Candlefest 2026

Saturday, December 5, 2026

We are starting to plan the Candlefest walking tour at the Greensboro Arboretum. This event is a joint venture of Girl Scouts and Greensboro Parks and Recreation Department. There are numerous service and leadership opportunities for Girl Scouts. Some activities must be done prior to Dec. 5, while others take place the day of the event. Below is a description of each activity. Please complete the attached information sheet about your troop's interest in Candlefest 2026. More information will follow at the service unit meeting in October. Please note that there is NO rain date for this event. If you have questions, please email or call Christine Hanichak at blueeyesnblondhair@yahoo.com or 336-988-0643.

Purchase/Set Out Luminaries (D, B, J, C, S, A) – Purchase luminary kits (10-hr votive candles & bags) and set out luminaries between 12pm and 4pm. Greensboro P&R provides the sand & helps us clean up the luminaries after the event. (Note: Newly formed troops may be provided a kit purchased by an existing troop who cannot attend the event.)

Purchase Luminary Kits (C, S, A) – Purchase luminary kits if unable to set them out on between 12pm and 4pm and/or just to help us meet our quota of needed kits. Other troops will be given the opportunity to set them out that day.

Pack Troop Bags (C, S) – Pick up bags/candles from volunteer table when they arrive. Pack and label bags for participating troops. Measure and cut three-foot lengths of string for each troop to use in setting out luminaries. This activity must be done prior to Dec. 4. Completed bags must be at check-in on Dec. 5 by 11:45 am.

Staff the Volunteer Check-in Booth during Set-up Time (C, S) – Staff the check-in booth Saturday afternoon from 12 – 5pm. Help troops locate their luminary area, help younger troops set out luminaries and collect canned food troops bring. Pick up any trash that accumulates in the area. Patrol the garden paths as needed to help space luminaries and answer questions. The first aid station is at check-in until the event begins. Troops need to schedule at least one adult and two girls at all times.

Light Luminaries (C, S, A) – Light luminaries from 4-5:30pm. Each girl should bring a long butane lighter (electric lighters don't like the cold!).

Staff the Volunteer Check-in During the Event (C, S, A) – Staff the check-in booth Saturday evening from 5–9pm. Help volunteers and musicians find their assigned areas. Answer questions from visitors. Pick up any trash that accumulates. The first aid station is at the park Education Bldg. Troops need to schedule at least one adult and two girls at all times.

Coordinate and Staff the Hot Chocolate Booth (J, C, S) – Purchase supplies and staff the hot chocolate booth Saturday evening from 5:30–9pm. Troops need to supply large coffee pots/igloos, extension cords, water, cash box, and starting change. The hot chocolate mix, apple cider mix, cups, napkins, and drink stirrers are supplied for you. This is a Service Unit service project for the community and the profit from the sale supports the Greensboro Urban Ministry Food Bank.

Coordinate and Staff the Smores Booth (C, S) – Purchase supplies and staff the smores booth Saturday evening from 6–9pm. The supplies for smores (graham crackers, chocolate bars, and marshmallows) and napkins are supplied for you. The roasting forks, cash box, and starting change must be supplied by the troop. This is a Service Unit service project and the profit from the sale supports the Greensboro Urban Ministry Food Bank.

Organize and Supervise Bonfire (C, S) – Organize, supervise and remove bonfires on the basketball court. Provide wood, portable outdoor fire pits (Chiminea) (2-3) and other supplies for the fire. Build, supervise, and extinguish the fire. Troops need to schedule at least two adults and two girls at the bonfire at all times. The bonfire should last from 6–9pm.

Event Greeters/Food Drive (B, J, C, S) – Greet attendees, hand out programs & candy canes provided by Greensboro P&R and staff the canned food collection points Saturday evening from 6–9pm. There are five entrances/collection points. A troop may staff one or more collection points. Greensboro P&R provides collection boxes and carries the canned food to the Greensboro Urban Ministry Food Bank. Troops need to schedule at least one adult and two girls at each station for each time shift. Troops should make posters for the collection boxes. A box will be provided to collect cash donations at each location.

Santa Escorts (D, B, J) – Girls meet and greet Santa and escort him to the Gazebo located near the Education building singing carols. Girls will stay with Santa as needed.

Provide Music during the Event (D, B, J, C, S) – Troops or individual girls interested in singing or playing instruments should let us know. Girls may carol at the basketball courts or throughout the park.

Public Relations/Marketing (Everyone) – Distribute marketing materials to the public to provide more visibility of our gift to the community.

Luminary Stomp (C, S, A) – Help Greensboro P&R staff carefully put out the luminaries at the end of the event and collect into piles throughout the park for easy pick up.

Candlefest 2026
Saturday, December 5, 2026
Registration Form

Please return this form to Christine Hanichak by Friday, November 20, 2026. Email this registration form to blueeyesnblondhair@yahoo.com.

Troop # _____Service Unit # _____ Level _____

Troop Leader_____

Phone_____(H) _____(W) _____(C)

Email Address_____

Candlefest Coordinator_____

Phone _____(H) _____(W) _____(C)

Email Address _____

Number of Girls Participating (estimate)_____

Number of Patches Needed (estimate)_____

Luminary kits will be purchased by the troop from Service Unit 150. We are asking each troop to purchase @ 100 luminaries which is $40. Cash or checks made payable to "Girl Scouts SU 150".

Please check all activities that your troop will participate in: (recommended age groups)

_____ Purchase Luminary Kits (D, B, J, C, S, A)

_____ Purchase Luminary Kits but unable to set out (C, S, A) (Kits will be distributed to new troops to set up)

_____Set out Luminaries (D, B, J, C, S, A)

_____Pack Troop Bags (J, C, S, A)

_____Staff the Volunteer Check-in Booth during Set-up Time (C, S, A)

_____Light Luminaries (C, S, A)

_____Staff the Volunteer Check-in during the Event (C, S, A)

_____Coordinate and Staff the Hot Chocolate Booth (J, C, S, A)

_____Coordinate and Staff the Smores Booth (C, S, A)

_____Greeters/Food Drive (B, J, C, S, A) Number of Collection Points_____

_____Organize and Supervise the Bonfire (C, S, A)

_____Santa Escorts (D, B, J)

_____Provide Music during the Event (D, B, J, C, S, A)

_____Public Relations/Marketing (Everyone and Anyone)

_____Luminary Stomp (C, S, A)