Welcome

Register by November 5th, 2024

[Register Here!](#)

Real Life Academy - Your Digital Footprint



Social media is here to stay, and so is *your* digital footprint. Are you posting responsibly?

Join us for Real Life Academy on **Thursday, November 7, 2024 from 6:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.** to discuss the important topic of using social media in a way that's healthy for you and your peers.

Attendees will hear from our very own Director of Marketing and Communications, Janna Joyner, to understand the impact of your online presence, and learn tips and tricks on how to make social media work for you-- both socially and professionally!

[Register Here!](#)

REGISTRATION OPEN: EXPLORE Patch Series at the Ashland Takeover



Saturday, November 9th, 2024, 10:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.

Discover, Connect, and Take Action with our exciting new EXPLORE Patch Series at the Ashland Takeover!

This event is open to Girl Scout troops and families, offering a fun and educational way to explore the unique aspects of Ashland, Virginia. Enjoy Girl Scout-friendly movies at the Ashland Theater*, visit Randolph-Macon College, decorate cookies (10:00 A.M. – 12:00 P.M.) at the Sugarfix Bakery*, visit the Ashland Museum to learn about Secretariat the legendary racehorse, earn your Dance badge at the Ashland Dance Academy, and more.

Earn your EXPLORE Historic Ashland patch by participating in this event or visiting anytime with your troop or family. If your troop or service unit is interested in creating a patch for your local community, please contact our Program department.

Prior to the weekend, registered members will receive a detailed list of all activities and any associated costs.

[Register Here!](#)

Retail Shop



Whether you're enjoying a movie marathon, having a sleepover with friends, or relaxing after a busy day, you'll do it in style and comfort with the Girl Scout pajama set. Featuring a cozy navy top with green and blue plaid "12," to honor our 1912 founding, and "Girl Scouts" graphic in white. The matching flannel bottoms have an elastic waistband for ultimate comfort and fit, with white "Girl Scouts" graphic on the leg. Best of all, the set is packaged perfectly to gift, with "The Best Gifts Say Girl Scouts" branding and ribbon detail.

Love this look? It's available in [adult sizes](#), too.

Shop Now!

Feature Your Girl Scout Troop!



**WE WANT TO
FEATURE YOUR
GIRL SCOUTS ON
SOCIAL MEDIA!**

Do you know a Girl Scout who deserves recognition for making an impact in her community? Perhaps your Girl Scout troop hosted a fun event or created incredible memories this summer. Whatever the occasion, we're looking for Girl Scouts and Girl Scout troops to feature on social media!

Please submit all photos with a short caption to our Director of Marketing & Communications, Janna Joyner, to have your Girl Scouts featured online! Send all submissions via email: jjoyner@comgirlscouts.org.

We can't wait to feature your girls!



Volunteers are the heart of Girl Scouting, and it is time to nominate the exceptional volunteer(s) you know in your service unit! **Nominations for the 2024 membership year close November 1st.**

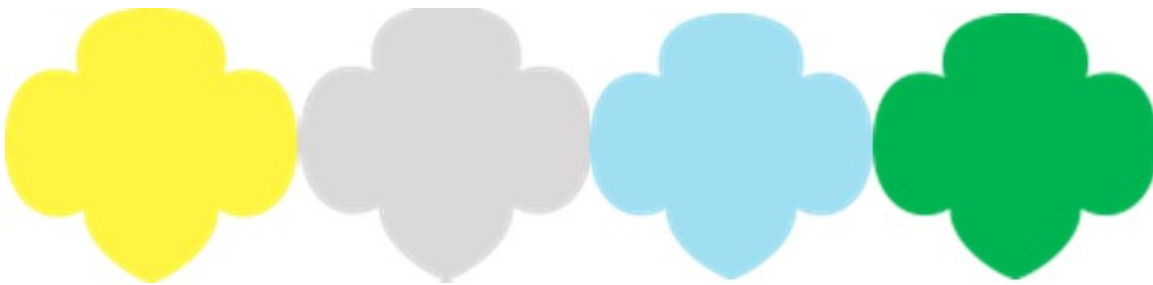
[Nominations for these awards are entered here.](#)

- Volunteer of Excellence
- Appreciation Pin
- Honor Pin
- Thanks Badge
- Thanks II Badge
- Community Award

[Adult Numeral Guards or Years of Service Pins are entered here.](#)

[Visit our website here for more detailed information on each award.](#)

Training Opportunities



Open 24/7
on-demand



Spring training dates coming soon!

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

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 AM - 4:30 PM

Shop hours: Monday - Friday | 10:00 AM - 5:30 PM

Saturday | 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

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!



Try email marketing for free today!