



1963 to 2023: 60 Years of Girl Scout History in Virginia Skyline

During this 60th Anniversary Year your Virginia Skyline Archives Group is going to highlight some interesting and fun facts about those 60 years in our council. *Our History Along the Skyline* will be featured every two weeks in continuing articles and pictures in *The Girl Scout Connection*.

Virginia Skyline Council Anniversary Celebrations

If you have been involved with the Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council for two years or 20 years or 60 years you have probably participated in one of the many projects and patch programs that have been created to celebrate milestones in the council history. On this 60th anniversary year, walk down memory lane with us to see what you remember from anniversaries past.



1983: Council 20th Anniversary

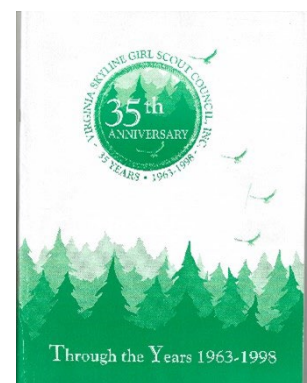
Virginia Skyline Council celebrated its 20th anniversary with a special patch and segment created for troops to earn. "We Found a New World" was the theme. A council song contest was held with the winning song *We Found a New World*, written by Lynchburg Troop 824 with Leader Bonnie Yelvington. You can find a copy of the song on page 30 of the [Virginia Skyline Girl Scout Council's 35th Anniversary History Book](#).

1993: Council 30th Anniversary

This anniversary was celebrated at the annual meeting on April 17 at the Smith Mountain Lake 4-H Center. *Through the Years: 1963-1993*, a Virginia Skyline Council history compiled by The Archives Group, was presented to those attending. The history was updated for the 35th anniversary of the council.

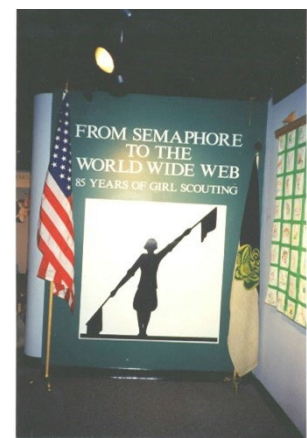
1998: Council 35th Anniversary & GSUSA's 85th Anniversary

The Archives Group updated the 30th anniversary history book and gave them out at the annual meeting. To commemorate Girl Scouts of the USA's 85th Anniversary, The Archives Group created the exhibit "From Semaphore to the World Wide Web" at the Roanoke History Museum in Center in the Square.



2003: Council 40th Anniversary & GSUSA's 90th Anniversary

On March 12, 2003, Virginia Skyline Council celebrated its 40th anniversary and Girl Scouting's 90th birthday with a big birthday party. It was also the grand opening of the new headquarters office on Peters Creek Road in Roanoke, VA. March 2003 marked the move from Salem to the new Roanoke Headquarters.



To celebrate the 90th Anniversary of Girl Scouts and the 40th Anniversary of Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council, The Archives Group created the GSVSC History Mystery Patch Program for girls of all ages. The focus of this program was to have fun discovering Girl Scout history in all the communities in the 37½ counties of Virginia Skyline Council. The challenge for everyone: Find out when Girl Scouting began in your community. Who was involved? What did they do? Where did they meet? Over 30 troops from all over the council participated.

2008: Council 45th Anniversary & GSUSA's 95th Anniversary

On April 12, 2008, Girl Scouts of the USA CEO Kathy Cloninger visited our council for our 45th Anniversary annual meeting, and third annual awards and recognitions banquet held the evening before on April 11. In celebration of the 95th Anniversary of Girl Scouting a council-wide patch program, GSVSC Make the World a Better Place

Patch Program, was created to highlight community service and dedication to making the world a better place. Service fell into one of four categories: Empowering Youth; Valuing Elderly; Improving Our Environment; and Partnering with Community Organizations. More than 2,400 hours were recorded by girls in community service with 649 Girl Scouts participating in 53 projects.

2012: Girl Scouts 100th Anniversary

In celebration of the Girl Scouts 100th Anniversary, a presentation about Juliette Gordon Low was given at the council's annual meeting by Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace Director Fran Harold. Three 100th Anniversary galas were held in Charlottesville, Lynchburg, and Roanoke; both raising money and awareness of Girl Scouting. At two of the galas, six outstanding women were honored: Sharon Nolley, Rosel Schewel, and Marion Stump in Lynchburg; and Nancy Agee, Barbara Duerk, and Ashley Reynolds in Roanoke. The Archives Group created a GSVSC Girl Scout 100th Anniversary Time Capsule and asked for submissions that future generations could look at.

2012: GSVSC Centennial Patch Program

A council-wide service project, the GSVSC Centennial Patch Program: 100 for the 100th, took place February 1 to April 30, 2012. The challenge was to give 100 hours of service or 100 items to "help where needed" in local communities. Girl Scouts throughout Virginia Skyline Council accepted the challenge to celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting by giving service and/or collecting and donating a variety of items. Forty-six troops from 21 service units participated; with 448 girls and 156 adults.

Approximately 2,000+ hours of service were given and almost 10,000 items such as food, books, and other needed items were collected and donated to those in need.

2012: Girl Scouts Forever Green (GSFG)

Girl Scouts' 100th Anniversary Take Action Project was a national effort of girls leading their families, schools, and communities in improving and protecting the environment and protecting natural resources. GSFG invited girls to "Take Action" on one of three projects taking place in February, March, or April: Reduce Plastic Waste, Earth Hour, or Rain Gardens. Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council participated in the Reduce Plastic Waste Take Action Project February 1-29, 2012. The goal was to reduce the number of discarded single-use plastic bottles and bags and the impact they have on our environment by the use of reusable water bottles and bags. One way girls did that was to make and distribute reusable bags made out of old t-shirts. Plastic bottles were also recycled among other projects.

2012: The Great Girl Scout Hike

From March 12, 2012, through March 31, 2013, The Great Girl Scout Hike was created in Virginia Skyline Council and promoted throughout the entire United States as well as internationally. To celebrate the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts, the hike encouraged girls to get outside and hike the entire Appalachian Trail in "bits & pieces." This event was very popular for the council with Girl Scouts of all ages hiking the Appalachian Trail in honor of the 100th anniversary of Girls Scouts of the USA. Hikers included 639 troops/groups/individuals; 5,489 girl hikers; 2,867 adult hikers; 10,670 "section hiker" miles covered; 6,540 "thru-hiker" miles covered; 31 troop states/districts represented; 3 Girl Guide countries represented.

2013: Council 50th Anniversary

The 50th Anniversary of Virginia Skyline Council was kicked-off with Kate Genaitis, council CEO from 1980-1996, speaking at the 2013 Annual Meeting.

2013: Council's Hike "50 for the 50th" Patch Program

Girl Scouts of Virginia Skyline Council celebrated our 50th birthday by girls, troops, leaders, and parents hiking trails in their local communities. The Hike "50 for the 50th" Patch Program kicked off on July 1, 2013 (our council birthday) and continued through June 30, 2014. The "50" could be a number of choices such as hiking 50 miles, 50 steps, 50 minutes, 50 seconds, or even singing 50 silly songs and more. There were 868 participants from 82 troops.

2013: Celebrate Camping in Virginia Skyline 50th Anniversary Patch Challenge

The council is rich in amazing camp properties and each of these camps has something very different to offer. Virginia Skyline Girl Scouts were challenged to take the opportunity to enjoy the wonderful differences of each and earn a special Celebrate Camping Patch and be entered into a drawing to win a free camping weekend at a council camp of their choice.

2016: GSVSC Adventurers 30th Anniversary Patch Program

In celebration of 30 adventuresome years, the Skyline Adventurers created a patch program for all Girl Scouts (Daisies to Ambassadors), adults, family, and friends, to take the ultimate challenge in doing something new in the great outdoors! The challenge could be done January to December 2016 with a troop, service unit, camp, family or on your own. As their motto states, the Adventurers are "Challenging YOU to Challenge YOURSELF!"

2018: Council 55th Anniversary

Council members celebrated our 55th Anniversary by joining the 55 Club! Members donated any amount in a 55 increment and received membership in the 55 Club along

with a commemorative 55th Anniversary ornament. A special 55th Anniversary scarf was designed for the Annual Meeting.

2022: Girl Scouts 110th Anniversary

Adventuring 110: Aim, Act, Achieve, Accomplish was a council-wide patch program celebrating the 110th anniversary of Girl Scouting through amazing Girl Scout adventures. Starting on March 12, 2022, Daisies-Ambassadors and adult members including alum in Virginia Skyline Council celebrated 110 years of Girl Scouting by getting outdoors and having fun. Girls and adults participated in an outdoor activity that counted for 110 of something: feet, minutes, miles, strokes, pedals, seeds, litter, etc. It was imaginative and fun to take on the challenge of "110" to complete and celebrate 110 years of Girl Scouting!

This patch was dedicated to all the volunteers who brought the joy of Girl Scout programming to girls over the past 110 years and was brought to members of GSVSC by The Skyline Adventurers. That fun, outdoorsy group that has been "Challenging You to Challenge Yourself" for over 36 years.

2023: GSVSC's 60th Anniversary

On July 1, 2023, the council turned 60 years old. Members will celebrate the occasion at the council annual meeting in January 2024.



This tidbit of council history was brought to you by The Virginia Skyline Archives Group. Find out more about this group and the historical uniforms and programs that they offer for FREE to troops and service units.