



SERVICE UNIT TALKING POINTS

Monthly Updates for Service Units - February 2026 Edition

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland extends our deepest gratitude to our dedicated volunteers and member families for the countless hours you pour into our girls. Our council staff recognizes that there is truly no way we could do this work—building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place—without YOU.

The dedication of volunteers and families who live and serve within the communities we support is invaluable. During this season of gratitude, when so many of us are reflecting on who and what we are thankful for, the staff of GSCM wants to pause and offer a heartfelt THANK YOU to everyone who has made such a meaningful and positive impact on the Girl Scout movement.

You should be incredibly proud of the work you are doing to strengthen and inspire the next generation of girls—strong, self-confident leaders of courage, confidence, and character—who WILL change the world in which they live.

YOU ARE MAKING A HUGE DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF OUR GIRLS! ♥

Girl Scout Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Girl Scout Program

Grounded in the Girl Scout Promise and Law, Girl Scouting is an experiential, cooperative education program that promotes girls' personal growth and leadership development. Partnering with caring adults, girls design fun and challenging activities that empower them and raise their voices within a local, national, and global sisterhood.

Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try: to serve God and my country, to help people at all times, and to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

GSCM's Commitment

Bridging gaps in central Maryland where every girl finds relevance and thrives in a safe & welcoming space.

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Share your stories with us—we want to know what's happening in your Service Unit!

Whether it's service projects, environmental efforts, fun events, or milestones, send your stories, photos, or videos to gscm.info/stories.

We'd love a "GSCM Reporter" in every SU to help share stories for social media and the GSCM Family Newsletter. Submit by the 5th of each month for newsletter inclusion!

Contact Us!

Phone: 410.358.9711

Email: membercare@gscm.org

Mail: 4806 Seton Dr. | Baltimore, MD 21215



facebook.com/gsccentralmd



[@girlscoutscmd](https://www.instagram.com/girlscoutscmd)



[@GScentralMD](https://twitter.com/GScentralMD)



gscm.info/linkedin

Facebook Groups

GSCM Anne Arundel County

GSCM Baltimore

GSCM Carroll County

GSCM Harford County

GSCM Howard County

Store will be closed:

Monday, February 16 – President's Day store
and offices closed

Join the Store and Program Department staff at Shop and Share February 5th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Girls, parents/guardians or Volunteers are welcome to drop in to ask questions or get more information. We'll be discussing Special Girl Scout Days – Thinking Day, Girl Scout Week and the Girl Scout Birthday!

Hosting an event with 50-75 people? Invite the GSCM Pop-Up Store! We offer Express Delivery—leaders and parents can email orders, pay by phone, and we'll deliver completed orders to your event. We'll also set up a table with Girl Scout merchandise. Contact the store to learn more or schedule today!

The GSCM store lends Girl Scout, WAGGGS, U.S., and Maryland flags. Pick up at the Seton store (Thurs/Fri) and return on Monday. Reserve at gscmstore@gscm.org.

Cookie Costumes can be reserved for your booth sale. Each troop can reserve 2 free adorable cookie costumes that can be worn by girls or adults. Pick up from the Seton store Thursday/Friday and return on Monday. Email gscmstore@gscm.org to get your reservation in soon. GSCM.org | 3

GSCM Store

Shop Store

Shop Juliette's Closet for uniforms, camping supplies, Girl Scout jewelry, Girl Scout Bronze, Gold and Silver Award memorabilia and more!

ANNOUNCING STORE HOURS

Monday 9 AM to 4 PM

Tuesday 9 AM to 4 PM

Wednesday 9 AM to 6 PM

Thursday 9 AM to 4 PM

Friday 9 AM to 4 PM

Saturday 10 AM to 1 PM

In case of inclement weather, store closures will be on the GSCM store voicemail (410) 358-9713.



Shop & Share

Evenings

Join us once a month for a Shop & Share Event hosted by the GSCM Store and Program Team!

- ✦ Learn about Girl Scouts programs, resources, badges, patches, and trainings.
- ✦ Talk with program experts and get your questions answered.
- ✦ Shop for all your Girl Scout needs!

📍 GSCM Store | 4806 Seton Drive, Baltimore, MD

🕒 6:30–8:30 p.m. (Drop in anytime!)

\$ FREE – no registration required (open to girls, families, and volunteers)

2026

JAN.

7

ALL THINGS CAMP & OUTDOORS

Summer 2026 camp info & outdoor gear showcase.

FEB.

5

SPECIAL GIRL SCOUT DAYS

Celebrate Thinking Day, Girl Scout Week & 114th Birthday.

MAR.

19

BRIDGING BASICS

Awards, process & store kits.

APR.

14

MENTAL WELLNESS RESOURCES

Learn about patch programs & wellness guides.

MAY

6

NEXT PROGRAM LEVEL

Guidance for girls & volunteers moving up.

More information at gscm.info/events/



Show the Love with Girl Scouts

Calling all Girls! Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity for you and your Girl Scout sisters to reach out and show others that you care—especially those who may be alone on a day that is all about connection!

Invite a friend and join GSCM as we create some Valentine's Day goodies to donate to seniors to Show the Love for Valentine's Day on **Saturday, February 7, 2026** from 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon PM at Girl Scouts of Central Maryland Headquarters!

Community service hours to be applied towards their Service to Community or Service to Girl Scouts bars and/ or Service Learning hours that can be applied towards their High School graduation requirement by participating. They can also earn the "Lead Like a Girl Patch" if they bring a friend who also participates in the festivities!

'Bring- a-Friend' Events

You asked them, and we are delivering! Every month throughout the membership year, GSCM will host featured events throughout the Council footprint. These events are for new and currently registered Girl Scouts and their caregivers, where the girls have loads of fun doing what Girl Scouts do best- just being Girl Scouts!

Please remind troop families to check out the featured Bring-a- Friend events for December events (feel free to share the flyer below by clicking here), or they can also go to gscm.info/fun to register before the events their Girl Scout wants to attend are sold out!

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BRING A FRIEND!

Confidentiality and Privacy Statement

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland is dedicated to maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of all member information. Certain volunteer roles may require individuals to access confidential or sensitive information in order to perform the duties associated with their positions.

Volunteers entrusted with such information are strictly prohibited from disclosing, sharing, or distributing any confidential data to unauthorized individuals or entities without the **express consent** of the information's owner (or their parent or legal guardian, in the case of a minor). Confidential information includes, but is not limited to, **photographs, videos, demographic data, and personal identifying information**.

For additional details regarding our privacy practices, please [click here](#) to review the **Girl Scouts of Central Maryland Privacy Policy**, which is also available on our official website.

BRING A FRIEND!

**Join us for an exciting opportunity
to connect, share, and grow!**

We're hosting special Bring-a-Friend Events, and we'd love for you and your family to be part of it. You're already part of our community, this is the perfect chance to bring a friend to meet new people, explore what we do, and see how many adventures they can have with Girl Scouts!

FEBRUARY'S BRING-A-FRIEND EVENTS:

Show the Love Event

Come create some
make-and-take,
Valentine's Day
goodies!



SHOW THE LOVE



TEDDY BEARS & TUTUS



SNOW DAY ADVENTURE WITH GIRL SCOUTS!

WHAT TO EXPECT:

- Fun, interactive activities
- Insight into who we are and what we do
- A relaxed, welcoming atmosphere
- Learn something new and have fun

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER:

Go to gscm.info/fun and don't forget to bring a friend (or two) who might be interested in learning more about Girl Scouts and wants to join the fun! Questions? Call (410) 358-9711 or email membercare@gscm.org



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Be Unstoppable This Summer **SLEEPAWAY CAMP** at Camp Conowingo

Embark on an unforgettable summer adventure at Camp Conowingo, where Girl Scouts unplug, explore, and discover just how strong they truly are! Through thrilling team-building experiences, adventure-filled programming, and classic camp traditions, campers build confidence, friendships, and memories that last a lifetime.

Come Ready To...

- 🔥 **Find Your Fire** through campfires, challenges, and discovering your strength.
- 🌲 **Unplug. Explore. Belong!** Canoeing, crafts, songs, and adventures await.
- 💛 **Find Your People. Find Yourself.** Build friendships and confidence.
- ✨ **Camp Magic Begins Here** with traditions you love and new experiences.
- 📖 **This Is Your Camp Story**—let's write the next chapter together.

Campers Will Enjoy:

- Swimming & hiking
- Kayaking & canoeing
- Archery
- Low & high ropes courses
- Outdoor & campfire cooking
- Nature exploration
- Arts & crafts

**SIGN UP
TODAY!**

*For details, pricing, or to register,
visit gscm.info/rc or scan the QR code!
Have questions? Contact membercare@gscm.org.*



Camp Details

Grade for Fall 2026 Girl Scout Level

2 nd or 3 rd	Brownie
4 th or 5 th	Junior
6 th , 7 th , or 8 th	Cadette
9 th or 10 th	Senior
11 th or 12 th	Ambassador

Session 1

Sunday, June 21st - Friday, June 26th

Fireflies (B)

Slow down and explore the magic of nature! Campers will search for bugs, learn about nighttime creatures, and enjoy outdoor adventures.

Conowingo Creatures (J)

Discover the animals that call our camp home! Campers will learn about local wildlife through nature walks, animal tracking, and crafts. Whether it's birds, bugs, or bats campers will explore what it means to be a Conowingo Creature!

Rooted & Ready (C)

Branch out and discover the amazing world of trees! Cadettes will investigate tree science, talk about conservation, and express their creativity through tree-inspired art projects. Campers who participate will earn their Tree Badge.

Future Keepers (SA)

Step into your role as a steward of the outdoors! Learn the basics of Leave No Trace, explore ways to protect the environment, and enjoy purposeful time outside while still participating in traditional camp activities.

Session 3

Sunday, July 5th – Tuesday, July 7th

Troop Adventures (B-A)

Looking for a summer adventure with your Girl Scout Troop? Then try our new Troop Adventures program! Take part in a traditional summer camp experience with your Girl Scout Troop!

Wednesday, July 8th – Friday, July 10th

Mini Camp (B-A)

Not ready for a full week of camp? That's okay! Come try our Mini Camp to get a taste of the summer camp experience!

Session 2

Sunday, June 28th - Friday, July 3rd

Crafty Critters (B)

For campers who love to create and explore! Enjoy a week of animal-themed crafts and creative projects inspired by nature, balanced with classic camp fun.

Outdoor Art (J)

Art comes alive outdoors! Create art using natural materials, explore creativity in the natural world, and discover music in nature while earning your Outdoor Art Explorer badge.

Messy Masterpieces (C)

This is your chance to get messy! Create wild works of art through hands-on, messy projects—including splatter paint with archery!

Nature Made (SA)

Where creativity meets the outdoors. Campers will experiment with natural and found materials, explore artistic expression in outdoor spaces, and create meaningful works inspired by nature itself. A perfect balance of art, exploration, and classic camp fun.

Session 4

Sunday, July 5th – Tuesday, July 7th

S'more to Explore (B)

Get ready for a week packed with classic camp fun! Campers will explore classic summer camp activities. From adventures around camp to relaxing moments by the fire, there's always s'more to explore!

Adventure Awaits (J)

Get ready to jump into a week of discovery and fun! Campers will try a variety of camp activities, explore the outdoors, and take on new challenges as they make memories and friendships that last beyond the week.

Survive & Thrive (C)

Ready for a challenge? Campers will build confidence in the great outdoors by learning essential survival skills through hands-on, adventurous activities. Along the way, they'll develop teamwork, problem-solving, and respect for the outdoors.

Trail to Tent (SA)

Hit the trail and experience the joy of camping! Campers will explore the outdoors, practice setting up camp, and enjoy hands-on adventures from the trail to their own tent. It's a week full of exploration, teamwork, and outdoor fun.

Girl Events & Activities

EVENT COLOR GUIDE: EXPLORE OUR EVENT TYPES

It's now easier to identify the type of event, program, or activity on our GSCM Event Calendar. Click [HERE](#) to check-out our new color-coding key at the top of our event calendar to easily find Girl Events and Activities; Volunteer-led Events; Outdoor and Camp Experiences; Product Program; Training; and Program Partner events.



ALL THINGS PROGRAM GATHERINGS - YOU ASKED, WE LISTENED!

We have heard from families, Girl Scouts, and volunteers that they have questions and want to learn more about Girl Scout programs and resources. Therefore, we have created monthly All Things Program Gatherings for Girl Scouts of all ages, their parents/caregivers, and our volunteers to come out in-person in their local area (or participate virtually) to connect with the entire GSCM Program Team.

Come learn what is new with national Girl Scout and GSCM programs/resources, have a chance to ask your specific questions, and share best practices with other members. There is no fee to participate; just bring your questions and ideas as the Program Team would love to help and hear from you as to what events and programs you would like to see us offer.

Register for any or all sessions via our GSCM Event Calendar [HERE](#). Upcoming gatherings:

- February 24 In-person Howard County Area
- February 26 (Virtual Session)
- March 24 In-person Harford County Area
- March 25 (Virtual Session)
- April 23 (Virtual Session)
- April 29 In-person Baltimore County Area

SHOP AND SHARE: AN OPPORTUNITY TO SHOP AND LEARN MORE ABOUT GIRL SCOUT PROGRAM!

Date: Thursday, February 5, 2026

Time: 6:30-8:30 PM

Are you ready to celebrate the upcoming Girl Scout Special Days? Come out to connect with program and shop team members on everything you need to participate in the 100th Anniversary of World Thinking Day (2/22/26), Girl Scout Week (3/8-3/14/26), and Girl Scouts 114th Birthday (3/12/26). Drop in anytime between 6:30-8:30 PM to shop, share, and make some Girl Scout SWAPS! Also receive a special archival Girl Scout themed patch for your collection!

COUNCIL LED EVENT: OUR FRIENDSHIP-- WORLD THINKING DAY 100

Date: Saturday, February 21, 2026

Time: 10:00 AM-1:00 PM

Location: Bell Manor, Camp Conowingo

Cost: \$30 girls; \$10 adults



A Girl Scout tradition for 100 years! Come celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Thinking Day with GSCM. The goal of Thinking Day this year is to connect us to the WAGGGS (World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts) Centers and highlight our friendships with other Girl Guides and Girl Scouts across the globe. Girls will earn the WAGGGS Be a Partner with the World patch. At our World Thinking Day event, we will explore each world center and the world around it. Enjoy favorite campfire meals from each world center, sing songs and even make up your own, craft your vision of your journey through Girl Scouts, make S.W.A.P.S. (Special Whatchamacallits Affectionately Pinned Somewhere) and play games and run through our Scavenger Hunt to learn about the language and geography of the countries of our world centers. Service Project will benefit Bell Manor. Register [HERE](#).

HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS: BLACK HISTORY MONTH WORKSHOP (SEE FLYER)

Date: Saturday, February 28, 2026

Time: 12:00 Noon-2:00 PM

Location: GSCM Headquarters

Cost: \$10 includes participation patch



Celebrate black excellence with Girl Scouts! In honor of Black History month, Girls will explore hands on activity stations including hip hop dance class, hair braiding class, and other activities to build your cultural curiosity and appreciation! All girls are welcomed! Inquire about how you can earn your Black Heritage Studies & Celebration Month patch at the event. Register [HERE](#).

CELEBRATE GIRL SCOUT WEEK WITH THESE COUNCIL-LED EVENTS! (SEE FLYER)

The following activities are for Girl Scouts of ALL ages!
Register for one session or all [HERE](#)!

- STEM is Bubbling Over, Monday, March 9
- Engineering Girl Scout Fun, Tuesday, March 10
- The Golden Eaget Movie Night, Thursday, March 12
- Firefly Campfire, Friday, March 13

GIRL SCOUT
week
2026

MARCH 8-14, 2026 | ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

CREATIVE CAFÉ (SEE FLYER)

Date: Tuesday, March 31, 2026

Time: 6:00-8:00 PM

Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts
Columbia, MD

Cost: \$15 Patch Included and food is available for purchase at restaurant venue

Step into the creative cafe where Girl Scouts are encouraged to speak and share their stories. This open-mic event blends self-expression with the healing powers of art therapy. Girls will enjoy performances by local artists, participate in mindfulness activities, and have the option to take the stage themselves! Register [HERE](#).



EXPLORING HERSHEY PA (SEE FLYER)

Date: Saturday, April 18, 2026

Time: 8:00 AM-5:00 PM

Brownie Girl Scouts

Cost: \$58 per girl; \$60 adults



Hey Brownies, want to experience Hershey, PA in a new way? Join GSCM for the Sweetest Trip on Earth as we visit Hershey Gardens, Chocolate World, and the Hershey Story Museum! Stroll through beautiful gardens and butterflies, discover how chocolate is made, enjoy lunch, and learn about Milton Hershey's life and legacy.

The price is set at the minimum needed to self-fund and includes bus transportation, admission to Hershey Gardens, the Butterfly Atrium, and the Hershey Story Museum (at a special Girl Scout rate), plus an exclusive group activity. One bus must be filled for the trip to run. If minimum registration is not met, participants will be notified two weeks prior. Register [HERE](#).

SPYING ON WASHINGTON D.C. (SEE FLYER)

Date: Saturday, April 25, 2026

Time: 7:30 AM-4:00 PM

Cadette Girl Scouts

Cost: \$60 girls and adults



Get ready for intrigue at the International Spy Museum. Cadettes, your mission, if you choose to accept it, is to become CIA recruits in this interactive tour through the Spy Museum. Learn code cracking, spy craft and the history of those famous and infamous secret agents. Next, explore The Wharf, its Famous Fish Market and all its restaurants and shops. Our last stop on our Secret Mission is the Tidal Basin and Monuments Row. Register [HERE](#).

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CELEBRATES HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS

BLACK

HISTORY

MONTH

WORKSHOP

FEBRUARY 28TH | 12-2:30 PM

Join Girl Scouts for an inspiring afternoon honoring Black history, culture, and excellence! In celebration of Black History Month, girls will participate in fun, hands-on activity stations designed to spark curiosity, confidence, and cultural appreciation. Thank you partner, The Embolden Project!

WHAT TO EXPECT?



✦ Hip hop dance class with
Heather Lauture, Dance Instructor



✦ Hair styling workshop
with positive affirmations



✦ Interactive activities celebrating
Black heritage and culture

Cost is \$10 - Includes Celebration Month Patch
Register at gscm.info/blackhistory



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GIRL SCOUT week 2026

MARCH 8-14, 2026 | ACTIVITIES FOR ALL AGES

**Don't miss this incredible week of Girl Scout fun
—we can't wait to celebrate with you!**

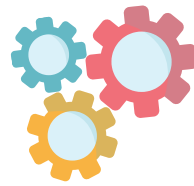
MONDAY, MARCH 9
BUBBLE SCIENCE
Baltimore County

Step into the world of **Bubble Science** and explore hands-on experiments that pop with fun and discovery.



TUESDAY, MARCH 10
ENGINEERING OUR FUTURES
GSCM Headquarters

Put your problem-solving skills to the test with classic and creative **engineering challenges**, including an egg drop, earthquake-resistant sound structures, and balloon-powered cars.



THURSDAY, MARCH 12
DRIVE-IN MOVIE NIGHT
Camp Conowingo

Grab your blankets and join us at Friendship Circle for a special "drive-in" showing of **The Golden Eaglet**, starring Girl Scouts founder Juliette Gordon Low! Girls will also enjoy 1910s-inspired badge activities and skill-building fun.



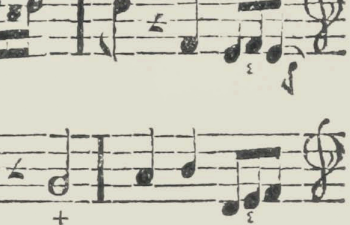
FRIDAY, MARCH 13
FIREFLY CAMPFIRE & BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION
Camp Woodlands

Celebrate **Girl Scouts' 114th Birthday** at our **3rd Annual Firefly Campfire**, filled with glowing fun, friendship, and unforgettable memories.



REGISTER AT
[GSCM.INFO/EVENTS](https://gscm.info/events)





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CREATIVE CAFÉ

SPEAK

CREATE

BE HEARD

Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors, & Volunteers:

Step into the Creative Café—an open-mic experience where Girl Scouts share their voices and stories through art and mindfulness. Enjoy performances by local artists, take part in calming activities, or take the stage yourself. Girls can sign up to perform poetry, spoken word, music, storytelling, and more.



Tuesday
March 31, 2026



6:00 PM -
8:00 PM



Columbia, MD
(Restaurant Venue)

Cost: \$15 (Patch Included)
Food available for purchase on site.



Register at:
gscm.info/creativecafe

Photo courtesy of
Howard County
Government

**SPECIAL
GUEST**

PENELOPE TOFIGH

Howard County Youth Poet Laureate
In partnership with HoCoPoLitSo





EXPLORING HERSHEY, PA

Hey Brownies! Ready for the SWEETEST adventure ever? Join Girl Scouts of Central Maryland for The Sweetest Trip on Earth as we explore Hershey, Pennsylvania!

APRIL 18, 2026 • 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM

STOP 1: Hershey Gardens

Wander through beautiful flowers and step inside the Butterfly Atrium to see hundreds of butterflies up close.

STOP 2: Hershey's Chocolate World

Discover how chocolate is made and grab lunch on your own while exploring this sweet experience.

STOP 3: The Hershey Story Museum

Learn about Milton Hershey and how his chocolate empire began.

✓ WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Roundtrip bus transportation
- Admission to Hershey Gardens, Butterfly Atrium, and The Hershey Story Museum
- Exclusive Girl Scout-only activity
- Discounted pricing just for Girl Scouts

✓ IMPORTANT DETAILS

- Lunch is on your own at Chocolate World
- Trip requires a full bus to run
- If minimum registration isn't met, participants will be notified 2 weeks prior

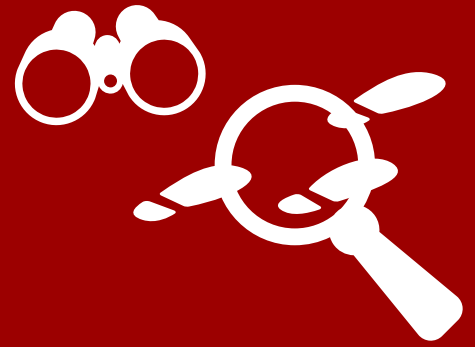


REGISTER AT [GSCM.INFO/HERSHEY](https://gscm.info/hershey)





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TRIP TO D.C.

YOUR MISSION...FIND CLUES, SOLVE THE CASE, HAVE FUN!

Cadettes—your assignment, should you choose to accept it, is to dive into the shadowy world of secret agents during this interactive experience at the **International Spy Museum**. Become a CIA recruit!

Learn code-cracking techniques, explore spycraft skills, and discover the history of spies—both famous and infamous.

APRIL 25, 2026 7:30 AM - 4:00 PM

After the museum, Girl Scouts will explore The Wharf, including the iconic Fish Market, restaurants, and unique shops. Our mission concludes with a visit to the Tidal Basin and Monuments Row—the perfect ending to a day of discovery.

CLASSIFIED MISSION DETAILS:

- Roundtrip bus transportation, discounted Spy Museum admission, and an exclusive Girl Scout scavenger hunt.
- Trip requires a full bus to run. If minimum registration isn't met, participants will be notified two weeks prior.
- Lunch is on your own at The Wharf.

GSCM.ORG/SPYTRIP





EMPOWER HOUR

*Find your strength.
Share your voice.
Own your power.*

FOR GIRL SCOUTS & NON-MEMBERS IN GRADES 6-8



MIDDLE SCHOOL IS TOUGH—EMPOWER HOUR MAKES IT EASIER!

This hands-on, confidence-building series is designed just for middle schoolers.

With workshops led by local organizations, girls will explore what it means to feel strong in mind, body, and voice.

TWO-PART SERIES:

- **Session 1:** Self-Defense Class (November 14, 2025)
- **Session 2:** Improv Class (April 24, 2026)

ONE NOVEMBER SIGN-UP COVERS BOTH WORKSHOPS!
[GSCM.INFO/EMPOWER](https://gscm.info/empower)



**HIGHWIRE
IMPROV**

Membership & Retention



Smart Ways Troops Can Use Cookie Program Earnings

Cookie program proceeds give girls the opportunity to plan, decide, and grow together while shaping their Girl Scout journey. Troop funds can be used in many meaningful, girl-led ways, including:

1. **Create memorable troop experiences** such as outdoor adventures, overnights, service-learning projects, or hands-on workshops that build confidence and teamwork.
2. **Explore beyond the troop level** by supporting attendance at council programs, special events, travel experiences, or multi-troop activities that introduce girls to new ideas and perspectives.
3. **Equip the troop for success** by purchasing shared materials, insignia, uniforms, and supplies that support learning and celebrating milestones.
4. **Plan for troop sustainability** by setting aside funds to help cover upcoming membership renewals, ensuring continued participation for all girls.
5. **Make an impact locally** by allocating a portion of proceeds to a cause the girls care about, reinforcing the importance of service and community responsibility.

Encourage girls to lead the conversation: How can your troop use their earnings to reflect their goals, interests, and values?



Troop Bank Accounts: What Volunteers Need to Know

To streamline processes and provide consistent support, all newly formed Girl Scout troops will have their troop bank accounts established through Truist Bank.

- The council will handle the entire account setup process internally.
- Volunteers will not need to visit a bank branch or complete in-person paperwork.
- Account details and next steps will be shared once the setup is complete.
- This process ensures compliance, security, and ease of access for volunteers.

Thank you for your patience as we move forward with this simplified and standardized approach.



Volunteer Resource Hub: Quick Access Links

Volunteers can find essential tools and information in the following resource areas:

- [New Bank Letter](#) & [Updates to existing bank accounts / Use of third-party payment apps](#)
- [Camp & Outdoor Resources](#)
- [Programs, Events & Activities](#)
- [Girl Scout Destinations](#)
- [Girl Scout Experience Box](#)
- [Recruitment Kits](#)
- [Troop Updates](#)





LET'S TALK VOLUNTEER TRAINING

Upcoming Highest Award Workshops and Q&A Session

Girl Scouts, parents/caregivers, and volunteers are invited to join in any or all highest award sessions to learn more about the Girl Scout Highest Awards—Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards, as well as other leadership opportunities for Girl Scouts. Register for these sessions through our GSCM Event Calendar [HERE](#).

- Gold Award Q&A, Monday, February 2
- Bronze and Silver Awards Q&A, Thursday, February 5
- Volunteer in Training, Wednesday, February 25
- Gold Award Q&A, Monday, March 2
- Bronze and Silver Awards Q&A, March 5

GSUSA Girl Scouts Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Course

Child abuse and neglect are difficult subjects to think about, yet the prevention of abuse is a topic Girl Scouts takes *very seriously*. This training prepares supervising adults of Girl Scout youth to recognize, respond to, and report concerns of child abuse and neglect. Additionally, supervising adults will be empowered to prevent abuse by learning Girl Scout recommended practices, policies and procedures. Girl Scout practices, policies and procedures are proactive measures designed to prevent abusers from interacting with Girl Scouts to foster a safe space for children to thrive.

All current GSCM Volunteers are required to complete this course whether they are new to their volunteer role or have been in volunteer roles for one year or more. **As this is a new course and requirement, GSCM volunteers had until January 31, 2026 to complete this course. If you haven't yet completed this course, please do so without delay.** This course is found through gsLearn in the “Content Library.”

If you are accessing your gsLearn account for the first time, keep in mind that it can take up to 90 minutes for all available courses to appear in your account. If you have issues accessing the course, please contact as membercare@gscm.org for assistance.

Girl Scout First-aider Certification

As a friendly reminder, anyone wishing to serve as a first aider for a Girl Scout troop, group, or event must be a currently registered adult member with a current criminal background clearance through GSCM, who holds current certification in BOTH First aid and CPR/AED for BOTH Infant/Child/Pediatric AND Adult.

Per GSUSA's requirements in [Safety Activity Checkpoints](#), training that does not include modules for both infant/child/pediatric and adult are not accepted. Additionally, ***training certification must be through one of the qualifying first aid/CPR providers listed below; training certifications from other providers (or courses completed totally online with no in-person skills segment) cannot be accepted:***

- American Red Cross
- National Safety Council
- EMP America
- American Trauma Management
- American Heart Association
- American Safety and Health Institute (ASHI)
- Medic First-aid





Basic Troop Camping Training- Register Now!

This required training is for adults planning troop/group camping at GSCM or non-GSCM sites with established restrooms or latrines and sleeping facilities like cabins, shelters, platform tents, or yurts.

Participants will plan and shop for meals in patrols, practice outdoor skills, learn outdoor program activities, review safety guidelines, and explore how to deliver the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through outdoor education.

Before attending, participants must complete two gsLearn courses: GSUSA Foundations and 218-Basic Troop Camping (BAC) Online Pre-session, an in-person planning session, and an overnight campout. Attendance at both the pre-session and corresponding overnight is required for credit. The outdoor session must match the pre-session date—sessions cannot be mixed.

The course is cost-free; however, participants will share the meal costs, to be discussed at the in-person pre-session.

Upcoming BTC Dates (Click on the Course Title to register; one needs to only register one time. By registering for the pre-session, one is automatically enrolled in the overnight session)

BASIC TROOP CAMPING

- Pre-session on 3/23/26 at New Hope Lutheran Church, 8575 Guilford Road, Columbia, MD 21046
- Overnight on 4/18/26–4/19/26 at Camp Whippoorwill

BASIC TROOP CAMPING

- Pre-session on 4/28/26 at New Hope Lutheran Church, 8575 Guilford Road, Columbia, MD 21046
- Overnight on 5/16/26–5/17/26 at Camp Whippoorwill



Tent Camping Training

This in-person adult training is required when a troop/group will be using tents while camping outdoors at GSCM or non-GSCM sites with established restrooms or latrines and fire circles. When a troop/group has progressed to camping in tents, this course will provide the information needed to plan for the camping trip, pitch a tent, set up a tent site, and how to strike and store a tent.

If the troop/group has a tent that they will be using for their camping trip, please bring it to the session. If they do not have a tent, there is no need to purchase one for the training as we will have tents available for practice.

Before participating in this training, one must have completed Basic Troop Camping training. Kindly note that while this course may be offered on the same weekend as Basic Troop Camping overnights for convenience, it is not required. Volunteers who would like to take both trainings may register for the Tent Camping training that takes place the same weekend as their Basic Troop Camping session (if available), or they may register for a Tent Camping Training that occurs at a later date.

Spring Tent Camp Trainings (click on the course title below to register)

[Tent Camp Training at Camp Whippoorwill](#)

Sunday, April 19, 2026

10:15 AM- 12:30 PM

Cost: N/A

[Tent Camp Training at Camp Whippoorwill](#)

Sunday, May 17, 2026

10:15 AM- 12:30 PM

Cost: N/A

PRODUCT SALES



Cookie Booths:

Cookie Booths open February 6th! Our First Come, First Serve system of obtaining extra booths in Smart Cookies is opening with six more spots to grab every Monday at 10am through February 23rd where the system opens completely. Any booth your troop decides not to attend that you have already signed up, you must release ASAP. This ensures we are utilizing as many of the booth spots as possible and our cookie finder stays up to date for consumers to find booths.



Cupboards:

Cookie Cupboards are open starting the week of February 9th. This year's cupboard schedule will be posted on Cookie page the first week of February. Dates, times and locations will be listed in Smart Cookie when you go to place your planned orders.

As a reminder, all planned orders to be picked up the same week are due in Smart Cookies no later than 11:30pm on Sunday. Time slots will fill up, so to ensure you get the pickup time you prefer, place your orders as soon as you know them.



ACH:

The first round of ACH will begin Wednesday, February 25th. This ACH is 50% of your Initial Order cost minus our Digital Cookie funds. If you want to check your troops balance, download your Troop Balance Summary under reports in Smart Cookies. This is a semi-manual process and may take up to 10 business days to show in your Smart Cookies account.

Goals and Rewards

announced in training this year, GSCM is doing two new rewards. First, we are excited to have a council wide goal this year. If our council as a whole achieves 825,000 total packages sold this year by March 29th, every troop's proceeds structure will increase by \$0.03! Currently our council is sitting at just over 500,000 with two more months to go!

Additionally, this year we wanted to recognize more hard-working Girl Scouts and have introduced the Top 50 Club. The top 50 entrepreneurs across our council will be recognized at the end of the program and invited to our Top 50 event. For more program information and training, please visit the cookie page on our website!

GSCM Council Goals





New Volunteer Trainings

New volunteers are required to take "New Volunteer Orientation Training", this is a virtual session hosted by GSCM staff members, that is offered several times each month.

All new volunteers should go to [**gscm.info/fun**](https://gscm.info/fun) to sign up for training .

Adult Learning Courses on Your Schedule

We want to ensure that our volunteers have access to learning opportunities in a variety of settings, and that cover a variety of topics. From the basics of Girl Scouting to understanding mental wellness, we want to help our volunteers be prepared for every situation.

Check out gsLearn for independent online learning courses. All volunteers with a My GS account have access to gsLearn, which include GSUSA Foundations, courses about badge offerings, the Volunteer Toolkit, the Cookie Program, and more! To access gsLearn, simply **sign in to My GS**, then click "gsLearn" in the menu on the left- hand side. You will see some courses on your homepage that are for all volunteers. To locate additional courses, click "Content Library" on the menu located on the left, then either scroll through the list, or use the search bar at the top to find the course you need. For each volunteer role and grade level, there are some courses which are required and some courses which are optional enrichment opportunities. Please be certain to complete all required courses for the roles that you hold. If you have any questions about any of the trainings, please email membercare@gscm.org.



Celebrate the
volunteer in your life.



Recognize Adults that Serve Our Girls

Volunteers appreciate special, enduring thanks for their efforts. Girl Scout volunteers are the lifeblood of the Girl Scout Movement. They give selflessly of their time and talents to help build girls of courage, confidence, and character.

Whether they serve directly or indirectly with girls, the efforts of Girl Scout volunteers leave lasting impression on both the girls and other adult volunteers.

[Click here](#) to learn more about choosing the appropriate award for adult volunteers whom you wish to recognize.