



Girl Scout History Society

News from Cultural Assets

The next virtual meeting of the Girl Scout History Society will take place on **October 14th, 2025, at 4pm ET.**

The agenda and meeting link will be sent a few days before the meeting.

Meeting recordings and other resources are available [HERE](#).

Alison recently attended a workshop titled *Quiet Dangers* given by the Greater Hudson Heritage Network.

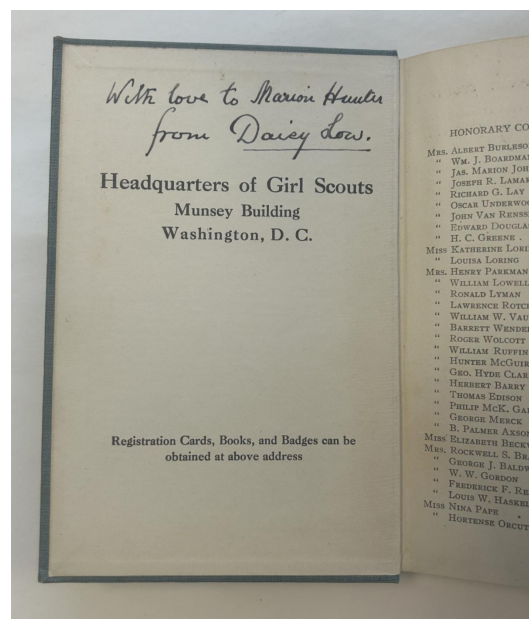
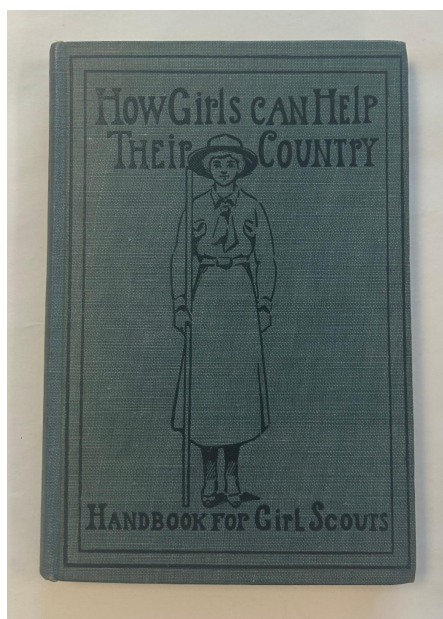
Many collections possess unknown hazards like lead, mercury, and asbestos. It can be difficult to know if there is a substance or chemical reaction lurking within our archives. Luckily, the nature of our collections means we are at a lower risk for these issues. Girl Scouts as an organization is young in terms of collections, and we often don't have volatile items like taxidermy or old medicine bottles. The risk, however, is never zero, and it is still important to be aware of potential hazards and implement safe practices.

5 Tips if you believe that an item in your collection has a hazard or danger:

1. Wear nitrile single-use gloves. Any brand that you like is fine; they do not need to be labeled 'archival' or bought from an archival website. Amazon or other basic brands work just as well.
2. Wear proper face masks to make sure you are not breathing in potential toxins or other harmful substances. You don't have to wear a mask around your entire collection, just the specific collection or area where you're unsure about the dangers. If you cannot physically wear a mask, limit your time with the item as much as possible. Use an N95 or P100 for the best protection.
3. Invest in a HEPA vacuum. This is a specific filter that traps particles within the vacuum at a higher rate than a standard vacuum.
4. If you suspect that there is a hazard within your collection and feel comfortable conducting your own examination, there are kits on Amazon or at hardware stores that test for lead and other hazards. The kits will inform you if something has traces of a hazard; however, more testing for specific measurements may be required. Different hazards have different allowable and safe levels from a collection standpoint. The kits cannot measure those levels, but are a good place to start.
5. If you are not comfortable handling the item – DON'T!. Focus on other parts of your collection until other arrangements can be made. If you believe you have something within your collection that you do not know how to handle, call a professional conservator.

https://www.conservation-wiki.com/wiki/Main_Page
<https://www.culturalheritage.org/>

Collection Highlight



2025.65

The book pictured above is the oldest handbook in our collection. Published in 1913, *How Girls Can Help Their Country* was the first handbook for Girl Scouts in the United States. The inside cover of this copy features an inscription and signature from Juliette Gordon Low. It reads: "With love to Marion Hunter from Daisy Low." Marion Hunter was the daughter of Abby

Lippett Hunter. Abby Lippett Hunter met Juliette in boarding school, and they stayed friends throughout their lives. Juliette often recruited her friends to help with Girl Scouts, and Abby was very involved in the organization. Her daughter's handbook was recently donated to our collection by Marion's granddaughter and will soon be accessible on our online archive.

News from Members

How is your council preparing to celebrate the country's **250th** anniversary next year? Are you planning programming or a historical display? We want to hear about it! Please email your ideas to Janine.

The **Girl Scouts of Greater LA's** History Committee recently helped a Girl Scout complete her Gold Award by organizing accessories in their archive. Click [HERE](#) to see a video of the project. If you would like more information about this project, please contact GSGLA.Heritage@gmail.com.



The History Committee at **GS of Southern Appalachians** has extra Equipment Catalogs and American Girl magazines dating from 1935-2013. Please contact [Joni Morgan](mailto:Joni) to receive a list of available catalogs and magazines.

GS of Eastern Pennsylvania's Valley Forge History Committee was invited to create a display at the Sellersville Museum, Sellersville, PA for their monthly open house on July 12 and 13, 2025. They had 12 display cases and tables and searched our archives for enough pieces to create 12 themed displays and some wall displays, hands-on activity tables, recruitment information, and Girl Scout cookies donated by the Council. They also had a visit from our Juliette Low reenactor and a scavenger hunt activity for the girls.

The event was well advertised by the museum, several media outlets, and word-of-mouth. There were about 120 visitors, both Girl Scouts and local people, over the 2 days. They recruited 2 Daisies and handed out other recruitment information. Three girls were able to discuss plans for their Gold Awards with a member of the Gold Committee.



Girl Scouts **Carolinas Peaks to Piedmont** has the following books to donate to any council that might need one or more for its collection:

The Girl Scouts Rally (2 copies)

The Girl Scout's Triumph (3 copies)

The condition varies. Postage reimbursement will be appreciated. Contact [Virginia Himmelheber](#).

Do you have a new exhibit opening? Have extra artifacts to donate to another council? Send your news to [Janine Napierkowski](#) for inclusion in the next newsletter. Please limit entries to 100 words or less.

Did someone forward you this email? Contact [Janine Napierkowski](#) to join the mailing list.



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