

**Girl Scouts in the
Heart of Pennsylvania**



Women
OF
distinction

**March 26, 2025
Harrisburg, PA**

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Shining a Spotlight on Inspiring Women

The 2025 Women of Distinction celebration honors local leaders who embody the values of Girl Scouts and serve as role models for the next generation.

These women uplift others, break barriers, and pave the way for future leaders.

Tonight, we are proud to recognize:

- **Dr. Amber Billet**, Program Director – Emergency Medicine Residency, WellSpan Health – *STEM Pillar*
- **Wendy M. Jackson-Dowe**, Founder and President, SkyPix Group – *Entrepreneurship Pillar*
- **Una Martone**, President and CEO, Leadership Harrisburg Area– *Life Skills Pillar*
- **Dr. Sara Mueller**, Executive Director, Wildlife Leadership Academy – *Outdoors Pillar*

Additionally, we are honored to present the **Generational Award to the late Carole Ackerman**, whose lifelong commitment to Girl Scout values has left a lasting impact. Her daughters, Aryn and Robyn, will accept this award on her behalf. Her husband, Bob, has been instrumental in making sure Carole's love of Girl Scouts lives on. His generosity has allowed us to restore a barn on the Camp Furnace Hills property in her honor, reviving the site for historical programming for Girl Scouts of all ages.

In this booklet, you will find more details about the women we are honoring. At tonight's event, each



honoree will be introduced, and you will learn more about the impact of Girl Scouting in our community.

When Juliette Gordon Low

gathered 18 girls in Savannah, Georgia more than a century ago, she ignited a movement that continues to empower girls today. From the very beginning, Girl Scouts has relied on strong female mentors to guide girls in developing courage, confidence, character, who make the world a better place. Our 2025 Women of Distinction honorees demonstrate those traits every day.

Thank you for joining us in recognizing these incredible women and for investing in the next generation of leaders. Your presence and participation tonight directly support Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania. Together, we are shaping the future of female leadership.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Janet Donovan
President & CEO
Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania



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Girl Scout Mission

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Girl Scout Promise

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Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate, and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.



Today's emcee: **LORI BURKHOLDER**

We're thrilled to welcome back Lori Burkholder as the emcee for our 2025 Women of Distinction program. A leader in broadcast journalism, Lori has been a trusted voice at WGAL since 1989, bringing stories to life as the host and producer of acclaimed programs like "Susquehanna People" and "12:30 Live." Her award-winning career includes multiple Emmy and AP honors.

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Dr. Amber Billet



Women of Distinction, STEM Pillar

As a young girl, Dr. Amber Billet had two ambitions. “I told my mom, I’m going to be a doctor and a Bob Barker Beauty on ‘The Price is Right,’ because we always watched that together.”

She achieved one of those goals, and the world is a better place because of that. Amber is the program director of emergency medicine residency at WellSpan Health.

“I am the first female program director here at York, and the first non-Caucasian program director here,” she said. “I am the first, but hopefully not the last.”

Amber grew up on Long Island and graduated from Villanova University. She took a gap year after college, knowing she would eventually apply to medical school. During that year, she discovered the pull of emergency medicine.

After attending St. George’s University School of Medicine in Grenada, she completed clinical work and residency training in New York. She decided to pursue an education fellowship to further her interest in working with medical students.

She met her future husband, Tony Billet, while living and working in Delaware for the fellowship, and she moved to his hometown of York in 2017. While interviewing, she found that WellSpan really stood out.

“I just connected with the people at York,” she said.

Amber splits her time between seeing patients in the emergency room and handling administrative work. She focuses on helping residents prepare for lifelong careers in medicine.

“Medicine is hard, and emergency medicine is even harder,” she said. “Sometimes, you can do your best and the outcome is still not what you wanted.”

Amber enjoys spending time with her family, which includes 13-year-old stepson, Port, and daughters, Lavin and Salla, ages 4 and 2.

“York is such a family-friendly place to live and raise a family,” she said.

She also wants to be sure she’s supporting the next generation of physicians as she guides them through the resident program.

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Wendy M. Jackson-Dowe



Women of Distinction, Entrepreneur Pillar

Wendy M. Jackson-Dowe is a pioneering entrepreneur, mechanical engineer, and FAA-certified drone pilot whose career is a testament to innovation, leadership, and a commitment to STEM education.

As the Founder and President of Harrisburg-based SkyPixGroup, she has leveraged her expertise in engineering and business leadership to provide cutting-edge drone-powered services while also fostering the next generation of professionals.

Raised in the Harrisburg area, Wendy developed her passion for science and engineering at a young age. She attended Fisk University and Tennessee State University, where she earned her Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. While at Tennessee State, she served as the chapter president of the Society of Women Engineers, demonstrating her early leadership in the field.

Her professional journey took her through prominent roles at Fortune 100 companies such as Procter & Gamble, Exxon Mobil, and Coca-Cola, where she led technical teams, managed production departments,

and honed her skills in project management, process improvement, and business operations.

In 2018, she launched SkyPixGroup after earning her drone pilot certification. The company provides aerial photography, videography, and advanced data collection services for industries including utilities, engineering firms, and construction companies.

SkyPixGroup dedicates a significant portion of its efforts to STEM-enrichment programs. Wendy has developed a drone-centric STEM curriculum and created and led a summer drone program at Tennessee State University, teaching high school students how to build and pilot drones. Her work inspires young minds to explore careers in engineering and unmanned aerial systems.

A self-described “proud nerd,” Wendy has the ability to merge technical expertise with entrepreneurial vision, positioning her as a trailblazer in the drone services industry.

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Una Martone



Women of Distinction, Life Skills Pillar

Una Martone, President and CEO of Leadership Harrisburg Area, is a testament to the power of servant leadership. Since taking the helm in 2007, she has worked tirelessly to strengthen the local community and champion the philosophy that leadership is fundamentally about people.

Una was raised in Florida, attended the University of South Florida, where she met her husband, and their path eventually led them north.

In 2005, they moved to Pennsylvania, and just two years later, Una became involved with LHA as a class participant. While in the program, she learned that the organization's then-president was retiring. With prior experience in other leadership programs, she recognized the opportunity and pursued the position. By June 2007, she was named President and CEO.

Una initially focused on stabilizing LHA's financial position, and then shifted her focus to programming.

"My job allows me to hear what leadership needs and hear what nonprofit organizations need from community leaders, and then

respond to those needs," she said. "Leadership Harrisburg Area is uniquely positioned between the business community and nonprofit community."

Her leadership philosophy is deeply rooted in servant leadership, a concept she passionately promotes. She developed Beyond Leadership in 2015, a curriculum dedicated to servant leadership principles

"Servant leadership at its core is about developing more leaders," she said. "It's rooted in having positive, empowering relationships with people."

Una believes that communication is the most essential life skill. "Some people would call these 'soft skills': humility, empathy, listening," she said. "I would say those are harder skills, because most people have not come close to mastering the level of humility and empathy and listening that is needed to empower others."

Beyond her professional life, Una is a dedicated wife, mother, and community member. Married for 33 years to Mike, she has two children, son Michael and daughter McCaffrey.



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Dr. Sara Mueller



Women of Distinction, Outdoors Pillar

Growing up in State College, Dr. Sara Mueller loved nothing more than being outside.

“I was always surrounded by nature,” said the Executive Director of the Clinton County-based Wildlife Leadership Academy (WLA). “There’s a picture of me as a young girl, in my yellow rubber boots, catching salamanders at Girl Scout camp.”

Sara also recalled time spent at Shaver’s Creek Environmental Center in Huntingdon County as influencing her career choice.

“That’s kind of the mountain range that raised me,” she said. “I realized I love nature, but I also love teaching in nature.”

At WLA, Sara engages and empowers high-school age youth to become conservation leaders in their home communities.

Students attend the program for training and then take what they’ve learned back to the community, using their leadership skills and sharing their wildlife knowledge to promote environmentalism.

A graduate of Penn State University, Sara earned her Ph.D. in Wildlife

and Fisheries Sciences in 2023. Her expertise includes aquatic ecosystems. She’s also well-versed in field ichthyology.

“Ichthyology is the study of fishes,” she explained. “I consider myself to be an aquatic biologist. I look at the fish, but my passion is the aquatic macroinvertebrates, or the bugs and insects that live in the stream.”

She enjoys watching her students experience a deep connection to the natural world.

“I love watching for that ‘aha’ moment or the light bulb moment, when you see a student discover something for the first time that lights a spark in their soul,” she said.

As a Girl Scout, with her mom as her troop leader, Sara remembers selling enough Girl Scout Cookies to earn money to attend camp.

In her free time, she and her husband, Nathan Weyandt, enjoy gardening, hunting and fishing, as well as spending time with their dog, Shiloh.

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Carole “Alfi” Ackerman



Women of Distinction, Generational Award

A lifelong Girl Scout, Carole “Alfi” Ackerman had a deep love of family, Girl Scouts and her favorite camp: Camp Furnace Hills in Lancaster County.

When Carole passed away in 2023, her husband of 51 years, Bob, was determined to preserve both his wife’s Girl Scout legacy and the history of the camp she loved. He’s leading the effort to restore a historic barn on the site in Carole’s honor.

Carole’s love for Girl Scouts began in childhood, when she attended summer camp and later became a counselor in Western Massachusetts.

After she married Bob, the couple had two daughters—Aryn and Robyn. After enrolling her daughters in Girl Scouts, Carole became a troop leader, day camp director, neighborhood delegate, and GSUSA certified master trainer, developing training programs still in use today.

In 1996, Carole was honored with the Thanks Badge, one of the highest awards for Girl Scout volunteers.

As her daughters aged out of Girl Scouts, Carole stayed involved at the camp.

“She got to know girls from all over the country, certainly all the women that she worked with at Camp Furnace Hills and through Girl Scouting here,” Bob said, adding that by then, Carole was approaching her 50th year as a Girl Scout.

Carole formed special relationships with many of the girls she led, and several came to her funeral in uniform. She became a pen pal to many people she met, maintaining their correspondence for years.

Carole was heartbroken when a 2017 storm destroyed part of the camp, including the barn. In 2024, Bob started the efforts to rebuild the barn.

He’s certain his wife would be proud of the work being done in her name, if also a little embarrassed by being in the spotlight.

“I know she’d be very happy,” he said. “She’d also be doing one of those, ‘Oh, for gosh sakes.’”

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Girl Scout Pillars

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience is instrumental in shaping the future workforce and the next generation of leaders. Through dynamic and comprehensive programming, Girl Scouts equips young girls with the skills, confidence, and resilience they need to thrive in today's ever-evolving business landscape.

By fostering creativity, critical thinking, and adaptability, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience develops individuals who are not only capable but also innovative and socially conscious leaders. Investing in this experience means investing in a diverse, empowered talent pool that will drive progress and innovation across all industries.

At the core of this development are the Four Girl Scout Pillars—foundational principles that guide the organization's commitment to fostering innovation, entrepreneurship, and essential life skills among its members. These pillars shape the experiences and opportunities available to girls nationwide:

- **STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics):** Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania ignites girls' curiosity in STEM through hands-on activities, workshops, and mentorship programs. By developing problem-solving skills and confidence, girls break barriers and pave the way for future innovation in STEM fields.
- **Entrepreneurship:** The Girl Scout experience instills entrepreneurial skills that set girls up for success. Through the iconic Cookie Program and other initiatives, they gain financial literacy, goal-setting expertise, and business acumen—building leadership skills that serve them in both personal and professional endeavors.
- **Outdoors:** By embracing adventure through camping, hiking, and other outdoor activities, Girl Scouts develop resilience, teamwork, and a deep appreciation for nature. These experiences instill confidence and independence, preparing girls to tackle challenges and thrive in any environment.
- **Life Skills:** Girl Scouts provides essential tools for personal growth, from communication and decision-making to conflict resolution. Whether learning first aid, cooking, or leadership skills, girls gain the confidence and competence to navigate life with strength and purpose.

As Girl Scouts continues to champion leadership and innovation, the Four Pillars serve as guiding lights, empowering girls to embrace their potential and lead with courage and conviction.



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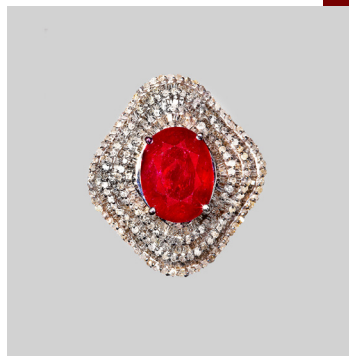
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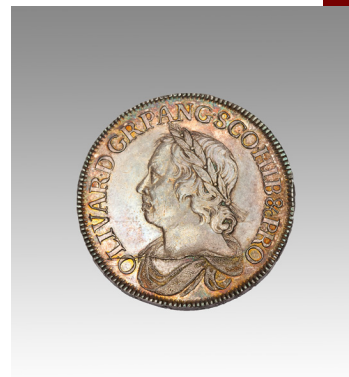
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New Podcast Amplifies Girl Scout Voices

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania is giving girls, volunteers, and alumnae a platform to share their stories through its official podcast, Girl Scouts Amplified Voices.

Launched in 2024, the podcast features monthly episodes that highlight the courage, confidence, and character Girl Scouts demonstrate in their communities and beyond.

Each episode offers listeners a behind-the-scenes look at the Girl Scout experience, from exciting adventures and highest award projects to volunteer leadership and lifelong friendships. Whether you're a current member, alumnae or simply curious about Girl Scouting today, the podcast delivers inspiring conversations and real stories of impact.

"Girl Scouts have powerful voices and experiences worth sharing," said Cathy Hirko, Director of Marketing and Communications and podcast host. "Amplified Voices gives our Girl Scouts and supporters the microphone to inspire the next generation of leaders."

Episodes are available on all major podcast platforms and directly on the Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania website.



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