

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania

2025

IMPACT REPORT



COURAGE | CONFIDENCE | CHARACTER

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Girl Scout Mission

Building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

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, and to respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.



girl scouts
in the heart
of pennsylvania

4640 Trindle Road
Camp Hill, PA 17011
(717)233-1656

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR



JANET DONOVAN
President & CEO

Looking at the past year, we are filled with pride and deep appreciation for our girls, volunteers, generous supporters, and staff. All of you make our mission possible every day.

Our 2024-25 Impact Report provides a year in review of the service and many milestones for Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania. GSHPA served 10,620 girls across our 30-county region, each girl discovering her strengths, building courage, and learning what it means to lead with character and confidence.



JAYNE HUSTON
Board Chair

None of this would be possible without the dedication of our 3,545 volunteers, whose time and commitment create safe, inspiring spaces for girls to grow. We are thankful for our donors, partners, and community leaders whose support helps to expand access to Girl Scouting, strengthen our programming and ensure every girl feels a sense of belonging.

Throughout the year, the council stewarded resources responsibly. We remained in a strong financial position, grounded in a disciplined investment strategy and supported by a healthy operating reserve.

This past year, we saw meaningful progress across our council. Through Academic Edge, we brought the Girl Scout experience to more girls in underserved communities. At Camp Furnace Hills, we honored our rich history while investing in the future with the rededication of our beautifully rebuilt historic barn.

We celebrated growth and transition as hundreds of Girl Scouts bridged across the Susquehanna River. With the introduction of the GirlScoutSwagon, we found new ways to meet our communities where they are, bringing Girl Scout merchandise and needed badge and uniform supplies directly to events and neighborhoods across our council.

Thank you for being part of this journey and for believing in Girl Scouts. Together, we are building courage, confidence, and character in the next generation of leaders who will make the world a better place.

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Juliette Gordon Low Society

The Juliette Gordon Low Society, established in 2012 by Girl Scouts of the USA, honors individuals who make planned gifts to support the future of the organization. These gifts often include bequests, life insurance, and charitable trusts. The society's formation recognizes the importance of sustaining Girl Scouts for generations to come and highlights the enduring commitment of supporters to the mission of empowering girls and young women.

Erik and Eva Andersen	Marguerite W. Leahy	Edward and Milicent	Hugh E. Hughes*
Girl Scout Movement-	Gwen L. Loose	Treat	Jean K. Hull*
wide Challenge	Barbara Mable	Beth Tyson	Sherman & Laura
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wide Challenge	Janie McKnight	Josephine D. Appell*	David Maneval*
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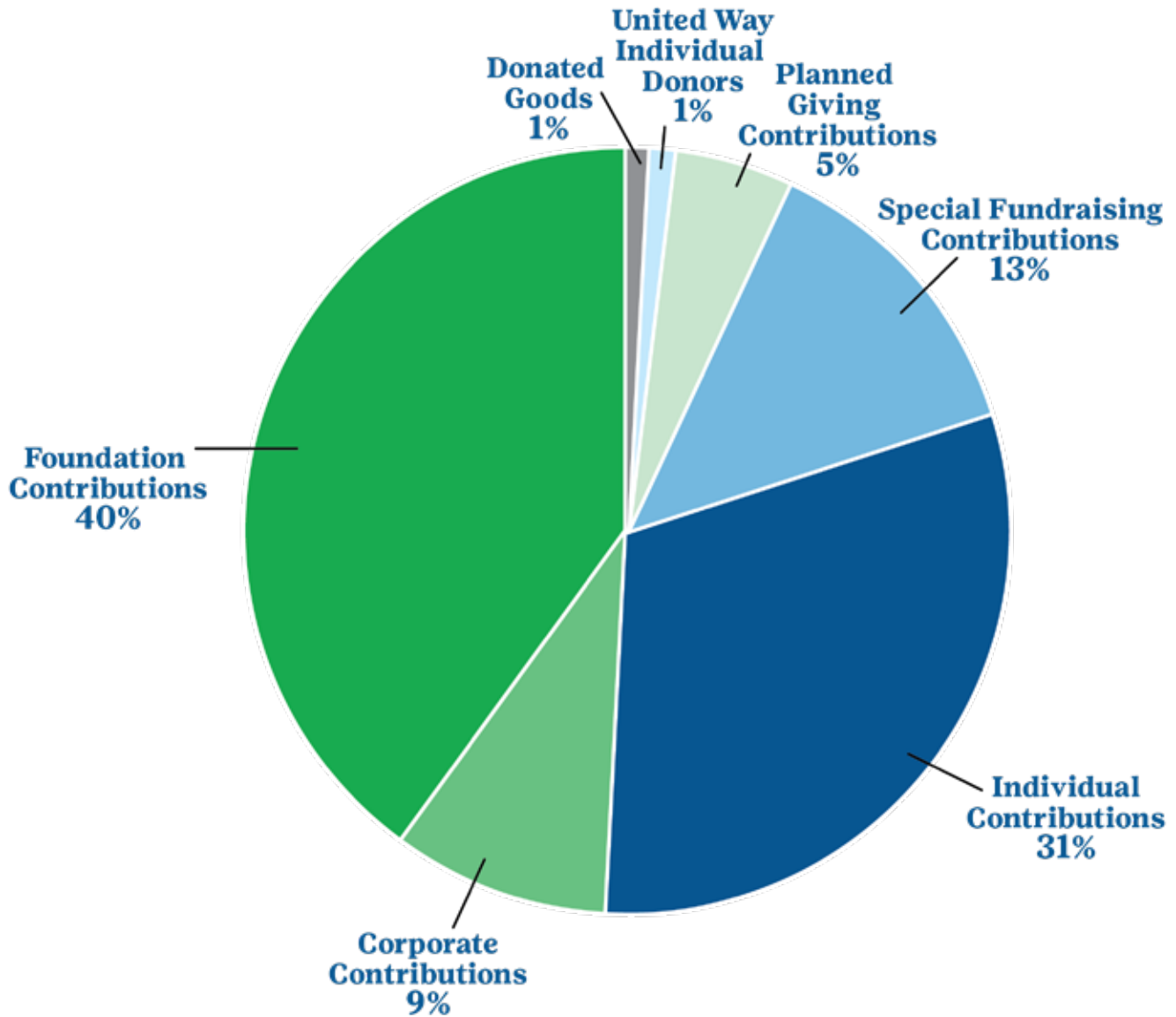
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FUND DEVELOPMENT

A Year of Giving at Girl Scouts

Support from generous individuals and organizations is the lifeblood of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania, ensuring that our mission continues to thrive. These contributions directly impact the growth and empowerment of our girls. Donors play a pivotal role in providing resources for engaging programs, scholarships, and maintaining camp facilities.



“I’m going to do my best to give my daughter the opportunity to attend Girl Scout Camp. I needed the financial assistance, and it was easy to apply. Vanessa has grown so much through Girl Scouts!”

- Janice Bollinger, a Lancaster County mom who received a camp scholarship for her daughter, Vanessa, a Girl Scout Brownie.

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Empowering Girl Scouts Through Financial Support and Recognition

At Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania, we believe every girl deserves the opportunity to experience Girl Scouts. In 2024-25 year, we provided \$211,000 in financial assistance to 1,600 girls. By breaking down barriers to participation, we ensured that more girls can experience the life-changing benefits of Girl Scouting.

Our commitment to empowering girls continues through nearly \$22,500 in “GO! Dough” credits, doubling last year’s total and encouraging ongoing participation in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. We provide three local scholarships, and GSUSA offers one national scholarship, recognizing Gold Award Girl Scouts and supporting their continued growth.

Girl Scout Scholarship Recipients

NEILEY O’DONNELL

Cumberland County

GSHPA Scholarship: \$5,000

Project: Buddy Club, Promoting Individuality and Greater Social Connections



To build inclusion and understanding, Neiley created the Buddy Club, an all-abilities group in which life skills students and their peers connect through shared activities. The club encourages communication, compassion, and friendship in ways the classroom can't. To ensure its future, she established leadership roles and created how-to videos so others can start their own inclusive clubs at their schools.

BRYLEA STARR

Lycoming County

GSHPA Scholarship: \$1,000

Project: Northcentral PA YWCA Liberty House Makeover



Transforming a shelter into a welcoming environment for families in need, Brylea designed a children’s playroom, along with a calming room for adults. Fostering community, emotional well-being, and social development, the rooms offer support to families during a challenging chapter of their lives.

ELIZABETH HADDAD

Lancaster County

GSHPA Scholarship: \$3,000

Project: Dress Exchange



Party dresses turned into a movement for change. By organizing a dress exchange, Elizabeth gave girls a stylish, sustainable, and budget-friendly way to enjoy new looks for special events without feeding into fast fashion. Her project raised awareness, reduced fabric waste, and proved that swapping dresses can be just as exciting as buying them, if not more.

GIANNA BOLSTER

Dauphin County

GSUSA Scholarship: \$5,000

Project: Food Pantry for Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School



Addressing the issue of hunger at a local level, Gianna created a food pantry at Harrisburg Catholic Elementary School, providing an important resource to the community. The pantry will continue through a partnership with the Knights of Columbus, which offered the resource a permanent space.

HIGHEST AWARDS

Highest Awards: Empowering Girls to Change the World

Girl Scouts in grades 4 through 12 earn their Highest Awards by identifying and addressing meaningful needs within their communities through high-impact projects. Juniors in grades 4 and 5 pursue the Bronze Award collaboratively as a troop. Cadettes in grades 6 through 8 earn the Silver Award individually, in small teams, or as a troop, while Seniors and Ambassadors in grades 9 through 12 earn the Gold Award individually.

Here is the breakdown of the awards earned in the 2024-2025 year:



GOLD AWARD
64 Projects from
16 Counties



SILVER AWARD
173 Girls
76 Projects



BRONZE AWARD
289 Girls
56 Projects

We honored the Gold Award Girl Scout Class of 2025 at Farrington Place in Williamsport June 8. The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn, available to girls in high school who create sustainable change for a community or world issue. Each Girl Scout devotes a minimum of 80 hours to earn the award.



HIGHEST AWARDS

Highest Award Highlights From the Year

GOLD

Katelyn Lutz, York County

Project: The Growing Tree Preschool Sensory Table

Katelyn brought peace and exploration to little learners by designing a sensory table for a local preschool. Packed with textures like rice, beans, and seashells, the table provides a soothing space for children, especially those with autism or ADHD.



Braelynne Shives, Fulton County

Project: Domestic and Dating Violence Awareness

Braelynne tackled domestic/dating violence by giving teens the tools to build healthy relationships. Working with a nonprofit, she led lessons in school health classes and organized a 5K to raise awareness. The lessons and the 5K will continue annually through community support.



Keira Brogan, Lackawanna County

Project: Calm Room

Traditionally, a high school includes classrooms, a gym, and a cafeteria. Now, thanks to Keira's leadership, it also includes a Calm Room. She created a peaceful environment where students can develop healthy coping skills.



Olivia Rosenberger, Carbon County

Project: Carbon County Animal Shelter Memorial Bridge and Garden

Olivia's project brought healing and hope to pet lovers by creating a memorial bridge and garden at an animal shelter. This space offers comfort for those grieving and a refuge for shelter staff with a peaceful gazebo.



SILVER

Troop 30606, Columbia County Persephone R.

Project: Helping Homeless Veterans

Coming from a family of veterans, Persephone wanted to get homeless vets back on their feet. She collected and sorted items from hygiene products to clothing to support men and women in her community.

Troop 61236, Northumberland County Gwendolyn B., Stella S.

Project: Susquehanna River Children's Book

The girls wrote and illustrated a children's book, "Fun Facts About the Susquehanna River." The book ties in with the construction of a new riverboat in town that will bring more people to learn about the Susquehanna River and its impact on the community.

BRONZE

Troop 10702, Perry County Katherine N., Zayla G., Maddie D., Lennon D., Gracie H., Ada H., Rylie A., Emma K.

Project: Re-Doing the Forest

The girls cleaned and marked trails behind a local church, working with church leaders and an environmental specialist. They also created educational signs and helped address invasive plant species for future trail development.

Troop 20338, York County Avelyn M., Avalynn S., Victoria M., Brooke B.

Project: Granimals

The girls brought animals into a local nursing home to improve the well being of the residents, to educate the community about adopting pets from rescue centers, and to raise awareness about the importance of visiting nursing homes and rescuing animals.

MEMBERSHIP

Membership Team Builds Community and Fosters Growth

The Membership team leads recruitment and engagement efforts across our 30-county footprint. They build school and community partnerships, support the formation of new troops, and guide families and volunteers through the registration process so girls can get involved in Girl Scouts locally.

Beyond registration, our volunteer support coordinators answer questions from families and volunteers, provide resources and troubleshooting support, and help leaders navigate everything from getting a troop started to finding opportunities for girls to participate in programming. Through outreach events, direct engagement, and year-round volunteer support, Membership works to grow participation and expand access to the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Through training, service unit support, and resources for volunteers and troops, the team helps build strong networks and meaningful Girl Scout experiences.

Membership at a Glance for 2024-25:

Total Membership	Total Girl Membership	Total Adult Membership	Total Volunteers
18,228	10,620	7,608	3,545

Early Bird Renewal Campaign

April 1 - June 30, 2025

45.7%

of total memberships renewed

Overall Renewal Rate:

72%

Through the following campaigns, the Membership Team drives recruitment and renewal efforts across the organization year-round.

- **Daisy Recruitment (January - March 2025)**
→ **292** new Daisy Girl Scouts joined.
- **Girl Scout Experience Boxes (April - September 2025)**
→ **55** Girl Scout Experience Boxes were sent out to Daisy and Brownie troops.



VOLUNTEERS

Celebrating and Supporting our Volunteers

Our council is fortunate to be supported by many dedicated individuals who share their time, talent, and passion with girls. Each year, we celebrate these exceptional volunteers through Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania's Volunteer Awards.

2025 Thanks Badge Recipient

We are honored to recognize our Thanks Badge Award Recipient who embodies dedication to Girl Scouts and inspires others through her commitment and service. Kathryn McCorkle's love for Girl Scouts began in 1953 when she joined as a young girl and has remained a constant part of her life since. Her Girl Scout roles have included camp counselor, day camp director, troop overnight camping adjunct leader, GSHPA Board Chair, GSHPA board and committee member. We are grateful for Kathryn's impact.



Kathryn McCorkle
Thanks Badge Recipient

Honorees

Appreciation pin

Erin Cebula
Darlene Leach
Amanda Myzick
Azaizeh
Erika Norkaitis
Crystale Sensenig
Jen Smitka

Heart of PA

Kathleen Lockman

Honor Pin

Susan Kerstetter
Christa Lamps
Lorna Myers
Mary Root
Lisa Rosenberger
Paula Weihbrecht

Juliette's Daisy Pearl

Vanessa Achey
Camiline (Kim)
Bartley

Tracy Batug
Jennifer Cline
Brenda Crosley
Jennifer Dawejko
Mallory Dickinson
Wendy Goshert
Meranda Hess
Jeanette Hoyt
Valerie Kostic
Leanne Murray
Christina Parry
Milanee Perillo
Pamela Steele
Elizabeth Stevenson

Juliette's Foundation Pearl

Jennifer Betts

Juliette's Guiding Pearl

Anissa Colon
Vanessa Richeson
Brittany Trammel

Juliette's Savannah Pearl

Susan Baker
Camille Banta
Jennifer Banta
Maureen Dyer
Kellie Farrell
Nancy Goy
Kimberly Henry
Nita Kent
Brittany Livingston
Melanie Meyers
Ashley Riggelman
Betty Roksandic
Rachel Rost
Heather Santee
Carrie Scheer
Anne Shuey
Stephanie Mueller
Michelle Stravinskas
Samantha
Washington
Brittany Wilson
Christina Wilson
Mary Winslow

Volunteer of Excellence

Jennifer Benner
Catharine Carbaugh
Sherry Clouser
Shelly Craig
Tamera Windish

Thanks Badge

Kathryn McCorkle



CAMP PROPERTIES

CAMP ARCHBALD

- We completed erosion management across key camp areas, stabilizing ground and redirecting water away from cabin and building foundations near Greenwood and the Meadows Unit.
- We partnered with Supporters of Camp Archbald to complete interior and exterior repairs and add a new porch, bringing new life to the Greenwood Troop House.



Greenwood

CAMP FURNACE HILLS

- Thanks to longtime supporter Bob Ackerman, the historic Foxfire Barn—destroyed in a 2017 storm—was rebuilt in memory of his wife, Carole “Alfi” Ackerman. The beloved landmark now offers two floors of temperature-controlled space.
- We added two new covered wagons for overnight stays. Each wagon is equipped with bunk beds, a wagon-wheel table, and chairs.



Foxfire Barn

Camp Rental Highlights

Camp Archbald

Busiest rental month: July
Most rented unit: Friendship | rented 104 days

Camp Furnace Hills

Busiest month: September
Most rented site: Foxfire Program Center | rented 95 days

CAMP PROPERTIES

CAMP HAPPY VALLEY

- We completed major upgrades at Aspen Lodge, including new siding, a new water tank, and an ultraviolet filtration system. The surrounding grounds were newly landscaped, enhancing the camp experience.
- We remodeled Little House, adding expanded cooking space where campers can gather and collaborate.



Little House

CAMP SMALL VALLEY

- We protected the woodlands at Camp Small Valley through spongy moth spraying funded by a USDA NRCS forest management grant.
- We installed a new septic tank near Squirrel's Nest and revitalized Wilderness End with a pavilion and primitive camping, expanding rustic outdoor experiences.



Squirrel's Nest

Camp Rental Highlights

Camp Happy Valley

Busiest month: April

Most rented unit: Skyloft - Sunrise | rented 77 days

Camp Small Valley

Busiest month: May

Most rented units: Mattis East | rented 82 days

PROGRAM

Girl Scouts has always believed that when girls have the freedom to chart their own paths, they take on new challenges and grow into confident, capable leaders ready to make their mark. Our Program team leads camps, classroom-based programming, local and international travel opportunities, mobile outreach programs, and partnerships with businesses and community organizations that expand access to Girl Scout experiences.

Girl Scouts on the Go! Comes to the Troops

Girl Scouts on the Go! brings council-led, hands-on programming directly to troop meeting spaces, parks, or camps. The program offers both full badge experiences and short learning sessions, giving troops flexible opportunities to explore STEM, outdoors, and life skills, without troop leaders needing to plan or provide materials. The program has helped mitigate longstanding challenges of limited program access in more rural areas of the council, bringing high-quality programming directly to girls where they live and meet.



Girl Scout Network Helps Troops Find Specialized Experiences

The Girl Scout Network highlights more than 200 partner organizations that offer badge activities, events, discounts, volunteer opportunities, and programs. All partners in the network are listed on the GSHPA website. The network makes it easy for troops to find meaningful, accessible experiences that match their interests and needs.



Academic Edge Outreach Program Continues to Grow

What if every girl had the chance to lead without barriers? Academic Edge brings Girl Scout programming directly into schools, removing cost and transportation challenges while building girls of courage, confidence, and character in a safe supportive space. Schools that have 51 percent or more students eligible for free and reduced lunch qualify for the program.

In 2025, Academic Edge broadened its reach by launching programs in Cumberland, York, and Luzerne counties, while also expanding farther into its previously established areas of Lackawanna, Lancaster, Dauphin, and Lycoming counties. With each new school, the program carries the same promise: to help girls discover their potential and build skills that will last a lifetime.

That promise resulted in remarkable growth, as Academic Edge expanded from 16 schools the previous year to 53, serving 1,504 girls.

Academic Edge focuses on the four pillars of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience:

- Entrepreneurship
- Life Skills
- Outdoors
- STEM

The program helps girls build confidence, try new things, learn from setbacks, and apply problem-solving skills in real-world situations.



“At Girls Scouts, I get to spend time with all my friends without having boys around ruining things for us. Every week, I get to be a better person.”

- Alyssa, 4th grade, Devers Elementary, York County

Why the Outdoors Matters to Girls

Research from the Girl Scout Research Institute shows that girls who participate in outdoor activities are more likely to seek out challenges and develop strong problem-solving skills. Girl Scout alumnae often credit their camp experiences with helping build their leadership abilities. Nearly half of the girls who participated in the program say they would not have had the opportunity to explore nature without the Girl Scouts' programs.



Mini Camps Introduce Girls to Camp

Girl Scouts held mini camps to give girls a small taste of leaving home for camp and to reassure parents who may feel anxious about their daughters spending a night away from home. Two hundred and eighty two girls attended the mini camps.

Girl Scouts held several large one-day events:

- Girl Fest at Camp Small Valley and Camp Archbald, which celebrates the start of the Girl Scout year
- She Shines at Camp Small Valley and Camp Archbald, which celebrates girl strength.

Number of Camps

Daisy	Brownie	Junior	Cadette
1	15	19	16
Senior	Ambassador	Multi-Level/Family	
6	11	6	

Camp Attendance By the Numbers

Camp Small Valley
993

Camp Archbald
499

Camp Furnace Hills
227

Camp Happy Valley
81

Program Attendance By the Numbers

Academic Edge
1504

Girl Scouts on the Go!
259

Virtual Programs
238

Iceland Trip
14

Investing in Leadership for Girls and Volunteers

Leadership Grows With Every Level

As girls grow within Girl Scouting, their travel opportunities expand. Daisies begin with simple day trips and outdoor exploration close to home. Brownies build confidence through overnight experiences and short trips with their troop. Juniors begin planning longer travel experiences and taking greater responsibility for their adventures. Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts strengthened their independence, confidence, and real-world readiness through travel opportunities.

Expanding Horizons Through International Travel

Our international travel program gives girls the chance to experience new cultures and broaden their perspectives.

In June 2025, a group of Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors traveled to Iceland. With 22 travelers, 14 girls and 8 adults, we explored the country's natural landscapes and learned about Icelandic culture.

In 2026, we will travel to Japan, a destination known for its blend of ancient traditions and modern innovation. Through international travel, girls build independence, experience new cultures, and strengthen the confidence and leadership skills.



Volunteer Training

At Camp Archbald, Camp Furnace Hills, Camp Happy Valley and Camp Small Valley, special trainings were offered for our volunteers:

- Adult and Pediatric First Aid/CPR/AED Training
- Archery 1 Practical Training
- Adventure Course Facilitator Training
- Waterfront and Pool Lifeguard Certification

Bridging Ceremony Celebrates Girls Taking the Next Step

More than 400 Girl Scouts from Central and Northeastern Pennsylvania took a meaningful journey as they crossed Walnut Street Walking Bridge over the Susquehanna River during Girl Scouts in the Heart of PA Bridging Ceremony on May 17, 2025. This time-honored tradition celebrates the girls' bridging and progression to the next level of the Girl Scout program.



Girl Scouts Experience Government in Action at Troop PA

Girl Scouts from across the Commonwealth gathered at the State Capitol in Harrisburg for Troop PA on Feb. 3, 2025. This annual gathering celebrates the achievements of women in government leadership roles by inducting a bipartisan, bicameral group of women lawmakers into an honorary Girl Scout troop. Following the investiture ceremony, girls in attendance took a tour of the Capitol, explored the Interactive Visitor Center, and met with lawmakers to learn about the legislative process so they can be more civically engaged. Following lunch, girls completed the “Democracy For” badge for their program level to put into practice what they learned about the legislative process.



CAMP FURNACE HILLS

Bringing History Home: Barn Rebuild Honors Lifelong Legacy

At Camp Furnace Hills in Lancaster County, the historic barn was rebuilt thanks to the generosity of Robert “Bob” Ackerman, who dedicated the project in memory of his wife, Carole “Alfi” Ackerman.

A lifelong Girl Scout, Carole contributed to many programs at the camp, especially in the barn, where she loved to work on arts and crafts with the girls. When a storm leveled the barn in 2017, Carole was devastated. After Carole passed away in 2023, the barn project became a way to preserve her legacy.

A ribbon-cutting celebration was held June 26, 2025. Now new generations of Girls Scouts can enjoy the barn’s space, thanks to Bob Ackerman’s dedication to his beloved wife, Alfi.



Modern Camping: Covered Wagons Arrive at Camp Furnace Hills

After a cross-country journey, two covered wagons arrived at Furnace Hills in February, blending rustic charm with modern comforts. The wagons offer amenities such as heating, air conditioning, and electricity.

Made possible through partial grant funding from generous donors, including PPL, each unit includes bunk beds, a wagon-wheel table, and chairs.



PRODUCT PROGRAM

Leadership in Action: The Impact of the Girl Scout Cookie Program

Girl Scout Cookie Program

6,607

girls participated in the Girl Scout Cookie Program

1,090,369

packages sold

16,740

packages donated

Top-selling flavors:

- Thin Mints (25%)
- Peanut Butter Patties (16.6%)
- Caramel deLites (15.5%)

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is a hands-on opportunity for girls to develop essential entrepreneur skills. In September, Exploremores, a new cookie flavor, was revealed.

Through the cookie program, girls learn goal setting, money management, decision-making, people skills and business ethics. Every box of cookies represents a chance for girls to develop entrepreneurship skills, set personal and group goals, and prepare for future success.

All cookie proceeds stay local, funding opportunities that include camp, financial assistance, volunteer training, and various programs highlighting the four pillars of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.



GirlScoutSwagon Launches

The GirlScoutSwagon, launched in September, serves as our mobile retail shop on wheels. Stocked with official Girl Scout gear, uniforms, swag, and fun extras, the Swagon brings the shop directly to troops, events, and communities across our council.



Mission Moments Capture Snapshots of Troop Activity

We encourage troops across our council to submit “Mission Moments,” which highlight the community activities that Girl Scouts are involved in. We share their activities via social media and our blog, gshpablog.org. Here are some highlights:

Breakdown of Regional Mission Moments

167
Mission Moment
Submissions

Top 10
Counties for Submissions

Dauphin, 35	Lackawanna, 9
Lancaster, 26	Schuylkill, 9
Luzerne, 17	Lebanon, 8
Lycoming, 14	Adams, 6
Perry, 11	Wyoming, 5

Voices from our Volunteers

Carrie Burlein

Wayne County

“Our school district, Wallenpaupack Area School District, partnered with Girl Scouts to bring girls together for hands-on activities that encouraged leadership, teamwork, and confidence.”

Tonya Nace

Cumberland County

“Cadette Troop 10702 hosted a cookie rally and badge event where younger girls learned skills, worked together, and got excited for the upcoming cookie season.”

Stacy Shank

Perry County

“Troops 20497 and 21562 went ‘Caroling for Cans,’ collecting food donations while spreading holiday cheer throughout their community.”

Camp Hill Open House

The Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania invited members of the community to an open house in September. The event celebrated Girl Scouts and the introduction of the new Exploremores Cookie. More than 200 Girl Scouts, volunteers and community members attended the day-long event. It included hands-on activities, giveaways, food trucks, and opportunities to connect with the Girl Scout mission.





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