



girl scouts  
of greater chicago  
and northwest  
indiana

# A Celebration of Leadership

Board and Annual Meeting | Gold Award Ceremony

April 18, 2026  
Drury Lane Oakbrook



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of greater chicago  
and northwest  
indiana

## A Celebration of Leadership

Board and Annual Meeting | Gold Award Ceremony

### Welcome to our Celebration of Leadership!

At Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana (GSGCNWI), we believe in the power of girls to lead with courage, act with confidence, and build a better world. Every girl has the opportunity to explore her interests, develop her strengths, and grow into a leader who makes a meaningful difference in her own community and beyond.

Thank you for joining us today and for supporting this important mission. Whether you are a family member, volunteer, member of our board of directors, associate board, national or district delegate, or part of our dedicated staff, you play a vital role in making this movement thrive. We are stronger together, and we are deeply grateful for your continued support and commitment.

To our outstanding Gold Award Girl Scouts, inspiring youth delegates, girl representatives to the board, and every Girl Scout here today—this celebration is for you. You are leaders, innovators, and changemakers, already making an impact in ways that matter. We are very proud of you. Your ideas, your voice, and your determination are shaping the future in powerful ways.

Enjoy this incredible day of celebration.

Nancy L. Wright  
CEO  
Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana

# Agenda



- 8:00 - 8:45 a.m. • Board of Directors Meeting
  
- 8:45 - 9:30 a.m. • Annual Meeting Begins
  - Girl Scout Promise and Girl Scout Law
  - Welcome
  - Board Chair Report
    - Appointment of the Credentials and Elections Committees
    - Credential Committee Report/Certification of Quorum
  - National Council Session Preview
  - State of the Council/Girl Scout Rep to the Board Panel
  - Board Mission Moment
  - Voting Results
  - Installation of Board Officers, Directors
  - Volunteer Mission Moment
  - Closing Remarks/Meeting Adjourned
  
- 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. • Breakfast, Gold Award Project Displays, Shopping, and Networking
  
- 10:15 a.m. • Gold Award Celebration (see next page)
  
- 11:30 a.m. • Event Concludes

# 2026 Gold Award Ceremony



Presentation of Colors

Welcome

Jane Clark, Gold Award Committee Chair

Leadership Remarks

Nancy Wright, GSGCNWI CEO

Words of Inspiration

Dr. Romie Mushtaq, MD

Presentation of Awards

Jane Clark

Closing Remarks

Nancy Wright

Retire the Colors



## **Dr. Romie Mushtaq, MD**

Dr. Romie Mushtaq is an award-winning keynote speaker on stress, workplace culture, and leadership. She is known for blending brain science with practical strategies to create high-performing, compassionate workplaces. A triple board-certified physician with 24 years as a brain doctor and nine years as a Chief Wellness Officer, she brings unmatched expertise to the stage and the boardroom.

As the first Chief Wellness Officer for Great Wolf Resorts, Dr. Romie leads well-being initiatives for over 13,000 employees, transforming organizational culture through empathy, mindfulness, and science-backed systems. She is also the founder of brainSHIFT, a workplace wellness and leadership consulting firm that has helped Fortune 500 companies, professional athletes, and leaders shift from burnout to peak performance.

A proud STEMInist in Stilettoes, she is a Lifetime Member, 2023 Local Host Committee Co-Chair of NCS/Phenom, and National Board Member for Girl Scouts of the USA. She believes in the power of education and mentorship for girls and women in science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine.

Her best-selling book, *The Busy Brain Cure*, offers an eight-week plan to heal burnout and restore focus for individuals and high-performing teams. It has been published in nine languages and is a USA Today and Amazon bestseller.

Dr. Romie's expertise has been featured in TED Talks, Forbes, NPR, NBC, and dozens of national media outlets. With compassion, clarity, and sass, she invites every audience to brainSHIFT from burnout to breakthrough, bringing hope, healing, and high-impact leadership to every room she enters.

Learn more at [drromie.com](http://drromie.com) or follow her @DrRomie on social media.

# GCNWI Board of Directors



## Officers

Jackie Barlow  
April Morgan  
Shannon Fuller  
Victoria Tate

President and Board Chair  
1st Vice President  
Secretary  
Treasurer

## Directors

Duke Alden  
Jill Ahern  
Tess Boland  
Val Bomar  
Jillian Burstein  
Paul Gariepy  
Robin Goolsbee  
Eunice Hawkins  
Janet Hulet  
Sara Kagay

Lara Liss  
Rachel Mantz  
Carla Michelotti  
Jennifer Mikulina  
Sarah Mills  
Michelle Minon  
Carol Murphy  
Patricia Pelaez  
Karen Pepping  
Kathy Scherer

Lovetta Shaw  
Hille Sheppard  
Sepideh Smith  
Kyle Stokien  
Tatia Torrey  
Monica Weed  
Missy Wyatt  
Sheryl Yasger

# Girl Representatives to the Board



Mabel Buresh  
Claire Costello  
Leila Fofana  
Mariam Mir  
Anne Nelson

Kourtney Odems  
Erin Smith  
Kaylie Socie  
Violet Worthington  
Emma Wright

# District Chairs



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

# Delegates and Alternates



Christine Alfred	Ava DeMay	Jema Hudacin
Levita Anderson	Jaida DeMoss	Marcia Hundt
Belen Babb	Kyra DeNormandie	Sara Hunsley
Lisa Banach	Josie Diaz-Pope	Valerie Hunsley
Rose Barder	Jaime Dovich	Roze Jakubczyk
Becky Bennett	Haley Dovich	Bethanie Jakubczyk
Aaliya Bhaidani	Sofia Fish	Maureen Jamrock
Meredith Bickell	Giada Gambatese	Ginger Johnson-Fish
Mirianna Bickell	Natalie Garling	Christina Kallenborn
Heather Bocox	Christina Gerber	Chanel Kennedy-Bertrand
Julie Brenner	Hazel Gibbs	Cathyn Klatt
Bethany Brinkworth	Christine Graves	Gabrielle Kosche
Loie Burrell	Scarlett Hardin	Kathy Lakowski
Carrie Cameron	Anita Hart	Mary Landis
Sandy Cervenka	Emily Heinle	Patricia Lasley
Brenda Charron	Amanda Holben	Heather Leslie
Kristin Corbett	Taylor Holland	Carol Macola
Kristin Costello	Patti Huck	Beverly Macrito

# Delegates and Alternates

Continued



Samiya McBean  
Patricia McCoy  
Dietra McKamey  
Tina Melendez  
Kathryn Mensch  
Melissa Montejano  
Deborah Muhammad  
Alyssa North  
Kourtney Odems  
Holly Olson  
Emily O'Neill  
Marie Oskerka  
Maya Paredes

Kelly Pavlik  
Sara Phalen  
Tresa Radermacher  
Kelsey Riordan  
Shana Robertson  
Jackie Robinson  
Sofi Rodriguez  
Cheyenne Rogers  
Ann Ryan  
Theresa SaLee  
Mashanda Scott  
Fran Seibel  
Evie Severe

Ashley Sharpe  
Janet Skogsberg  
Kaylie Socie  
Erin Speck  
Beverly Ann Stewart  
Marianne Strumberger  
Sara Sullins  
Tina Sun  
MiKayla Tomczyk  
Justise Watts  
Davia Wilkerson  
Kimora Williams  
Vikki Zack

# National Delegates and Alternates



Madalyn Cook  
Marty Devereux-Poch  
Mikenna Doyle  
Elise Dryer  
Pamela Flowers  
Lisa Funke  
Jen Goldfarb  
Joy Haddleton  
Kelly Hardin  
Scarlett Hardin

Hazel Harkin  
Lindsay Hayden  
Kayland Jones  
Caroline Kansa  
driana Kieffer  
Tina Melendez  
Mariam Mir  
Faith Paulus  
Rebecca Resman

Karen Schillings  
Mashanda Scott  
Heather Socie  
Kenzee Stahl  
Rachel Tochimani  
Denise Urban  
Rachel Veis  
Nancy Wright  
Kaelyn Yager

# Gold Award Girl Scouts

2026



Stella Abarca	Our Fashion Footprint: A Girl Scout Patch
Lily Anderson	Hobby Fair
Emillia Anitescu	Science
Belen Babb	SMV Children's Library
Nuha Babool	Helping Henna Hands (H^3)
Zenia Babool	You and Your Skin
Inika Bansal	Drones in Environmental Conservation
Kaitlyn Bertrand	Gigi's Playhouse Youth Advisory Board
Aaliya Bhaidani	Spice and Something Not So Nice
Riley Bliss	Flag Pole at Larson Residence
Phoenix Bridgegroom	Friendship Bench
Maggie Brown	Stitching 4 Sanity
Claire Costello	Upcycling with Kindness
Katherine Crnokrak	Women's Self Defense Information and Video
Haley Dovich	Paws n Whiskers
Margaret Fitzgerald	Reorganized Clothing Room at Connections for the Homeless

# Gold Award Girl Scouts

2026 Continued



Leila Fofana	Ghana Period Project
Kelsey Frese	Addressing Depression and Building Community Connections Through Music Within Nursing Homes
Grace Fuller	Paper, Personal Essentials, and Planting
Giada Gambatese	Musical Healing
Jenna Gilani	Braille Menus
Peyton Haepf	Mental Health Matters
Evelyn Halbach	Building a Website & Growing Awareness for the Local Food Pantry
Landyn Haywood	Mental Health Toolkit
Lily Hetzel	Animal Welfare Club
Madeline Hsieh	Bat Bash!
Kayla Jaskula	Self Defense Classes
Skyla Johnson	Connecting Children with Nature Through Literature
Lia Jones	Creating an Inclusive Environment Through Golf
Emma Kanagy	Body Positivity/Positive Affirmation Project

# Gold Award Girl Scouts

2026 Continued



Ayra Keshwani	Spark Your Career
Nuha Khan	Nuha's Field of Flowers
Brooke McDermott	Mental Health Support for Elementary Students
Chloe McGowan	Pink Box Project
Rifaa Meghani	Decode & Discover: Reading Mastery for Students
Alyssa Merchant	Rain to Resource
Iman Merchant	Think Ahead: Alzheimer's Awareness Starts Now
Claire Nang	Coding Explorers: Expanding Young Engineering Minds
Ojikutu Abeedah	Reading Encouragement: A Library and Classroom in Nigeria
Addison Peterson	Hasting Lake YMCA Gaga Ball Pit
Grace Pickut	Creating Community Through Theatre for Pre-teens and Teens
Ariella Poi	The Less Litter Project
Alisha Punjani	Healthy Minds

# Gold Award Girl Scouts

2026 Continued



Cailin Reidy	Securing a Greener Future: Placing the Planet in the Next Generation's Hands
Aleah Ritcher	Eyes on Owls: A Sustainable Makeover for Wildlife Education
Kelsey Riordan	Making Waves for Water Safety
Alaya Roberts	Small Box, Big Impact: A Community Food Pantry at a Police Station
Sara Saiki	Rett Syndrome Awareness: Respect. Empower. Teach. Tell.
Kate Selman	Hattie B. Williams Food Pantry Community Gathering Place
Kayla Smith	Another Perspective: A Guide for Parents with Kids who are Struggling with Mental Health
Lexie Smith	All Feelings Matter: Helping Kids Understand and Express Their Emotions
Esmeralda Spencer	Helping Pollinators and Spreading Awareness
Keigan Sprovieri	Sweet Cases
Liliana Terlep	NAWS Shelter Donation Drive

# Gold Award Girl Scouts

2026 Continued



Triniti West

Extending the Arts

Elizabeth Wigton

Pet Pantries

McKenzie Wilkins

Women in Golf

McKenzie Young

G.H.A.N.A. Ghana Hygiene Awareness Needs Action

Lilian Zenkich

Sports for All

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

# 58 National Council Session Agenda Survey

During the Annual Meeting, attendees received a preview of the agenda being addressed at the 58 National Council Session taking place this July in Washington, D.C.

The GCNWI National Delegation invites you to share your opinions on the agenda items. Your response will help the delegation prepare to represent members of our council as they participate in discussions, debates, and voting.

Should you need a refresher on the agenda items that were shared as a part of the presentation or would like to read more before submitting your response, you will find a summary of the agenda items linked at the top of the survey.

The survey will close end of day, May 10, 2026.

Email [nationaldelegate@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:nationaldelegate@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) with any questions.



Scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/NCS2026surveyGCNWI](https://bit.ly/NCS2026surveyGCNWI) to access the survey.



Thank you for taking the time  
to fill out the survey!  
—GCNWI National Delegation

# 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 will 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 and network 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 2026.
- Serve a one-year term (August - July).



Scan the QR code or visit <https://bit.ly/4trBORx> to learn more and apply.

Questions? Email Nancy Armstrong at [narmstrong@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:narmstrong@girlscoutsgcnwi.org).

Apply by  
July 15, 2026



## 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 five and nine meetings per year, most of which 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](mailto:democraticprocess@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) to be connected!

Learn more about our democratic process at <https://girlscout.info/democraticprocess>.

# 2026 National Girl Scout Convention

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

Washington, D.C.  
July 20 - 25, 2026



This special gathering only happens once every three years. It kicks off with the 58 National Council Session (NCS) July 20 - 22, where delegates from around the country and overseas discuss and vote on important issues to our movement.



After NCS, thousands of Girl Scouts will attend the multi-day event from July 23 - 25, filled with workshops and speakers!



Scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/2026GSConvention](https://bit.ly/2026GSConvention) to learn more and sign up for convention updates.





# The 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 next page.



**Applications Open**  
**January 1 - May 31, 2026**  
**[bit.ly/PinnacleGCNWI](https://bit.ly/PinnacleGCNWI)**

Questions? Email Alaina at  
[agreene@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto: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)
- Logged 200+ hours as a CIT beyond training weeks. (1 point)
- Served as a VIT (Volunteer in Training). (1 point)
- Served as a Girl Scout representative to 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, on a GSUSA destination trip, or on a service unit trip that is the equivalent. The 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., Global Girl Scouts, Creative Arts Club, Virtual Book Club, or LEGO Robotics). (1 point)
- Participated in the Outdoor Leadership Club, attending at least six sessions. (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 (i.e., 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 its second season, this podcast is hosted by our GCNWI Girl Scout Representatives to the Board.**

**Girls talk about life through their eyes and launch new episodes 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 [bit.ly/GCNWIpodcast](https://bit.ly/GCNWIpodcast).





# Hey, Graduating Girl Scouts!

Are you looking for ways to stay involved as an alumna?

## Become a Lifetime Member

Lifetime membership is normally \$400, but alums under age 30 can get a lifetime membership for \$200. Membership is transferable to any council across the movement.

Become a lifetime member when you renew your current membership!

## Moving? Find your local council.

If you are moving, you can stay involved with Girl Scouts of Greater Chicago and Northwest Indiana, or find your new local council to get involved with.



Scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/4bSFfP2](https://bit.ly/4bSFfP2) and use the Council Finder to find your local council.

## Campus Girl Scouts

Continue your Girl Scout experience by joining or starting a Campus Girl Scouts Club!

Check with your school to see if a Campus Girl Scout Club is already going.

If not, check out the Campus Girl Scouts Guidebook to learn more about what Campus Girl Scouts is, how to structure your club, find members, and register your club!



Scan the QR code or visit [bit.ly/3KkJas4](https://bit.ly/3KkJas4) to learn more and view the Campus Girl Scout Guidebook.

## Explore volunteer opportunities with GCNWI!\*

\*Other councils may have similar opportunities. Please contact them directly to learn more.

### Gold Award Committee

This team reviews Gold Award proposals and mentors Girl Scouts pursuing their Gold Award.  
goldaward@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

### Global Action Volunteer Team

This team helps to spread awareness about global Girl Scouts and travel opportunities.  
jfitzgerald@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

### LEAP Committee

This team plans an annual weekend at camp for adult members and volunteers.  
leapcamping@gmail.com

### Council Historians

This team preserves Girl Scout memorabilia and creates educational resources for Girl Scouts to learn more about the past.  
historian@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

### Adult Recognition Team

This team promotes, reviews, and helps present formal Adult Recognitions annually.  
adultrecognition@girlscoutsgcnwi.org

## Become a Troop or Service Unit Volunteer!

Many troops and service units are looking for volunteers to assist in delivering the Girl Scout Mission to their areas.

If you would like to volunteer with GCNWI, please email [customer care@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:customer care@girlscoutsgcnwi.org) to be connected to the membership staff in your area.

You can also search for opportunities through our registration site at [girlscoutsgcnwi.org](http://girlscoutsgcnwi.org).

### District Delegates & National Delegates

District delegates are selected by their service unit to represent them in our local democratic process.  
[democraticprocess@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:democraticprocess@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

National delegates are elected every three years and participate locally in our democratic process, and attend the National Council Session.  
[nationaldelegate@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:nationaldelegate@girlscoutsgcnwi.org)

Learn more at  
[bit.ly/GCNWIdemocraticprocess](http://bit.ly/GCNWIdemocraticprocess)

### GCNWI Associate Board

Associate board members assist with major council fundraising events and experience leadership and networking opportunities.

Learn more at  
[bit.ly/4dRLJzA](http://bit.ly/4dRLJzA)

## Global Opportunities

Volunteer with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS).



Scan the QR code or visit  
[bit.ly/4.dxNqV7](http://bit.ly/4.dxNqV7) to learn more.

**Congratulations on your graduation!**  
**As you head off to your next journey,**  
**always remember,**  
**once a Girl Scout, always a Girl Scout!**

# Smart Cookies Badge Bash

September 17, 2026  
Chicago Cultural Center

Hosted by the GCNWI Associate Board, this cocktail reception event raises funds that directly support the girls in our council. The event will showcase girls' leadership abilities as well as the many unique opportunities and badges that are offered through Girl Scouts.

September 26, 2026  
Tinley Park Convention Center

Part kickoff for the new Girl Scout year, part expo, part recognition, and ALL volunteer appreciation! Join us for workshops, our adult recognition ceremony, volunteer resources stations, and so much more!

Registration opens in May 2026.



**GROWING TOGETHER**  
**A Volunteer Event**  
**2026**



**LEAP**  
40 Years of  
Taking the LEAP

Oct 2 - 4, 2026  
Camp Juniper Knoll

LEAP is a camp-style program for Girl Scout volunteers. It is a chance to make friends, learn new skills, and have a little of your own Girl Scout camp adventure!

Registration opens in June 2026.

# Council-Owned Official Apparel



*Created just for you.*  
Choose from a selection of official Girl Scouts GCNWI apparel.



Scan the QR code or visit  
**[girlscout.info/gcnwiapparel](https://girlscout.info/gcnwiapparel)**  
for more styles and colors.



Questions? Email [customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org](mailto:customercare@girlscoutsgcnwi.org).

**girl scouts**   
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indiana



Celebrate the achievements. Frame the memories.  
Custom Gold Award Girl Scout frames.  
Order online or at the ceremony: [girlscout.info/shopgoldaward](https://girlscout.info/shopgoldaward)



