

**Lynchburg Campbell County Girl Scout Service Unit  
Amherst/Appomattox**

February 2021

**Welcome Sara Driscoll**, new co-leader for Troop 9424 and Cadette Troop 9730. And if you attended the Cadette "MEdia" Journey and the Junior "Think Like an Engineer" Sara was one of our facilitators. She has a long history in Girl Scouting being a part of Deb Trum's troop growing up.

"The Impact Camp Sacajawea has on Girl Scouting and Girls"

-By Anya (Cadette, 7th Grade) and Sarah Muminovic, (Co-Leader, Troop 440)

While there are certainly many things that we associate our Girl Scout experience with; nothing has been as significant or as impactful, to us, as Camp Sacajawea. When we joined the GS organization during Anya's Kindergarten year in 2013, we loved our meetings and adored our sweet, little Daisy troop. But when we set foot onto Camp Sacajawea for Day Camp in the summer of 2014, we were instantly hooked into scouting in a way that only Camp Sacajawea could induce. The grounds offered a beautiful, outdoor oasis in the middle of our small city. When we first entered through the gate and read the Girl Scout green signs of the law, we truly felt like official Girl Scouts. When we first hiked the trails that overlooked the James River we knew we were in a very special place meant for very special girls. When we ended our first day at Day Camp with our largest friendship circle, where we were literally physically connected to so many wonderfully creative and remarkably intelligent girls and women of all ages and backgrounds, we knew we had BECOME Girl Scouts.

To say that Camp Sacajawea has had an impact on our scouting experience would be an understatement. We often chat about what our favorite parts of our meetings were or our favorite memories of Girl Scouts have been. In those discussions, we often have differing opinions on what was fun or what we liked the most, but when asked what our favorite part of Girl Scouts is, we are in total agreement that Camp Sacajawea is our favorite Girl Scout activity and memory. We feel so very fortunate that we have had the opportunity to spend time with our troop, their families, and our Service Unit at such an amazing place. We can not imagine Girl Scouting without it!

The 58<sup>th</sup> GSVSC Annual Meeting (virtual) was held Saturday, January 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm, led by GSVSC CEO Nikki Williams and Board Chair Dawn Weise. Along with our delegates, Amy, Erika and Rebecca we had good representation from our service unit. The overall program was most informative with lots of positive messages and a wonderful key note speaker.

Some of the highlights:

**GSVSC started in 1963**

- Treasurer's Report/Where the money comes from/source of Income: Allocation of all funds: fundraising, 5%; management and general, 7%; program and membership

services, 87%.

- Breakdown of all incoming funds: program fees 1%, United Way allocations 1%, Retail sales 2%, other 3%, contributions and grants 11%, Cookie Sales and Nut and Candy Sales 83%.
- Fund Development: Donors increased by 7% with more making multiple gifts throughout the year – gained several new sponsors – increase in grant request/approval.

**Highest Award Scouts 2020 – 139 girls** from our council dedicated over 4,800 service hours to their communities through Take Action projects that focused on a variety of causes. 12 Gold Award Girls Scouts – 29 Silver Award Girl Scouts and 98 Bronze Award Girl Scouts.

**Strategies** to be put in place for membership year '21-'22 to build back membership... 3 – 5 year plan for rebuilding. Included would be updating our three camps to offer more programming and year around camping experiences such as resident camps. Since March 2020, **GSVSC transitioned to a virtual world** creating new opportunities: 1) schedule availability, 2) new innovative ways to work programs, camps and recruitment, 3) farther reach for programming, 4) more direct interaction with girls with increase in highest award trainings reaching more girls.

**Key note speaker was Meghan Grace/Consultant and Trainer with Plaid Inc.**

- **Generation Z and Girl Scouts** looking at our tweens and teens.
- Factors that influence our girls – technology – social – economy – political
- What shapes these factors? Who is raising this generation? Lots more grandparents involved with this aspect.
- What motivates them? Relationships – passion – outside activities – they want to make a difference – do not want to let others down – advocate for something they believe in – want opportunity for advancement – receiving credit for their work.
- What are their concerns? Cost of higher education – employment – inclusion – environment – safety for all.
- They are engaged toward social change – education of others – interested in staying focused – intervention – entrepreneurship – philanthropy – want conversation on careers
  - understanding the reasoning behind things
- General Z girls have a strong interest in Making the World a Better Place.
- Girl Scouts provide opportunities for meaningful connections and shared values.
- Girl Scouts create experiences for career and life skills development.
- Girl Scouting allows for innovations and entrepreneurship to flourish.
- Educate and engage with relevant and social issues.

Interesting read by Meghan Grace

- "Generation Z: Goes to College"
- "Generation Z: A Century in the Making"

**GSVSC Headquarters and Skyline Shop Closed Until February 28.** Staff will be working remotely from home. Appointments with staff can be made via [info@gsvsc.org](mailto:info@gsvsc.org) or 540-777-5100. The Skyline shop will be processing orders through email at [skylineshop@gsvsc.org](mailto:skylineshop@gsvsc.org) for scheduled curbside pick ups or shipments via mail. The shop does have **items** that will help you with your **Girl Scout Cookie program** such as

money pouches, tablecloths, car magnets, roller banners and cookie carts. Just send in your order with your contact information. They will let you know the amount of the order via email and then you call 540-777-5100 with your payment information during office hours: Monday – Thursday 8:30 am – 6 pm, Fridays 8:30 am – noon.

**Revised membership financial assistance for girls and adults volunteers:** The updated membership financial assistance reflects a new format along with the addition of a request for copies of paystubs for each tax paying adult member in the household. **You will need to ensure you have a copy of the pay stubs saved to your computer or phone prior to completing the financial assistant form.** Pay stubs are required to verify how much assistance may be provided. New members should register and select the “Financial Aid” box on the payment page. Questions/concerns: Contact council at [info@gsvsc.org](mailto:info@gsvsc.org) or 540-777-5100.

**gsLearn is GS’s new official online training.** It supports accuracy and consistency across the GS movement providing general knowledge courses. All previous training such as **GS 101, 102 and 103 have been retired.**

- You must have an active membership to log in
- Log in to “**MyGS**” to take any of the leader training courses which range from facilitating troop meetings to VTK (volunteer tool kit) to new leader training. New leaders will be provided a check list to help them through their training step by step.
- Available now after account activation: Learner Dashboard
  - GSUSA Managing My Troop From My Account
  - GSUSA Facilitating Virtual Troop Meetings
  - GSUSA Zoom for Girl Scouts
  - GSUSA Girl Scouts in the Outdoors
  - GSUSA Volunteer Tool Kit Tutorials
- Available to SU Teams after account activation:
  - Developing and Growing the SU Team
  - Goal setting and Planning
  - Effective Meetings
  - Leading Effective Digital Meetings
- GSUSA Learning Opportunities
  - GSUSA STEM Experience
  - GSUSA (Revising): Volunteer Tool Kit Tutorial
  - GSUSA Mental Health Awareness
  - GSUSA Working with Daisy Girl Scouts
  - GSUSA Working with Brownie Girl Scouts
  - GSUSA Service Unit Training II
- GSVSC Courses available in gsLearn Content Library
  - GS 102 Finance Training
  - GS 104 Orientation for Support Volunteers
  - GS 105 Orientation for Product Sales Managers
- GSVSC Courses
  - GS 201 Trips and Overnights

- GS 301a Outdoor Education Online Planning Session
- GSVSC Courses being converted to Virtual (live) trainings
  - Bronze Award Workshop – required
  - Silver Award Workshop – required
  - Gold Award Workshop – required
  - Event Planning Training 106

Lynchburg Parks and Rec are offering “**Programs in a Box.**” These programs consist of troops picking up a box filled with materials for a badge and then receiving instruction from a naturalist via virtual platform. So far they can offer the following badges but are willing to work with troops to customize boxes for others they want.

Present “Programs in a Box:

- Animal Habitats for Juniors
- Eco-Camper for Juniors,
- Animal Helper for Cadettes,
- Night Owl for Cadettes
- Bugs for Brownies.

Cost: Contact Katherine Clement, Chief Naturalist – 434-455-5854 (office)

[Katherine.clement@lynchburgva.gov](mailto:Katherine.clement@lynchburgva.gov) Cost: \$25 per box. Katherine will need two weeks notice to get your box ready.

Check out this impressive **virtual cookie booth** prepared by Gracie and her mom, Troop 224. “Buy from Home.” <https://forms.gle/dQ3BV4T3VZt99XWL8>

“**I Choose Kindness**” is a 30 – 35 minute virtual program being planned by Kappa Delta in partnership with our SU. It will focus on **compassion, understanding, respect and acceptance** using their imaginary friend “Zink.” We invite our Daisies, Brownies and Junior Girl Scouts to attend, February 23, at 6:30 pm. The link will be provided closer to the date. A fun patch will be made available for troop leaders to purchase. Registration not required. Questions: [Becka6778@aol.com](mailto:Becka6778@aol.com)

**World Thinking Day 2021: Join Together for Peace.** “Girl Scouts are bridge-builders and peacemakers.” This year’s theme for WTD is Peace Building. Since 1926 WTD has been celebrated by Girl Guides and Girl Scouts as a day of international friendship. Girls speak about issues that affect them. Each year our SU has taken part in activities that change the world for the better. Our ’21 SU World Thinking Day Event scheduled for Saturday, March 6, will not take place due to present restrictions but **girls can still participate individually or as a troop.** Download the World Thinking Day 2021 Activity Pack and complete the suggested activities to earn this year’s WTD Award (can purchase through the Skyline Ship). You only have to complete one activity in each step to earn the award, but don’t let that stop you...try as many as you like. Share what you’re doing to encourage your community to explore the issues and actions that lead to conflict and those that lead to peace...then take action to create a more welcoming and peaceful society. Then tell us what you have done so we can share it in the next SU Update. [Becka6778@aol.com](mailto:Becka6778@aol.com)  
<https://www.waggs.org>

**Youth Conservation Corps**, ages 14 – 18 is an incredible program for our Girl Scouts looking for summer employment at Virginia State Parks. We have had several of our local girls participate over the last 5 – 6 years and they would be happy to share. Application deadline is March 15, 2021

<https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/state-parks/youth-conservation-corps> (application)  
email [vspycc@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:vspycc@dcr.virginia.gov) for questions or concerns

**Forms/documents:**

<http://www.gsvsc.org/en/for-volunteers/forms---htm>

**Volunteer Resources Tab** for trainers, delegates, troop leaders, service units, info/suggestions on first six troop meetings (D, B, J)

<http://www.gsvsc.org/en/for-volunteers/volunteer-resources.htm>

**Your one decision to be a positive leader will not only impact your life, but your relationships, your family, your friends, your team and your troop. A life that touches a life touches a life. A leader inspires others and develops more leaders. The seed you plant today becomes the harvest you enjoy tomorrow. When you become a positive leader, you will not only make yourself better, but you will also make everyone around you better...and that's a great place to start.**

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[www.facebook.com/LCCGSU](http://www.facebook.com/LCCGSU)