

Council Updates



Closures

GSHG offices and shops in Athens, Gainesville, Augusta, Savannah, Columbus, and Macon will be closed from December 23 to January 1 for winter break. We will resume normal business hours on January 2.

Albany Girl Scout DreamLab will be closed on Wednesday, December 25, for Christmas. Normal business hours for Albany are Monday-Friday from 10:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 am. until 4:00 p.m.

Help Restore Camps Tanglewood and Low

Camp Low in Savannah and Camp Tanglewood in Augusta both sustained damage from Hurricane Helene. We will be having work days at both locations on December 7 to help restore our camp properties. Scan the QR codes to learn more or RSVP (though an RSVP is not required).

Camp Low, December 7, 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Camp Tanglewood, December 7, 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.



Camp
Tanglewood
GoFundMe

We are still raising money to help rebuild Camp Tanglewood. Any money raised helps offset costs of things that insurance doesn't cover. If you haven't already, please consider sharing our [GoFundMe](#) or [Giving Tuesday campaign](#) with your network to help us ensure that camp is ready for the 2025 season!



Giving Tuesday
Campaign

Thank you for your continued support of Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia and for helping us in this time of need. Together, we can ensure that Camp Tanglewood and Camp Low remain a cherished place for all.



Camp Low
Workday



Camp
Tanglewood
Workday



New Volunteer Driver Form

Any volunteer who will be driving girls (other than their own children) on behalf of Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia is required to submit a [Volunteer Driver Form](#). All drivers *must* be registered, background-checked, approved volunteers, 21 years or older, licensed, and insured, with a good driving history.



Volunteer Driver Form

If you or anyone in your troop is planning to transport girls, please submit a [Volunteer Driver Form](#) for approval. These will be sent to your membership manager, with regional directors serving as a secondary approver if needed. *Council approval is required* before you can serve as a volunteer driver. Volunteer driver approval lasts for one year or when your license expires, whichever comes first. You should notify council of any changes in your driving record after approval.

New Troop Trip Application and Process

[Troop Trip Applications](#) are required any time a troop will be meeting outside of their regularly scheduled day, location, or time (*Operational Volunteer Policies and Procedures* - Policy 1.30). We have updated our Troop Trip Application and process and will no longer be accepting the old Troop Trip EZ and Troop Trip Applications. The [new Troop Trip Application](#) has been posted on the council website on both the [Travel Resources](#) and [Forms and Documents](#) pages. If you have the old forms saved or bookmarked, please replace them with the new digital-only form. Please visit the [Travel Resources](#) page of the website for more information about required forms for travel.



New Troop Trip Application



Travel Resources

The new [Troop Trip Application](#) will now be approved or denied by your council membership manager, with regional directors serving as secondary approvers if needed. *Council approval is required* before you can move forward with the troop trip. For field trips, day trips, or changes to meeting times, places, or locations, please submit a [Troop Trip Application](#) at least 2 weeks prior to your event. For overnight trips, please submit the application at least 4 weeks before the event.



Forms and Documents

For cookie booths, the Cookie Booth Selector serves as a Troop Trip Application.

For *international* trips, the process has not changed. For those, you will still complete an [International Trip Intent to Travel Form](#) at least 12 months prior to departure, with an [International Trip Final Details Form](#) submitted at least 8 weeks prior to departure. Those will be go through the program department for approval.

Marketing & Communications Updates



We are on TikTok!

The official Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia TikTok is here! Follow us for inspiring stories, fun challenges, exclusive behind-the-scenes moments, and all the Girl Scout magic! Find us on TikTok at [@girlscouthistoricga](#), click that follow button, and join the movement. Let's go viral together!

Follow Albany Girl Scout DreamLab on social media!

Albany Girl Scout DreamLab, which is located at 2825 Ledo Rd. in Albany, is the very first in the nation to be located inside a Walmart. The Girl Scout DreamLab provides daily programming offerings for current and future Girl Scouts.



Facebook



Instagram

And don't forget to follow the Albany Girl Scout DreamLab on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for pictures, programming updates, and more!

Membership Updates

Check your troop rosters!

With cookie season just around the corner, double check your troop rosters to ensure all of your girls and adult volunteers are registered for this current Girl Scout year. If you need assistance, please reach out to your membership manager. If there are girls who are listed in your troop and they are not active members, please notify your onboarding manager. New registrations and renewals should be completed by Dec. 15 in preparation for the Girl Scout Cookie Program.

Volunteer Toolkit Roster Access

GSUSA has made a change to the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) to allow troop product program volunteers access to the troop roster in the VTK under the My Troop tab. This includes volunteers without a Girl Scout in their household.

If you don't currently use the VTK, go to our website and log in to your MyGS account. Click the yellow 'My Account' button. The Volunteer Toolkit will be in the menu on the left side of your screen.



Become a lifetime member!

Lifetime membership is available to any individual who accepts the principles and beliefs of the Girl Scout Movement, pays the one-time lifetime membership fee, and is at least 18 years old (or a high school graduate or equivalent). A Girl Scout lifetime membership costs \$400. For alums under age 30 and currently registered volunteers with ten or more years of service, the cost is \$200. [Visit our website](#) to learn more about the benefits of lifetime membership.

Daisy Experience Box

Our newest Girl Scout troop leader hack is here! Introducing the Girl Scout Experience Box: our monthly supply box for new Daisy (K-1) troop leaders, where you'll get everything you need to lead your troop successfully. The best part? It's complimentary! [Visit our website](#) to learn more.



Volunteer Development Updates

Adult Awards and Recognitions

Adult volunteers make Girl Scouting happen! Would you like to recognize a volunteer in your Service Unit for the great work they do with Girl Scouts? We have formal and informal award and recognition opportunities. Check out [our website](#) to learn more about our Adult Recognitions process.



Remember that some awards, like our Volunteer Years of Service and Membership Numeral Guards, can be self-nominated by yourself or by the Service Unit. Please review the [Adult Recognitions booklet](#) and the [instructional videos on our website](#).

Nominations for adult recognitions are due by *11:59 p.m. on February 22* to adultrecognitions@gshg.org. If you have questions about the process, forms or awards, please email Tiffany Connolly at tconnolly@gshg.org.



Outdoor Training

Camp Low Challenge Course Facilitator Training- High and Low Elements- Region 3

Friday, January 24, 7:00 p.m. - Sunday, January 26, 4:00 p.m.

Required training for adult facilitators for the zipline and rock wall at Camp Low in Savannah, GA. Includes low elements training. Participants must be registered members of Girl Scouts. Please register by January 13, 2025.

Product Program Updates

NEW! Be a Girl Scout Cookie Entrepreneur this cookie season! 🍪

Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors get the opportunity to visit local Girl Scout troops and share their successful business strategies. Sign up and find a troop of future Girl Scout Cookie Entrepreneurs that need your guidance.



Product Program Pro Tip: Check out our Parent and Troop Checklists to make sure you are Product Program Ready for the 2025 Cookie Program. All necessary forms can be found on our [website](#) and via this [link](#). gsLearn Cookie Training will be available the week of December 2.

NEW! for Cookies 2025!

Parent Debt and Troop Debt paperwork is now available via DocuSign. Your regional product program manager will receive a report of all submissions. Council will continue to use the physical paper forms for the upcoming cookie program. Physical copies of the debt paperwork must be submitted to your service unit product program manager prior to January 2, 2025.



Parent Debt Procedure



Troop Debt Procedure

How to Use DocuSign:

1. When opening DocuSign, enter your first and last name and email address.
2. Click “Agree” and “Continue,” read the form, scroll to the bottom of the page, and add all required information.
3. You will be prompted to create a signature within this document, or you can use your electronic signature already on file.
4. At the end of the process, you can save a copy of the document by downloading or printing it, or just close the document and you’re done.
5. You will receive an email notice of completion and a summary document.

Parents/caregivers must submit one Parent Debt Procedure Form for each girl in the household.

Cookie Program Credits

Online and council cookie program credits from the 2023-2024 Girl Scout Cookie Program will expire on December 15, 2024. Girl Scouts can use their council cookie program credits for upcoming service unit and council events, shop purchases and much more. Online cookie program credits can be used for GSUSA shop purchases. Check our [website](#) for details.



Troop Size Reminders for Cookie Season

A younger girl troop (K-5) must consist of at least 5 girls and an older girl troop (6-12) must consist of at least 3 girls. For troops with fewer than 5 registered girls in grades K-5 and 3 registered girls in grades 6-12, you may continue to participate in upcoming Product Programs IF you are open in the Troop Catalog. To verify, call Customer Care at 888-689-1912.

Program Updates

Girl Scout DreamLab Holiday Events

Albany’s Girl Scout DreamLab has daily programming opportunities from 3:00-6:00 p.m. for current and future Girl Scouts. Check out the holiday-themed events coming in December!

- **Dec. 4:** Holiday Craft (all ages; \$6)
- **Dec. 6:** What Does Mrs. Claus Do? (Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors; free to attend)
- **Dec. 11:** Holiday Craft (all ages; \$6)
- **Dec. 18:** Holiday Craft (all ages; \$6)
- **Dec. 20:** Christmas Karaoke and Ugly Sweater Party (all ages; free to attend)
- **Dec. 21:** Cookies and Cocoa (all ages; free to attend)
- **Dec. 24:** Holiday Paint and Sip (Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors; free to attend)
- **Dec. 26:** Kwanzaa Drum Circle (all ages; free to attend)



Don’t forget to check out the full [Girl Scout DreamLab calendar](#) for *all* of the amazing programs offered in December and beyond.

Check out these upcoming events!

Remember, your membership is nationwide, so you can attend any of our programs, no matter what region you live in. Visit our website to register for any upcoming event!



Region 1

Jan. 4: Athens Cookie Rally 2025 - Gainesville

Jan. 17-19: Mission: Sisterhood! - Athens

Jan. 25: Girl Power 2025: Let's Glow Girls

Region 2

Jan. 4: Augusta Cookie Rally 2025 - TBA



Region 3

Jan. 4: Savannah Cookie Rally 2025 - Savannah - Session 1

Jan. 4: Savannah Cookie Rally 2025 - Savannah - Session 2

Jan. 11: Woodburning - Savannah - Session 1

Jan. 11: Woodburning - Savannah - Session 2

Jan. 11: It's Electrifying - Savannah

Jan. 25: Ghost Pirate Girl Scout Night - Savannah

Region 4

Jan. 25: Give a Robot Mouse a Cookie - Douglas



Don't forget to check the daily programming offerings at the Albany Girl Scout DreamLab!

Region 5

Jan. 4: National Trivia Day: A Girl Scout Adventure - Columbus

Jan. 18: National Popcorn Day Pajama Party - Columbus

Jan. 28: National Lego Day - Columbus

Region 6

Jan. 4: Macon Cookie Rally 2025 - Warner Robins

Jan. 11: World Thinking Day - Lizella - Session 1 (DBJ)

Jan. 11: World Thinking Day - Lizella - Session 2 (CSA)

Jan. 25-26: Teen Leadership Conference - Experience Wesleyan: The Power of Leadership and Community - Macon

Virtual

Jan. 30-Feb. 27: aMuse Journey

Retail Updates

New cookie merchandise has arrived!

We have brand new styles of booth decorations including tablecloths, banners, money pouches, and much more. We have t-shirts, sweatshirts, hair accessories, hats, lounge wear, and more in two different patterns. We also have a collection of items that are perfect gifts for your troops including megaphones, cookie earrings, bracelets, pom-poms, and much more - all for \$6 or less. Contact your local shop for more information.

Looking for cookie costumes? Visit www.girlscoutshop.com to view the NEW Trefoil or Samoa cookie costumes in both girl and adult sizes. Costumes can be ordered online, or special order is available from your local shop.



December Pop-up Shop Dates:

- Region 1
 - First Saturday Shop in Athens: *Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*
 - Athens Holiday Workshop: *Saturday, December 14, 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.*
 - Gainesville Mobile Shop: *Wednesday, December 18, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.* (uniforms and badges need to be preordered with Sidney in the Athens shop)
- Region 2
 - Augusta Mobile Shop: *Tuesday, December 3, 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.* (uniforms and badges need to be preordered with Sidney in the Athens shop)
- Region 3
 - First Saturday Shop in Savannah: *Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*
 - Sweets with Santa: *Saturday, December 14, 1:00 to 3:00 p.m.*
- Region 4
 - Albany Cookie Rally: *Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.* (uniforms & badges need to be preordered with Catherine in the Macon shop)
- Region 5
 - Columbus Cookie Rallies: *Saturday, December 14, 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.*
- Region 6
 - First Saturday Shop in Macon: *Saturday, December 7, 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.*



Cookie Points

Cookie Points expire on Sunday, December 15, at 11:59 p.m. Make sure to visit a shop, email or call prior to that time.

Don't forget! You can shop [Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia](http://www.girlscoutshop.com) online 24/7!



Meet the Executive, MarComm, Fund Development, and Business Operations Teams!

Questions about your area? Reach out to our staff, or call Customer Care at 888-689-1912 today!

Athens & Gainesville

Cheryl Legette, Chief Operating Officer

LaDon Shaw, Chief Advancement Officer

Brandy Tatum, Marketing and Social Media Specialist

Lindsay McCuen, Community Engagement Manager

Rick Lemyre, Grants Administrator

Stefanie Murray, Accounting Manager

Augusta

Brianna Jarvis, Marketing and Social Media Specialist

Shawn Risher, Community Engagement Manager

Monica Jones, Grants Administrator

Janelle VanReenan, Director of Accounting

Savannah

Sue Else, Chief Executive Officer

Amy Varboncoeur, Executive Assistant to the CEO

Chelsea Simpson, Community Engagement Manager

Mollie Andrade, Troop Account Manager

Albany

*no staff in these departments

Columbus

Sophie Jones, Community Engagement Manager

Macon

Deborah Dees, Executive Assistant to the CAO and COO

Kimberly Novak, Community Engagement Manager

You can always access our full [staff directory online](#) or call Customer Care and they will direct you to the right person!

