

2015 Annual Report

girl scouts
of greater chicago
and northwest
indiana

Exceptional Experiences & Everyday Leaders





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Girl Representatives to the Board

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Brandiline Hoover
Laila Kassar
Eva Lewis
Ellen Morgan
Sofia Rodriguez
Olivia Turk
Caira Watson

From the President of the Board of Directors



Karen Layng, President,
GCNWI Board of Directors

Dear Funders, Supporters and Parents,

Thank you. On behalf of the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Board of Directors, I would personally like to thank you for investing in girls, our local council and a 104-year-old vision initiated by a woman who believed that girls could do anything.

I, too, believe that girls can do anything. They just need unique opportunities, mentoring,

encouragement, and experiences that show them that they have what it takes to lead this generation into the future. At every stage of their growth and development, girls face challenges and obstacles that test their confidence. Together we empower them to discover

how to convert a challenge into an opportunity, focus on solving a problem and discover the talents that will ensure their success as adults.

Funders and volunteers who believe in the Girl Scout Mission to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place know that we are serious about leaving the world better than we found it. That means investing in girls.

As the parent of a grown Girl Scout who earned her Gold Award, a member of the board, a former troop leader, and a former girl member, I know that Girl Scouting makes a difference in girls' lives. Girl Scouting also makes a difference in our world by investing in the next generation who will lead our workforce, government, communities, and families. Thank you for investing in us.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Karen'.

From the CEO

Dear Friends,

I am especially proud to be in my second year as the CEO of Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana, one of the largest councils in the country. This past year, our board of directors achieved many successes in partnership with our Girl Scout leadership team.

The following accomplishments will lay the ground work for years to come:

- The GCNWI Board of Directors approved the strategic plan that solidifies a strong vision for the council for the next three years.
- We broke ground for the Camp Juniper Knoll dining hall which was the first property enhancement since we realigned in 2008.
- We initiated custom programming for troop leaders which increased the use of journeys and badges.
- We combined the Lisle and Greene Wood offices to streamline expenses and allow camp and programming to flourish.

Please review the pages of this annual report and see the Girl Scouts who are the everyday leaders our world so

desperately needs. See them earning the Gold Award, building a culture of respect for others, and learning new things in STEM, financial literacy and healthy living.

I am immensely grateful for the support shown by our friends. Because of you, Girl Scouts as young as five years old learn they can make a difference in the world.

Girl Scouts interact with confidence when speaking to women CEOs who provide insights about their careers. Girl Scouts take action to solve problems they see in their own communities, their schools and around the world. Girl Scouts today are tomorrow's leaders.

With sincere gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nancy'.



Nancy Wright, CEO

Unique Experiences Prepare Tomorrow's Workforce

“Girl Scouts has allowed my daughter to find her confidence, develop her leadership, and be a part of a larger community of women.” – Mary Primer

By Lauren Primer, Girl Scout Alumna

Whether it's hiking 20 miles of canyon at Starved Rock State Park in Illinois, presenting an award at our council's annual Tribute to Achievement dinner honoring civic and corporate leaders, or teaching 25 women executives to make S'mores around the campfire at Camp Butternut Springs in Indiana as part of Camp CEO, Girl Scouts has been featured everywhere in my life.

Girl Scouting is a timeless wonder uniting different generations of women and developing strong relationships of empowerment. From the moment you become a Girl Scout, you're connected to a variety of women leaders.

Throughout grade school, my troop's annual traditions of badge-earning, cookie-selling, camp sing-alongs, and service to our community laid foundations for lifelong learning, interpersonal leadership, and a healthy sense of self-esteem. Girl Scouts transformed me into a young woman of “courage, confidence, and character.” I learned the importance of taking the initiative, collaborating on ideas, and leading by example. I discovered value in effective communication, networking, and poised professionalism.

Today, I am an honors engineering freshman and Stamps Leadership Scholar at Purdue University in West Lafayette, Indiana. In my first-year endeavors, I have incorporated the Girl Scout ideals of citizenship, empathy, and global mindfulness.

As a future biological engineer with the desire to make a global impact, I look forward to this opportunity to touch lives. To this day, Girl Scouts maintains great presence in my life. Had I not been motivated to pursue a STEM career by Android app development workshops with my Camp CEO mentor at Motorola Mobility and hikes through the woods with physician executives and CEOs of engineering firms, my life's path would have surely taken a different course. For this, I am grateful.



In a Mother's Words ...

By Mary Primer, mother of Girl Scout Lauren Primer

Girl Scouts has allowed my daughter to find her confidence, develop her leadership, and be a part of a larger community of women.

Many memories and photos have been captured with the Girl Scout in our family. I can remember dropping Lauren hesitantly off to her first Girl Scout meeting, anxiously marking our calendar for our annual camping trips on Mom and Me weekends, eating way too many Girl Scout cookies, helping her pack for her first week-long camp as a 4th grader, watching her board the bus out of state to Camp CEO, proudly listening to her speech on stage in front of 500 Girl Scout banquet attendees, and saying goodbye at the door to her university dorm room with a smile, knowing all will be fine.

When I meet a young mother with her Girl Scout daughter selling cookies, I wish them good luck in hopes that they, too, will see their daughter's doors opening to new adventures.

Our Unique Approaches Produce Lifetime Benefits

Every day, Girl Scouts lead by creating, solving, building, failing, climbing, trying, growing, helping, talking, and asking.

These skills are their future assets.



One of GCNWI's two new vans for enhancing member experiences with retail and Girl Scout Cookies.

New Initiatives to Deliver Services

In fiscal year 2015, GCNWI launched customized programming and retail options to bring our services closer to where our members live. We heard important feedback from volunteers and parents that there was a need for program options that could be brought to their troop meeting locations. Implementing these options enabled more girls to earn Girl Scout journeys and badges than any year prior. New customized programming has helped leaders feel even more empowered to provide great experiences to the girls in their troops. Launching our mobile retail shop and Girl Scout Cookie vans also bring important resources to where they are needed most.

Unique, Signature Events

Girls participated in several new signature events in fiscal year 2015: Turbo Trefoils (the Girl Scout version of the Pinewood Derby), Mighty Girls (focused on healthy living) and World Thinking Day. Signature events with large participation capacity ensure that Girl Scouts are able to search out many facets of STEM, healthy living, culture and financial literacy.



Innovative, Mobile Experiences

For those who remember GCNWI's creative, immersive Journey World space in Chicago, get ready! It's coming back! Based on your feedback, we will be bringing this immersive experience to a gathering place near you.

Girls will create the city, run the city and save the city as they problem solve their way through customized scenarios that develop from the creative minds of the girls who attend each program. Our sincerest thanks to the visionary sponsors who have provided their support in fiscal year 2015 for the build-out of the first two buildings: Capital One and The Chicago Community Trust.

Additional sponsor opportunities are available. Contact funddevelopment@girlscoutsgcnwi.org.

Exceptional Experiences Build Everyday Leaders

Celebrating 100 Years of Highest Awards

2016 marks the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting's highest leadership awards, including today's Girl Scout Gold Award.

Earning the Gold Award is a seven-step process that is the pinnacle of a Girl Scout's journey. The Gold Award encourages girls to use their leadership skills to affect positive local or global change by identifying an issue, investigating, building a team to help, creating a plan, presenting the plan and gathering feedback, taking action, and educating and inspiring others.

As an organization founded in the concept of progressive experiences that build each girl's capacity for leadership, Girl Scouting seeks to prepare younger girls for their journey toward the Gold.

Girl Scout Juniors, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors all have the opportunity to earn significant awards for their leadership and action. The process of earning these highest awards helps a girl prepare for a bright future and has both short-term and long-term impacts on her community.

Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award projects showcase the girls' courage, confidence, and character, and they reflect their passion for making the world a better place.

Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana has launched a major initiative to spread the word about the highest awards through exciting, hands-on programming for girls, high-level trainings for leaders and top-notch council support for girls working on their Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award projects.

*Leadership isn't defined by who you are or what you want to be. It's defined by **what you do**.*



Nancy Wright (left) and Karen Layng (right) congratulate Girl Scout Gold Award recipient Mira Sethi.



Hannah Benson (right), a Gold Award recipient and girl representative to the GCNWI Board of Directors, and her mother, Shari.



Girl Scout Gold Award recipients, their friends and family, enjoy a moment in the spotlight during the 2015 Gold Award Ceremony.

"I know that my work helped many students realize what was happening in the world around them and understand that we could take very local action to help impact larger world problems."

– Moira Malley, 2015 Gold Award Recipient



2015 Gold Award Recipients

Samantha Adams
Winnetka, IL

Imani Baker
Aurora, IL

Sarah Barker
Lockport, IL

Mary Bauer
Evanston, IL

Rachel Bennett
Hazel Crest, IL

Kyle Bertram
Winnetka, IL

Bailey Bickel
Woodridge, IL

Anisa Brazier
Aurora, IL

Katherine Brogan
Valparaiso, IN

Kaitlyn Christenson
Darien, IL

Katie Condon
Lake Forest, IL

Madeline Crook
Berwyn, IL

Colleen Dempsey
Mount Prospect, IL

Jaycie DiDomenico
Bolingbrook, IL

Emily Durham
Lemont, IL

Celine Ehret
Mount Prospect, IL

Elizabeth Einig
Schaumburg, IL

Alexis Garcia
Chicago, IL

Julia Green
Winnetka, IL

Sarah Harper
Naperville, IL

Alyssa Heath
Winnetka, IL

Megan Kachidurian
Hinsdale, IL

Kayla Kahanic
Bourbonnais, IL

Cortney Kingsley
McHenry, IL

Katelyn Kivett
Naperville, IL

Madeline Klauer
Hebron, IN

Sarah Kranc
Saint John, IN

Morgan Kraus
La Grange Park, IL

Lynzey Kujan
Libertyville, IL

Jessica Lack
Aurora, IL

Amy Lakowski
Northbrook, IL

Stephanie Lamberty
Chicago, IL

Kelsey Louro
Hoffman Estates, IL

Moira Malley
Oak Park, IL

Nia McClendon
Libertyville, IL

Samantha McKeown
Schaumburg, IL

Victoria Miller
Merrillville, IN

Margaret Mueller
Prospect Heights, IL

Nicole Nolan
Orland Park, IL

Allison Olshefke
Gurnee, IL

Rebecca Peraino
Lemont, IL

Madeleine Pompe Van Meerdervoort
Lake Forest, IL

Margaret Power
Naperville, IL

Kayla Ronchetto
Bourbonnais, IL

Caroline Ross
Kenilworth, IL

Michelle Sanders
Matteson, IL

Mira Sethi
Long Grove, IL

Jorie Smith
Darien, IL

Kara Strathman
Winthrop Harbor, IL

Fiona Tilson
Winnetka, IL

Olivia Turk
Chicago, IL

Samantha Vestal
Worth, IL

Erin Weizeorick
Lisle, IL

Lindsey Wetle
Buffalo Grove, IL

Alea Williams
Wheaton, IL

Travel and Outdoor Experiences Expand Horizons

Learning about the world, and the diverse spectrum of people who inhabit it, inspires compassion, service and new ideas.

You-and-Me on Mackinac Island

Carrying on a tradition started by the former Girl Scouts of DuPage County, Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana hosted its first-ever trip to Mackinac Island in July 2015 and created a lifetime of family memories within a few days.

Twenty-seven girls from throughout the council and their favorite female family members took Mackinac Island by storm. After a seven-hour coach bus ride, everyone boarded the ferry to the island. Following a group pizza party, the attendees then settled in to the grand Chippewa Hotel. In the morning, everyone hopped on a horse-drawn carriage ride, perused a butterfly conservatory, and traipsed around Fort Mackinac.

The girls and their new-found friends went horseback riding, rented bikes, searched for letterboxes and geocaches, ate a lot of fudge and took a lot of snapshots to capture the emotion of their shared memories.

This Mackinac Island trip was the first in a series of progressive travel experiences designed to build on a love of travel. Next up is an adventure to Our Cabaña, a Girl Guide/Girl Scout destination in Mexico.



"Mackinac Island is the favorite vacation spot for four generations of women in our family. We think this area of our country is the most beautiful, because of how tall the trees grow, the vast areas of wooded landscape and peeks of the Great Lakes along the highways. It is so exciting to arrive at the ferry dock after the long drive and smell the lake, hear the gulls, and know that you're only a short water ride away."

– Jennifer Metler and daughter Kali Christie

Juniper Knoll Dining Hall is Investment in Girls

We embarked on our first major construction project, breaking ground on a new dining hall at Camp Juniper Knoll in Wisconsin.

Severe weather-related damage to the previous dining hall presented an opportunity for us to construct the new dining hall experience in partnership with VJS Construction Services, Inc. of Pewaukee, Wisconsin; and Domokur Architects of Akron, Ohio. Our \$2.6 million, 7,900-square-foot dining hall is scheduled to open in summer 2016. Naming opportunities are still available.



Property Plan Success Story

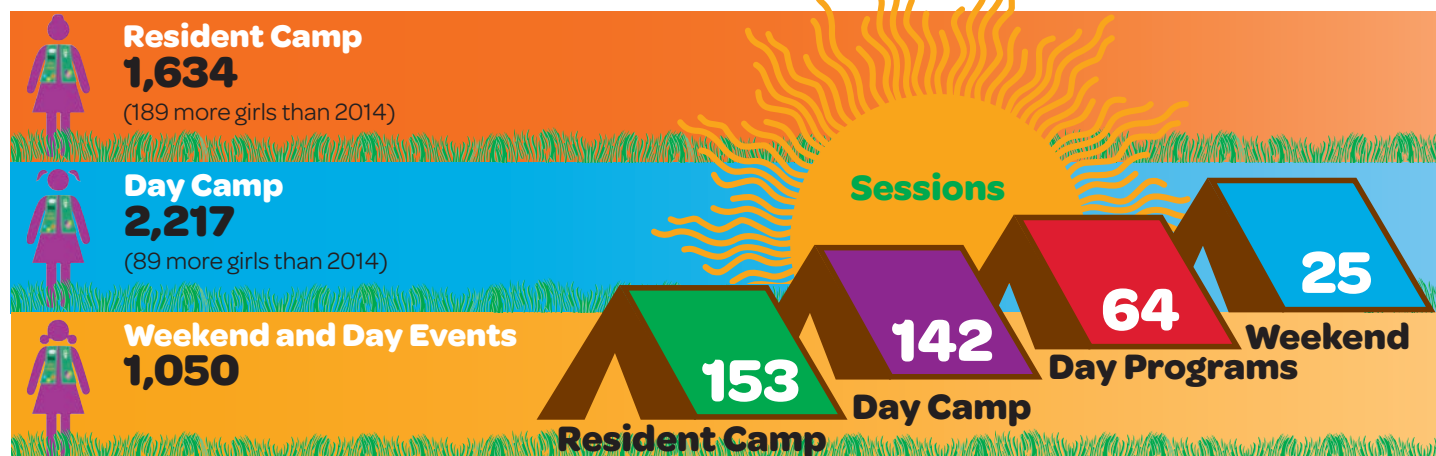
We recently received an update on Camp Meadowbrook which we sold in 2013 to the Shirley Heinze Land Trust. The trust, an organization committed to maintaining environmentally significant land, has used Camp Meadowbrook to launch the largest reforestation project in northern Indiana and has graciously enabled Girl Scouts to continue to utilize the property.

GCNWI owns camp properties in Wisconsin, Illinois and Indiana that provide girls with year-round opportunities to make new friends, learn new skills and have fun in the outdoors. However, camps also require significant resources of time and money for maintenance and safety and to ensure they offer the potential for innovative programs that entice girls.

As we continue to build exceptional experiences for girls, the next generation of our Long Range Property Planning Committee is focused on developing a master plan for properties that will guide how and where we continue to invest our limited resources in properties for the benefit of girls. We will continue to process feedback from girls, parents, volunteers, and experts as we move forward with a robust focus on creating properties that enhance girls' exceptional experiences in the outdoors.

In a 2012 study by the Girl Scout Research Institute of nearly 2,000 Girl Scout alumnae, 49 percent described "camping trips" as one of the most positive aspects of their Girl Scout experience.

2015 Summer Camp Programs Draw Girls to the Outdoors



Cultural Experiences Build Empathy and Friendships



World Thinking Day 2015

Culture learning and making new friends took center stage during GSGCNWI's first council-wide World Thinking Day event on Feb. 22, 2015. More than 400 people attended the event which inspired girls to travel, meet new people and explore unique cultures.

Twenty-seven troops representing all Girl Scout levels from around the council researched and presented information about various countries around the world, from Fiji to France.

Girls received stamps in their event passport as they "visited" all of these countries on display, and attended breakout sessions with cultural organizations including UNICEF, Berlitz Language, The Oriental Institute, and the Blackbird Irish Dancers. Volunteers helped girls make Greek salad and Polish Kolachy cookies, learn Bollywood and Hula moves, play music from around the world, or try their hand at games from India. The Grand Prairie Library shared Cinderella folktales from all over the globe.



The Girl Scout Law inspires girls to be "a sister to every Girl Scout" and make new friends.



Girls and volunteers from Girl Scout Troop 20604 joined community leaders, school officials, GCNWI CEO Nancy Wright, and National Girl Scout CEO Anna Maria Chavez at the National Museum of Mexican Art in Chicago for a discussion about Girl Scouting's involvement in creating a thriving community.

Events Build Culture of Respect

Several events in 2015 inspired girls from different faiths and communities to get to know one another better. Meeting people from different backgrounds, ethnicities and faiths through Girl Scouting empowers girls with the capacity for empathy, compassion, understanding and hope.

Islamic Center of Naperville

At the Islamic Center of Naperville, two Girl Scout groups met for an interfaith event that introduced girls to new friends, new concepts and a lifetime of understanding and friendship.

Heidi Stevens, columnist for the *Chicago Tribune*, wrote: *Heather Mieloszyk was inspired to educate herself and her Girl Scouts on the Islamic faith after some of the elementary students she teaches brought treats to school to celebrate Eid, the holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, during which Muslims fast daily from sunrise to sunset. The students' parents put Mieloszyk in touch with Saima Hasan, a program director for the Girl Scout troops who operate out of the Islamic Center of Naperville. Hasan and her fellow troop leaders got to work planning a day of fun and fellowship. The girls shared snacks and created pins with different colored beads to swap with one another. The visiting girls learned to write their names in Arabic and received bookmarks with Arabic phrases of goodwill translated into English.*

"Today's youth should serve as tomorrow's ambassadors of peace in a troubled world," Hasan told Stevens. "They would use their positive experiences with various cultures, religions, races and ethnicities and build a world of understanding, which in some way will contribute to the healing and prosperity of this great nation."



ISNA

Local volunteers from area Muslim communities greeted visitors while staff and teams of girls and volunteers hosted a robotics workshop for 35 girls participating in the 52nd Annual Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) Convention in Rosemont, Sept. 4 – 6, 2015.

The workshop included a LEGO robotics demonstration to spark girls' interest in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). Laila Kassar, Gold Award recipient and girl representative to the board of directors, spoke to girls and parents about her Girl Scout experiences during a special panel discussion. The ISNA experience was an opportunity to spotlight the robust Girl Scout participation in our local area and highlight the potential for the engagement of additional girl members and volunteers.

Girls Honor Mothers with High Tea

More than 80 girls from several Girl Scout troops in Morton Grove, Illinois, honored their mothers during a high tea party at Morton Grove Campus Banquet Hall.

"We wanted to host an event that would be fun and teach the importance of respecting and serving our mothers by having the girls take part in serving their mothers at the event. This is such an important practice within our Muslim faith and one we thought also aligned with the Girl Scout values of being of service to others," said troop leader Jill Alali.

"From a very young age, children are taught the high value of family relationships and that the best among us are those who are of service to their parents and others," she explained. "We should want for ourselves last and put the needs of our parents and loved ones ahead of our own."



Polk Bros. Foundation Helps All Girls Reach Their Potential

All girls have the capacity to learn and grow into leaders who can change the world – if given the opportunity.

That's why a key part of our mission is bringing the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to at-risk girls in underserved communities that do not have a tradition of volunteer-led troops. Through the council's GirlSpace program, Girl Scout staff work with girls to establish a safe, out-of-school environment in which girls can acquire critical thinking and problem-solving skills plus important life skills, all of which give girls the confidence to make an impact in ways that are important to them.

GirlSpace

GirlSpace is an after school program, designed and delivered by Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana staff, that reaches girls who are often overlooked because of where they live, where they go to school and their often challenging family situations.

We serve 5,100 girls (3,000 in Chicago; 1,300 in northwest Indiana; 500 in Proviso Township; and 300 in Joliet).



- Girls learn to identify different types of bullying behaviors and develop strategies to communicate effectively
- To combat the negative effects of unrealistic standards of beauty, girls learn what it means to be beautiful in other cultures around the world
- Girls learn how fruits and vegetables help fuel their bodies



- Girls apply the scientific process to design, test and build their own inventions
- Girls learn about careers through field trips and guest speakers



- Girls learn to budget for needs and wants
- They track their spending habits and categorize by spending, saving and giving
- Girls learn how they can make an impact through their own philanthropy

The GirlSpace program lays the groundwork for a world where girls and women are represented equally as leaders of our communities, our businesses, and our nation; however, we cannot and do not do it alone.

Polk Bros. Foundation has joined us in this important work for 25 years, generously supporting the GirlSpace program in Chicago since its inception. The Polk Bros. Foundation seeks to improve the quality of life for the people of Chicago, partnering with local nonprofit organizations that work to reduce the impact of poverty and provide area residents with better access to quality education, preventive health care and basic human services. The Polk Bros. Foundation's mission is to make Chicago a place where all people have the opportunity to reach their full potential.

"Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana has played a vital role in supporting girls in Chicago," said Debbie Reznick, senior program officer at Polk Bros. Foundation. "Recognizing its importance, Polk Bros. Foundation has been proud to support the organization for so many years. We value Girl Scouts' commitment to diversity and inclusiveness and are grateful for its ongoing work to ensure that girls have the support and community they need to thrive."

According to Reznick, "GirlSpace's commitment to the development of leadership and independence in young girls is evident, as is its impact. The Chicago staff developed the Girl Scout Leadership Experience curriculum, which aligns with state academic and social/emotional standards and helps girls develop critical life, career, and academic skills. Staff creates flexible, creative and challenging programming that is relevant and useful to the changing lives of girls from diverse communities."

Girl Applies Design Process to Real Life



Lutefya is a 4th grade student at Libby School in Chicago who loves science.

She's also a Girl Scout, thanks to the generous support of Polk Bros. Foundation and other community partners who invest in exceptional experiences that positively impact the lives of girls living in at-risk communities.

Lutefya says she loves the hands-on STEM activities she does in GirlSpace because she doesn't often have a chance to do those during school hours.

Her favorite activity, in fact, was a chemistry activity called the "Colorful Cow" in which girls change the color of milk, and learn about the scientific method and how to create a hypothesis. She also learned about the design process that is used in engineering and many other STEM fields.

"Learning about the design process steps helps give me a chance to make a blueprint of what I want to make and how I want to make it," Lutefya said.

That learning actually carried over into the school day. When Lutefya and her classmates were having difficulty with a project, she suggested they use the design process. One of the students was confused about what she said, and Lutefya explained that it was something she learned in Girl Scouts.

She says that in the future she would like to become a veterinarian. She believes that every animal should be cared for and wants to invent something that will help animals that have been hospitalized to get better once they have been released to go home.

For Lutefya, being in GirlSpace helps her feel welcome and gives her a sense of belonging. It has also given her a voice, helped her learn how to express herself and shown her that her opinion matters.

"Learning about the design process steps helps give me a chance to make a blueprint of what I want to make and how I want to make it." – Lutefya

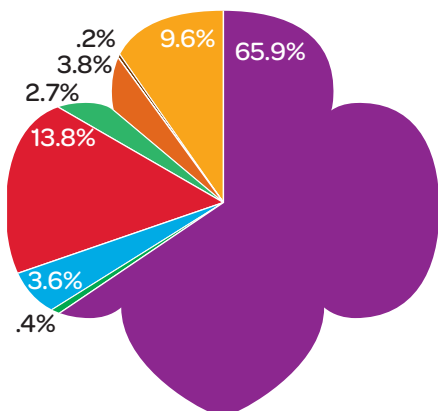


Membership

55,440 girl members

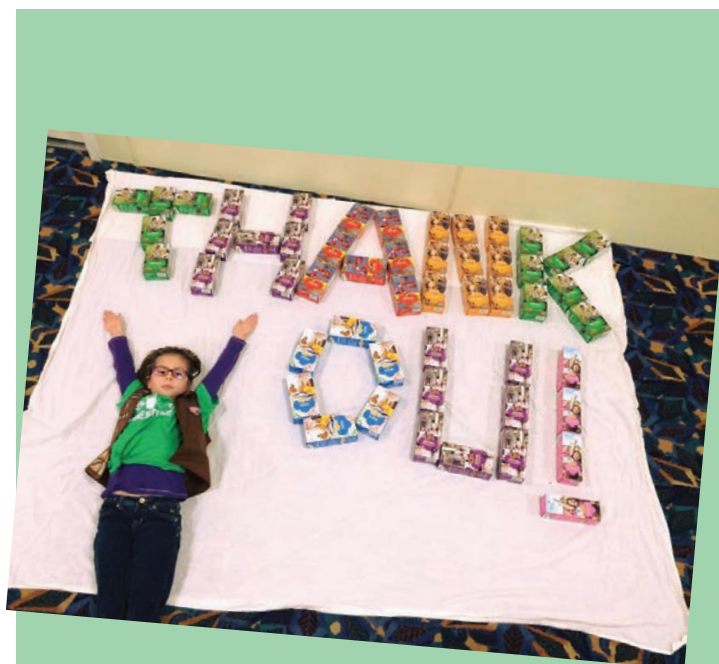
21,381 adult members

Girl Demographics:



- White
- American-Indian/Hawaiian/Pacific Islander
- Asian American
- Black/African American
- Other
- Two or more ethnicities
- Ethnicity unreported
- Choose not to share

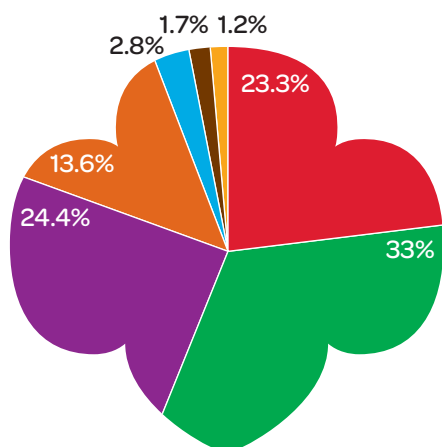
Note: 11.5 percent of total girl members identified as also of Hispanic/Spanish origin, with 13.5 percent choosing not to report and 75 percent identifying as non-Hispanic.



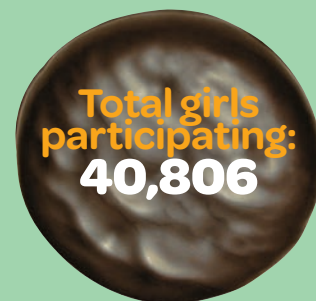
Girl Scout Cookie Program

Starting at age 5, girls learn important, basic business skills like goal setting, decision making, business ethics, people skills, and money management. All profits stay local. Girls earn proceeds to fund their troop activities and council proceeds help support activities, resources, training, and properties for the benefit of all girl and adult members.

Program Levels (Grades):



- Girl Scout Daisies (K-1)
- Girl Scout Brownies (2-3)
- Girl Scout Juniors (4-5)
- Girl Scout Cadettes (6-8)
- Girl Scout Seniors (9-10)
- Girl Scout Ambassadors (11-12)
- Grade Unknown



Council Delegates

National Council Delegates 2014-2017

Kristina Adamczewski
Alison Bartusiak
Delia Canino
Christine Cline
Kirstin Corbett
Jan Grant
Cheryl Kirkpatrick
Patricia Lasley
Karen Layng
Beverly Macrito
Ellen Morgan
Michelle Ptack
Tresa Radermacher
Anika Ranginani
Jacqueline Robinson
Karen Schillings
E. Rose Sims
Sara Sullins
Amanda Wade
Anjanette Wold
Nancy Wright
Karen Zeller

District Delegates

Democratic Process Task Group Chair
Maureen Jamrock

District 1 Chair
Marie Oskerka

District 2 Chair
Melissa Young-Bridgeforth

District 3 Chair
Donna Ioppolo

District 4 Chair
Robin Moss

District 5 Chair
Yolanda Shannon-Albert

Amber Adams-Holocek
Donna Marie Advani
Jill Anders
Maria Baldini-Potermin
Christine Barr
Elizabeth Bartusiak
Scott Bennett
Joan Billingham
Cora Lee Blazek
Maggie Ann Brown
Carrie Cameron
Grace Carpenter
Gina Ceaser
Sandy Cervenka
Missy Chandarana
Brenda Charron
Susan Chin
Elaine Darko
Cindy DeNormandie
Judie Elsinger
Laura Erickson
Michelle Fisher-Rhode
Pamela Flowers
Christina Gerber
Carolyn Gomez
Christine Graves
Julie Greenfield
Lindsay Hayden
Amanda Hays
Patti Huck
Pat Huntoon
Mumtaz Jamal
Karen Johnson
Maria Johnson
Lynn Kadel
Kathy Kadlec

Norena Kazmierczak
Mike Kizman
Patricia Klopp
Jolene Knudson
Barbara Krummick
Mary Landis
Patricia Lasley
KaSandra Lewis
Marypat Lexow
Stella LiPomi
Karen Lopez
Lisa Mackenzie
Carol Macola
Tamela Martin
Dr. Renee Matthews
Nia McClendon
Patricia McCoy
Lizz McDaniel
Paula McDaniel
Tina Melendez
Robin Michon
Sherry Milsap
Eleanor Mitchell
Connie Mitchell
Penny Montgomery
Rachel Moody
Helen Moy
Claire Mueller
Turney Munson
Cindy Murray
Cathy Neely
Rebecca Nelson
Norrine Nix
Wendy Passini
Elizabeth Ptack
Michelle Ptack
Alice Reynolds
Lana Rivera
Colleen Rock
Hannah Roen
Kelly Roggow
Elizabeth Rovegno
Ann Ryan
Sylvie Salazar

Laura Sampson
Liz Schallack
Shelley Schilling
Fran Seibel
Cheryl Sinnott
Jennifer Slotabec
Roberta Spalla
Marianne Strumberger
Jennifer Sutton
Kay Tworek-Sanchez
Sara Beth Vanek
Gina Verta
Cheryl Vlach
Pat Walenga
Megan Weiss
Davia Wilkerson
Mary Wisniowicz
Anjanette Wold
Rebecca Zoltoski

Alternate Council Delegates

Christine Alfred
Levita Anderson
Toiria Baker
Pat Boyle
Allison Charlier
Phyllis Drewno
Jane Evans
Sheila Evans
Donna Frenier
Terry Howe
Amy Miller
Stephanie Nowka
Tresa Radermacher
Narda Seaberry
Vikki Zack

Connie L. Lindsey: Every Good Thing You Want To Do Is Possible

For Connie Lindsey, no gift or talent is too small. As a young girl growing up in the inner city of Milwaukee, the Girl Scout experience taught her to embrace personal growth and leadership. Today she is the Executive Vice President and Head of Corporate Social Responsibility and Global Diversity and Inclusion at Northern Trust, a leading provider of financial services for family offices, institutions and affluent individuals worldwide.

“Girl Scout troop meetings were hosted at my church,” said Connie. “My mother couldn’t afford to buy my uniform. My troop leader and several women leaders in the church purchased my Girl Scout uniform. Girl Scouts was a place where I found acceptance, courage and worth.”

As an adult, Connie continued to serve the Girl Scouts, volunteering in various roles. She joined the National Board in 2005, was elected the National Board President of Girl Scouts of the USA in 2008, and then re-elected at the 2011 convention for an additional three-year term. In this role, she provided guidance in policy, fund-raising and leadership. She was also an integral part of the Girl Scouts’ transformation into a modern, responsive organization, while remaining committed to building and sustaining membership growth, and ensuring girls receive a premier leadership development experience.

Connie maintains a financial commitment and strong engagement with Girl Scouts at the national and local level, and is currently focused on strengthening the Girl Scout program at her church. “Girl Scouts is more than cookies, crafts and camping,” Connie explained. “We build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.”

Connie is also a public and motivational speaker on topics of diversity and inclusion, corporate responsibility, leadership, and personal and



professional empowerment. Through Girl Scouts, she developed her full individual potential – relating to others with increased understanding, skill, and respect. Connie continues to inspire, challenge, and empower girls and women to take action, pursue their dreams, and improve their communities and the world.

Her advice to girls today: “Live by the Girl Scout Promise and Law and uphold the values of courage, confidence and character.”

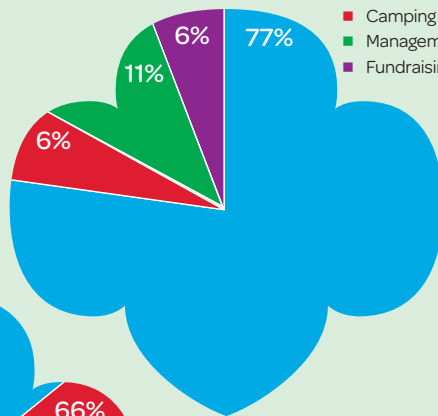
Girl Scout Alumna

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The Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago
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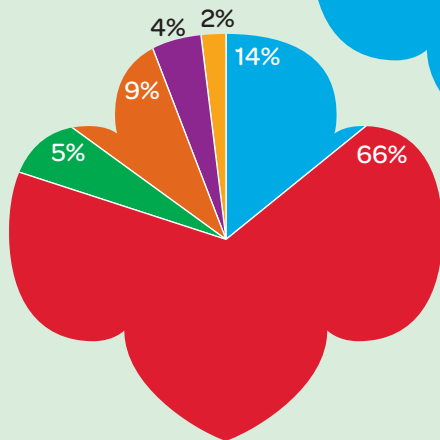
FY 15 EXPENSES:

- Membership services
- Camping
- Management and general
- Fundraising



FY 15 REVENUE:

- Total public support
- Cookie sales, net of direct costs
- Fall sales, net of direct costs
- Program fees
- Sales of merchandise, net of direct costs
- Other revenue



Statement of Financial Position September 30, 2015

ASSETS	2015	2014
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,530,587	\$ 1,572,904
Accounts receivable, net	4,227	3,226
Pledges receivable, net	320,183	408,509
Inventories	345,156	618,261
Prepaid expenses	417,842	312,873
Other assets	300	60,397
Investments	12,250,870	11,852,667
Property, plant and equipment, net	13,725,109	14,043,404
Assets held for sale	-	150,663
Total assets	\$ 29,594,274	\$ 29,022,904
LIABILITIES		
Accounts payable	\$ 934,028	\$ 491,481
Accrued expenses	846,731	633,339
Membership dues owed GSUSA	27,826	35,788
Deferred revenue	440,534	401,211
Line of credit	-	-
Notes payable	2,580,668	2,633,873
Deferred rent	75,483	107,166
Total liabilities	\$ 4,905,270	\$ 4,302,858
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted	\$ 23,837,174	\$ 23,765,547
Temporarily restricted	585,773	813,442
Permanently restricted	266,057	141,057
Total net assets	\$ 24,689,004	\$ 24,720,046
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 29,594,274	\$ 29,022,904

Statement of Activities and Change in Net Assets For the Year Ended September 30, 2015

OPERATING ACTIVITIES	2015	2014
PUBLIC SUPPORT		
Individual gifts	\$ 340,446	\$ 275,987
Corporate gifts and grants	538,331	923,234
Government grants	45,921	11,946
Foundation grants	415,920	397,390
Family partnership campaign	46,353	81,693
United Way allocations	165,177	158,233
Special event revenue, net	667,650	629,718
Total public support	\$ 2,219,798	\$ 2,478,201
REVENUE		
Program-related revenue		
Cookie sales, net of direct costs	\$ 10,724,589	\$ 10,126,722
Fall sales, net of direct costs	729,370	702,575
Program fees	1,521,888	1,472,977
Sales of merchandise, net of direct costs	707,734	705,538
Other revenue		
Interest and dividend, net	150,398	122,042
Miscellaneous	162,613	57,419
Total revenue	\$ 13,996,592	\$ 13,187,273
Total public support and revenue	\$ 16,216,390	\$ 15,665,474
EXPENSES		
Programs		
Membership services	\$ 11,740,728	\$ 12,189,459
Camping	907,582	832,829
Supporting services		
Management and general	1,599,722	1,536,888
Fundraising	928,763	1,017,248
Total expenses	\$ 15,176,795	\$ 15,576,424
Changes in net assets from operating activities	\$ 1,039,595	\$ 89,050
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Net realized and unrealized gain on investments	\$ (168,512)	\$ 311,717
GSUSA pension contribution	(1,203,321)	(1,067,210)
Gain on sale of property	301,442	39,063
Total non-operating activities	(1,070,637)	(716,430)
Changes in net assets	(31,042)	(627,380)
Net assets, beginning of period	24,720,046	25,347,426
Net assets, end of period	\$ 24,689,004	\$ 24,720,046

Tribute to Achievement Yields Investment in Girls

Great things happen when corporations and businesses partner with Girl Scouts. Together, inspired by possibilities and potential, we must invest in a wide range of exceptional experiences that help girls develop the skills they will need to be the innovators and problem-solvers of tomorrow's workforce.



Larry D. Richman, Ilene Gordon, and James Reynolds, Jr.

On April 27, 2015, more than 500 guests gathered at the Four Seasons Hotel to honor a luminary, a corporation and an investment firm. This grand celebration of accomplishment and achievement provides funding that's critical to how well we can carry out our promise to girls.

Each year, Tribute to Achievement helps fund exceptional experiences that prepare girls with skills that are vital to careers in science, technology, engineering, math, environmental sciences, entrepreneurship, healthy living, arts, culture, global awareness, and more.

Thanks to the generosity of our corporate partners and attending guests, this year's event raised nearly \$770,000 in gross contributed revenues, including in-kind support from American Girl and *Crain's Chicago Business*.



Sam and Violet Sistovaris



Carrie Hightman, Connie Lindsey and Deborah DeHaas

2015 Honorees

Luminary Award

Ilene Gordon, Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ingridion Incorporated
Presented by Maria Green, Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, Illinois Tool Works

Corporate Appreciation Award

The PrivateBank

Accepted by Larry D. Richman, President and Chief Executive Officer

ToGetHerThere Award

Loop Capital Markets LLC

Accepted by James Reynolds, Jr., Founder, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

Featuring a special "Campfire Chat" between today's Girl Scouts and:

- Deborah DeHaas, Vice Chair and Chief Inclusion Officer, Deloitte LLP
- Carrie Hightman, Executive Vice President and Chief Legal Officer, NiSource, Inc.
- Connie Lindsey, Executive Vice President and Head of Corporate Social Responsibility and Global Diversity, The Northern Trust Company



James Reynolds, Jr., and Sidney Dillard



Karen Layng, president, GCNWI Board of Directors

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With great appreciation, we recognize the following donors and thank them for investing in exceptional experiences that empower girls to take the lead as Go-getters, Innovators, Risk-takers and Leaders.



“Everyone who attended my Fellowship Feast was able to enjoy a freshly cooked meal and feel like a valued part of a friendly community. This dinner proved that even in our hectic times, people in our community still care about their neighbors!”

– Rebecca Peraino, 2015 Gold Award Recipient

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"Through my workshop, the participants learned about and experienced some struggles of a child with a disability. The participants have a greater understanding and more empathy, and children with disabilities will be better understood and can live a happier life with less bullying in their lives."

– Katherine Brogan, 2015 Gold Award Recipient

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Smart Cookies Make a Difference



2015 Smart Cookies: Cheryl Person-McNeil, breakfast chair; Tarrah Cooper, honoree; Katlin Smith, honoree; Marty Castro, honoree; and Susan Whiting, honoree.

"I think great leadership is about listening and thoughtfulness – both with how you lead people, and the decisions you make." – Katlin Smith

"They (girls) should be bridge-builders. They should do what they can to bring people together to find the common bonds between and among people rather than those things that might segregate or separate us." – Marty Castro

"Experience in making decisions helps you make new ones. Having the ability to see the big picture and stay focused brings clarity to each decision. And knowing what really matters helps you prioritize." – Susan Whiting

Inspired by their aptitude for innovation and entrepreneurial spirit, Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana honored four extraordinary Smart Cookies during breakfast on Sept. 16, 2015, at the Chicago Sheraton Hotel & Towers. Nearly 350 guests joined breakfast chair Cheryl Pearson-McNeil, SVP U.S. Strategic Community Alliances and Consumer Engagement at Nielsen, in honoring:

Marty Castro, President and CEO,
Castro Synergies, LLC

Tarrah Cooper, former Press Secretary
for Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel

Katlin Smith, founder and CEO,
Chicago-based Simple Mills

Susan Whiting, former Vice Chair at Nielsen

Our annual Smart Cookie Breakfast celebrates women and men, who through their smarts and achievements, change the rules of the game, and in doing so, serve as role models for our next generation of girls and youth.

This year's event raised more than \$145,000 to support the next generation of Smart Cookies, today's Girl Scouts.



Eva Lewis presents Tarrah Cooper (left) with her award.

"In order to succeed as leaders, young girls must be tenacious, determined, collaborative and most importantly hard working."

– Tarrah Cooper

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Individuals and families who make a gift of \$1,000 or more in a fiscal year qualify for membership in the Council of 100, our annual giving society of donors. Council of 100 members are invited to special events and receive other forms of recognition.

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"My project addressed the lack of awareness of Fragile X within the teenage community. I want to bring awareness to this disorder in hopes that teens would become more understanding and treat individuals with this disorder fairly."

– Imani Baker, 2015 Gold Award Recipient

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"In order to address the opportunity to help more young people become more aware of global issues and get involved in international initiatives, I developed a forum, delivered via a blog, to allow youth around the world to connect on issues that matter most to us, obtain information on global issues and opportunities, and develop a greater global perspective."

– Olivia Turk, 2015 Gold Award Recipient

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"Many young people struggle with mental health issues but suffer in silence. I wanted to impact young people in my community in two ways: encourage those who were suffering in silence to seek help, and encourage all young people to treat mental health issues with respect and compassion."

- Elizabeth Einig, 2015 Gold Award Recipient

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*"I wanted to address a topic that is considered
taboo in school - suicide awareness and prevention.*

*I wanted to make my fellow students aware of the warning signs of suicide
and how to get help for their friends who may be considering it."*

– Nicole Nolan, 2015 Gold Award Recipient

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*Every effort has been taken to ensure that all names listed in this
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Ways to Give

YOUR GIFT to Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Makes a Difference

Investors in Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana have many options for funding its mission to build girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.

Annual Giving

Annual gifts at every level are critical to helping Girl Scouts of GCNWI secure the resources needed to fund the most immediate needs of the organization and the more than 55,400 girls it serves.

Annual giving campaigns, like Family Partnership, enable members of the Girl Scout community to share their love of Girl Scouting with others and help ensure that all girls have the opportunity to participate.

Creative Ways to Give

Girl Scouts of GCNWI works with donors to ensure that the donor's gifts are optimized in supporting our girls. Donors have kindly supported the organization in a multitude of ways:

- **Multiple-year pledges** enable a donor to give and be recognized for a larger gift than could be made in a single year.
- Donors can make an estate or planned gift and be recognized in the **Juliette Gordon Low Legacy Society**.
- **In-kind gifts** enable donors to share their professional expertise and/or items for programs or camps and help Girl Scouts in a meaningful way.

Donor Recognition

- The Council of 100 recognizes donors of \$1,000 or more in a given fiscal year.
- The Juliette Gordon Low Legacy Society recognizes donors who have made an estate or planned gift.

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Girl Scouts of GCNWI holds two major fundraising events annually and both have corporate and individual sponsorship opportunities to celebrate the work of Girl Scouts.

- Tribute to Achievement Dinner
- Smart Cookies Breakfast

Naming Opportunities

Girl Scouts of GCNWI will ensure that this organization continues to provide exceptional experiences that empower girls today to become tomorrow's leaders. Naming opportunities exist for:

- Scholarships
- Programs in STEM, financial literacy and/or healthy living
- Camp and program center capital improvements

Learn more

For more information on giving programs or to answer any questions, please contact one of our giving officers:

Email: funddevelopment@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

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