

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania

2023 IMPACT REPORT



COURAGE CONFIDENCE CHARACTER

TABLE of CONTENTS

President & Board Chair Message ..	3
Our Supporters	4-6
Fund Development	7
Financial Assistance	8
Mission Moments	9
Highest Awards	10-11
Membership	12-13
Volunteers	14-15
Camp Properties.....	16-17
Program.....	18-21
Product Program.....	22-23
Trindle Road Open House.....	24-25
National Convention.....	26-27

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



**Serving 30
Counties**



GSHPA
Headquarters



Camp Archbald



Camp Small Valley



Camp Furnace Hills



Camp Happy Valley



Williamsport Office

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR

Dear Friends and Supporters of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania,

We are happy to present to you our 2022-23 Impact Report. This was a productive and successful year, and we are pleased to share a few highlights.

Our programming continues to focus on the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, offering opportunities for STEM, outdoors, entrepreneurship, and life skills activities. Volunteers and staff served 11,128 girls throughout our 30-county footprint.

We are thankful to you, our dedicated volunteers. Without your support, the programming experiences we offer to girls would not be possible. Your passion for Girl Scouts inspires girls to try new things, take action in their community, and help others. We are fortunate to have more than 10,000 individuals who commit their time to Girl Scouts.

A big thank you to our valued donors and funders: individual, foundation, and corporate supporters. With your generous gifts, you are helping us serve girls throughout central and northeastern Pennsylvania, and with your support, we are reaching more girls and making an even bigger impact.

When Juliette Gordon Low started Girl Scouts in 1912, she had a mission to change the world, one girl at a time. Her organization included girls from different backgrounds, ethnicities, and cultures, and she was determined to provide opportunities for each of them. We continue that mission every day, working hard to help girls develop their full potential. We truly believe in the benefits of girl-led activities and programming, and are so glad to have supporters like you to join our journey to grow girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. We cannot wait to see what the future holds for Girl Scouts.



JANET DONOVAN
President & CEO



ADRIENNE VICARI
Board Chair

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Juliette Gordon Low Society

The Society is named after the founder of Girl Scouts, Juliette Gordon Low. Established in 2012 by Girl Scouts of the USA, the society 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
Joanne M. Bankos
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*Girl Scout
Movement-wide
Challenge Planned Gift*
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Josephine Appell*
Harry K. Alwine*
Lawrence Arnold*
Kathleen Benner*
Emma Lou Bowersox*
Nellie Boyle*
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Brown*
Elwood Brumm*
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Rosenn*
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John Ward*
Alan Warehime*
Marie Williams*
William Young*
Jay Zarfos*
Dr. Hermann and Mary
Zwerling*

*Deceased



"Thank you for your unwavering support of the Juliette Gordon Low Society. Your gift empowers Girl Scouts to dream big and make a lasting impact. Together, we build future leaders."

**- Janet Donovan, President and CEO
Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania**

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“Your support fuels our mission, touching lives through the four pillars of leadership: life skills, entrepreneurship, outdoors, and STEM. Thank you for investing in the growth of our future leaders!”

- Adrienne Vicari, Board Chair of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania.

CORPORATE DONORS

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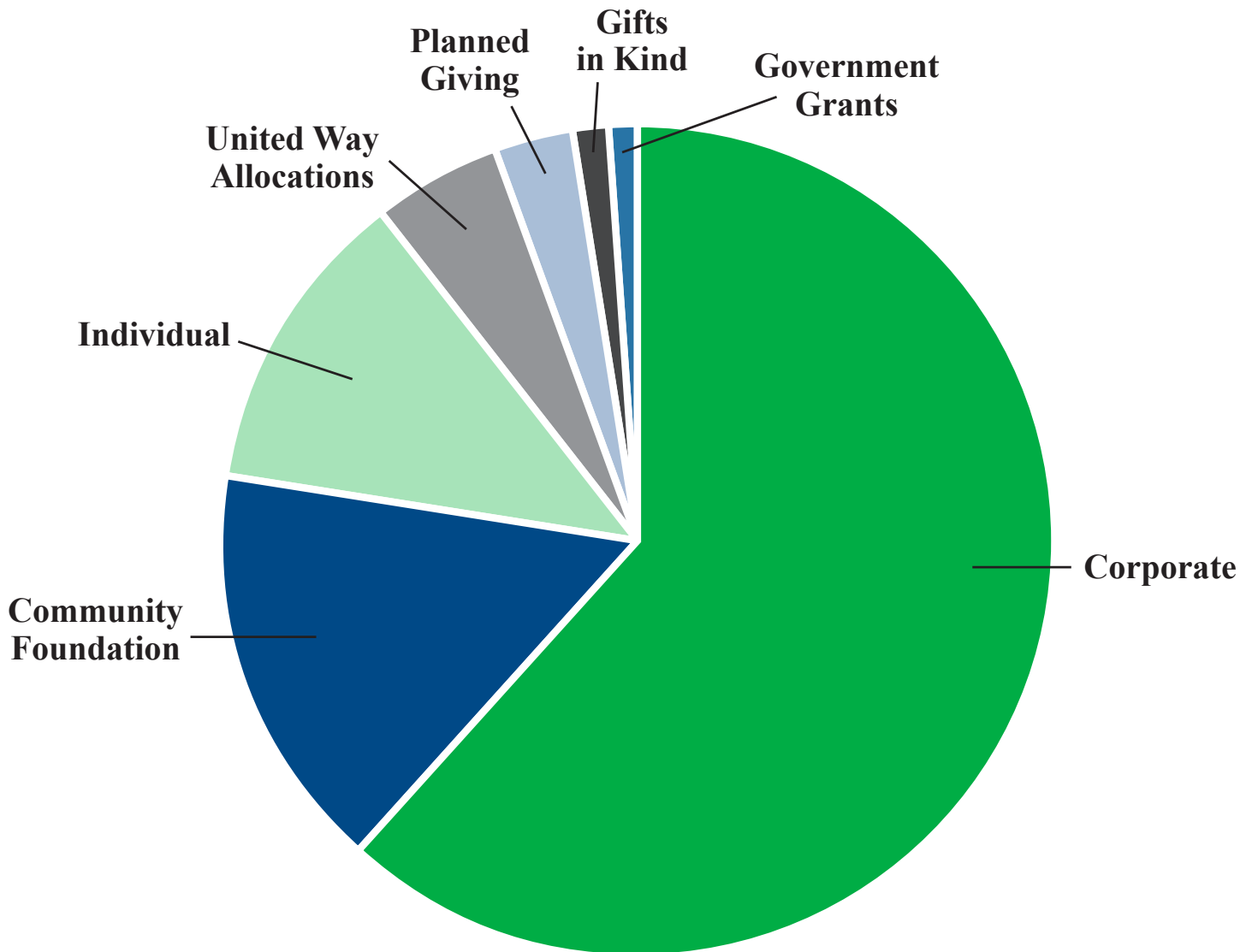
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“Heartfelt thanks to our corporate partners! Your steadfast commitment to the Girl Scout mission transforms lives, fostering courage, confidence, and character in the next generation of leaders. Together, we’re building a world where every girl can soar, and your support makes it all possible. Thank you for believing in us!”

**- Janet Donovan, President and CEO
Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania**

A year of giving at Girl Scouts

Charitable giving in diverse forms is the lifeblood of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania, ensuring our mission thrives. 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.



Your diverse support, from time and talents to generous contributions, fuels the Girl Scout mission. Together, we empower girls to embrace leadership and make a lasting impact. Thank you for being champions of courage, confidence, and character. Your commitment shapes a brighter future for all. **THANK YOU**

Donors provide scholarships and financial assistance

Thanks to generous donors, we proudly granted three local scholarships to Gold Award recipients last year. Additionally, Girl Scouts of the USA recognized our commitment by awarding a national scholarship, empowering and celebrating the achievements of our outstanding girls.

Girl Scouts of the USA Scholarship Recipient

PHAEDRA BOWER,
Lycoming County
Scholarship amount: \$10,000
Project Title: Operation Hotspot

Phaedra's project focused on addressing community access to the internet. She helped community members by working with her local library to provide free hotspots. Her project's mission will continue through ongoing fundraising by the library. Phaedra currently attends Penn State University, where she is studying Environmental Science.



Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania Gold Award Scholarship Recipients

FAITH MURRAY, York County
Scholarship amount: \$5,000
Project Title: Bee Knowledgeable

Faith's project focused on addressing the decrease in local populations of pollinator species. She helped the community understand the importance of local pollinators by creating educational materials and planting a garden. In the future, the school's environmental group will maintain the plants. Faith attends Pennsylvania College of Technology for Electrical Construction, pursuing Building Automation and Technology.



ELIZABETH CASON, Dauphin County
Scholarship amount: \$3,000
Project Title: How Diapers Can Change Lives

Elizabeth's project focused on addressing poverty's impact on infant health. She helped families by collaborating with a local diaper bank to raise awareness of the need for diapers and feminine products. Permanent collection bins will ensure the project's future. She is a Communications and Media Studies major at the University of Pittsburgh.



MAURA BARBER, Lancaster County
Scholarship amount: \$1,000
Project Title: Pollinator Hotel with Educational Programs

Maura noticed many of the pollinator species in her area were being affected by habitat loss, invasive species, and disease. She created an educational program and constructed a pollinator hotel to encourage an increase in local species numbers. Maura attends the University of Vermont, studying Environmental Science and Forestry with a minor in French.



"My Gold Awards' national link was showing the future generation how they can help this pollinator crisis from becoming worse."

- Faith, Gold Award scholarship recipient, York County



Scan here to support
Girl Scouts

Making the most of each moment

Troops are urged to share Mission Moments, stories that highlight events, projects, and achievements within our membership. From community service projects to overnight adventures and festive celebrations, our troops are consistently active. Let's revisit some of the past year's highlights.



CENTRE COUNTY

Troop 40085 joined Penn State University's Kappa Delta Sorority for a lesson on building confidence and learning about the power of sisterhood as they wrote value statements to place into stuffed animals they created.



LYCOMING COUNTY

Girls in Daisies, Brownies, and Ambassadors from Troops 60271 and 60041 celebrated Halloween with a party for Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girl Scouts, whose birthday is Oct. 31.



MONROE COUNTY

Girls in Troop 52299 enjoyed hands-on cooking lessons at an upscale restaurant, discovering how a professional kitchen works, from prep to clean up.

MISSION MOMENTS By the Numbers

112

Mission Moment
submissions

Top 10

counties for submissions:

Dauphin, 27

Lancaster, 11

Adams, 7

Lebanon, 7

Luzerne, 7

Lycoming, 7

Schuylkill, 6

Centre, 4

Columbia, 4

York, 4



"Girls went behind the scenes at a beautiful upscale restaurant for cooking lessons. They had a phenomenal time learning!"

**- Alessandra Restrepo,
parent, Troop 52299 in
Monroe County.**

Beginning in fourth grade, Girl Scouts can earn Highest Awards based on their age level for completing projects that address a need in their community. Juniors in grades four and five earn the Bronze Award as a troop. Cadettes in grades six, seven, and eight earn the Silver Award, working individually, in small groups, or as a troop. Seniors and Ambassadors in grades nine through 12 can earn the Gold Award individually.

GOLD 60 Girls



The 2023 Gold Award Class featured 60 girls, representing 15 counties throughout our footprint. In May, Girl Scouts hosted a Gold Award Ceremony at Bucknell University, honoring the Gold Award Class. More than 200 friends and family attended the Gold Award Ceremony.

Highest Awards projects facilitate tangible improvements in our communities

Our Girl Scouts are transforming their communities with their Highest Award Projects. Please enjoy the following two pages to discover key highlights of our 2023 Gold Award Projects as well as other projects that have received recognition in Silver and Bronze award categories.

ISABELLA HECKERT

Lewisburg, Union County

Sustainable Fashion

What's the lifecycle of a T-shirt? That's the question Isabella answered in her project, which spotlighted the environmental damage caused by the fashion industry as well as the negative impact the industry has on its employees. She created a blog and taught workshops to educate people about harmful fashion practices and to teach ways to focus on sustainability and upcycling.



JANIAH KNOUSE

Gettysburg, Adams County

Movie Dance Camp

Wanting to help young girls boost their confidence, Janiah hosted a dance camp for girls ages 3 to 6. She helped the dancers build their self-esteem and focus on their abilities and skills. Her project will continue through a local dance school that will host the camp every summer going forward.



KATELYN HENRY

Camp Hill, Cumberland County

Girls on Target

Katelyn's project focused on addressing firearm safety. Katelyn provided an opportunity for women to take clay shooting lessons, providing hands-on experiences, and encouraging women to try the sport.



Katelyn wanted to create an inclusive environment for women to try the sport without feeling intimidated or unsure. It's a male-dominated sport, so it can be a lot for a woman to come out onto our course...I think she's doing a huge service for the sport."

- Central Penn Sporting Clays Instructor Anna Levitsky, who worked with Gold Award Girl Scout Katelyn Henry on her "Girls on Target" project.

HIGHEST AWARDS

SYDNEY PAWLING

Elizabethtown, Lancaster County
The Syd Project

Sydney's project focused on addressing the lack of support, resources, and information for victims of sexual violence and assault. Sydney helped teen survivors of sexual violence and assault, as well as supporters of survivors, by collecting resources and information and making them available through a website. Her project's mission will continue by keeping the website updated.



HEIDI WILLIAMS

Shavertown, Luzerne County
Self-Care for Health Care

Stress from the pandemic, supply chain shortages, staffing concerns, and more, have created record burnout among healthcare workers. Heidi addressed this issue by creating 600 self-care kits for healthcare staff, including items such as face masks and providing information about the importance of prioritizing mental and physical health.



Silver Award ceremony launched

For the first time in 2022, Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania held a virtual ceremony to honor the 215 recipients of the 2022 Silver Award. The girls completed 73 projects that included donation drives for animal shelters, mental health awareness programs, and anti-bullying initiatives.

For the Bronze Award, Juniors (girls in fourth and fifth grades) completed 66 projects, with 375 girls making the world a better place.

Bronze and Silver Award projects play a pivotal role in the Girl Scouts' journey, fostering valuable skills, leadership development, and a commitment to making a positive impact in the community.

SILVER
215 Girls



BRONZE
375 Girls



Silver Award project enhanced outdoor space for medical center

We were really excited when McKenzie, Lydia, Emma, and Elaina contacted us, because they wanted to have a project that made a difference for healthcare employees during the pandemic. The girls commissioned some artwork for the walls, they created some centerpieces, they planted perennial flowers... and they created a de-stress cart with activities employees could engage in during their break time."

- Amy Trithart, Mount Nittany Medical Center Chief Human Resource Officer, Centre County, talking about Troop 40034's Silver Award project.



Read more about our
Highest Awards

THANK YOU

We thank you, our generous donors, for your support of our Highest Award programs. Your donations enable our girls to achieve their goals and improve the communities where they live and serve.

MEMBERSHIP

Driving growth and inclusion: Membership Team's impact

The membership team at Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania serves as a driving force behind community engagement and growth, actively recruiting and retaining members to strengthen the organization. Their strategic initiatives contribute to fostering a supportive and inclusive environment, empowering girls and volunteers to actively participate in the enriching Girl Scout experience.

MEMBERSHIP At a Glance

11,128
Girls

7,091
Adults

3,052 Volunteers

18,219 Total Individuals

Early Bird RENEWAL CAMPAIGN

April 1 – June 30, 2023

10,941
renewed
memberships

60%
of total
membership
renewed



Discover more about
our Girl Scouts

gsLearn

Girl Scout volunteers receive training through this e-learning platform, keeping up-to-date and ready to best serve girls.

- 2,012 courses completed
- Top courses included Fall Product Training for Troop Managers, Juliettes, and Service Units; Money Management courses; and New Troop Leader Training

Recruitment Events

Throughout the year, girls are encouraged to join Girl Scouts at events that provide information and fun activities promoting the program.

- More than 50 events attended
- All staff attended and assisted with recruitment
- Volunteers held almost 150 recruitment events



New Troop Leader Training

Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania ensures volunteer success through comprehensive training for new leaders. This includes guidance on managing girl attendance, tracking achievements, and planning meeting topics.

Training equips volunteers with essential skills for effective leadership. They learn how to communicate, organize, and motivate a diverse group of girls, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment.

- 211 individuals completed New Troop Leader Training

Juliette Engagement

Girls who participate in Girl Scouts without being part of a troop are called Juliette Girl Scouts. We ensure they are included in all of the fun activities and events offered to all Girl Scouts, from selling cookies to going camping.

Juliettes have the freedom to tailor their Girl Scout journey to align with personal interests, schedules, and goals. This autonomy fosters self-directed leadership, encouraging girls to take initiative, set objectives, and develop essential life skills.

- Monthly Juliette specific emails, and Juliette virtual roundtables were held in August, September, November, January, March, and May.

Volunteer Recognition and Awards

Volunteers play a pivotal role in creating a supportive and empowering environment, where girls build confidence, learn essential skills, and form lasting friendships.

We could not serve girls without the hard work of our volunteers, and we want to be sure they know how much they are appreciated. Troops are encouraged to nominate an outstanding volunteer for recognition, and we offer a variety of awards to highlight their dedication to Girl Scouts.

THANK YOU

Thank you to you, our dedicated volunteers. You selflessly contribute your time and expertise to the Girl Scouts, providing key programming and engagement that empowers young girls to grow, learn, and become confident leaders. Your commitment is instrumental in shaping the future of our girls.



VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers are the lifeblood of Girl Scouts



Belinda Stefl

Our council has been fortunate to have a wealth of individuals who dedicate their time and talents to Girl Scouts. Each year, we recognize outstanding volunteers through the Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania's Volunteer Awards. This past year, we received more than 100 nominations of volunteers who are making a difference in the lives of girls.

Our council also recognized one leader who represents a true dedication to Girl Scouts. Belinda Stefl of Northumberland County earned the Thanks II Badge Award, presented for the first time since 2015.

It is the highest award and honor available nationwide to a Girl Scout volunteer.

Along with recognizing volunteers with awards, we increased volunteer support programming, holding a variety of trainings and offering resources to ensure our volunteers get the most out of the Girl Scout experience.

HONOREES

HONOR PIN

Jess Mbaye
Betty Roksandic
Kristina Bowes
Eileen Head (2)
Kathy Leight
Kim Schon (2)

APPRECIATION PIN

Tracy Tomes
Lorna Myers
Sheri Boyer
Alessandra Restrepo
Paul Zajac
Jennifer Zarko (2)
Vickie Parks
Carol Shipe
Cathy Templeton
Nicole Castagna
Liz Dellinger
Angela Munson

Wendy Accardo

Risa Rosario

Michelle Rogers-Hare (3)

VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE

Jennifer Betts
Katie Lumaro
Barbara Nagel
Nicole Wiederhold
Shannon Messick
Sara Moyer
Barbara Moyer
Laura Trout (2)
Mindy Urich
Sharon Hicks
Tanya Carl
Kathy Pierich
Kim Young
Jenifer Starr
Cristy Dickinson
Nancy Goy (2)
Tammy Pursel

Stacey Fenstermacher
Constance Scheunemann
Nikolaus Barkauskas

Sherry Miller
Katie Knaub
Kerri Walton
Carol Caddick
Colleen Stoltz
Julie Houck
Holly Legate
Missy Kline
Ashley Johnson
Siri Phelps
Lisa Pfleegor
Jan Aurant
Suzanne Tischer
Magdalena Kurtz
Adrienne Fetzer
Holly Legate
Paul Goy (2)
Elizabeth Hittle
Pam Steele

HEART OF PA

Brandi Widmer
Amy Place
Tammy Drumheller
Constance O'Donnell
Ginger Aurand (2)
Sheila Witmer (2)
Debra Webb
Jessica Reich
Linda Davis
Jamie Puchalski

JULIETTE'S PEARLS

Kimberly Nagle (blue)
Ashlea Hidlay (blue)
Tara Tanczos (gray)
Samantha Mahaffey (yellow)

GIRL SCOUTS IN THE HEART OF PENNSYLVANIA CERTIFICATES

Tylee Ayala
Sabrina Ayala
Dana Mills
Jennifer Metzger
Lauren Stoner
Ursula Shugars
Lisa Late
Nicole Tocco

VOLUNTEERS

In their own words, what our volunteers had to say:

“

“I love to teach and to train. Just as people did with me. I love the old traditions and the ceremonies.”

- Belinda Stefl



“

“I enjoy watching them grow and experience new things ... and I like to think they take their experiences from Girl Scouts and apply them to their college lives and beyond.”

- Jan Aurant, Huntingdon County volunteer



“

“It’s easy to ask for support for something you really believe in, and you’ve seen make a difference in your life and your children’s lives.”

- Nicole Castagna, Lancaster County volunteer and member of the Fund Development Committee for Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania



“

“I may not have a skill but one of my co-leaders will, or they know someone that does. We come up with what we think are unrealistic goals and we make them happen. We’re a unique troop.”

- Kristina Bowes
Carbon County volunteer



“

“We have thousands of volunteers, and those volunteers are the ones who are delivering for girls every day. When I think about what I’m thankful for, I’m thankful for volunteers. There’s no Girl Scouting without them.”

- Janet Donovan, President and CEO, Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania



CAMP PROPERTIES

Investing in Camp Properties remains a priority

Our four camps serve as incubators for leadership development, providing an environment where girls thrive and grow.

The camps provide dynamic spaces fostering resilience, courage, and teamwork. The natural beauty surrounding the camps is not just a backdrop but a catalyst for growth. Girls hone leadership skills, embrace diversity, and form unbreakable bonds.

Our commitment to invest in these camp properties is a testament to the organization's dedication to providing a safe and inspiring space for every Girl Scout. These aren't just physical spaces; they are classrooms without walls, nurturing not only outdoor skills but also instilling a deep sense of environmental stewardship.

The focus on these four camp properties is an investment in the promise of tomorrow's leaders, ensuring that the Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania continue to thrive and leave an enduring mark on the world.

CAMP ARCHBALD

An ongoing draining project started to address the issue of water flooding into the basement of lower Friendship building.

We also addressed several electrical repairs on the property, purchased tents and helped to stabilize the Greenwood foundation.

We are grateful to the Supporters of Camp Archbald (SoCA) for the continued support of these and many other projects.



CAMP HAPPY VALLEY

Projects at Camp Happy Valley included the construction of a new pavilion at Skyloft. New trails leading down to a creek on the property expanded outdoor exploration areas for campers. Camp Happy Valley is located near Gettysburg and a local ski resort with year-round overnight options for groups ranging from 10 to 30 individuals in 4 different heated units.



THANK YOU

We are deeply grateful to our generous donors and partners for their support, which enables us to continually improve and expand our outdoor experiences for the Girl Scouts.



Read more about
our camps

CAMP PROPERTIES

CAMP SMALL VALLEY

In partnership with a locally-based, trusted partner, we constructed the new Squirrel's Nest bathroom on the existing foundation, featuring essential amenities such as showers. This addition elevates the overall comfort and well-being of our Girl Scouts during their outdoor adventures. The dining hall underwent a crucial update to its HVAC system, ensuring a more comfortable environment for our girls and volunteers.



July was the busiest month at Camp Furnace Hills.

Most rented site:
Foxfire Program Center – 63 times

SoCA summer camp was a huge success at Camp Archbald, drawing a large number of girls and volunteers.

Most rented unit:
Friendship – 101 times

Most popular activities:
Swimming in the lake – 99 times
Boating – 92 times

CAMP FURNACE HILLS

Thanks to a project planned and coordinated by the Foxfire House team, girls learned firsthand about masonry and repointing techniques used in the 1800s as they worked alongside contractors to complete a project at the building. Other buildings on the property received upgrades this past summer, including new window installation at the Program Center and Whispering Winds.



Camp Happy Valley is a destination camp and was the most utilized by troops outside our council.

Most rented unit:
Gobblers Glen – 70 times

June, July, and August were the busiest times at Camp Small Valley during summer camp.

Most rented units:
Mattis East -129 times
Mattis West -120 times

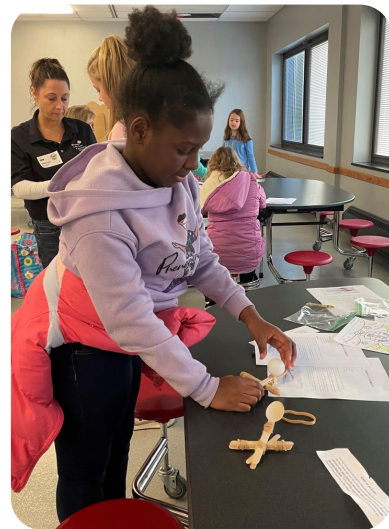
Forging fun and friendships through Girl Scout programming

Girl Scout programming is crucial for holistic development, providing a dynamic platform beyond classrooms. Tailored for all age groups, these programs instill values of courage, confidence, and character. The Girl Scout Leadership Experience, integral to programs, prepares girls for the modern world, fostering self-worth and a commitment to positive impact. From outdoor adventures to STEM initiatives, Girl Scout programming equips young women to lead and contribute meaningfully to our communities.

GIRL FEST

Girl Fest kicked off the new Girl Scout year, transforming Camp Archbald and Camp Small Valley into engaging hubs. The event, designed to inspire, featured hands-on environmental education activities.

Delving into core values, Girl Fest explored Entrepreneurship, Life Skills, Outdoor Adventures, and STEM. Girl Fest became a platform for families and youth to discover new perspectives, fostering a sense of community.



ACADEMIC EDGE

Designed as an introduction to Girl Scouts, this program removes entry obstacles for girls who might face challenges. Utilizing the foundations of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, Academic Edge offers experiential learning aligned with Pennsylvania state academic standards.

It's a transformative initiative bridging education and empowerment, ensuring that girls, regardless of circumstances, have access to valuable learning opportunities within the Girl Scout community.



OUTDOOR PROGRAMS

Outdoor educational programs unlock a pivotal avenue for Girl Scout engagement, presented both at the council-operated camps and through approved offsite program partners. As girls immerse themselves in these enriching activities, they embark on journeys of exploration, learning, and personal growth.

BY THE NUMBERS

Caregivers, volunteers, and Girl Scouts attended a variety of programming in the past year:

Events on property (includes Girl Fest and May Blaze)

1,660

Large scale events off property

559

Academic Edge

545

GSHPA On Wheels

440

Summer Camp

393

Virtual Programs

178

Belize Trip

67

Destination Trips

15

PROGRAM

MAY BLAZE

Held at Camp Happy Valley, May Blaze brought together approximately 80 Girl Scouts, families, and volunteers.

Following a theme of “Quest for Adventure,” Girl Scouts and their families embarked on a trip back in time to explore an alternate past where magic abounded and technology unveiled new innovations. Girls came in costume – as princesses, pirates, and more – and used a map to navigate the activities. On-site vendors provided additional programming, and a closing ceremony featured songs and a big friendship circle.



STEM

Our continued enrichment with the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programs transitioned away from virtual instruction and more into in-person instruction. We relaunched our GSHPA on Wheels initiative and the Academic Edge outreach program.

STEM remains our most popular programming for in-person settings. This is enhanced by the commitment to ensure that every council-led program is tied to

Pennsylvania Department of Education standards. The council is approved as part of the Educational Improvement Organization for STEM, financial literacy and outdoor education curricula, eligible for Educational Improvement Tax Credits. Our programming is made available to the girls we serve in our 30 county footprint and aligned with PA State Curriculum Standards for grade levels K-12.



GSHPA ON WHEELS

GSHPA on Wheels brings programming and materials directly to girls, facilitated by a dedicated Program Coordinator. The GSHPA on Wheels initiative unveiled an array of programs throughout the year, including 3D Design, Escape Room, Master Builder, Endangered Animals, Robotics Design, Math in Nature, Catapulting into Fun, and It's Electric. These hands-on experiences ignited curiosity, problem-solving, and fun learning for girls across the region.

Girl Scouts are going places

Travel opportunities play a crucial role in the Girl Scouts' development by offering a wide range of educational, cultural, and personal growth experiences. These opportunities align with the Girl Scouts' mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

Here are just a few reasons to explore travel with the Girl Scouts:

Cultural Exposure: Travel exposes Girl Scouts to various cultures, fostering an understanding and appreciation for global diversity.

Leadership Development: Through travel, Girl Scouts engage in planning, decision-making, and problem-solving, contributing to the development of leadership skills.

Team Building: Group travel encourages teamwork and collaboration, helping Girl Scouts build strong bonds and develop effective communication skills.

Independence and Self-Reliance: Traveling away from home promotes independence, self-reliance, and the ability to make decisions without constant parental guidance.

Experiential Learning: Travel provides hands-on, real-world learning experiences that go beyond the classroom, enhancing educational and personal growth for Girl Scouts.



“I would encourage girls to do this to step out of their comfort zone if they’ve never traveled alone before, to get that experience before going to college or going out on their own so they have some sort of background knowledge on how to take care of themselves and how to live with other people.”

- Sierra, a Cadette from California, who participated in “Herstory: History, Hiking, and Hershey”

Being bold in Belize

International travel allows girls to experience different cultures, try new things, build confidence, and forge new friendships. This year, girls and adult chaperones traveled to Belize, Central America, for an unforgettable trip.

During the week-long adventure, the Girl Scouts enjoyed action-packed days filled with activities, explorations, and relaxation under the tropical sun.



“We had a whole day in Belize dedicated to teaching us about the beauties of the nature there,” said Cadette Girl Scout Iyanna. “We went tubing in an underwater crystallized cave, and we saw many natural structures taking the form of many real-life creatures. It was a very comforting feeling floating through the water, and after that, we got to swim in the lake.”

Our girls were barely back home before we began planning our next adventure. This summer, a group will travel to London and Paris for a European visit, while a trip to Iceland is planned for the summer of 2025.

BELIZE BY THE NUMBERS

67
girls and
adult chaperones

8
days

6
hours to fly to Belize
from Pennsylvania

60
carrots consumed by the
tapir in one feeding.

GIRL SCOUT DESTINATIONS

Girl Scouts are encouraged to broaden their horizons by traveling. We use a progressive program based on the girls’ ages and experience levels. Destinations is the highest level of progression, as girls travel without a parent or guardian.

This past year, our council hosted a Destinations program for high school students, offering eight days of programming in Gettysburg, Hershey, York County, and Lancaster County. In July and early August, 15 girls from 10 states explored Gettysburg Battlefield, rode horses, enjoyed Hersheypark, hiked the Appalachian Trail, and experienced life in the 1800s at Foxfire House at Camp Furnace Hills as part of “Herstory: History, Hiking, and Hershey.”



GIRL SCOUT DAY AT GETTYSBURG

In conjunction with Destination Gettysburg, 187 Girl Scouts and 160 adults signed up for one of four historical treks, and upon completion of those treks, they received a Gettysburg patch.

Girl Scouts supports self-starting entrepreneurs

Can a cookie change a life? It can if it's a Girl Scout cookie. For Girl Scout Senior Brooke of Columbia County, participating in the Cookie Program pushed her outside of her comfort zone.

"It isn't easy for me, because I suffer from anxiety, and I don't do well when I'm out in public and have to be social with people," she said. "Selling cookies helped me break out of my shell and become more confident in public speaking. It also taught me problem-solving skills."

Brooke persevered, not only going out and selling cookies, but also going above and beyond the average amount of cookies sold. She and her sister, Jordan, are both members of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania's S'More's Executive Club, selling more than 800 boxes of cookies each.

Jordan, a Cadette Girl Scout, said that succeeding as a cookie entrepreneur requires determination, especially when facing the busy schedule of an active teenager. "You have to make enough effort to go out and actually do the work, in the snow, or when you're tired or you have stuff to do afterward," she said.

The Cookie Program provided an opportunity to practice life skills. "I learned how to manage money and how to make change," Jordan said.

The Girl Scout Product Program season features Fall Product sales from September through November, when girls sell nuts, candy, and magazine subscriptions. The Cookie Program begins in January and operates through early spring.

GIRL SCOUT COOKIE PROGRAM

7,442 girls
participated in the Girl Scout
Cookie Program

17,868 boxes
were donated through the Gift of Caring
Program benefiting Soldier's Angels

FALL PRODUCT PROGRAM

3,782 girls
participated in the Fall Product Program

4,800 items
donated to Soldier's Angels through the
Fall Product Care to Share Program

"I like being an influence on younger Girl Scouts. I think if we keep doing what we do, getting out there and talking about Girl Scouts and selling cookies, it will help Girl Scouts continue on, generation after generation."

- Brooke
Girl Scout, Columbia County

THANK YOU

Every time you buy a box of Girl Scout Cookies or support our Girl Scout Fall Product sale, you support key programming and opportunities for girls.



Learn more about our
Product Programs

Busy year for the Cookie Program

Throughout the past year, we engaged in the Girl Scout Cookie Program through various avenues: Mega Drop events at four different locations, a Cookie Showcase, television promotions, and lively, well-attended cookie rallies. We are grateful for the opportunity to host these events and collaborate with our Girl Scouts and volunteers.



The Girl Scout Cookie Program teaches valuable skills in five key areas:

Goal Setting: Girls learn to set and work toward both individual and group goals, developing a sense of purpose and accomplishment.

Decision Making: The program encourages girls to make informed decisions, from choosing their sales strategies to managing resources effectively.

Money Management: Girls gain practical experience handling finances, budgeting, and accounting through the sale of cookies.

People Skills: Interacting with customers, handling objections, and promoting teamwork enhances girls' interpersonal and communication skills.

Business Ethics: Girls learn the importance of honesty, responsibility, and integrity in business practices, promoting ethical behavior and building a strong foundation for future endeavors.

A fresh start for Girl Scouts in Cumberland County

After several months of renovations and years of planning, Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania formally welcomed the public to our new headquarters in the fall of 2023.

More than 150 guests mingled and networked at an official ribbon-cutting ceremony. They had the opportunity to explore our new home, including podcast and retail space, and a future Girl Scout museum, the latter of which will showcase the long, local history of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania.

Rich history of 50-year milestones

The local charter for Girl Scouts dates to 1920. Shortly after the entity was established, Girl Scouts in the Harrisburg area began operating out of the Carriage House on Pine and River streets.

Remodeled to accommodate programming and activities, the building featured room for administrative staff on the first floor and a large activity space upstairs, complete with a fireplace, a small kitchen, and a demonstration room for girls to show off their skills to qualify for badges.



Carriage House, Pine and River Streets

Girl Scouts relocate for growth

About 50 years later, Girl Scouts relocated to Hale Avenue headquarters in Harrisburg. Although this home served the organization well for the next half of a century, it continued to outgrow the space, prompting the move to Trindle Road and setting the stage for the next 50 years and beyond for Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania.



Hale Avenue Office

Expanded new headquarters boosts accessibility

The new headquarters location in Hampden Township provides easy access from all areas of our council, more room for programming and higher visibility in the community.

The JEM Group, a woman-owned general contractor, completed the new headquarters' renovation.

Plans are underway to transform the lower level of the building into space for council-wide programming.

As we settle into our newest home, we are looking forward to the next 50 years as we continue growing girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.



Trindle Road Headquarters

TRINDLE ROAD OPEN HOUSE



Our Open House celebration in photos

Experience the joy of our fall open house and ribbon-cutting as hundreds of Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania supporters celebrated our move to a new home. This small collection of photos showcases the fun moments and community spirit that defined these milestone events.

STEM-filled event draws crowd

Girl Scouts and volunteers were invited to an open house in September, when hundreds of people enjoyed hands-on STEM activities, sampled snacks and participated in a scavenger hunt to discover special features of the new site.



In other building moves...

Girl Scouts relocated its satellite office from Lewisburg to Williamsport in September. The move provides a more central and visible location for our members in the northern part of our footprint, assisting with our outreach. An open house is slated for Spring 2024.



Lifting up girl voices at National Convention

In July, more than 50 members from Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania traveled to the 2023 Girl Scout National Convention in Orlando, Fla. The group included both adult and girl delegates, who voted on policies impacting the national Girl Scout organization.

Phenom by Girl Scouts, a program that offers Girl Scout experiences and programming, featured governance sessions as well as opportunities for attendees to meet Girl Scouts from around the world, interact with influential female leaders, and be inspired by the power of Girl Scouts.

Close to 10,000 Girl Scouts, leaders, and family attended the convention, including Cara, an Ambassador Girl Scout from Lancaster County.

“I’ve been in Girl Scout since Daisies and really want to continue my involvement outside of just my troop, so hearing about being involved with governance was very exciting,” she said.

Cara encouraged other Girl Scouts to attend future national conventions, which are held every three years. “There are so many different opportunities at Phenom, everyone will be able to find something they enjoy,” she said.

Evelyn, a Senior from Cumberland County, originally planned to attend the convention just as a guest, but when she found out she could serve as a delegate, she applied. “Having input on the proposals was very important to me and it gave me a good experience with parliamentary procedure,” she said.

The next National Convention will be held in Washington, D.C., and it offers a chance to dive deep into the Girl Scout movement.

“If you want to feel connected to thousands of other Girl Scouts who believe in our mission, you need to attend. It was amazing being amongst so many powerful girls and women,” said Janelle Brewer, Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania Volunteer Training Manager.



“Going to the convention as a delegate was a great experience because it gave me a chance to view new perspectives and meet new people. Being a delegate gives you an opportunity to have a voice in what matters to you.”

- Catherine (Kit), Ambassador from Lancaster County

NATIONAL CONVENTION

Seven proposals debated at the National Council Session

The 56th National Council Session was held July 18 to 20, 2023, during the Girl Scout National Convention. National Council Delegates debated seven proposals and took the following action:

Proposal 1

Constitutional Amendment: Allowing the Possibility of Virtual Attendance for National Council Sessions and for Special Sessions of the National Council

The proposal was divided. Sections 1 and 3 were approved as presented. Section 4 of the proposal was amended to limit the board's discretion regarding virtual attendance at regular sessions of the National Council to emergency situations.

Proposal 2

Amend the Promise and Law

This proposal was divided into two sections, both focusing on changing wording to more actionable language. Both sections were defeated.

Proposal 3

Constitutional Amendment: Council Representation on the National Board

The proposal called for amending wording in a section of the constitution for clarification and a clearer definition of "Council Executive."

The proposal was defeated.

Proposal 4

Constitutional Amendment: DEIRJ Language Proposal

The proposal was approved as amended. The final wording

of this proposal is: Girl Scouts advance diversity, pluralism, and anti-racism and actively identify and oppose racism by removing systemic barriers to participation in our Movement and in the communities in which we live.

Proposal 5

Constitutional Amendment: Formula for Delegates

The proposal suggested amending the wording about delegates to replace the number 3,500 in every occurrence with the number 1,000.

The proposal was defeated.

Proposal 6

Constitutional Amendment: Timing of Delegate Allotment

Each local council will be entitled to two delegates, with additional delegates based on the number of registered girls. The proposal was approved as presented.

Proposal 7

Girl Scouts Gold Award Scholarship Fund

Create a donor-restricted fund in support of Gold Award scholarship.

The proposal was approved as presented.

Eight National Delegates represented Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania at the convention.





Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania thanks



for the print and design of this publication.