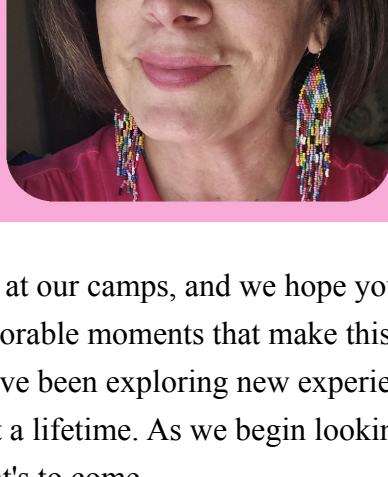


It's About The Journey

A Season of Fun, A Year of Possibilities



It has been an exciting summer at our camps, and we hope you've found time to enjoy all the sunshine, adventures, and memorable moments that make this season so special. Across our council, girls and volunteers have been exploring new experiences, building friendships, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. As we begin looking ahead to a new membership year, we're excited about all that's to come.

The start of a new year brings fresh opportunities, innovative program experiences, meaningful community connections, and new ways for girls to discover their strengths and leadership potential. We are grateful for the volunteers, supporters, and partners who make our mission possible and help us continue creating life-changing experiences for girls throughout our communities.

In this issue, we're asking volunteers to share their thoughts through our Volunteer Feedback Survey, spotlighting hometown champion and Girl Scout alumna A'ja Wilson, reminding volunteers (and potential volunteers!) to register for Volunteer Kick-Off (VKO), and celebrating the remarkable women being honored at our upcoming Women of Distinction event. Together, these stories reflect the leadership, service, and impact that make Girl Scouting so powerful.

Thank you for being part of our Girl Scout family. Here's to an exciting new membership year filled with growth, inspiration, and endless possibilities!

-Jennifer Erdin, Director of Marketing & Communications

Get Ready for Family Camp Weekend at Camp WaBak!



Pack your bags and gather the family for an unforgettable weekend (September 5-6) of outdoor adventure and fun at Camp WaBak! Enjoy swimming, boating, archery, hiking, crafts, tie-dye, s'mores around the campfire, and so much more. Whether you're making new memories or enjoying favorite camp traditions, there's something for everyone to love.

Mark your calendars now and save the date for a weekend filled with family fun, laughter, and adventure. More details coming soon!

Your feedback needed for Vision 2030

As we plan for the future, we'd like to know your aspirations for our council and for our girls. We appreciate the helpful feedback we've already received from those of you who participated in the volunteer survey and focus groups. That information is shaping our work now, helping us design [Volunteer Kick-Off](#), and is providing a road map for how to best support you. The survey linked below focuses on what you see as the needs of the girls, families, and communities we work in. We encourage you to share your bold ideas for the future of our council.

[Please take some time to complete this survey before July 31.](#) I look forward to sharing the results of the survey with you at Town Halls in the fall. Your input will shape the direction of the council and will inform our 2027-2030 strategic plan, set to be presented to the GSSC-MM Board at their November board meeting.

There is so much to celebrate about where we are as a council. I am proud of the progress we've made, the girls we've reached, and am excited about the future. I hope you are as well.

-Melanie Huggins, CEO

[COMPLETE SURVEY](#)

Volunteer Kick-Off 2026: Connect, Learn, and Get Inspired



Don't miss the biggest volunteer event of the year! Join us for Volunteer Kick-Off 2026, a FREE day of inspiration, connection, and practical takeaways designed to help you start the Girl Scout year stronger than ever.

Connect with fellow volunteers, discover new resources, meet community partners, and gain fresh ideas through dynamic breakout sessions and can't-miss large group presentations. You'll leave energized, empowered, and ready to make an even greater impact on girls this year.

- Saturday, August 8, 2026
- Piedmont Technical College – Laurens County Campus
- Check-in: 9:00 a.m.
- Program: 10:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m.
- Cost: Free, thanks to Publix Super Markets Charities
- Lunch: Catered box lunch provided

Featured sessions include Alexandra Skrocki's keynote, The Power of Showing Up: How Girl Scout Volunteers Help Girls Thrive, an inspiring look at the life-changing impact volunteers have on girls' confidence, well-being, leadership, and resilience.

You'll also hear from Girlology during Embodiment & Age-Appropriate Approaches, an engaging session focused on helping girls build healthy body awareness, confidence, and self-understanding through age-appropriate support and conversations.

Whether you're a seasoned troop leader, a brand-new volunteer, or considering getting involved, this is the event everyone will be talking about. Register today and secure your spot!

[REGISTER](#)

Partner Announcement: Applications for the inaugural Columbia Museum of Art Teen Council are open!

Calling all teens! Applications for the inaugural CMA Teen Council are now open for the 2026-27 school year! The Teen Council is a small cohort of 8 to 12 students who get behind-the-scenes access to the museum, learn about careers in the arts, and create materials for guests to interact with on their visits. Must be:

- A high school student during the 2026-2027 school year
- Interested in the arts and museums, you do not need to be an artist
- Able to attend meetings every second Thursday of each month, September-May from 4:30-6:30 p.m.

Collaboration and critical thinking are core aspects of this program. Teens will be expected to contribute to conversation and have fun! Apply via the link below by August 14, 2026.

[APPLY NOW](#)

Girl Scout Alum A'ja Wilson Honors Her South Carolina Roots with New Nike A'Two PE



We love seeing Girl Scout alum A'ja Wilson proudly celebrate a part of her journey that began right here in South Carolina.

On July 11, A'ja debuted a new Nike A'Two PE, inspired by her time as a Girl Scout in our council. More than just a shoe, the design reflects the experiences and values that helped shape her into the person she is today. It continues the story of who A'ja is—unapologetic, authentic, and deeply connected to her roots, family, and community.

By honoring her Girl Scout experience, she is shining a light on the leadership, confidence, and resilience that girls develop through Girl Scouting every day. "Every Girl Scout out there reaching for your dream, I want you to believe in yourself, trust your path, and know that what you're learning now can take you way further than you ever imagined."

[Her message](#) is a powerful reminder that the skills girls build today can open doors to opportunities they may not yet imagine. We are incredibly proud to count A'ja among our Girl Scout alumnae and grateful for the example she continues to set for girls everywhere. Through her achievements and her commitment to staying true to herself, she shows the next generation that success is possible when you believe in your potential and stay connected to the values that matter most.

Celebrating Five Remarkable Midlands Women at Women of Distinction 2026

Girl Scouts of South Carolina–Mountains to Midlands is proud to recognize five exceptional Midlands-area women as the 2026 Women of Distinction honorees.

Since 1993, the annual Women of Distinction event has celebrated extraordinary women whose lives and leadership exemplify the values of courage, confidence, and character—the same values Girl Scouts strives to instill in every girl. These trailblazing leaders have made a lasting impact through their professional achievements, community service, and commitment to helping others succeed.

Meet the 2026 Honorees:

- **Laura Bordeaux**, Senior Director of Manufacturing, Zeus
- **Cheryl R. Holland**, CFP®, CFBA, Founder, Abacus Planning Group
- **Moryah Jackson**, Chief Executive Officer, Central South Carolina Habitat for Humanity
- **Erin E. Johnson**, Chief Community Impact Officer, Central Carolina Community Foundation
- **Mariah Tighe** (Young Professional Honoree), System Security Analyst, First Farm Credit Bank

Join the Celebration! Mark your calendar for Thursday, September 10, 2026, at 5:30 p.m. at the Cathy Novinger Girl Scout Leadership Center, located at 1107 Williams Street, Columbia, SC 29201. Guests will enjoy an uplifting evening honoring women who are making a difference throughout our community while supporting the next generation of changemakers through Girl Scouts.

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