

Council Updates

Closures

GSHG offices and shops will be closing at 12:30 p.m. on Wednesday, November 27, and will remain closed for the remainder of the week for Thanksgiving holidays.



Camp Tanglewood and Camp Low are closed until further notice due to damage sustained from Hurricane Helene. Many have inquired about volunteering to help clean up and restore the camps. We will let you know when we get to a place where we can allow visitors and schedule a workday.

Help Rebuild Camp Tanglewood

Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia's beloved Camp Tanglewood in Augusta has sustained significant damage due to Hurricane Helene. Several cabins have been destroyed, a bathhouse is no longer standing, and the lodge has suffered major damage. Additionally, fallen trees are scattered across camp, making it unsafe and unusable for the time being.



Our beloved camp, which has served as a safe haven for so many Girl Scouts, needs our support now more than ever. If you would like to make a donation to help offset the unexpected costs of rebuilding camp, visit www.gofundme.com/rebuildcamptanglewood. Thank you for your support!

National Membership Dues Increase

The following information was shared in a letter from GSHG CEO Sue Else in the October 25 edition of 5 on Friday:

On Saturday, October 19, over 800 delegates from across the country—including seven from our very own council—convened virtually to discuss, debate, and decide on our path forward at the Special 57th National Council Session. The National Council engaged in robust and constructive debate regarding two proposals to increase annual dues for girl and adult members, and ultimately voted to raise girl membership dues to \$65, phased in at \$45 for Membership Year 2026 and \$65 for Membership Year 2027. Additionally, adult dues were raised to \$30, effective Membership Year 2026.

These are a few examples of initiatives that will be possible because of the dues increase:

- Supporting councils with financial aid assistance
- Expanding the Girl Scout Experience box to include first year Brownies
- Improving and expanding our older girl program
- Launching community-focused marketing
- Technology improvements



[Learn more about the Special 57th National Council Session.](#)

Marketing & Communications Updates

Send us your troop photos!

Is your troop doing something special for Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, or Native American Heritage Month? Are you joining the Girl Scout mile at Every Woman's Marathon? Send your troop photos to media@gshg.org for a chance to see them on social media, 5 on Friday, or other council marketing materials!



Pro tip: When you send your photos, make sure you include a brief prompt about what's happening (including your troop number or service unit name).

In the News

We want everyone to know about the exciting things that Girl Scouts are doing! If your troop or a Girl Scout in your area has been featured in the external media (TV, radio, or publication), let us know!

Girl Scouts will earn the "In the News" patch for the first article and a microphone for the next one after that (limit of one patch per Girl Scout and one microphone per year). To receive patches, please [complete the form](#) and submit it to media@gshg.org.



Membership Updates

Renew today!

With cookie season being just around the corner, we'd like to remind you to 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.

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.

Troop Opportunities Catalog

Need more girls and adult volunteers in your troop? We are here to help with that. [Complete the form](#) and we will update the Troop and Volunteer Opportunities Catalog for you.



If you have the perfect number of girls and adult volunteers, please let your onboarding manager know. We will mark your troop as closed and it will not be displayed in the Troop Opportunities Catalog.

Troop Size Reminder

A troop must consist of at least 5 girls. Older girl troops must consist of at least 3 girls.

Volunteer Development Updates

New Leader Onboarding

New Leader Training is now New Leader Onboarding (NLO) in gsLearn! This refreshed training for new Girl Scout leaders features four easy-to-complete parts.

Please note, New Leader Training is still live on gsLearn to give those who have already started it time to complete it, but new volunteers should start their Girl Scout leadership journey with New Leader Onboarding.

Outdoor Training Opportunities

- November 16-17: [Basic Outdoor Skills -Albany-Region 4](#); register by November 4
- January 24-26: [Camp Low Challenge Course Facilitator Training - High and Low Elements - Region 3](#); register by January 13



Don't forget to bookmark our calendar at www.gshg.org/events to look for more adult training opportunities!

Product Program Updates

Fall Product Program

WOW! You *embraced* the endless *possibilities* the Fall Product Program has to offer! 🥰

The end of the Fall Product Program is Sunday, November 3, so make sure you have collected your orders and entered them onto your Girl Scouts' site!

Troop Fall Product Managers: Remember to get in contact with your Service Unit Product Program Manager to organize your Service Unit's Fall Product delivery.

Upcoming deadlines and dates:

- November 1: All deposits in troop bank account
- November 1: SUPPM begins verifying orders in M2 Media
- November 3: Care 2 Share deadline for direct mailed products only
- November 3: Fall Product Program ends at 11:59 p.m.
- November 3: SUPPM & troop verify orders to council by 11:59 p.m.
- November 8: ACH drafts appear in troop bank accounts
- November 13 -15: Products delivered to SUPPM
- November 25: Girl delivery and customer wrap-up
- November 27-29: Girl Scout office closed for Thanksgiving holiday



Product Program Pro Tip

Make sure you download the rewards and delivery ticket to double check your counts and organize your troops' product orders once they are delivered to your Service Unit.



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

2025 Girl Scout Cookie Program

Now take a deep breath - maybe scheduled a spa day – because we are gearing up for the 2025 GIRL SCOUT COOKIE PROGRAM! The Product Program and MarComm Teams have been working diligently on our website to ensure you and your Girl Scouts have a smooth and successful Cookie Program. Be on the lookout for the gsLearn Cookie Training coming out on December 2, 2024.



How to Participate in the Cookie Program for Troops

Prepping for the 2025 Girl Scout Cookie Program? Take a look at the [troop checklist](#) for the list of requirements to gain troop admin access for eBudde and Digital Cookie.

DocuSign

For the upcoming Girl Scout Cookie Program, the [Parent Debt Procedure](#) and the [Troop Debt Procedure](#) forms will be signed via DocuSign. These are due by January 2, 2025. Here are step-by-step instructions to help you sign these forms:

1. When opening DocuSign, put in your first and last name and your email address.
2. You will be sent a unique code that you must enter to access the DocuSign document.
3. Enter the code and press the yellowish button, and you will be inside the document.
4. Click “Agree and Continue,” read the form, and then add your name and signature at the bottom of the page.
5. If you’ve never signed a form electronically, you will be prompted to create a signature within this document.
6. At the end of the process, you can save a copy of the document by downloading or printing, or you can just close the document and you’re done.
7. You will receive a notice of completion and a summary document.
8. If you are completing both the [Parent Debt Procedure](#) document and the [Troop Debt Procedure](#) document, the unique code you receive via email will work for both documents.



Parent Debt Procedure



Troop Debt Procedure

Program Updates

Girl Scout Destinations

Where will you go this summer? Find out more about Girl Scout Destinations and unlock an experience of a lifetime.



[New Destinations were launched on \[girlscouts.org\]\(https://www.girlscouts.org\)](#); Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts may choose from a total of 26 exciting trips! Destinations offer opportunities for girls to explore their passions, make new friends, and have new experiences.

Many trips offer funding options for families, so don't forget to inquire about our scholarship opportunities!

Every Woman’s Marathon Wellness Pep Rally

November 15-16, \$10 per person (includes both days; membership NOT required)

Join the Girl Scout Pep Squad for a weekend of fun, friendship, and unforgettable memories while showing your Girl Scout spirit and supporting the incredible runners in the sold-out Every Women's Marathon!



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

Dec. 14: Holiday Workshop - Athens - Session 1

Dec. 14: Holiday Workshop - Athens - Session 2

Dec. 14: Holiday Workshop - Athens - Session 3

Region 2

**We are currently looking for new locations for December programs that were originally scheduled at Camp Tanglewood. Check the website calendar in the coming weeks for the latest event updates.*

Region 3

Dec. 14: Sweets with Santa - Savannah - Session 1

Dec. 14: Sweets with Santa - Savannah - Session 2

Dec. 14: Savannah Lighted Christmas Parade

Dec. 15: Woodburning - Savannah

Region 4

Dec. 7: Albany Cookie Rally 2025 - Thomasville

Dec. 13-15: Nightmare Before Christmas Troop Camp - Albany

Region 5

Dec. 14: Columbus Cookie Rally 2025 - Columbus - Session 1

Dec. 14: Columbus Cookie Rally 2025 - Columbus - Session 2

Region 6

Dec. 7-8: Citizen Scientist - Lizella

Dec. 14: LifeLink of Georgia Presents "Let's Get Healthy" - Lizella

Dec. 14: LifeLink of Georgia Presents "The Gift of Life" - Lizella

Dec. 21: Gingerbread Engineering Extravaganza - Lizella

Virtual

Dec. 10: Gold Award Training - Virtual

Dec. 11 - Bronze Award Training - Virtual

Dec. 12: Silver Award Training - Virtual



Retail Updates



Happy Native American Heritage Month

You can celebrate Native American Heritage Month by recognizing the histories, cultures, and contributions of the Native American communities that were the first inhabitants in the United States. We've got plenty of activities to choose from, so you can make new discoveries and have tons of fun while earning your Native American Heritage Month patch.



Maven Takes the Lead

Written by award-winning author Yamile Saied Méndez, this middle-grade novel takes readers on a journey as artistic, imaginative Maven steps up to represent her class in the local robotics competition. Facing doubts and pressure, Maven wonders if she's really cut out to lead—but her Girl Scout crew never doubts her for a second. With the encouragement of her Girl Scout troop, she discovers the value of being her true self.



To help readers dive deeper into Maven's story, a discussion guide is available which girls can use to talk about their thoughts, feelings, and ideas and share with their Girl Scout friends to get to know each other better. A fun patch is also available for purchase for girls to proudly show their love for this story.

Cookie points expire soon!

Cookie points from the 2024 Girl Scout Cookie Program will expire on December 15! Be sure to use them while you can!

How do you use your cookie points?

Locate your cookie point email from productprogram@gshg.org

If your cookie point email says, "You have chosen Council Cookie Program Credits as a Cookie Program Final Reward," come shop with us! Not close to a shop? Email us to request a copy of the catalog and your items can be shipped to you or picked up at one of our mobile shop days!

If your cookie point email says, "You have chosen GSUSA Online Cookie Program Credits as a Cookie Program Final Reward," make your selection on the website at GirlScoutShop.com!

Cookie points cannot be changed from online to shop or vice versa.

Upcoming Mobile Shop Days:

- Gainesville: November 20, December 18
- Albany: December 7 (cookie rally)
- Columbus: November 19, December 14 (cookie rally)

Don't forget! You can shop Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia online 24/7!



Meet the Program and Property Staff

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

Athens & Gainesville

Christina Smashey-Smith,
Program Manager

Breanna Jackson,
Program Administrative
Assistant

Augusta

Harley Flores,
Program Manager

Carl Gibbs,
Property Manager

Wesley Barney,
Assistant Property Manager

Savannah

Lorena Kirschner,
Director of Program

Jami Brantley,
Assistant Director of
Program and Partnerships

Anya Jackson,
Program and Museum
Educator

Stacy Radecki,
Program Manager

Timothy Cirincioni,
Property Manager

Denis Robertson,
Assistant Property Manager



Albany

Michele Edwards,
Assistant Director of
Program

Miranda Mathis,
Program Manager

Columbus

Ellie Smith,
Program Manager

Macon

Haley Hall,
Program 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 and they will direct you to the right person!

