



Embrace Possibilities

A Celebration of Leadership



April 26, 2025
Drury Lane Oakbrook



Welcome to Embrace Possibilities - A Celebration of Leadership!

At Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana, we believe in the power of girls to dream courageously, lead confidently, and to have the character to turn possibility into reality. Here, every Girl Scout has the chance to explore her passions, discover her strengths, and step confidently into her future as a force for good in the world.

Thank you for joining us this morning and for standing with us in support of this powerful mission. Whether you're a family member, volunteer, member of our Board of Directors, Associate Board, National or District Delegate, or part of our incredible staff, you are the heartbeat of this movement. It takes a village to raise the leaders of tomorrow, and we are endlessly grateful for champions like you.

And to our brilliant Gold Award Girl Scouts, our inspiring youth Delegates, Girl Representatives to the Board, and every young Girl Scout in the audience, this day is for you. You are the future. You are the leaders, innovators, and changemakers of tomorrow. Your dreams know no bounds, and the world is wide open to your ideas, your voice, and your brilliance.

The possibilities before you are endless, and we can't wait to see the extraordinary world you're going to build.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nancy L. Wright'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nancy L. Wright
CEO

Agenda



- 7:30-8:20am
- Check-in, Light Breakfast, viewing Higher Award Projects
- 8:30am
- Meeting Begins
 - Posting of the Colors
 - Pledge of Allegiance, Girl Scout Promise and Girl Scout Law
 - Welcome
 - Board Chair Report
 - Appointment of the Credentials and Elections Committees
 - Credential Committee Report/Certification of Quorum
 - State of the Girl
 - Presentation of the Gold Award Girl Scouts
 - Introduction of the Board of Officers and Directors' slate
 - Introduction of the National Delegate's slate
 - Practice vote
 - Vote on:
 - Approval of the April 13, 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes
 - Bylaw amendment proposals
 - Board of Directors' and officers' slate
 - National Delegate slate
 - Celebrating Sidney Dillard
 - Results of the vote
 - Installation of Board Officers, Directors and National Delegation
 - Social Inclusion Week
 - Closing remarks / meeting adjourned
- 11:30am
- Retiring the Colors

GCNWI Board of Directors

Officers

Sidney Dillard
Jackie Barlow

President and Board Chair through April 2025
President and Board Chair as of April 2025
1st Vice President through April 2025

Ami McReynolds
April Morgan
Shannon Fuller
Victoria Tate

2nd Vice President through April 2025
Vice President as of April 2025
Secretary
Treasurer

Directors

Duke Alden
Jill Ahern
Danielle Austen
Susan Beverly
Tess Boland
Val Bomar
Jillian Burstein
Sidney Dillard
Paul Gariepy
Anna Gomez

Robin Goolsbee
Janet Hulet
Lara Liss
Ami McReynolds
Carla Michelotti
Jennifer Mikulina
Sarah Mills
Michelle Minon
Carol Murphy
Patricia Pelaez

Kim Reome
Kathy Scherer
Hille Sheppard
Lovetta Spencer
Kyle Stokien
Missy Wyatt
Monica Weed
Sheryl Yasger

Girl Representatives to the Board

Giada Gambatese
Joy Haddleton
Hope Murray
Amoolya Mahabhashyam

Makari Smith
Maya VanWingeren
Lourdes Williams
Giesel Woods

District Chairs



Marie Oskerka	District 1
Melissa Young-Bridgeforth	District 2
Rebecca Zoltoski	District 3
Robin Moss	District 4
Yolanda Shannon-Albert	District 5

Delegates and Alternates

Thank you to all the Delegates and Alternates who served this past year!



Donna-Marie Advani
Christine Alfred
Levita Anderson
Belen Babb
Lisa Banach
Rose Barder
Erin Barndollar
Kylie Bennett
Aaliya Bhaidani
Meredith Bickell
Madeline Bickell
Cora Lee Blazek
Heather Bocox
Bethany Brinkworth
Emily Briseno
Carrie Cameron
Sandy Cervenka
Brenda Charron

Madalyn Cook
Kristin Corbett
Kristin Costello
Rebecca Delgado
Kyra DeNormandie
Ava Deutsch
Marty Devereux-Poch
Josie Diaz-Pope
Jaime Dovich
Haley Dovich
Phyllis Drewno
Cece Elizondo
Sofia Fish
Pamela Flowers
Lisa Funke
Natalie Garling
Christina Gerber
Denise Gogola

Jennifer Goldfarb
Cynthia Gonzalez
Christine Graves
Kelly Hardin
Hazel Harkin
Anita Hart
Lindsay Hayden
Emily Heinle
Annabel Helmer-Lynn
Amanda Holben
Taylor Holland
Patti Huck
Marcia Hundt
Sara Hunsley
Valerie Hunsley
Elaine Hutchins
Bethanie Jakubczyk
Maureen Jamrock

Delegates and Alternates

Continued



Madeline Jania
Maria Johnson
Vivian Johnson
Ginger Johnson-Fish
Christina Kallenborn
Caroline Kansa
Chanel Kennedy-
Bertrand
Cathy Klatt
Jolene Knudson
Teri Korolewicz
Gabrielle Kosche
Lexie Kosic
Kathy Lakowski
Mary Landis
Heather Leslie
Chelsea Lim
Carol Macola
Beverly Macrito
Kelli Mason
Samiya McBean
Patricia McCoy
Katie McCoy
Abby McEwing
Dietra McKamey
Tina Melendez
Kathryn Mensch
Noreen Merchant
Melissa Montejano
Miranda Morley
Katharine Morley
Robin Moss

Barbara Murnane
Kourtney Odems
Holly Olson
Emily O'Neill
Marie Oskerka
Maya Paredes
Kelly Pavlik
Rosa Perez
Sara Phalen
Kelly Philbin
Madilyn Philbin
Daniela Pope
Julie Pope-Stewart
Kim Prins
Tresa Radermacher
Vikki Ragnini
Rebecca Resman
Kelsey Riordan
Shana Robertson
Jacqueline Robinson
Sofi Rodriguez
Cheyenne Rogers
Ann Ryan
Sylvie Salazar
Theresa SaLee
Karen Schillings
Mashanda Scott
Fran Seibel
Yolanda Shannon-Albert
Simeren Silverstein
JodiLyn Simmons-Machota
E. Rose Sims

Janet Skogsberg
Heather Socie
Erin Speck
Beverly Ann Stewart
Barbara Stewart
Naiya Stewart-Baskin
Marianne Strumberger
Sara Sullins
Tina Sun
Britney Toussaint
Kay Tworek-Sanchez
Denise Urban
Veronica Valentino-
Severe
Justise Watts
Davia Wilkerson
Laconda Wright
Nancy Wright
McKenzie Young
Melissa Young-
Bridgeforth
Vikki Zack
Jasmine Zawahir
Rebecca Zoltoski
Kelly Zurek

National Delegates & Alternates

Class of 2025-2028



National Delegates

Samantha Affram
Jackie Barlow
Madalyn Cook
Marty Devereux-Poch
Mikenna Doyle
Elise Dryier
Jen Goldfarb
Joy Haddleton
Kelly Hardin
Hazel Harkin
Lindsay Hayden
Kayland Jones

Adriana Kieffer
Mariam Mir
Faith Paulus
Rebecca Resman
Karen Schillings
Heather Socie
Kenzee Stahl
Rachel Tochimani
Denise Urban
Nancy Wright
Kaelyn Yager

National Alternate Delegates

Pamela Flowers
Lisa Funke
Scarlett Hardin
Caroline Kansa

Tina Melendez
Mashanda Scott
Rachel Veis

Gold Award Girl Scouts

2025



Emma Adilman

Recipe Pantry

Chelsea Baker

Fast Fashion Flipping

Karishma Bhatara

Combating the Bystander Effect

Addison Black

Elementary Drama Club and Production of
Anti Bullying Play

Kacie Brown

Monarch Butterfly Gardens

Alice Buchman

Ronald McDonald Pop-tab Collection House

Katie Byers

Safety Night Out

Syndel De La Torre

Feral/Stray Cat Awareness

Janae Elms

ReadXPlay

Jasmine Elumbaugh

Dog Park Improvement

Chloe Fournier

Rhythms of Passion

Annemarie Fuller

Gingerbread Library

Josie Gates

The Art of Motivation

Natalie Gill

Health and Safety Resources

Morghan S. Guthrie

Public Speaking: Breadmasters

Zora Kersey

Feed Thy Neighbor

Gold Award Girl Scouts

2025 Continued



Norah Kurdalak	An Altar Server Training Program
Kaitlyn Leverenz	Steps to Success: Inspiring Young Movers
Celia Lindokken	Math in the 2020's - A Parent's Guide
Heather Matenaer	Feeding a Food Desert
Aubri Rayne Mathews	Breaking the Language Barrier
Katherine McCann	Monarch Butterfly Garden
Kylee McCauley	Morning Star Mission "Welcome Packs" for Homeless Children
Laci M. Northrup	Project Organize Your Mind: Promoted Organizational Skills and Responsibility
Katie O'Brien	Memory Care Kits
Amelia Osis	Grayslake Youth Theater
Amber Paramore	Teaching About ASL and Deaf Culture
Mia Plunkett	BBB Quality Standard Book Donation Video
Rebecca Roussin	Lights Off For The Bats In The Night
Lucy Rutkowski	Walking in Prayer
Lauren Simmons	Look Good Feel Good

Gold Award Girl Scouts

2025 Continued



Rhea Smith

Gun Violence in the Surrounding Suburbs

Hailey Stapleton

Biblioburro

Claire Weigus

Harvester Park Exploration Adventure Kits

Abby White

Summer Pet Fun Fair

Madelyn Wright

The Elementary Garden Escapade;
Somethymes I Wet my Plants

Jasmine Zawahir

Wave of Change: Be the Solution, Not the
Pollution

**Congratulations to all of our
Gold Award Girl Scouts!**

Thank you to our Girl Scouts participating in today's program



Opening Ceremony

Joy Haddleton

Caller

Mikenna Doyle

Color Guard

Scarlett Hardin

Emily Heinle

Faith Paulus

Lourdes Williams

Amber Paramore

Girl Scout Promise and Law

Ceremony Help

Hazel Harkin

Gold Award Flowers

Bronze Award Booth

Troop 25774

Welcoming Newcomers to Chicago

Represented by

Sloane Resman

Silver Award Booths

Leila Fofana

Backpacks for Homeless Vets

Cora Wright

Hygiene Emergency Care Kits

Mariam Mir

Period Poetry

Jania Kennedy

Read it and See it

Brielle Peake

Girl Influencing Paths at GCNWI



In the next few pages we invite you to learn more about roles within our council where Girl Scouts can influence the future of our council and movement.



Girl Scouts who hold roles as Girl Representatives to the Board, Delegates or Alternates receive this special patch to commemorate their participation!



Become a Girl Representative to the Board!

Lend your energy, passion and Girl Scout experience to influence our council's governance process as a girl representative to our board of directors!

As a Girl Representative to the Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Board of Directors you will:

- Start your term by attending Camp CEO our premier leadership camp. (A gift from our board of directors)
- Have a seat at the table and share your opinions and views when you attend and participate in our board of directors' meetings, board retreat and our annual meeting. (Meetings are typically held in September, December, February, April and May and are held on a weekday morning in downtown Chicago.)
- Represent the Girl Scout Movement, networking with our board of directors, and Girl Scout supporters at Girl Scout events including Smart Cookies and Tribute to Achievement.
- Along with the other girl representatives to the board, determine a need in our council and create a plan to address it. Projects will be presented to our board at the May board meeting.
- Must be in high school as of the fall of 2025.
- Serve a one-year term. (August - July)



Learn more and apply
bit.ly/GirlRep2025

girl scouts
of greater chicago
and northwest
indiana

Questions? Email Nancy Armstrong at
narmstrong@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

**Apply by
July 1, 2025!**

Become a District Delegate

District delegates serve as voting members of Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana and participate locally in our council's democratic process. They serve as a link between members and our board of directors and vote on important council business, such as proposals to change our bylaws or electing the board of directors and our national delegates.

Did you know?

Each service unit is allowed to select up to two district delegates to represent them.

Delegates can be adult members or Girl Scouts who are at least 14 years of age at the time of selection.

Delegates can be brought on at any point during the year!

Delegates typically attend between 5-9 meetings per year and most are held virtually.

Those who are interested in becoming district delegates should contact their service unit to see if there are spots available.

Service units may select delegates through their own process. Once selected, service units should notify their district chair of the selection.

Not sure who your district chair is? Contact democraticprocess@girlscoutsgcnwi.org to be connected!

Learn more on our Democratic Process Page at <https://girlscout.info/democraticprocess>

Questions? Email democraticprocess@girlscoutsgcnwi.org



2026 National Girl Scout Convention



Join Girl Scouts from across the country at the
2026 Girl Scout Convention!

Washington, DC
July 20-July 25, 2026

Learn more and sign up for convention updates from
GSUSA

bit.ly/2026GSConvention

Coming Soon: GCNWI is planning a trip to the 2026 Convention!
Stay tuned for more information!

Questions about the council trip? Please email
programs@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Considering going on your own or as a troop and have general convention
experience questions?

Reach out to Alaina Greene at nationaldelegate@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

Learn more about the role of National Delegates at Convention

bit.ly/GCNWIdemocraticprocess



Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana Pinnacle Award

The Pinnacle Award honors Ambassador Girl Scouts (grades 11-12) who have demonstrated outstanding leadership through their Girl Scout experience.

To qualify for this award, Girl Scout Ambassadors must document their experiences by earning at least seven leadership points, which can be achieved through a combination of Girl Scout and other extracurricular experiences.

For a full list of ways to earn Leadership Points, please see the the next page.



Applications open
January 1 - May 31, 2025
bit.ly/PinnacleGCNWI

Questions? Email Alaina at
agreene@girlscoutsgcnwi.org



Leadership Points for the Pinnacle Award

- Earned the Girl Scout Gold Award (3 points)
- Earned the Girl Scout Silver Award (2 points)
- Earned the Girl Scout Bronze Award (1 point)
- Served as a Program Aide (1 point)
- Served as a CIT (Counselor in Training) (1 point)
- Served as a VIT (Volunteer in Training) (1 point)
- Served as a Girl Rep on the Board of Directors (1 point)
- Been named a Cookie CEO (1 point)
- Attended Camp CEO (1 point)
- Served as a District Delegate, Delegate-at-large or Alternate District Delegate (1 point)
- Served as a National Delegate or Alternate National Delegate (2 points)
- Traveled with a GCNWI council led trip or on a GSUSA Destination Trip or on a Service Unit Trip that is the equivalent (trip must have included Girl Scouts from multiple troops, had an element of girl leadership and taken place over at least three nights) (1 point)
- Provided leadership in a girl-led GCNWI Girl Scout interest group (i.e. Astronomy Club, Global Girl Scouts, Creative Arts Club, Virtual Book Club or LEGO Robotics) (1 point)
- Provided leadership in a Service Unit (1 point)
- Provided leadership in a GSUSA Advisory Group, Task Group or Committee (1 point)
- Served in a leadership capacity outside of Girl Scouts, for example: student council, church youth group leader, officer of a club or sports team - May be used for up to two different leadership experiences (1 point for each, 2 points maximum)



In this brand new podcast, girls talk about life through their eyes.

“Girl Scouts Unfiltered GCNWI” is a Girl Representative to the Board initiative. New episodes launch every other Wednesday!

Keep the conversation going in the comments - the girls will be watching and interacting with you!

Find Girl Scouts Unfiltered GCNWI by scanning the QR code
or visiting <https://www.youtube.com/@girlscoutsgcnwi2010/podcasts>





Collector-edition keyring and patch,
honoring Juliette Gordon Low.

Now available in-store, online, and at today's event.

Includes official JGL quarter from the US Mint in Denver.
Limited quantities available. While supplies last.

shop.girlscoutsgcnwi.org



girlscouts
of greater chicago
and northwest
indiana

Social Inclusion Week

April 26-May 4, 2025

Learn more about Social Inclusion Week and how you can participate in the exciting activities and events taking place across our council by visiting

<https://bit.ly/BelongingandCulture>
or scan the QR code



Questions? Email everygirl@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

