

girl scouts
of central maryland

Volunteer Connections

MONTHLY UPDATES FOR SERVICE UNITS & TROOPS
SEPTEMBER 2026 EDITION

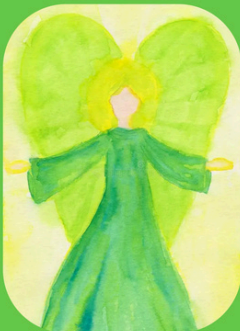
Girl Scouts Love the State Parks!

Brownie Troop 4435 spent the weekend camping at Patapsco Valley State Park and making the most of the great outdoors!

The girls enjoyed art in nature, outdoor games, new skills and a fun “Shapes in Nature” program with Park Naturalist Lee. Their favorite activity for the second year in a row? Giving back with a trash cleanup along the trail! Way to go, Troop 4435! We love seeing Girl Scouts explore, give back and make memories together.



In Memoriam



Remembering Mary Jo

With heavy hearts we announce the passing of longtime Girl Scouts of Central Maryland volunteer, Mary (Jo) Robl.

For over nearly a 50-year span, Mary Jo served as troop leader, coordinator, district manager, and “cookie warehouse master,” providing guidance, spirit, and camaraderie to hundreds of young girls in the Baltimore area. [CLICK HERE](#) to read more about this remarkable woman.



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.

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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!

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.

Timely Topics

SR27 T-Shirts Are Coming!



Exciting news! Our Spring Renewal 2027 T-shirts are in! Our team will be busy packing them over the next couple of weeks. Once packing is complete, they'll begin making their way to troops over the next couple of months.

Thank you for your patience as we get everything packed and ready for delivery. We can't wait for you to receive your SR27 goodies

Have You Shared Your SU Meeting Information?

We want to stay connected with our Service Units! If you haven't already shared your upcoming SU meeting dates, times, and locations, please be sure to send them our way.

Moving forward, SU meetings will be a great opportunity to connect with a variety of GSCM staff members—not just the Membership team!

Please make sure we have your meeting information so we can coordinate and stay connected with your Service Unit throughout the year!

Planning Ahead: Woodlands Meeting Space

We want to share an important update with troops that currently use Woodlands for meetings.

Beginning in September 2027, Woodlands will no longer be available for troop meetings. Once construction begins, there will be no access to the Woodlands property.

If your troop currently meets at Woodlands, please begin considering alternative meeting locations for the 2027–2028 program year. We are sharing this information now to give you plenty of time to make other arrangements.

Troops: Need to Update Your Meeting Information?

Has your troop's meeting day, time, location, or other meeting details changed? Please use our Troop Meeting Details Update Form to submit your updates. To help us keep information organized and ensure updates are processed efficiently, please submit changes through the form rather than emailing Member Care directly.

[Complete the Troop Meeting Details Update Form](#)

Thank you for helping us keep troop information accurate and up to date!

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland is ready to go out in your community!



BACK
TO
SCHOOL

School is back in session, and we know that many troops and service units participate in local Back to School Nights. Please send an email to [**membercare@gscm.org**](mailto:membercare@gscm.org) so that a member of our Membership team can attend the Back to School Nights and/or provide collateral for these events.

We are grateful for your support of sharing the Girl Scouts Leadership Experience with others in the community that can benefit by being a part of the sisterhood.



Product Program

Our Fall Product Program is underway September 24th-October 21st, 2026! It's not too late to have your troop participate. You can jump into the program at any time. Our program is a completely digital sale run on a direct to troop model. This means no direct money handling and no ACH transfers. All products and rewards are shipped directly to your designated troop volunteer! Troops will need a registered and background checked volunteer to serve as the [Troop Fall Product Manager](#)! Just use that link to complete the form. Uploads into the system every Wednesday and Friday!

Troop bank account information is completed under Banking & Payments in your M2 portal.

For more information, training and [the guide](#) please check out the [Fall Product page](#) on our website for all the details you will need!

2027 Cookie Program Sneak Peek!



The 2027 GSCM Cookie Program is right around the corner! Information, forms, links and training will be posted and shared throughout the month of October. Now is the time for service units and troops to decide their volunteer roles for the year!

To maintain your cookie manager roles, forms for each Girl Scout year must be completed! Here are the forms for this year :

[T-1 Troop Cookie Manager Description 26/27](#)

[SU-1 Service Unit Cookie Manager Description 26/27](#)

[SU-2 SU Booth Coordinator Description 26/27](#)

Upcoming training dates will be posted on the GSCM events calendar and added to the For Cookie Sellers page on gscm.org.

New Online Exclusives Coming to the 2027 Cookie Season!

GSUSA announced on September 9th that new innovations are coming to cookie programs nationwide this year. We have two new online exclusive cookies!

Girl Scout Sparkables™—allergy-friendly oatmeal chocolate chip cookies with colorful sprinkles, developed with Partake Foods. GSCM is excited we get to offer more variety as well as accessibility for cookie consumers.

And for our four-legged friends, **Patch Pals™**—soft-baked, blueberry muffin-inspired treats made just for dogs, developed with BARK.



These new products are part of Girl Scouts' continued efforts to diversify online revenue streams for troops while giving girls even more opportunities to build online entrepreneurial skills. While much more information surrounding these products will come out closer to cookie season and during training, we wanted to address some early questions!

How is this different from Raspberry Rally?

When Raspberry Rally was introduced in 2023, it was the first of its kind. An available online only cookie which taught us two major things. First, it showed strong consumer excitement for online-exclusive products. However, it also taught us the importance of clear expectation-setting, strong local forecasting, fulfillment readiness, and consistent tools for councils, volunteers, and girls.

What has changed this time around is councils are working directly with Bark and Partake to take on their own forecasting and ordering. That means we have the ability to order the quantity we want and are guaranteed it. We spent months comparing nationwide studies, reviews and economic patterns, as well as our own sales history to forecast for this year!

Will we sell out?

The short answer is, we hope so! For a long time, there was a history at GSCM of left over products at the end of a cookie season which all still need to be paid for. This takes away the funds that we use for programs, camps, staffing and the girls. These items are exclusive online to council staff as well, meaning we receive no physical product either. Left over product would have to be donated by Bark and Partake instead of by troops or GSCM.

Since this is our first year offering these products, we have forecasted conservatively to prevent this from happening, yet not so conservatively that they will run out in the first month. We are hoping to get a good data set this year to be able to consistently forecast well for the years to come!

Can products sold as online exclusives be sold at a booth, or eventually be moved to all channels?

No. Online exclusives are intended to expand variety while avoiding local logistics in handling inventory. They are designed to be online, where specialty and limited-time products thrive. Their cost and handling are not intended for sale on all channels.

Being a shipped only product means there are shipping costs for every purchase. Troops may not offer these products at any other cost than what is set by GSCM. It would not be of benefit to troops to order these products to offer at booths as the troop or a volunteer would be incurring that cost.

Price Per Box? Sparkables will cost \$7 to match our current gluten free option. Patch Pals will cost \$9 a box.

Girl Events & Activities

NEW YEAR, NEW PROGRAMS, EVENTS, AND TRAININGS!

We are delighted to introduce a tremendous line-up of programs, events, and volunteer learning experiences designed to inspire, educate, and connect our Girl Scout community.

This year, your feedback, interests, and ideas guided our planning. We listened closely to what our Girl Scouts, parents/caregivers, and volunteers want most. In response, we expanded our offerings to create a diverse mix of options that meet your needs, fit your busy schedules, and spark your interests. There is truly something for everyone!

Our shared goal is to support Girl Scouts, families, and volunteers in their unique roles while creating spaces to learn and have fun together. We cannot wait to see you at our upcoming programs, events, and trainings!

THE 2026-2027 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS GUIDES IS AVAILABLE!
CLICK IMAGE TO VIEW ONLINE OR VISIT [GSCM.INFO/GUIDE](https://gscm.info/guide)

The image is a promotional graphic for the 2026-2027 Programs and Events Guide for Girl Scouts of Central Maryland. It features a light blue background with a colorful, wavy border at the top and bottom in shades of purple, pink, teal, and orange. At the top center is the Girl Scouts of Central Maryland logo, which includes the text "girlscouts of central maryland" and a green trefoil. Below the logo, the text "2026-2027 PROGRAMS AND EVENTS GUIDE" is displayed in a large, bold, purple font. The middle section contains a collage of eight photographs showing various Girl Scout activities: a large group of girls and leaders posing in front of a building; girls looking at a display in a museum; girls in a canoe on a lake; girls in a garden; girls working on a craft project; girls holding up a certificate; girls in a classroom setting; and two girls smiling and holding a book. At the bottom left, there is a call to action in purple text: "View our full calendar and register for programs and events at gscm.info/events". To the right of this text is a QR code that links to the events page.

GIRL SCOUT PROGRAM PORTFOLIO EVOLUTION UPDATE AND TIMELINE

Lots of exciting updates are happening at Girl Scouts, to better reflect the interests and needs of today's families. Guided by research and the actual experiences of Girl Scouts of all ages, GSUSA is evolving the Girl Scout experience. The launch of Leadership Awards was the first step, followed by new program themes introduced this past summer. Updated programming and a new digital experience are next—all to make it easier for volunteers and families to discover everything Girl Scouts has to offer!

Explore what's next [HERE](#).



Key Program Updates:

- **Official Retirement of Journeys:** All traditional Journey badges, Journey Summit Pins, and related awards will officially be retired on October 1, 2026.
- **New Leadership Awards:** Launched as a flexible alternative, the new Leadership Awards (for Juniors through Ambassadors) emphasize leading oneself, a team, or the community without ridged constraints.
- **Retired Awards:** Leader in Action (LIA) for Cadettes and older Silver/Gold Torch Awards have been retired and replaced by updated, accessible team-leadership frameworks.
- **Upcoming Program Library:** A centralized digital Program Library launches in spring 2027 to house badges, awards, and activities in one place.
- **New Core Program Themes:** The former four pillars are expanding into eight core themes to better match current youth interests.
- **Updated Badge and Award Charts** introducing the new themes for [Daisies](#), [Brownies](#), [Juniors](#), [Cadettes](#), [Seniors](#), and [Ambassadors](#).

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF THE GIRL

Every year on October 11, the global community comes together to celebrate International Day of the Girl. It's the day when you can recognize the power of girls everywhere—and highlight, discuss, and take action to advance the rights of, and opportunities for, girls across the globe.



Every girl has the power to realize her potential. But it's important to amplify girls' voices and advocate for their inclusion in changemaking spaces. By supporting and investing in girls, you can make the world a better place.

Celebrate International Day of the Girl to not only support a platform where girls can speak out, but also to share girls' achievements, triumphs, and contributions as we build towards a brighter and more equitable future for girls everywhere.

Get started now with these helpful FREE resources:

- [International Day of the Girl Activity Guide](#): Discover lots of fun and engaging activities to recognize the potential of every girl!
- Get Your International Day of the Girl 2026 Patch [HERE](#).



UNIFORM DAY: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 1, 2026

We invite all currently registered Daisy through Ambassador Girl Scouts of Central Maryland to celebrate Uniform Day on Thursday, October 1, 2026! Girls are encouraged to show their Girl Scout spirit and pride by wearing their uniform to school, whether attending in person, virtually, or learning at home.

How Girls Can Participate:

- Wear your Girl Scout uniform to school, your bus stop, or during your virtual/home school day.
- Share what you love about Girl Scouts with friends, classmates, teachers, and school administrators.
- Have a parent/caregiver take a photo of you and submit it to GSCM.
- Receive a special Uniform Day participation patch to add to the back of your vest or sash. Patches will be distributed by troop leaders several weeks after the event.

How to Submit Your Photo:

Parents/caregivers must submit their Girl Scout's Uniform Day photo by 11:59 PM on **Monday, October 5, 2026**.

The photo submission link will be available at www.gscm.org beginning after midnight on **Thursday, October 1**.

Please submit a separate form for each Girl Scout to ensure every girl receives a patch. If a parent/caregiver is unable to submit a photo, a troop leader may submit it on their behalf. However, troop leaders cannot provide permission for a Girl Scout's photo to be used in GSCM publications or social media. Each Girl Scout must also have a separate photo submission; group/troop submissions cannot be accepted.

GSUSA DESTINATIONS

Ready for the adventure of a lifetime? Girl Scout Destinations offer Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts the chance to travel independently, step outside their comfort zone, and make new friends from across the country—all while enjoying a unique, life-changing experience.

With 20+ trips to choose from, there's an adventure for everyone! Check out the 2027 Destination offerings [HERE](#) and apply soon—many trips are already filling up!

GSCM Girl Scouts interested in attending a Destination can also apply for a GSCM Destinations Grant to help offset trip costs. Funds are limited, and grant amounts are based on the number of applications received. [Apply for a GSCM Destinations Grant HERE](#). Questions? Email membercare@gscm.org.



ONWARD SERIES CAP & COMPASS

Chart your course—
your cap is ready,
now grab your compass.

FIND YOUR DIRECTION. SHAPE YOUR FUTURE.

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland invites high school Girl Scouts to join Cap & Compass—a yearlong series designed to help you explore what's next and confidently navigate life after graduation!

Whether you're college-bound, career curious, or still discovering your path, Cap & Compass connects you with new experiences, campus life, inspiring women leaders, and fellow Girl Scouts who are also dreaming big about their futures.

YOUR 2026–2027 JOURNEY BEGINS HERE!

Notre Dame

OCT.
28 | 9:00 AM

Explore campus, observe a class, and get a glimpse into the college experience.

Loyola University Maryland

NOV.
10 | 2:30 PM

Take a college tour and connect with Admissions during an informative Q&A session.

2ND SEMESTER SNEAK PEEK:

More campus adventures are on the way, including visits to McDaniel College, Johns Hopkins University, and more!

Save the date for our [End-of-Year Celebration on April 18, 2027!](#) Enjoy brunch bites, receive professional headshots, and celebrate your accomplishments and Cap & Compass journey together.

Cost is \$20. Open to Girl Scouts and Non-Members in grades 9–12!

Register at gscm.info/events



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of central maryland

**CELEBRATES
HERITAGE HIGHLIGHTS**

HISPANIC HISTORY MONTH

WORKSHOP

**OCTOBER 3RD | 12:00-2:30 PM
BALTIMORE CITY**

Discover the rich traditions, music, food, and culture of Hispanic and Latin American communities through a fun-filled day of hands-on activities. Girls will explore interactive stations featuring salsa dance lessons, arepa-making, cultural crafts, and more designed to spark curiosity, appreciation, and connection.

This event is open to all girls—come learn, create, and celebrate with us!

WHAT TO EXPECT?



✦ **AREPA
COOKING CLASS**



✦ **SALSA DANCE
LESSONS**



✦ **CULTURE CRAFTS
AND MORE**

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



GSCM CELEBRATES 100 YEARS
1928 - 2028

CAMP
WHIPPOORWILL

GO
OUTSIDE

@Camp Whippoorwill

Saturday, October 10th | \$25 Per Girl Scout

EVERY GIRL SCOUT GETS TO GO OUTSIDE!

Spend the day exploring, learning, and having fun with active, hands-on outdoor adventures at Camp Whippoorwill.

Daisies, Brownies, Juniors

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM

DAISIES & BROWNIES: Slingshots, water fun, outdoor cooking and more.

JUNIORS: Archery, canoeing, outdoor cooking and other fun activities.

Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors

1:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Practice your skill at archery, get in a canoe or kayak, learn about trail signs, and cook outdoors.

RSVP at gscm.info/events

Dress for the weather and for safety and comfort during archery and water activities. 💧 Bring: A reusable water bottle filled with water.

Girl Scouts receive a limited-edition Camp Whippoorwill 100th Celebration patch. All proceeds support the continued upkeep of Camp Whippoorwill.





girl scouts
of central maryland

ALL-AMERICAN AFTERNOON

Celebrate America's 250th Anniversary, as we honor
our nation's history, culture, and traditions during
this fun-filled afternoon for the whole family!



★ GAMES, HANDS-ON
CRAFTS, & MUSIC

★ ENGAGING PANEL
DISCUSSIONS

★ TASTY TREATS
& REFRESHMENTS

★ U.S. FLAG RETIREMENT
CEREMONY



Girl Scouts who attend will receive a commemorative
America's 250th Anniversary GSCM patch.

OCTOBER 11TH | 2:00-5:00 PM

GSCM HEADQUARTERS

4806 SETON DRIVE
BALTIMORE, MD 21215

RSVP at
gscm.info/america



Alumnae Gathering
at GSCM All-American Afternoon

• RECONNECT • REMINISCE
REKINDLE THE SISTERHOOD

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2026
12:30 PM - 2:00 PM

gscm.info/america250



girl scouts
of central maryland

BRICK-TACULAR ADVENTURE TO



DISCOVERY
CENTER
WASHINGTON, D.C.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16TH • 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM

Daisy, Brownie & Junior Girl Scouts will put their engineering skills to the test in a fun Car Creation Class, where they'll design and build their own race car. After enjoying a delicious pizza lunch, they'll explore incredible LEGO® displays, hands-on play zones, creative building activities, and experience an action-packed 4-D movie with exciting special effects!

Cost

Girl Scouts: \$56
Adults: \$58

Trip Includes:

**Round-trip transportation,
pizza lunch, admission ticket,
Car Creation Class, & 4-D Movie
Experience**

**Don't miss this unforgettable
day filled with creativity,
imagination, and LEGO® fun!**

**Register at
gscm.info/bricks**



girl scouts
of central maryland

Manor Madness

A Magical Adventure at Bell Manor

Saturday, October 31st | 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM



Celebrate the birthday of **Juliette Gordon Low**, founder of Girl Scouts, with a magical adventure at Bell Manor! **All Girl Scouts** are welcome to attend.

Embark on a **Live Action Role-Playing (LARP)** quest to find the legendary **Cookie Queen's Grand Manor**. Along the way, you'll meet fairy tale characters, complete fun challenges, and enjoy punch and cookies with the Cookie Queen.

Family-friendly costumes are encouraged, so come dressed as your favorite fairy tale or fantasy character and become part of the adventure!

\$15 per Girl Scout & Adult includes:

- ✨ An interactive Live Action Role-Playing experience
- 🏰 A magical quest through Bell Manor
- 🧚 Encounters with fairy tale characters
- 🍪 Punch and cookies with the Cookie Queen
- 👗 Family-friendly costumes encouraged
- 👑 Special celebration honoring Girl Scouts founder Juliette Gordon Low

Register at gscm.info/manormadness



girlscouts
of central maryland

ADVENTURE AWAITS AT Luray Caverns



SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 7TH

7:00 AM - 6:00 PM

CHALLENGE YOURSELF. EXPLORE NATURE. MAKE UNFORGETTABLE MEMORIES!

Calling all Juniors to Ambassadors Girl Scouts who love adventure! Join us for an unforgettable day exploring the natural beauty of **Luray Caverns** and challenging yourself high above the ground on an exciting **High Ropes Adventure Course**.

YOUR ADVENTURE INCLUDES:

- ✓ Explore the breathtaking underground world of Luray Caverns.
- ✓ Test your courage and confidence on a thrilling high ropes course as you trek through the sky.
- ✓ Refuel with delicious pizza at one of Luray's scenic picnic groves.
- ✓ Enjoy free time to explore the charming town, unique shops, and on-site museums.

**Price is \$68 per Girl Scout
(includes transportation, admission,
high ropes course, & lunch)**

**\$70 for Adults with no ropes course
/\$77 with ropes course**

**Register at
gscm.info/caverns**



GSCM CELEBRATES 100 YEARS
1928 - 2028

CAMP WHIPPOORWILL



A TASTE OF ARCHERY

Nock, draw, and let it fly!

Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors:

Get ready to take aim and try your hand at archery at the range at Camp Whippoorwill. Whether you're a first-time archer or ready to sharpen your skills, you'll enjoy hands-on practice and plenty of fun at the range!

November 15, 2026

Two Sessions:

1:30 - 3:00 PM
3:30 - 5:00 PM

\$25 Per Girl Scout:

Girl Scouts receive a limited edition Camp Whippoorwill 100th Celebration patch. All proceeds go to Camp Whippoorwill's upkeep. Cadettes, order your Archery badges at the store and receive them at the range.



RSVP at gscm.info/events



GSCM CELEBRATES 100 YEARS

1928 - 2028

CAMP
WHIPPOORWILL

CAMPING RECIPE SWAP COOKBOOK

Help us celebrate 100 years of Camp Whippoorwill!

Do you have a favorite campfire dessert? A go-to troop breakfast? A Dutch oven recipe everyone loves? Or a camp meal that brings back a special Camp Whippoorwill memory?

We want to hear from you!

To celebrate Camp Whippoorwill's 100th anniversary, we're creating a special Camping Recipe SWAP Cookbook featuring favorite recipes, cooking methods, and memories from Girl Scouts.

Who?

All Girls Scouts | Girls, Adults, Alumnae

What?

Swap Your Favorite Camping Recipe

When?

Submit Now Through December 2026

Send your recipe to
campwhippoorwillcookbook@gmail.com

Include...

- Recipe name
- Yield (how many or how much it makes)
- Ingredients
- Cooking time & temperature, if applicable
- Cooking tools (pans, sticks, foil, etc.)
- *Optional:* Your name, troop, and/or county
- *Optional:* Favorite Camp Whippoorwill memory (doesn't have to be related to your recipe)

Cooking Methods

Check all that apply

- ☐ No Cooking
- ☐ Fire
- ☐ Box Oven
- ☐ Camp Stove
- ☐ Dutch Oven
- ☐ Stick
- ☐ One Pot
- ☐ Foil

Meal Type

Check all that apply

- ☐ Breakfast
- ☐ Lunch
- ☐ Dinner
- ☐ Snacks/Appetizers
- ☐ Dessert
- ☐ On-the-Go



CAMP WHIPPOORWILL PATCH CONTEST

Dream it. Design it. Help create a piece of Camp Whippoorwill history!

Calling all creative Girl Scouts and troops! Help us design Camp Whippoorwill's new official camp patch—a keepsake that Girl Scouts will treasure for years to come!

DESIGN GUIDELINES

- Use no more than 5 colors (white does not count!)
- Design must fit within the 3-inch circle provided
- Create your design by hand or digitally (no AI allowed)
- Your design must include the words "Camp Whippoorwill"

HOW TO ENTER:

- Your name
- Girl Scout level
- Troop number
- Troop Leader's name
- Parent/Guardian email

EMAIL ENTRY TO

gscmhistory.archives@gmail.com

OR MAIL IT TO

Girl Scouts of Central Maryland
Attn: Archives
4806 Seton Drive
Baltimore, MD 21215



**SUBMISSIONS DUE
NOVEMBER 30, 2026!**

Membership & Retention



Let's Connect

The “Let’s Connect” QR code that was distributed to volunteers at the beginning of MY26 is no longer functional. Effective immediately, return to the use of the Interest Card. The cards are available in the Recruitment Kit request form found [HERE](#).



Discover Girl Scout Troops

Fall is a GREAT time to start new troops in your area! To aid in the effort, GSCM offers the Discover Girl Scouts troop model. What is that?!

Well, imagine being a brand new Troop Leader with no experience leading a Girl Scout troop! You realize that even though you were a Girl Scout until bridging to adult, being the Girl Scout is different than being the Troop Leader. That is where the recruitment staff hop in to assist!

For up to 4 meetings, GSCM staff will provide everything needed while also showing the you and other volunteers how to run a Girl Scouts troop, how to keep things girl-led, helping fill the other volunteer roles needed for the troop to be sustainable through the Ambassador level (inclusive), and provide tips & tricks you didn’t know you might need! Plus, you will have a subject matter expert to answer your questions in real time during the meeting.

By the end of the fourth meeting, you can handle anything that comes your way! You feel confident and are sure you will be successful with your Girl Scouts!

Interested in this opportunity for some “on the job” training directly from recruitment staff (currently composed of retired, but seasoned, successful troop leaders)? **Send an email to membercare@gscm.org with the subject line “DGS Troop,” and we will gladly assist.**



Girl Scouts Experience Box Updates

Girl Scouts Experience Boxes (GSEB) are **FREE** and shipped directly from GSUSA to the volunteer designated to receive them.

Eligibility: Your troop must have at least one troop leader and four girls registered at the level of the GSEB requested. For example, a troop with 3 Daisies and 1 Brownie would not qualify for either box. A troop with 5 Daisies and 4 Brownies qualifies for both!

Each box includes the full curriculum, optional meeting script, girl and parent handouts, and enough supplies to complete the activities. Each box provides **TWO FULL TROOP MEETINGS**. Troops may receive up to 8 boxes per year.

Boxes are shipped on a rotating basis. Please allow approximately 6 weeks after receiving confirmation from us that your order has been placed. GSUSA will send an order confirmation followed by tracking information when your box ships. Boxes are sent to the address on file with GSCM, so please keep your information updated to avoid delays.

Junior GSEB: Due to popularity, the Special Limited Edition Junior GSEB is now available electronically only. Junior troops with girls new to the level can email Member Care to request the materials. Patches are not included.

Please note: GSEB activities are designed for girls experiencing the Daisy or Brownie level for the first time. There are currently no Year 2 boxes or boxes beyond the first year of Brownies. Box contents also remain the same from one membership year to the next.

We apologize for any previous confusion or miscommunication.





Adult Learning/Resources

gsLearn

Use gsLearn to find essential volunteer training resources from GSUSA and GSCM—like how to lead activities the Girl Scout way, safety procedures, and advice for guiding Girl Scouts at every grade level.

Find gsLearn via the left menu bar of myGS in My Account. It's accessible from any desktop, tablet, or mobile device by simply logging via myGS. See the [step-by-step access instructions](#).



Troop Year Plans

Looking for an easy roadmap? [Troop Year Plans](#) take the guesswork out of planning with ready-to-use meeting guides filled with badge activities, service projects, outdoor adventures, and more. They're customizable, available in print or online, and even include multi-level and bilingual (Spanish) options for Daisy, Brownie, and Junior troops.

Upcoming Adult Learning Enrichment Sessions

[ACA Level 1 Canoe & Kayak Instructor Certification](#)

Build your paddling and outdoor leadership skills through hands-on ACA Level 1 Instructor training in canoeing and kayaking, preparing you to safely lead beginner paddling experiences for Girl Scouts.

Oct. 17, 2026 | Camp Conowingo

[Archery Training](#)

Build the skills and confidence to safely lead beginner archery programs, including range safety, shooting technique, equipment, and instruction. Successful participants earn USA Archery Level 1 Instructor certification.

November 1, 2026 | Camp Whippoorwill

[Girl Scout Cookies Is a Family Affair](#)

Discover how the Cookie Program builds entrepreneurship, confidence, and lifelong skills—and get practical tips for supporting your Girl Scout throughout the season.

Dec. 14, 2026 | Virtual

Formal Volunteer Recognitions

There are several ways to recognize volunteers for their hard work, and those who have taken on a position for a number of years and have given service above and beyond might warrant a special GSCM or GSUSA recognition.

Not sure which award to nominate a volunteer? Look at the chart below to help you decide. Still unsure? Email us at membercare@gscm.org and we will be happy to assist!

Full descriptions of the awards are in the [Adult Recognitions Digest](#). The next deadline for most of the awards is November 1, 2026. Now is the time to gather your endorsers and start the process! Submit your nominations to membercare@gscm.org.

GSUSA and GSCM Volunteer Awards

Award	Description/Criteria	Picture
GSCM Daisy Award <i>Deadline:</i> <i>On-going</i>	This award is given to any non-registered supporter or registered Girl Scout. It recognizes member and non-member adults who serve troops, communities, counties, council, or Girl Scouting in a supporting role. Candidates must have served in that role for more than one year. Submit Daisy Award Nomination HERE .	
Volunteer of Excellence <i>Deadline:</i> <i>Nov. 1, Feb. 28, May 1, Aug. 1</i>	This award recognizes volunteers who have contributed outstanding service while working directly with girls to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through the use of the National Program Portfolio or who have contributed outstanding service in support of the council's mission delivery to girl and adult members. Requires (2) letters of endorsement. Submit Volunteer of Excellence Nomination HERE .	
Appreciation Pin <i>Deadline:</i> <i>Nov. 1, Feb. 28</i>	This award recognizes a member's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and has a measurable impact within one geographic area/service unit. Requires (2) letters of endorsement. Submit Appreciation Pin and Black-Eyed Susan nomination HERE .	
GSCM Black-Eyed Susan <i>Deadline:</i> <i>Nov. 1, Feb. 28</i>	This award recognizes continued service given by a GSUSA Appreciation Pin recipient in the geographic area/service unit. Requires (2) letters of endorsement. Submit Appreciation Pin and Black-Eyed Susan Nomination HERE .	
Honor Pin <i>Deadline:</i> <i>Nov. 1, Feb. 28</i>	This award recognizes a member's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and has a measurable impact on two or more geographic area/service units. Requires three (3) letters of endorsement. Submit Honor Pin Nomination HERE .	
Thanks Badge <i>Deadline:</i> <i>Nov. 1, Feb. 28</i>	This award is to recognize outstanding service that benefits the total council or entire Girl Scout organization. Requires four (4) letters of endorsement. Submit Thanks Badge Nomination HERE .	
Thanks Badge II <i>Deadline:</i> <i>Nov. 1, Feb. 28</i>	This award is to recognize a previous Thanks Badge award recipient who has continued to provide exemplary service in a leadership role which resulted in a measurable impact benefitting the entire Girl Scout movement. Requires (4) letters of endorsement. Submit Thanks Badge II Nomination HERE .	
GSCM EverGreen Award <i>Deadline:</i> <i>January 31, 2027</i>	This award recognizes a member for 50+ years of membership in Girl Scouting and is presented at the GSCM Annual Meeting. Do you know someone that has been registered for over 50 years? Download EverGreen Award Nomination HERE and submit to membercare@gscm.org	Custom Plaque



Let's Talk Volunteer Training

GSUSA Girl Scouts Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Course

Child abuse and neglect are difficult topics, but prevention is something Girl Scouts takes seriously. This training prepares supervising adults to recognize, respond to, and report concerns while learning Girl Scout practices, policies, and procedures designed to help prevent abuse and create a safe environment for girls.

GSUSA introduced this required training last year for all current GSCM volunteers. New volunteers learn about the requirement through New Volunteer Orientation. Current volunteers who have not yet **completed the training must do so by December 31, 2026.**

GSCM volunteers are required to revisit the training at least every two years and may access it anytime as a refresher. Questions? Email membercare@gscm.org.



SHOP & SHARE EVENTS

Shop & Share is a monthly drop-in events at the GSCM Store where Girl Scouts, families, and volunteers can shop, connect with GSCM staff, explore new resources, and enjoy hands-on activities. Each month features a different Girl Scout topic, plus helpful takeaways to use at home, in meetings, or at events.

6:30–8:30 PM | GSCM Store | No registration required

Upcoming Dates:

Everything Daisy & Brownie

October 15, 2026

Get your youngest Girl Scouts off to a great start with help choosing uniforms, badges, and resources, plus a fun hands-on activity and take-home resources.

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion & You!

November 24, 2026

Explore resources and hands-on activities that celebrate diversity, build belonging, and strengthen your Girl Scout sisterhood.

Leadership Awards

January 5, 2027

Learn about the Bronze, Silver, Gold, and other Leadership Awards, explore project ideas, and get the latest guidance on requirements and submissions.



Let's Talk Volunteer Training

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 Online Pre-Session (assigned after registration closes). The training includes three parts: an 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 free; however, participants will share meal costs, to be discussed at the in-person pre-session.

BASIC TROOP CAMPING

Learn essential outdoor skills, meal planning, safety, and how to facilitate the Girl Scout Leadership Experience while camping. Includes an online pre-session, in-person planning session, and overnight camping experience.

- Pre-session: Sept. 14 | Overnight: Oct. 3-4
- Pre-session: Sept. 28 | Overnight: Oct. 17-18
- Pre-session: April 5 | Overnight: April 24-25
- Pre-session: May 3 | Overnight: May 22-23

Tent Camping Training

This in-person adult training is required for troops/groups using tents while camping outdoors at GSCM or non-GSCM sites with established restrooms or latrines and fire circles.

Once a troop is ready for tent camping, this course provides the skills needed to plan a camping trip, pitch and set up a tent site, and properly strike and store a tent. If your troop has a tent they plan to use, please bring it. If not, no need to purchase one—we have tents available for practice.

Basic Troop Camping training must be completed before taking this course. While Tent Camping training may be offered on the same weekend as a Basic Troop Camping overnight for convenience, taking both on the same weekend is not required. Volunteers may register for Tent Camping during their Basic Troop Camping weekend (if available) or choose a later session.



TENT CAMPING TRAINING

Prerequisite: Basic Troop Camping Training

- Oct. 4
- Oct. 18
- April 25
- May 23

Micro-Learning Moments for Volunteers

Busy schedule? Get the information you need in just 15 minutes!

Micro-Learning Moments is a flexible virtual series created to give Girl Scout volunteers quick, practical support throughout the year. Each session focuses on a timely topic—from programs and badges to finances, travel, celebrations, and volunteer resources—so you can get helpful tips and answers without committing to a long training.

All sessions are virtual and begin at 7:00 PM.

- 15 Minutes of Learning: Get the key information, tips, and resources you need.
- 30 Minutes of Connection: Stay for an optional Q&A with GSCM staff and subject matter experts.
- Ready-to-Use Resources: Take away guides, tools, checklists, and other resources to put into practice right away.

Choose the topics that are most helpful to you, join us for 15 minutes-- and then stay for the optional conversation

Sneak Peek at the Upcoming Line-up

We are packing the year with timely topics to support you through every stage of the Girl Scout calendar. Take a look at just a few of the moments heading your way:

Date	Topic
Wednesday, September 30, 2026	Girl Scout Traditions & Special Days
Monday, October 5, 2026	Founder's Day/Juliette Low's Birthday
Thursday, October 8, 2026	New & Updated Programs
Tuesday, October 13, 2026	New & Updated Volunteer Resources
Wednesday, October 28, 2026	Navigating Volunteer Training
Monday, November 2, 2026	Engaging Parents & Caregivers
Tuesday, November 10, 2026	Navigating Troop Finances & Money Earning
Wednesday, November 18, 2026	Community Service & Take Action Projects
Thursday, December 3, 2026	Girl Scout Badges Basics
Monday, January 11, 2027	Volunteer Recognitions & Awards
Thursday, January 14, 2027	Celebrate World Thinking Day
Wednesday, January 20, 2027	Going Places with Girl Scouts
Monday, February 8, 2027	Celebrate the 115 th Girl Scout Birthday & Week
Wednesday, March 3, 2027	Bridging to the Next Level!
Wednesday, April 14, 2027	Prioritizing Mental Health & Well-Being

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:

THE STORE WILL BE CLOSED
THANKSGIVING - NOVEMBER 26-28!

Be on the lookout for upcoming store FB Live!

Follow us on Facebook to get notifications of events

Having an event with 75 people? Consider inviting the GSCM Pop Up store to your event! We offer Express Delivery, leaders and parents can email an order to the store, pay over the phone and we'll bring the completed orders to you. During your event, we'll set up a table with Girl Scout merchandise. Contact the store for more information or to schedule now!

GSCM store lends out Girl Scout, WAGGGS, US and Maryland flags for ceremonies. Flags need to be picked up from the Seton store Thursday/Friday and return on Monday. Email GSCMstore@gscm.org to get your reservation.

All-American Afternoon Sunday, October 11th – the store will be open 2:00 to 5:00 PM. Place an email order, pay over the phone and pick up that day!

Like us on Facebook to see the store live and get the updated on what's new in the store.

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.