

Council Updates



Outside the Box Dessert Challenge

Columbus-area chefs will create original desserts inspired by the flavor profile of a randomly assigned Girl Scout Cookie. Desserts will be available for purchase at participating restaurants from **February 20–28, 2026**.

Community members can sample and vote online, while a panel of chefs, local influencers, media personalities, and Girl Scouts leadership will judge based on presentation, flavor, creativity, and cookie inspiration.

Troop Monthly Report

Don't forget to send in your Troop Report by the 15th each month! It's a fun way to share all the amazing things your girls have been up to—and it helps us bring the Girl Scout experience to life.

Bonus: Each meeting submitted earns your troop one entry into a random drawing for a \$50 gift card!

We'd also love your feedback! If you have ideas to make the form even smoother to use, pass them along to Rick Lemyre at rlemyre@gshg.org.



Membership Updates



Early Bird Patch Contest

Think you have what it takes to design the next Early Bird patch? We want to see your creativity shine! Submit your original design for a chance to have your artwork featured as the official 2026 Early Bird patch for our council.



Plan ahead for Early Renewal!

It's never too early to start planning ahead! Troops should begin thinking about Early Renewal, especially since one of our cookie incentives includes coverage of the MY27 Membership Fee—yay!

Please note that a new membership fee structure will go into effect on **April 1, 2026**:

- Girl Membership: \$65
- Adult Membership: \$30 (no change)

Girl Scout Experience Boxes

It's easier than ever to lead the way with the Girl Scout Experience Box. As a Daisy or Brownie Girl Scout troop leader, you can receive complimentary meeting supplies delivered to your doorstep each month of the troop year!



Daisy Experience Box:

The Daisy Experience Box is available to new Daisy troops with at least 4 registered Daisy Girl Scouts.



Brownie Experience Box:

The Brownie Experience Box is available to new Brownie troops—including those brand new to Girl Scouts and those bridging to their first year of Brownies—with at least 4 registered Brownie Girl Scouts.

Volunteer Development Updates

Adult Awards and Recognitions

Adult volunteers make Girl Scouting happen! Do you know a volunteer in your Service Unit who goes above and beyond to support troops and strengthen Girl Scouting in your community? Nominate them for the GSHG Outdoor Enthusiast Award and help honor their dedication.

Check out our [website](#) to learn more about the Adult Recognitions process. Please note that some awards—such as Volunteer Years of Service and Membership Numeral Guards—may be self-nominated by either the volunteer or the Service Unit. We encourage you to review the Adult Recognitions booklet and instructional videos available on our website before submitting a nomination.



All adult recognition nominations are due **by 11:59 PM on February 22** and should be submitted to adultrecognitions@gshg.org. If you have any questions about the process, forms, or awards, please contact Tiffany Connolly at tconnolly@gshg.org.

Ready, Set, Troop!

3rd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. February's meeting will take place on 2/16

Are you a first-year Girl Scout troop leader? Join GSHG each month for Ready, Set, Troop!—a series of one-hour virtual sessions designed just for our First-Year Troop Leadership Team volunteers.

Each month features a new theme focused on timely topics to help you lead your troop with confidence. You'll have the chance to learn, ask questions, and connect with other new troop leaders across our council.



February's Topic: Girl Scout Traditions

[Register here!](#)

GRIT (Grow, Rise, Inspire, Train) Adult Training Weekend- Augusta - Region 2
Friday, March 27, 2026 - Sunday, March 29, 2026

Join us this spring for GRIT, our newest adult training weekend at Camp Tanglewood! Spend the weekend learning new skills, connecting with fellow volunteers, and enjoying a full lineup of classes including Songs & S'mores, Basic Water Rescue/Small Craft Safety, Archery, Advanced Cooking, enrichment sessions, and more. Camp Tanglewood is currently in a rebuilding season following last year's storms, so we'll be tent camping for this event—bringing an extra touch of adventure to the weekend!

****Registration coming soon.***



Basic Outdoor Skills - Athens - Region 1

Friday, April 24, 2026 - Saturday, April 25, 2026

Basic Outdoor Skills prepares leaders with the knowledge and confidence to guide Girl Scouts through an outdoor overnight experience. This course covers the eight essential outdoor skills and is required for any trip involving outdoor cooking, campfires, or sleeping in the great outdoors. By completing this training, leaders gain the practical experience needed to help girls safely explore and enjoy their first outdoor adventures.



Basic Water Rescue and Small Watercraft Training - Effingham County - Region 3

Saturday, May 2, 2026

In this training, we'll learn what's needed to safely take Girl Scouts canoeing or kayaking. Topics will include basic water rescue techniques, safety procedures and equipment, instruction in canoe and kayak strokes and techniques, and what you need to prepare girls for a day trip on the water. We'll cover safety information and travel on the water ourselves. Bring a bag lunch, water, and suitable clothing.



Basic Outdoor Skills - Savannah - Region 3

Saturday, May 2, 2026 - Sunday, May 3, 2026

Basic Outdoor Skills prepares leaders with the knowledge and confidence to guide Girl Scouts through an outdoor overnight experience. This course covers the eight essential outdoor skills and is required for any trip involving outdoor cooking, campfires, or sleeping in the great outdoors. By completing this training, leaders gain the practical experience needed to help girls safely explore and enjoy their first outdoor adventures.



Product Program Updates

Mark your calendars!

Don't miss a single sweet moment of the 2026 cookie season—check out the [2026 Cookie Program Calendar](#) for all the important dates, deadlines, and events coming your way! Be in the know, stay organized, and get ready for a Brave! Fierce! Fun! season full of cookies, friends, and Girl Scout adventures.



Upcoming Dates and Deadlines:

- **February 6** - Booth sales begin!
- **February 8** - Cookie Cupboard reorders are due in eBudde at midnight for pickup on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday
- **February 15** - Cookie Cupboard reorders are due in eBudde at midnight for pickup on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday
- **February 16** - Troops submit ACH Reduction Request for insufficient Initial ACH Draft
- **February 17** - First half of Initial Cookie Order payment due in troop bank account for Initial ACH Draft
- **February 22** - Cookie Cupboard reorders are due in eBudde at midnight for pickup on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday



Girl Scout Cookie Booth Program will begin on February 6!

Take a look at pages 18-23 of the [Volunteer Cookie Guide](#) for guidelines and essentials.



For Service Unit Product Program Managers!

Take a look at pages 8-11 of your Cookbook for tips and tricks to help prepare you for your cookie program.

Things to keep in mind:

- All cookie training, forms, and resources can be found in **gsLearn**—including Parent & Troop 101.
- National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend is **February 20–22**! Patches are available in Girl Scout shops and online.
- Check with your RPPM for possible **additional Office Cupboard hours** the weekend of February 6.
- Please cancel booths promptly if needed, and ensure **proper inventory and adult-to-girl ratios** when picking up a released booth.

Don't forget to check the Cookie Exchange in eBudde!

If your troop has extra packages of Girl Scout Cookies, or if you need a few additional cookies, you can connect with other troop leaders to arrange a trade with eBudde's Cookie Exchange feature. Visit [the link](#) or scan the QR code to watch a helpful step-by-step tutorial!



Regional Product Program Managers (RPPM):

Region 1 - Athens/Gainesville: Addie Kelly, akelly@gshg.org

Region 2 - Augusta: Iteonna Bailey, ibailey@gshg.org

Region 3 - Savannah: Cheyenne Willis, cswillis@gshg.org

Region 4 - Albany: Shanika Price, sprice@gshg.org

Region 5 - Columbus: Melisa Resto, mresto@gshg.org

Region 6 - Macon: Becki Sandifer, rsandifer@gshg.org

Booth Sleuths on the Loose!

Council has hand-picked some Girl Scout volunteers to be Booth Sleuths! They may stop by your booth to check that cookie booth guidelines are being followed—so be sure you're familiar with the rules!

Exciting news! Venmo has partnered with GSUSA to offer a special promotion for select Venmo users.

Starting January 27, eligible Venmo consumers can receive \$5 cashback when they spend \$30 or more using Venmo at checkout on GSUSA's Digital Cookie® website or app.

A few important details:

- Only Venmo users who receive this offer are eligible.
- The offer is valid for a minimum purchase of \$30.
- It is non-transferable.
- The promotion is available until 40,000 redemptions or March 31, 2026, whichever comes first.

Program Updates

Camp Guide coming soon!

Summer camp registration is just around the corner—keep an eye out for this year's Camp Guide!



February 11: Gold Award Training - Virtual
Register by February 4, \$5 per Girl Scout

Are you a Senior or Ambassador working towards your Gold Award? Join us for our virtual Gold Award Training! This training will take place virtually over Teams from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Attendees will receive a link to the meeting in their confirmation email.



February 12: Silver Award Training - Virtual
Register by February 5, \$5 per Girl Scout

Get ready to earn your Silver Award! This essential 1.5-hour training will guide Cadettes through every step of the process. This training will take place virtually over Teams from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Attendees will receive a link to the meeting in their confirmation email.



February 20: LEGO Engineering Challenge - Athens
Register by February 12, \$15 per Girl Scout

Join us on Friday, February 20 from 4:30 to 6 P.M. at the Athens Girl Scout Office for a hands-on LEGO engineering adventure! Girl Scouts will explore creativity and design, learn building basics, tackle challenges, and solve puzzles brick by brick.

We'll be joined by members of Phi Sigma Rho, UGA's STEM sorority, who will share their knowledge of engineering and innovation. Phi Sigma Rho supports women in science, technology, engineering, and math, and inspires the next generation of STEM leaders through mentorship and community programs like the DreamGirls Initiative. Come build, learn, and get inspired!



February 27: Reach for the Stars at Mercer - Macon
Register by February 17, \$4 per Girl Scout

On Friday, February 27 from 6:00–8:00 P.M., Girl Scouts are invited to an exciting space program hosted by Mercer University's Physics Department. Learn from Mercer's astronomy experts as you explore the wonders of space through hands-on activities and interactive stations designed just for Girl Scouts.

This out-of-this-world event is a great opportunity to spark curiosity, build confidence in STEM, and imagine yourself as a future astronomer. Come explore, learn, and Reach for the Stars! The registration fee includes a Girl Scout Space Science fun patch.



Retail Updates

Celebrate Your Girl Scouts' Cookie Skills!

It's time to place your orders for Cookie Badges and Cookie Family Entrepreneur Pins to honor all the new skills your Girl Scouts learned this cookie season.

Cookie Badges: Each level has 2 badges earned by completing the five cookie skills: Goal Setting, Decision Making, Money Management, People Skills, and Business Ethics

Cookie Family Entrepreneur Pins: Celebrate every year your Girl Scout sells cookies! Families can review the worksheets [here](#).



Boost Your Cookie Booth

Looking to take your cookie sales to the next level We've got you covered! From eye-catching tablecloths and vibrant banners to convenient cookie carts and fun cookie accessories, we have everything your troop needs to create a booth that really stands out.

These tools aren't just for looks—they help your Girl Scouts present a polished, professional, and inviting booth that draws customers in and makes selling cookies even more fun. Whether you're at a busy storefront, a community event, or a school fundraiser, the right setup can make all the difference.



Coming Soon: Build-A-Bear Boutique

A fun new way to reward your Cookie Sellers is coming to our Girl Center in Savannah! The Build-A-Bear Boutique opens Friday, February 27th. Girl Scouts can create their very own furry friend and outfit them in official Girl Scout vests and clothing. Stay tuned for details on parties and programming—this is one celebration your girls won't want to miss!

Our next Shop Saturday will be February 7 from 10 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Come visit us at one of our locations!

- Athens Shop: 185 Newton Bridge Road, Athens, GA 30601 (*open 10 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.*)
- Macon Shop: 6869 Columbus Road, Lizella, GA 31052
- Savannah Shop: 535 E. Liberty Street, Savannah, GA 31401

Mobile Shop Schedule:

Augusta (from Athens): 1st Tuesday of each month

Gainesville (from Athens): 3rd Wednesday of each month

Columbus (from Lizella): 3rd Tuesday of each month

Albany Boutique (from Lizella): Quarterly visits

Meet the Program, Property, and Volunteer Development Teams!

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

Athens & Gainesville

Sarah Jones, Program Manager

Breanna Jackson, Program Administrative Assistant

Betsy Connell, Project Specialist

Augusta

Amani Cummings, Program Manager

Carl Gibbs, Property Manager - Camp Tanglewood

Wesley Barney, Assistant Property Manager - Camp Tanglewood

Savannah

Anya Jackson, Program and Museum Educator

Emma Johnston, Program Manager

Jami Brantley, Assistant Director of Program and Partnerships

Lorena Kirschner, Senior Director of Program

Denis Robertson, Assistant Property Manager - Camp Low

Eddie Morrison, Property Manager - Camp Low

Albany

Whitney Hooks, Program Manager

Columbus

Ellie Smith, Program Manager

Macon

Bobby Lumpkin, Assistant Property Manager - Camp Martha Johnston

Haley Hall, Program Manager

Ronald Holliday, Director of Properties - Camp Martha Johnston

Tiffany Connelly, Director of Volunteer Development



You can always access our full [staff directory online](#) or call Customer Care at 888-689-1912, and they will direct you to the right person!