

What's New?

Volunteer Essentials 2020



General changes throughout:

- **Product Sales is now Product Program or Product Program Activities**
- **Background check company is now Sterling Volunteers (formerly Verified Volunteers)**

Pg 1- New satellite office in Manassas, VA, effective October 1

Replacing South Riding Office: 10432 Balls Ford Road, Suite 140
Manassas, VA 20109 Phone: 703-777-5644

Pg 1- Update Germantown satellite office phone number

301-978-3865

Pg 1- Update Brandywine satellite office phone number

301-861-5860

Pg 5- Update Association list and map to include Association 23- Northern Prince George's

Page 5 note: This map DOES NOT show the new Manassas office. This will be available online once the new map is complete.

Pg 6- Update service unit core chart with current roles

Pg 6- Add Customer Care email

Pg 7- Add Satellite to heading- Seasonal Satellite Girl Scout Shops

Pg 8- Add new troop role- Troop Driver and Chaperone

Pg 8- Updates in Membership section (changes bolded)

Volunteers in all roles are ***expected*** to join the Girl Scout movement and register as members, too. GSUSA membership dues are valid for one year from October 1 – September 30. Adults may also purchase lifetime memberships through ***My GS Sign In***.

Pgs 8-10- Change background check company and all accompanying references to Sterling Volunteers

Pg 9- Reiterate that troop leaders must be unrelated

Pg 9- Updates in roles requiring background checks, price, and expectations for time required to complete background check (changes bolded)

Troop committee volunteers must complete a criminal background check before participating in troop activities. This requirement applies to: troop leaders (minimum of two ***unrelated*** registered volunteers), troop money manager, troop cookie manager, troop ***fall product chair***, troop first aider, troop cookout and/or campout qualified volunteer, and ***troop driver and chaperone*** (see page 13). Service unit team members are also required to complete a background check. The service unit positions that require a background check include: service unit manager, service unit troop organizer, service unit registrar,

service unit money manager, **service unit cookie manager**, **service unit fall product chair**, **service unit SHARE chair**, and service unit welcome specialist. The processing fee for each individual is **\$8.25**, and financial assistance is readily available. The overall screening process will typically take 2-3 business days, **but could take up to a week depending on your location. Please plan accordingly and complete your background screening well in advance of any trips, events, or activities.**

Pg 9- Remove Previously Registered Volunteers section

Pg 11-Updates to Get Trained page including GS Learn additions and new requirements for roles

All volunteers must be adequately prepared for their position. We are committed to providing everyone with the proper tools and guidance, which is why we are now offering training through GS Learn. GS Learn is an online learning management system that gives volunteers more just-in-time training, both online and in-person learning opportunities, and the ability to track all their accomplishments. Volunteers can learn at their own pace, access additional resources, and repeat information when needed.

To register for courses, log into GS Learn from gscnc.org. Additional training is also provided through written resources, as well as staff and peer-led learning. Below is a chart with volunteer positions and the associated requisite training:

Troop Position	Training Needed
Troop Leader	• Program Level Learning Path in GS Learn
Troop First Aider	• Level One First Aid and AED • CPR, Adult & Child (both are to be re-certified every two years)
Cookout Qualified Volunteer	Basic Cookout
Camp Qualified Volunteer	• Cookout & Campout Learning Path in GS Learn
High Adventure Volunteer	• Council-approved class or current Instructor certification for Kayak, Canoeing, Low-Ropes, Archery, etc. • Any additional certifications as listed in Safety Activity Checkpoints
Troop Money Manager	Annual training by Service Unit Money Manager
Troop Fall Product Chair	Online tutorial and annual in-person meeting with SU Fall Product Chair
Troop Cookie Manager	Online tutorial and annual in-person meeting with SU Cookie Manager
Troop SHARE Leader	Annual training by SU SHARE Leader
Service Unit Position	
SU Manager	• Service Unit Manager Training (re-take every 3 years)
SU Encampment Coordinator	SU Encampment Coordinator Training
SU Cookie Manager & Booth Coordinator	Annual training by Association Cookie Leadership Team
SU Money Manager	Annual Council-wide webinar
SU SHARE Leader	Annual Council-wide briefing by Development Department
SU Welcome Specialist	Annual Council-wide webinar
SU Fall Product Chair	Annual training by Association Fall Product Chair
SU Registrar	Annual Council-wide webinar
Troop Organizer	Annual training by Membership Specialist
Association or Council Position	
Association Chair and Assistant Chair	Materials and briefing by Second VP & Chief Operating Officer
Cookie Cupboard Manager	Annual training by the Product Program staff
Volunteer-led Day and Twilight Camp Directors	Annual roundtable with Camping Department
Adult Educator	• Adult Facilitation • Presentation Skills

Pg 12-Combine “Additional Education Opportunities” and “Required Training” into one section: *Training Opportunities and Blitzes*

Training will help you feel more comfortable and empowered to try new things with your girls. Adult education in Girl Scouts is typically free, but Training Grant Applications are available for any fee-based courses (see page 38).

“Blitzes” are training days where many classes are offered on the same day at the same location. They are a great opportunity to take required courses and enrichment classes. They are held throughout the year. Additional required trainings are also held throughout the year at our offices and in local areas. Encourage the parents in your troop to learn something new and exciting – like outdoor cooking techniques, knots and lashing, or a course on community service ideas. Their enthusiasm will help lift your troop programs to new heights.

Find Blitzes and all other courses on GS Learn, the “Events” tab on gscnc.org, or Volunteer - Required Training - Upcoming Courses.

Pg 12-Troop Formation meeting clarification

Troops meet regularly, generally at least twice a month. The frequency is up to you and the girls.

Pg 12- Updates to Service Unit Support Team Roles

Service Unit Manager:

- Approves trips lasting longer than 3 nights, or international trips

Service Unit Troop Organizer:

- Helps connect each girl, family, and volunteer with a troop

DELETE: Can assist with finding a troop mentor or sister troop

Service Unit Registrar:

- Supports Spring Renewal (Early Bird) of troops in the service unit

Service Unit Welcome Specialist:

- May appoint new troop leaders

Pg 13- Updates to Getting a New Troop Started requirements

1. ... In order for girls to register into a troop there must be a minimum of two troop leaders ***and one troop money manager*** who are background screened, trained, and unrelated by address, blood or marriage. ***At least one troop leader must be female.***

Pg 13-Girl Health History Form and a “Meet My Daughter” form are under “Resources” on VTK

Pg 13- Delete Basic Leadership as a requirement for troop leaders

This position requires membership registration, background screening, and Program Level training to uphold the safety of girls.

Pg 13- Troop Money Manager “supports the troop committee” in general, not just with reimbursements

Pg 13- Troop First Aider- add AED to required certification

Pg 13- Troop SHARE Leader-remove specific percentages

In this campaign, troops help achieve a service unit goal.

Pg 13-Troop Driver and Chaperone role added

These volunteers support the troop by managing logistics for field trips and service projects identified by the girls.

Pg 14- Remove Service Project (and/or) Field Trip Coordinator role

Pg 14- Remove bullet point about troop number creation

Pg 14- Troop leaders can be appointed by service unit manager or welcome specialist

Pg 14-Girl-to-Volunteer Ratio rules

Troop Meetings

Two unrelated troop leaders (at least one of whom is female) for this number of girls: Plus *one* additional troop leader IN ATTENDANCE for each additional number of this many girls:

Events, Travel, and Camping

Two unrelated registered background screened volunteers (at least one of whom is female) for this number of girls: Plus *one* additional registered background screened volunteer for each additional number of this many girls:

Pg 14- Remove examples of ratio situations

Pg 14- Update to multi-level troop rules

We know there are instances where multi-level troops occur. A multi-level troop that meets in one room must have a girl-to-leader ratio appropriate for the youngest program level, including at least one trained troop leader for each program level.

Multi-level troops that meet in multiple rooms must provide the minimum girl-to-leader ratio in each room because no adult can be alone with girls at any time.

Pg 16- Change “sample traditions” to “sample formats troops might use...”

Pg 16- Update bullets under a Sample Troop Year

- ... Start and enjoy a full leadership Journey, including its Take Action project.
- Catch the entrepreneurial bug in the Fall Product Program-girls set a goal, make a plan, and earn troop funds through magazine and candy/nut sales. ...
- ...Review the Honor Troop form and make a plan to strive for this high honor.
- Have the girls plan for and “earn and learn” in the Girl Scout Cookie Program....
- ...Have an end-of-year parent/guardian meeting to plan for next year.

Pg 18- Update Product Program Rallyhood description

Keep up to date on entrepreneurial programming for girls, which will help build a lifetime of skills and confidence. Join this community to ask questions, make suggestions, and contribute to the discussion.

Pg 18- Add two new Rallies

Outdoor & High Adventure-Share and learn ways to get girls outdoors.

Travel – Girl Scouts Nation’s Capital-Share travel tips, information, ideas, ask questions, and post photos.

Pg 19- Add drivers and chaperones to Parental Permission section

... leaders or drivers and chaperones are responsible for providing detailed information of activities in advance and gaining parental permission.

Pg 20- 2. Safety Activity checkpoints found under “Resources” in VTK

Pg 20- Volunteers overseeing a troop must be trained, background screened, and unrelated

3. ... Your troop must have at least two trained, background screened, unrelated adult volunteers, one of whom is female, present at all times.

Pg 20- Volunteers must be at least 18 years of age and a registered adult member.

Pg 20- Drivers must be background screened

7. ... every driver must be a background screened adult volunteer over the age of 21...

Pg 21- Replace Sensitive Issues Guidelines first paragraph (from GSUSA)

It's an amazing feeling when your girls put their trust in you—and when they do, they may come to you with some of the issues they face, such as bullying, peer pressure, dating, athletic and academic performance, and more. Some of these issues may be considered sensitive by families, and they may have opinions or input about how, and whether, Girl Scouts should cover these topics with their girls.

Pg 21- Update to required training for addressing sensitive issues

Guideline 1- All troop activities addressing sensitive issues topics must be under the direct supervision of either a Nation's Capital volunteer who has completed all appropriate program level training, or by a Nation's Capital staff member.

Page 22- Move Arrange for Education section from page 24

Page 24- Add Report Concerns section from GSUSA

There may be times when you worry about the health and well-being of girls in your group. Alcohol, drugs, sex, bullying, abuse, depression, and eating disorders are some of the issues girls may encounter. You are on the frontlines of girls' lives, and you are in a unique position to identify a situation in which a girl may need help. If you believe a girl is at risk of hurting herself or others, your role is to promptly bring that information to her parent/caregiver or the council so she can get the expert assistance she needs. Your concern about a girl's well-being and safety is taken seriously, and Girl Scouts Nation's Capital will guide you in addressing these concerns.

Here are a few signs that could indicate a girl needs expert help:

- *Marked changes in behavior or personality (i.e. unusual moodiness, aggressiveness, or sensitivity)*
- *Declining academic performance and/or inability to concentrate*
- *Withdrawal from school, family activities, or friendships*
- *Fatigue, apathy, or loss of interest in previously enjoyed activities*
- *Sleep disturbances*
- *Increased secretiveness*
- *Deterioration in appearance and personal hygiene*
- *Eating extremes, unexplained weight loss, distorted body image*
- *Tendency toward perfectionism*
- *Giving away prized possessions; preoccupation with the subject of death*
- *Unexplained injuries, such as bruises, burns, or fractures*
- *Avoidance of eye contact or physical contact*
- *Excessive fearfulness or distrust of adults*
- *Abusive behavior toward other children, especially younger ones*

Pg 25- Updates to Dues section

\$25 is recommended for dues. Girls should plan to earn money beyond dues to make their troop dreams come true.

Pg 29- Updates to Establishing an Account section

The Council requires each troop/group to set up a new bank account. If you're taking over an existing troop, you may inherit a checking account, but with a new troop, you must open a new account. This happens as the troop is formed so there is a place to make deposits, such as group dues or money from product programs or group money-earning activities. Troop money may never be deposited in a personal account.

Pg 30- Update Tax Exempt Numbers

- District of Columbia: Certificate #350000007483 (expires 11/01/19-see online version of Volunteer Essentials for current DC certificate number)
- Maryland: Account #31059471 (expires 09/30/22)
- Virginia: Exemption #SE540732966F05302024 (expires 05/30/24)
- West Virginia: #54-0732966 (note: same as Council's federal tax ID-no expiration date)

Pg 30- Reimbursements- no exceptions to two week submission rule

Pg 30- Troop leaders or troop money managers are expected to submit bank statements, with receipts, at a minimum four times a year. (previously two times a year)

Pg 30- Updates to financial procedures for disbanding troops (changes bolded)

... Unused Girl Scout money left in accounts when troops disband and **when girls' memberships lapse** must be transferred to the service unit. As when closing any bank account, be sure all checks and other debits have cleared the account before you close it, and realize that you may have to close the account in person. **Bank accounts must be closed before the start of the next Girl Scout year.**

Pg 30- Update image to add a girl who is unsure if she's continuing

Pg 31- New section title: Accepting Money Transfers from Parents/Guardians (formerly Accepting Online Payments)

Troops may find it helpful to collect money from parents using electronic means. Many platforms, including Venmo and PayPal, are available in the business marketplace. The decision to use a payment platform must be discussed with the girls and families prior to setting up an account. These accounts differ from troop bank accounts which are established using the Council's federal tax id and our nonprofit status. Troops may only use these platforms if:

1. The decision to use a payment platform is discussed and approved by girls and families.
2. The platform is set up to connect directly with the troop bank account, and the money does not go through a personal account.

Unlike troop bank accounts, all risks in using an online payment platform belong to the troop not the Council.

Pg 31- Girls and families must give written permission for any payment platform to show they understand the additional fees.

Pg 31- Updates to bullets for Helping Girls Reach Their Financial Goals section

1. Set a budget for the troop year. Itemize membership registration, space rental, supplies, and activity costs.
2. Make a plan to earn money for Fall with the Fall Product Program. Set dues for the start of the year to cover expenses until money from Fall Product comes in.
3. Make a plan to earn money for the remainder of the year with the Cookie Program.
4. If your plans require additional money, see below for guidelines around additional troop money earning (not appropriate for Daisies and Brownies).

Pg 33- Money-Earning Guidelines update

... any group money-earning activity should not be conducted during the Fall Product or Cookie Program.

Pg 33- Updates to Money-Earning Restrictions (changes bolded)

... • It is rare that a Daisy, Brownie, or Junior troop would receive approval for an additional money-earning activity. ***The troops should maximize earnings through Fall Product and Cookie programs.***

• Money earned is for Girl Scout activities and is not to be retained by individuals or used for activities associated with other organizations. ***(Removed confusing second sentence)***

• ***All crowd-funding is limited to approved Gold Award Girl Scouts who have received permission to use the Council's designated online tool. This money-earning activity is exclusive to approved Gold Award projects. ...***

... Note: Money-earning is not fundraising. Money-earning is program-based activities conducted by girls through troops; fundraising is ***raising money for SHARE.***

Pg 33- Add note about political endorsement to Collaborating with Sponsors and Other Organizations

We encourage girls' civic participation; however, implied endorsements of candidates are prohibited. Girl Scouts is and always will be nonpartisan.

Pg 34-Add Working with the Media and Crisis Communications sections

Local Press Representatives Our Council has a dedicated Local Press Representative team of volunteers who work to promote positive Girl Scout Stories from their service unit to local media. If you are interested in filling this role, please contact your service unit. Local media includes: weekly and monthly community newspapers, geographically focused social media (i.e. NoVA Moms, NextDoor), cable access channels, and hyper local news websites like the Patch.

Regional Media

The Council maintains relationships with region-wide media, often daily. This includes all Washington DC television and radio stations, daily and monthly publications such as: The Washington Post, the Washington Times, Examiner, Washingtonian; and the Washington Business Journal. Volunteers may not contact these outlets directly, and should work with the Council's PR department to pitch Girl Scout stories. If you are contacted by a daily, region-wide media outlet, (see above), please notify the Council's PR department (202-274-3307).

National Media

Girl Scouts of the USA maintains relationships with national media outlets, such as NY Times, Wall Street Journal, network TV and news. Inquiries from these outlets should be forwarded to the PR department.

Crisis Communications

We respectfully ask, if dealing with a crisis situation involving Girl Scouts, refer media to the Council PR Department (202-274-3304).

Pg 36- Update Teen Troop Decisions on Troop Proceeds (formerly Individual Teen Girl Records)

All funds in a Girl Scout troop bank account are for troop activities; however, teen Girl Scout troops may decide to allow individual girls to determine how a portion of troop proceeds may be spent (formerly known as individual teen troop accounts). Such a system allows for individual record keeping within the troop bank account. This form of record-keeping does not allow for individual bank accounts for each girl. Troops with Daisy, Brownie, or Junior level girls may not use this form of accounting. This includes multi-level troops with girls in these age groups.

Pg 36- Girls must factor in adult costs for activities as adults do not money-earn.

Pg 36- Change about online fundraising/crowd funding

Online fundraising/crowd funding is exclusive to approved Gold Award projects and is only permitted via the Council's designated online tool.

Pg 37- Updates to Gold Award donation request rules

Gold Award Girl Scouts may request donations of in-kind goods and supplies or monetary requests in direct support of their approved Gold Award project. All monetary requests for approved projects are required to go through the Council's designated online tool. This money earning opportunity is exclusive to the support of approved Gold Award projects. Direct solicitation of gift cards or money in any other format is prohibited.

Pg 41- Additions to Annual Family Giving Campaign page

... SHARE Your Love of Girl Scouting is run by adult volunteers with support from the Council's Development staff. ...

... Connect with your Troop SHARE Leader or Service Unit SHARE Chair for more information on how your Troop can support SHARE. Individual donations can be made by mailing a SHARE envelope, online at gscnc.org/donate, by phone 202- 534-3785, or through your Service Unit's GiveCampus crowd-funding page. Volunteers can only create a Service Unit crowd-funding page through the Council's approved platform, GiveCampus. Please speak to your Service Unit SHARE Chair for more information. ...

... Girls can help build the Service Unit's crowd-funding page, through the Council managed fundraising platform. Please contact your Service Unit SHARE Chair or the Annual Giving Specialist, 202-534-3785 for more information on crowd-funding. ...

Pg 45- Add Creating a Safe Space for Girls section from GSUSA

A safe space is where girls feel they can be themselves, without explanation or judgment. As a volunteer, you create an environment that is just as important as the activities girls do; it's the key to developing the sort of group that girls want to be part of! Cultivate a space where confidentiality is respected and girls can express their true selves.

Pg 45- Updates to Recognizing and Supporting Each Girl section

You're a role model and a mentor to your girls. They need to know that you consider each of them an important person. They can weather a poor meeting place or an activity that flops, but they cannot endure being ignored or rejected.

• Give a shout-out when you see girls trying their best, not just when they've had a clear success. ...

Pg 45- Add bullet to Inspiring Open Communication

Listen to the girls. Respond with words and actions.

Pg 46- Add bullet to Addressing the Needs of Older Girls

Treat girls like partners

Pg 47- Additions to Creating an Atmosphere of Acceptance and Inclusion

... It's about being a sister to every Girl Scout. ...

... Honor the intrinsic value of each person's life ...

... If you are open and honest, they'll likely respond in kind, creating an atmosphere that enriches everyone. It's important for all girls to be rewarded based on their best efforts—not on the completion of a task. Give any girl the opportunity to do her best and she will! ...

Pg 47- Inclusion video found on GS Learn, and additional resources on gscnc.org at Volunteer – Inclusion

Pgs 49-50 Delete Leadership Journeys, Digital Programming for Girls, The Girl Scout Product Sale Programs, and Outdoor Adventures sections

Pg 50- Add new sections comparing Journeys to badges and Take Action Projects to community service

***The Important Difference Between Journeys and Badges** Journeys and badges are designed to give girls different leadership-building experiences, all while having fun!*

• ***Journeys** are topic-specific experiences through which girls explore their world by doing hands-on activities and taking the reins on age-appropriate Take Action projects. Because of their leadership focus, Journeys are also a prerequisite for the prestigious Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards.*

• ***Badges** are all about skill building. When a Girl Scout earns a badge, it shows that she's learned a new skill, such as how to make a healthy snack or take great digital photos. It may even spark an interest at school or plant the seed for a future career. Please remember that we don't expect you to be an expert in the badge topics; just have fun learning by doing with the girls! If they choose, girls can pursue the badges they're excited about and Journey awards in the same year; encourage them to find the connections between the two to magnify their Girl Scout experience! While you're having fun, keep in mind that the quality of a girl's experience and the skills and pride she gains from earning leadership awards and skill-building badges far outweigh the quantity of badges she earns. ...*

***The Difference Between Community Service and Take Action Projects** As your girls look for meaningful ways to give back to their community, you can help sharpen their problem-solving skills and expand their definition of doing good by discussing community service and Take Action projects.*

• ***Community service projects** are all about making an impact right now and filling an immediate need in the community.*

• *Through their **Take Action projects**, girls change the world—or their part of it—and make it better, going forward. Take Action projects focus on creating a lasting, sustainable impact. Both projects serve important needs, but at different levels. If your troop members want to pursue their Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award, they'll need to understand the kinds of projects that qualify. To make Take Action projects even more impactful for your girls, set time for them to reflect on their projects. When girls make time to internalize the lessons they've learned, they're more likely to find success in their future projects—or anything else they put their minds to.*

Pg 53- Check with the Customer Care department for availability of Council-registered programs

Pg 54- Change Gold Award Yearbook to Award Yearbook, update image

Pg 54- Add Annual Report to Publications list

Annual Report: An overview of Girl Scouting, showcasing the accomplishments of girls alongside Council statistics and data. Distributed online.

Pg 57- Change Chapter 6 title to Girl Scout Entrepreneurial Programs

Pg 58- Update cookie sale price and allocation changes

\$5.00-\$6.00 per box

\$0.98 Troop Proceeds (average based on various opportunities)

\$2.77 Direct Services to girls & volunteers

- *full camping sites & services*
- *Council-wide programs*
- *broad menu of training opportunities for adult volunteers*
- *technological & web support*
- *staff support for associations, service units, and troops*

- *financial assistance for girls and adult volunteers*

\$1.25 Cost of product, transportation, promotion, service unit proceeds, girl and troop rewards, administrative costs, and debt

Please note: The above breakdown is based on packages selling for \$5.00. The program costs on a \$6.00 package is \$2.25.

Pg 59- Updates to permission for selling online

Parental support and approval must be present when a girl intends to access the online selling portals for Fall Product or Cookie Programming.

Pg 59- Updates to cookie booth location rules

- *In Nation's Capital, the booth offerings are developed by the service unit booth coordinators.*
- *Troops should not approach business to set up individual booths. If you have a contact that may allow booths, please share that with the SU Cookie Booth Coordinator.*
- *For additional clarity, booths will not be established or approved at locations that girls cannot legally patronize. ...*

Pg 60- Updates to Cookie Donations Programs

Girl Scouts Nation's Capital has a virtual Gift of Caring program called Capital Cookie Care. This program allows supporters of the Girl Scout Cookie Program to make a "virtual" donation which benefits many organizations in the area as well as the Girl Scouts. Council delivers donated cookies at the end of the season.

Your troop can also choose to identify an organization as your Hometown Heroes, which girls promote, throughout the selling period, as an option for their customers support.

Here are some things to remember about cookie donations: ...

Pg 62- Add membership for family camping clarification

If a troop includes girls' families in an overnight camping trip, at least one parent/guardian per girl and all girls over the age of five must be registered.

Pg 63- Add Dudley Dining Hall at Camp White Rock and Ross Lodge at Camp Coles Trip to list of Super Lodges

Pg 64- Wording updates to How to Reserve a Program Kit to apply to equipment as well

Pg 65- Refer to gscnc.org/highadventure for High Adventure information

Pg 65- Updates about how to find a high adventure facilitator

If you would like to make a high adventure reservation at one of our camps but are not able to get anyone trained and certified in time, please visit the "High Adventure for Your Troop" tab at gscnc.org/highadventure for information on how to request a facilitator.

Pg 66- Trip Progression reminder

Remember, girls may show different levels of readiness, and trips should be planned based on where they are.

Pg 68- For families traveling with a Girl Scout trip, all adults and girls over the age of five must be registered members.

Pg 68- Clarification about timeline for travel training (changes bolded)

Council requires volunteers to take domestic or international travel in-person training to help them guide their girls in planning any trip that requires Council approval. It is recommended that leaders take training before any planning begins: **usually at least six months before a domestic trip, and at least one year before an international trip.** Depending on the destination and duration of the trip, approval may be required.

Pg 72- Addition under Safety Responsibilities

Also, when planning and before any activity, always review the Safety Activity Checkpoints (gscnc.org/forms) with girls in order to manage safety and risk in Girl Scout-sanctioned activities.

Pg 73- New guideline for males participating in overnights

If it is father/daughter or family camping event, males and their daughters may share sleeping quarters with other parent/guardian-camper pairs as long as ALL are in agreement. All girls **MUST** be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Pg 73- Information about the G.I.R.L. Squad

Our Council also has a G.I.R.L. Squad, girls 13+ who take over the Council's Instagram page. To learn more contact media@gscnc.org.

Pg 73- No photo-release signature required for adults

Pg 74- Additional medication guideline

****All Girl and Adult medications, except for approved self-carry emergency medications, should be secured in the Troop First Aid Kit (or other secure location) when it is not medication time.**

Pg 77- Updates to Safety Activity Checkpoints explanation

When preparing for any activity with girls, start by reviewing the Safety Activity Checkpoints manual to determine the specific safety guideline for the planned activity. This is located on gscnc.org under "Forms". In Safety Activity Checkpoints, you'll find:

- Girl Scout Activity Safety Standards and Guidelines with requirements for adult supervision, permission slips, preparation, field trips and overnight trips, and other vital information
- Activities that are not permitted by GSUSA, and actions that girls and volunteers should not take
- Policies surrounding chartered aircraft trips and aviation
- First-aid and overall health information you'll need from the girls
- Standards for well-being and inclusivity, including working with girls with disabilities and ensuring emotional safety
- A breakdown of specific activities—such as camping, internet use, and water sports—and their individual safety checkpoints

Pgs 78-80- Updates to Safety Activity Checkpoints

Pg 82- Additions to Drivers section

- Drivers must back into spaces unless prohibited by signage or law.
- Every driver is expected to be a registered member with a background screening.

Pgs 84-99- Update camp maps and camp fact sheets