

Council Updates

A Letter from our CEO: *The letter below was shared in 5 on Friday on December 20, 2024.*

Dear Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia Family,

As we wrap up another amazing year, I'm reflecting on the incredible moments that defined our Girl Scout community in 2024. We flexed our entrepreneurial muscles during the Girl Scout Cookie Program, celebrated grand openings and Highest Awards, cheered on marathon runners, worked together to clean up camp, made new friends, created sustainable solutions to issues in our communities, and so much more. I am excited to see what 2025 brings for all of us. In thinking about the changes that will come about in 2025, I want to share an important personal change: I have decided to retire from my position as CEO of Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia, effective May 15, 2025.

I'm so proud of the many things we've achieved together over the years. As a council, we've strengthened our financial stability, creating a solid foundation for future generations. We navigated the challenges of the COVID pandemic and maintained strong membership that reflects the enduring power of our mission. We've also recently launched our first Girl Scout DreamLabs with plans to add more in the future. These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication of our staff, board members, volunteers, Girl Scouts, and supporters. I believe that the success of a leader is defined by the success of the organization, so thank you all for working together to ensure our collective success.

For the last 11 years, I have been continually inspired by all the ways I've witnessed girls step into their power, embrace challenges, and make lasting changes in their communities. Although stepping away is bittersweet, I am confident that the future of Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia is bright. We are a resilient and forward-thinking council, and I am excited to see how we will continue to evolve, innovate, and find new ways to empower girls. In the coming months, our Board of Directors will lead the search for a new CEO who will carry forward our mission with passion and purpose. I have full confidence that the next CEO will build on the strong foundation we've created and inspire even greater achievements for our Girl Scout community in the years ahead.

As I prepare for the next chapter in my life, I want you to know that I'll always be an advocate for the Girl Scout Movement. To each of you—Girl Scouts, volunteers, staff, and supporters—thank you for enriching my life and allowing me to serve alongside you. Leading Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia has truly been one of the greatest privileges of my life, and I look forward to seeing all the wonderful ways Girl Scouts will continue to thrive in the years ahead.

Yours for the girls,

Sue Else

Closures

GSHG offices and shops will be closed on Monday, January 20, for MLK Day. Girl Scout DreamLab in Albany will be open that day.

Marketing & Communications Updates

Keep up to date with GSHG!

Missed one of our newsletters? You can always access past editions of all our our newsletters on our website.

5 on Friday: This weekly newsletter is sent to all currently registered members that are opted in for email and includes the latest announcements from GSHG.



Service Unit Agenda: This monthly newsletter, which is sent to service unit leaders and other volunteers who request it, includes a more in-depth look at things that troop leaders and service unit leaders may find helpful.



Program Newsletter: This quarterly newsletter is sent to all currently registered members and includes an overview of all the scheduled council programs coming up for the next quarter.



Daisy's Dispatch: This is our alum newsletter, which is sent to lifetime members, alum, and anyone else who requests it. It includes an overview of council happenings, girl and alum highlights, and other special things that alum might want to know. It is sent out 3 times per year.



If you aren't receiving these newsletters and would like to, please reach out to Brianna Jarvis at bjarvis@gshg.org or Brandy Tatum at btatum@gshg.org.

Membership Updates

Check your troop rosters!

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.

Onboarding Managers:

- Ivy Westbrook (Regions 1 and 6): iwestbrook@gshg.org
- Jennifer Ellis (Regions 2 and 3): jellis@gshg.org
- Eltalena Freeman (Regions 4 and 5): efreeman@gshg.org



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.



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.

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.

Save the Date


The 2025 Outdoor Skills Summit will be held at Camp Martha Johnston from April 26-27, 2025. More details and registration will be coming soon!

Product Program Updates

NEW! The Girl Scout Cookie Entrepreneur Program is for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors looking to teach young cookie entrepreneurs the tips and tricks to a successful cookie season. Troops leaders - use the [Girl Scout Cookie Entrepreneur Sign Up Form](#) to sign up to request that a cookie entrepreneur plan a trip to your upcoming troop meeting. Older girls – use the [Girl Scout Cookie Entrepreneur Sign Up Form](#) to become a cookie entrepreneur and receive requests from local troops leaders looking for your help!





Product Program Pro Tip: Check out [Cookies 101 for Parents/Caregivers & Troop Cookie Program Managers!](#) This is your guide to the entire cookie program from start to finish. 

Have you set your cookie goals yet? Take a peek 👁️ at the [Extreme Team Level Rewards](#) and set your goals high! Summer camp? Chromebook? Or are you aiming for our Girl Scout Experiences at the Georgia Aquarium and in Savannah? Embrace all the possibilities this cookie season 😊



The Girl Scout Savannah Experience (5,000+ package level)

The Girl Scout Savannah Experience 2025 is a one-of-a-kind reward for the top 10 cookie entrepreneurs – a weekend like no other to honor your hard work, celebrate your achievements, and inspire your dreams: a weekend of historical adventures beginning at First Headquarters, gleaning entrepreneurial inspiration from some of Savannah’s top women leaders and peeking behind the scenes to see how local businesses thrive, taking part in special celebrations and enjoying unforgettable surprises to welcome you into the ranks of this elite group of Girl Scouts. The Savannah Girl Scout Experience is July 18-20. Optional first night stay is at Camp Low, and Saturday night accommodations will be at the luxurious JW Marriott at Plant Riverside.

Sleep Under the Sea at Georgia Aquarium (3,000+ package level)

Why sleep under the stars when you can sleep under the Georgia Aquarium? It’s an experience that will leave you feeling sea-sational! On July 18, 2025 at 6:30 p.m., Brownies and above will enjoy a night under the sea and wake to a full day of adventure at the aquarium, including a behind-the-scenes tour. Parents wishing to attend must confirm by April 1, 2025, and are required to purchase their ticket and meal voucher (\$119.99). On July 19, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. Daisies will join us at the aquarium, experience a behind-the-scenes tour, and receive a meal voucher. Parents wishing to attend must confirm by April 1, 2025, and are required to purchase their entry ticket, behind the scenes tour ticket, and meal voucher (\$66.98).

Are your girls ready to jump in head-first and “Embrace” the 2025 Girl Scout Cookie Program? Download the [troop](#) and [Girl Scout](#) checklists for participating in the cookie program. Use the [How to Assign a Role in myGS For Volunteers flyer](#) to assign the troop cookie program manager role to yourself after your troop cookie program manager has completed the [Product Program Manager Agreements form](#).



Important News! The Do-si-dos Duffle Bag, Take-A-Long Utensil Set & Bento Box and the \$30 Cookie Program Credits reward level did not have the package level indicated on the reward card. Council has corrected this error – the top level can be earned by selling 900+ packages. The [2025 Cookie Program Volunteer Guide](#), [rewards page](#), and [Goal Getter Order Card](#) have been updated on our website and new resources can be found in the eBudde Help Center.

Program Updates

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 events!



Feb 7-8: Brenau Winter Weekend - Gainesville - Region 1: Girl Scout Ambassadors are invited to participate in Brenau University's 50th Annual Winter Weekend where you'll stay overnight in residence halls or sorority houses, hang out with current Brenau students, meet Brenau professors, find out more about the majors you're interested in, and so much more!

Feb. 12: Bee Bots - Savannah - Region 3: Take your bees on a journey of discovery as you tell them where to go as you and your fellow Girl Scouts program your robot. Create your unique designs as your bees buzz around showing off your skills and their new hive.



Feb. 12: Gold Award Training - Virtual: Are you a Senior or Ambassador working towards your Gold Award? Join us for our virtual Gold Award Training! These trainings will take place over Teams from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on February 12 and April 10.

Feb. 13: Robot Dance Off! - Savannah - Region 3: Hey Juniors and Cadettes! Get ready to witness the ultimate fusion between technology and rhythm. Earn your Robotic Programming Badge as you choreograph your robot's fabulous dance moves!



Feb. 13: Hearts & Crafts: Parents Night Out - Columbus - Region 5: Embrace your inner artist and join us for hearts and crafts! Drop off your Girl Scout for an evening of fun, crafts, games, and snacks.

Feb. 13: Bronze Award Training - Virtual: Are you a Junior working towards your Bronze Award? Join us for our virtual Bronze Award Training! These trainings will take place over Teams from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. on February 13 and April 8.



Feb. 18: Heritage Happening: A Celebration of Black History Month - Columbus - Region 5: Join us at the Girl Scout DreamLab in Dot's Little House as we delve into the rich history and culture of the African American and Black communities in the United States!

Feb. 22-23: meDIA Journey in a Weekend - Savannah - Region 3: Explore media and find out how to reshape negative media messages into more positive ones! Spend a weekend examining media images and influences as we watch clips, listen to songs, and revamp their messages.



Feb. 28-Mar. 1: Get Moving! Journey - Athens - Region 1: What is energy? Is it sunlight? Or getting up in the morning and jumping into your day? Is it a battery charger? Or a good nap? During this Journey program for Juniors, you will explore what energy is, the importance of being energy efficient, and steps to take action towards living an energy efficient lifestyle. Girls will earn the Energize and Investigate awards and leave ready to implement a Take Action project to finish the Journey.

Don't forget to check the [daily programming](#) at the Albany Girl Scout DreamLab!



Retail Updates

Take your cookie game to the next level!

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, and pom-poms - 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.



January Mobile Shop Dates:

- January 7: Augusta Mobile Shop, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- January 14: Albany Mobile Shop, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- January 15: Gainesville Mobile Shop, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
- January 21: Columbus Mobile Shop, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Please have preorders for mobile shop to Catherine or Sidney by the Friday before your mobile shop date!

Don't forget! You can shop [Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia online](#) 24/7!



Meet our staff!

Questions? 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

Jaci Bridges, Regional Director of Membership & Volunteer Support

Kate Childers, Membership Manager

Melissa Clink, Membership Manager

Sarah Jones, Membership Manager

Ellie Riddell, Membership Manager

Lori Cobb, Customer Care Specialist

Alicia Palmer, Customer Care Reservation Specialist

Ivy Westbrook, Onboarding Manager

Christina Smashey-Smith, Program Manager

Breanna Jackson, Program Administrative Assistant

Addie Kelly, Assistant Director of Product Program

Brandy Tatum, Marketing and Social Media Specialist

Sidney Popish, Shop Associate

Lindsay McCuen, Community Engagement Manager

Rick Lemyre, Grants Administrator

Stefanie Murray, Accounting Manager

Betsy Connell, Special Projects

Augusta

Quiana Wizzart, Interim Regional Director; Product Program Manager

Gloria Jones, Membership Manager

Danielle Blake, Youth Coordinator

Mona Cox, Youth Coordinator

Juliette Williams, Data Administrator

Jennifer Ellis, Onboarding Manager

Brianna Jarvis, Marketing and Social Media Specialist

Shawn Risher, Community Engagement Manager

Monica Jones, Grants Administrator

Janelle VanReenan, Director of Accounting

Carl Gibbs, Property Manager

Wesley Barney, Assistant Property Manager

Savannah

Sue Else, Chief Executive Officer

Amy Varboncoeur, Executive Assistant to the CEO

Tammy Williams, Regional Director of Membership & Volunteer Support

Sally McCoy, Membership Manager

Jennifer Rounds, Membership Manager

Gabrielle Sovocool, Membership Manager

Carmen Exum, Youth Coordinator

Lorena Kirschner, Senior Director of Program

Jami Brantley, Assistant Director of Program & Partnerships

Stacy Radecki, Program Manager

Anya Jackson, Program and Museum Educator

Lori Warnock, Product Program Manager

Dawn Cusack, Retail Sales Manager

Nasheemah Kennedy, Shop Associate (FHQ)

Chelsea Simpson, Community Engagement Manager

Mollie Andrade, Troop Account Manager

Timothy Cirincioni, Property Manager

Denis Robertson, Assistant Property Manager

Albany

Cullena Mays, Girl Scout DreamLab Manager

Kiwanis Booker, Membership Manager

Cynthia Gaines, Membership Manager

Keisha Herrin, Membership Manager

Michele Edwards, Assistant Director of Program

Shanika Price, Product Program Manager

Columbus

Dee Dee Rivers, Senior Director of Membership & Volunteer Support

Anne Martin, Regional Director of Membership & Volunteer Support

Melissa Burkett, Membership Manager

Raneisha Hudson, Youth Coordinator

Wanda Jenkins-Davis, Youth Coordinator

Jackie Ramsey, Director of Customer Care

Eltalena Freeman, Onboarding Manager

Ellie Smith, Program Manager

Susan Freeman, Director of Product Program

Melisa Resto, Product Program Manager

Sophie Jones, Community Engagement Manager

Macon

Deborah Dees, Executive Assistant to the CAO and COO

Jade Hill, Regional Director of Membership & Volunteer Support

Pristiny Brown, Membership Manager

Kiaira Jackson, Membership Manager

Ashlynn Kilcrease, Membership Manager

Jax Exum, Youth Coordinator

Ashley Newton, Youth Coordinator

Tiffany Connolly, Director of Volunteer Development

Haley Hall, Program Manager

Becki Sandifer, Product Program Manager

Catherine Shinn, Shop Associate

Kimberly Novak, Community Engagement Manager

Ronald “Doc” Holliday, Director of Properties

Bobby Lumpkin, Assistant Property Manager



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!

We're hiring!

Imagine working for an organization that makes a positive difference in the lives of girls and a lasting impact on the community--a place that builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Working for Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia is about much more than a job. It's about passion and commitment to help girls – all girls – grow into the best version of themselves. It's about delivering leadership programs for girls, working side-by-side with volunteers to bring the Girl Scout mission to life and forming lasting partnerships in the community.

