



ANNUAL REPORT

2023-2024





A Note From Our CEO and Board Chair

Mission Statement

Girl Scouting builds 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.



Nicole H. King Yohe, Board Chair, and Patricia A. Burkart, Chief Executive Officer

On April 8, at Camp Hawthorne Ridge, hundreds of Girl Scouts donned special glasses and looked up to the daytime sky in wonder as the moon eclipsed the sun.

This rare moment in history became even more special as the girls counted down to totality, their elated gasps and laughter filling the air when they removed their glasses to witness the sun's corona.

In this report, you'll learn more about Girl Scouts' year of wonder, from working with NASA scientists to document the eclipse to advocating for girls in STEM at our state capital. Girls improved their communities through service projects and Highest Awards, learned real-world business skills through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, and traveled to some of the world's most awe-inspiring cities.

While girls are building essential skills and confidence through their adventures in Girl Scouts, they are also having a lot of fun with their friends. The photos in this report capture their delight, but they also show the sense of accomplishment, excitement, and courage that comes from being a Girl Scout.

As you read through this report, we hope you feel the same sense of pride and inspiration that we do—seeing girls discover their potential, embrace new challenges, and make a lasting impact. With your support, we will keep Girl Scouting strong in western Pennsylvania, helping girls build futures as bright as the sun.

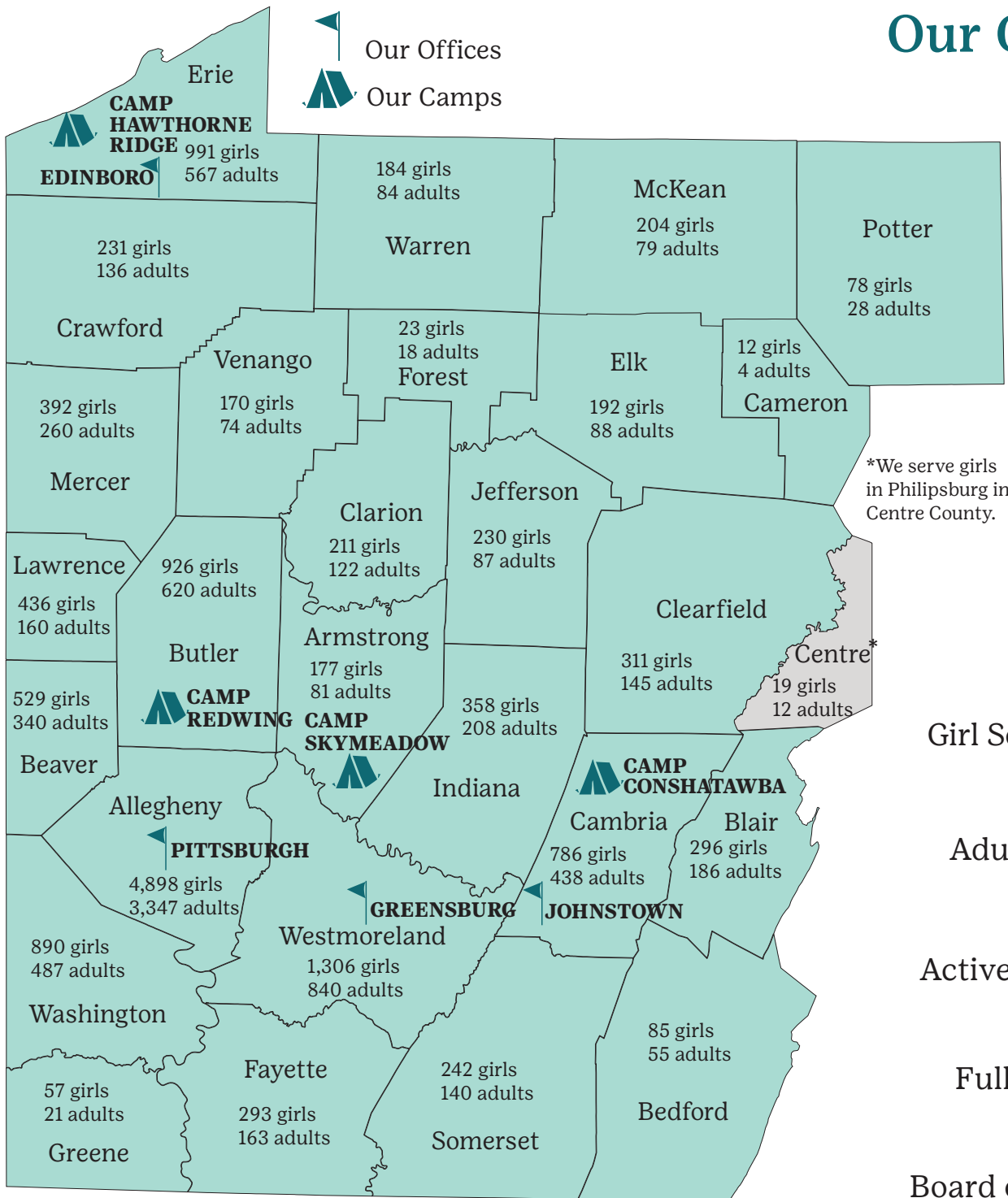
Yours in Girl Scouting,

Patricia A. Burkart
Chief Executive Officer

Nicole H. King Yohe
Board Chair

Our Council

Our Offices
Our Camps



*We serve girls in Philipsburg in Centre County.

14,626
Girl Scouts (K-12)

8,949
Adult Members

5,340
Active Volunteers

92
Full-Time Staff

20
Board of Directors

Out-of-council members: 99 girls, 159 adults



3,433
Daisies
Grades K-1



4,010
Brownies
Grades 2-3



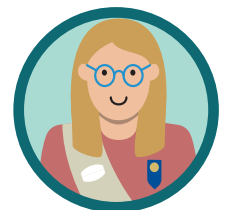
3,173
Juniors
Grades 4-5



2,517
Cadettes
Grades 6-8



885
Seniors
Grades 9-10



608
Ambassadors
Grades 11-12

TAKING ACTION

GIRL SCOUT HIGHEST AWARDS



Bronze Award Spotlight
Greene County

To earn her **Girl Scout Bronze Award**, **Payton Duncan** designed and built five bee water stations to help pollinators access clean water as they travel miles between pollen and their hives. After reaching out to four community organizations, they all granted her request to place the water stations on their properties and maintain them. She plans to remove the water stations after the first frost of the season and replace them in the spring when hives become active again.



Silver Award Spotlight
Butler County

Wanting to provide their community with an affordable family activity, **Sophia Gourash, Emma Ladesic, Ava Moravek, and Claire Norris of Troop 28839** earned their Silver Award by creating a scavenger hunt at Adams Township's nature trail to get their community outdoors. The scavenger hunt included educational elements about native wild animals and has been passed on to their Girl Scout service unit to continue setting up annually.

Categories of Impact

One hundred forty girls earned either their Girl Scout Silver Award or their Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. Projects focused on the following categories:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|
| Animals | Environment & Sustainability | Outdoors |
| Arts, Culture, & Heritage | Healthy Relationships | Physical Health |
| Civic Engagement | Human Rights | Poverty |
| DEIA/RJ | Life Skills | Public Safety |
| Education | Mental Health | Sports |
| Elderly Issues | Military/Veterans Affairs | STEM |

140

Girl Scouts
completed their
Silver or Gold Award





Madelyn Sheffel
Gold Award Girl Scout
Allegheny County

As a daughter of two cancer survivors, **Gold Award Girl Scout Madelyn Sheffel** wanted to educate her community on cancer prevention. She constructed a traveling pop-up education center which included information about a 12-part program and Prevention Pledge. Her education center was taken to several Relay for Life and community events to increase awareness about cancer treatment and research information.

Madelyn was our council's recipient of the 2024 GSUSA Gold Award \$5,000 Scholarship.



Numa Kamal
Gold Award Girl Scout
Washington County

After being diagnosed with Amblyopia in her right eye, **Gold Award Girl Scout Numa Kamal** was inspired to educate children on the importance of eye health and preventative care. She held presentations at her local library, a community event, and a homeschool co-op. She also created a display for her library to use annually during the month of August, which is Children's Eye Health and Safety Month.

The Girl Scout Gold Award opens doors!

Gold Award Girl Scouts are lifelong leaders who put their beliefs about women in leadership into action.



Nearly all Gold Award Girl Scouts (99%) hold leadership roles in their everyday lives—at school, in their careers, or through volunteer work—and seven in ten hold three or more leadership roles.



Gold Award Girl Scout alums report that the Gold Award process helped them develop essential twenty-first-century employment skills, giving them a boost in their academic and professional lives.



Alums also affirm that the Gold Award helped them get into college or graduate programs, earn scholarships, and secure jobs.

(From the 2021 Girl Scout Alum Fact Sheet, GSRI)

Saving Lives—Girl Scout Medal of Honor

Brownie Girl Scout **Scarlett Nagy of Johnstown Troop 11391** received the prestigious Medal of Honor for using her own first aid skills and determination to help save her mother's life. After being stung by a bee, Scarlett's mother had an anaphylactic reaction, causing her throat and mouth to swell and leading her to

pass out. Scarlett reacted quickly, administering an epinephrine injection in her mother's upper leg, ultimately saving her life.

This national award is given to Girl Scouts who have shown presence of mind and Girl Scout spirit in an emergency, such as saving a life.



EXPLORING BEYOND

GIRL SCOUT PROGRAMMING & OPPORTUNITIES

Eclipse Investigators

This year, Girl Scouts in western Pennsylvania had the opportunity to be Eclipse Investigators and participate in a large-scale citizen science research project leading up to and during the total solar eclipse on April 8, 2024. Through Einstein's Incredible Universe program, Girl Scouts collected data for the Dynamic Eclipse Broadcast (DEB) Initiative and documented the moment-by-moment appearance of the sun's inner corona—observable only during a total solar eclipse. After months of training and preparation for this important astronomical event, Girl Scouts not only studied the solar corona—they also worked with NASA scientists, presented their work to other Girl Scouts, and participated in a research study about gender equality in STEM.



Inspiring Careers in STEM

Highlighting women in STEM who contribute their expertise to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, a National STEM Day event was held on November 13, 2023, in Harrisburg, bringing together Girl Scouts from our council, Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania, Girl Scouts in the Heart of Pennsylvania, and the Governor's Advisory Commission on Women. Female

members of the Pennsylvania General Assembly were invited to join Troop PA, an honorary Girl Scout troop. These women discussed the work they do, their educational journeys, and why they chose their careers, hoping to inspire Girl Scouts to explore a career in STEM. Participating Girl Scouts also earned their STEM Career Exploration badge.



Girl Scouts Going Places

From regional day trips all the way to international trips, there are many opportunities for girls to explore the world with fellow Girl Scouts, see and learn new things, and create unforgettable memories.

Destination: Broadway Bound

Our council has a special grant just for Destination travel called D-Pass Funding, which is awarded annually. This year, **Senior Girl Scout Sophia Lang** received this funding and attended the Girl Scouts of the USA Destination trip, Broadway Bound.

I attend a performing arts high school with ambitions to be an actress after graduation. My Destination helped to solidify my career path and gave me a look into the behind-the-scenes of Broadway. I was able to work with Broadway directors, choreographers, make-up artists, and [performers] from current shows. This gave me the insight to expand my high school education into film.

—Senior Girl Scout Sophia Lang,
Broadway Bound



Uniting Girls through Community Partnership

Our partnership with the United Way of Beaver County opened the door for more girls to participate in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. Girl Scout meetings were held at different facilities through the Housing Authority of the County of Beaver, allowing us to remove transportation barriers and bring the Girl Scouting experience directly to underserved girls in this area. Because of this initiative, new troops were formed in areas such as Ambridge, Aliquippa, and Rochester, and an additional 31 girls experienced the popular Awesome Pawsome Day Camp in Beaver County.

We are dedicated to serving as a bridge for building new relationships, fostering collaboration, reaching underserved communities, and developing a community that thrives. It has been inspiring to see Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania and the Housing Authority of the County of Beaver (HACB) flourish, working together to engage families living in housing authority properties.

—Mary Lou Harju, Executive Director,
United Way of Beaver County



Seeing the World

Two Girl Scouts, plus staff, volunteers, and family members from our council traveled to Italy and Greece this June as part of a council-arranged trip. While in Rome, they saw iconic sites such as the Colosseum. They also took guided tours of Athens and Delphi to see some of the ancient temples.



FINDING COURAGE

CAMP AND COMMUNITY IMPACT



Camp has definitely made me more confident and showed me how brave I could be. It gave me the courage to know I can do things that I think I can't.

—Abby Smith (pictured middle), camper

Growing with Confidence

Chloe Smith, Abby Smith, and Brynn Adams (pictured left) arrived at Camp Conshatawba with different emotions—Abby, a seasoned camper on her fifth trip, was excited, while first-timers Brynn and Chloe felt nervous. Brynn worried about making friends, and Chloe feared being homesick. But as the days passed, camp transformed them.

Abby's confidence had grown with each camp experience, and this time was no different—especially when she scaled the rock wall for the first time. Brynn quickly discovered that camp was full of fun and new experiences, like archery—her new favorite activity. Chloe, despite her initial fears, found strength in the support of her counselors and friends. She pushed through challenges and realized just how resilient she was.

Together, they tackled obstacles, won the Best Teamwork award, and created unforgettable memories. For these girls, Girl Scout camp wasn't just a summer activity. It was a journey of growth, teamwork, and discovering just how much they could accomplish when they believed in themselves and each other.

According to girls who attended Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania camps in 2024, they agreed or strongly agreed about the following experiences at camp:

91% of girls felt they had the power to make decisions for themselves.

80% of girls felt they learned more about the world around them.

76% of girls felt they made new friends.

70% of girls felt they were courageous.



Girls Scouts enjoying summer camp at Camp Conshatawba, Camp Skymeadow, and Camp Redwing



Our **Camp Hawthorne Ridge** was recognized as one of the nation's best summer camps of 2024, ranking among the top 22 camps in Pennsylvania! Camps were rated on parent survey results, social media reviews, and key criteria, such as activity selection, accessibility, staff-to-child ratio, and overall camp safety.

Problem Solvers and Doers

Each week, we celebrate the problem solvers and doers who are creating a better future. Join us on social media to see what Girl Scouts are doing in your neighborhood.

Use our Memory Book form to share your photos! >>



Troop celebrates Girl Scout Service Day by helping families



Brackenridge Troop 28807 celebrated Girl Scout Service Day on Sept. 28 by preparing dinner for the residents at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh's Ronald McDonald House. *#GSWPAserviceday*



Troop brings healthy smiles to Johnstown community



Johnstown Troop 46828 collected 293 toothbrushes for America's Tooth Fairy Smile Drive, which were distributed to local schools and pantries in the Johnstown area. *#smiledrive*



Troop spreads the word about plastic bag alternatives



Cadette Troop 28008 of North Allegheny worked on earning their *Breathe!* Journey by learning about air quality and environmental issues and spreading the word about the harm of plastic bag use. The girls even learned how to sew reusable bags at the Olive Branch—a nonprofit workshop in Wexford. *#breathe*



Troop learns more about first aid and community heroes



Troop 53317 of Blair County used some of their cookie proceeds to purchase supplies to build first aid kits. They organized a meeting where an ER nurse and AMED paramedics educated the girls on first aid and helped them build their kits, even giving them an inside look at an ambulance. *#communityheroes*

GROWING SKILLS

FUNDING THE FUN & BRINGING SMILES

A Special Week Jumpstarts the Cookie Program

Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania kicked off the Girl Scout Cookie Program with election week booth sales, allowing Girl Scout troops to sell cookies in person outside polling places and small local businesses from November 4-11, 2023. This limited-time program during the week of the general election allowed Girl Scouts to help their troops earn proceeds as they started their new Girl Scout year.

As a first-year troop, having a risk-free early fundraiser to infuse almost \$300 into our budget has enabled us to book an overnight at a council camp. We otherwise wouldn't have been able to commit the funds for a reservation.

—Troop leader who participated in Election Week Program



The Cookie Program Grows Skills and Confidence

Indie Girl Scout Pamelah Colledge of Sharpsburg was recognized by the state for stepping outside of her comfort zone to achieve something big—selling 2,200 packages of Girl Scout Cookies, earning herself Super Seller status—and for her family's commitment to excellence and hard work. Pamelah is autistic and nonverbal, and her mother, Diana, says she signed her up for Girl Scouts to help with her communication skills.

Pam has grown in more ways than just one through the Girl Scout Cookie Program. She was able to grow her handwriting skills (as she wrote her name on each delivery bag), she learned how to improve her counting and simple math skills, and especially how to talk and interact with people. It gave me (as her mom) an equal opportunity to educate others about autism and special needs. It was genuinely a great experience for the family as a whole.

—Diana Oliver, Pamelah's mother





Go-Getter Girl Scouts

Nearly 300 go-getters reached Super Seller status in the 2023 MagNut and/or 2024 Girl Scout Cookie Programs! Girls who achieved this status were invited to a celebration event at Waldameer Park & Water World in 2024.

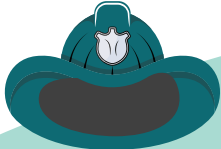
This year, 23 Girl Scouts went above and beyond to achieve **Double Super Seller** status by selling \$1,000 or more worth of product during the 2023 MagNut program AND 650 or more packages of cookies during the 2024 cookie program.

2023/2024 Double Super Sellers:

- Paityn Barger
- Haley Chylinski
- Carmen Clark
- Kenzley Daugherty
- Olivia Farney
- Kendyl Farrell
- Rosalee Foringer
- Paige Geist
- Clara Infield
- Elaine Knapton
- Hailie Miller
- Marissa Mullett
- Scarlett Nagy
- Hadley Painter
- Victoria (Tori) Parshall
- Kaletta Roach
- Avrey Rouse
- Kaitlyn Smith
- Gretchen Sopher
- Ryleigh Thrasher
- Magen Walzak
- Marisol Wilkinson
- Clara Williams

Cookies and Community

Through our council-wide gift of caring program, Operation: Sweet Appreciation (OSA), Girl Scouts in western Pennsylvania collected donations to send sweet treats to U.S. military active duty and veteran service members. The program expanded this year to include local law enforcement and firefighters!



44,201

packages of cookies to military, veterans, law enforcement, and firefighters

4,245

nuts & candy items to military



LEADING THE WAY

HONORING FEMALE LEADERS



2024 Awards of Distinction Event

Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania honored 11 exceptional women and two Gold Award Girl Scouts for their accomplishments and leadership at our annual Awards of Distinction event, presented by Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney PC and held at the Carnegie Science Center. This annual event honors inspirational women and celebrates the mission of the Girl Scout Movement.

2024 Women Awardees

Olivia Bragdon

Stork Fund

Joyce M. Murtha Excellence in Community Service Awardee

Jayne L. Butcher

Blank Rome LLP

Woman of Distinction Law

Samantha Hartzman

Duquesne Light Company

Woman of Distinction Social Impact

Diana Kelley

Covestro LLC

Woman of Distinction Science

Emily Riggs Kornis

Somerset Welding & Steel

Uptown Works

Woman of Distinction Business

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Koppers

Woman of Distinction Finance

Tracey L. Ryan

UPMC

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Lorraine Zwickle

PNC Bank

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Organization of Distinction

Erie Insurance

An exciting addition to the event for 2024—eight Girl Scouts who earned their Gold Award attended the event to showcase their projects and network with other female leaders in the area.



2024 Girl Scout Humanitarian

Gold Award Girl Scout Eliza Davis held presentations to educate others about harm reduction and introduce an empathetic, evidence-based, effective perspective on drug use to a community typically only exposed to abstinence-focused approaches. She arranged hands-on NARCAN™ administration demonstrations and created and distributed materials about how to respond to a suspected opioid overdose.



2024 Girl Scout of Distinction

Gold Award Girl Scout Sawyer Wright focused on increasing elementary school girls' confidence in themselves by providing positive role models for how to handle difficult but common situations. To accomplish this, she wrote, illustrated, and published the book *The Four Take on Fifth*, a story about four friends in fifth grade who overcome challenges with the help of friends and family. She led a team of volunteer artists to illustrate the novel. Diversity and relatability were among her top priorities in both the writing and illustrations. Copies of her book were donated to local and school libraries, Girl Scout troops, and nonprofit organizations.



2024 Volunteer Awards

These outstanding men and women who serve as the backbone of our organization were recognized for their service and volunteer efforts this year with the following awards:



Appreciation Pin

- Michele Alsleben, *Bedford County*
- Jennifer Fox, *Erie County*
- Monica Martini, *Erie County*
- Tabatha Mill, *Butler County*
- Cammie Stralko, *Venango County*
- Sharon Talarico, *Allegheny County*



Honor Pin

- Shelley Boback, *Cambria County*
- Jennifer Bell, *Westmoreland County*
- Victoria Kennedy, *Butler County*
- Gabriel Miehl, *Erie County*
- Calvin Simpson, *Erie County*
- Crystal Simpson, *Lawrence County*
- Kevin Simpson, *Lawrence County*
- Linda Simpson, *Erie County*
- Theresa Smith, *Westmoreland County*



Thanks Badge

- Dot Brookes, *Butler County*
- Lois Kuttesch, *Butler County*



President's Award

- Camp Redwing 100th Anniversary Committee
- Service Unit 4605-Bedford Leadership Team
- Service Unit 2647-Morning Star Leadership Team
- West Montour Camporee Leadership Team



A Lifetime of Girl Scouts

Janet Kovacs has had a Girl Scout membership for 62 years—first as a Girl Scout for 11 years, and then immediately becoming a volunteer after graduating high school. She loves teaching girls, planning events, and meeting other Girl Scouts. She not only has all these incredible years of Girl Scout stories, but she's got the patches to go with them! She proudly sports her 544 (and counting!) Girl Scout patches on a poncho she made, each section having a special meaning, from her own adventures to experiences with her granddaughter to gifts from other Girl Scouts. Janet doesn't plan to stop adding Girl Scout patches to her collection anytime soon and has already started working on a cape that will go over her poncho to hold even more.



I believe in the Girl Scout mission. There are many times in my life where I'm like, 'yep—that's the Girl Scout in me!' Through Girl Scouts, girls learn skills for life, and they may not even realize it until they get into their adult years.

—Volunteer Janet Kovacs



Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who supported our mission with a charitable gift* this past program year:

Corporations and Foundations

(\$25,000+)

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John Nesbit Rees and Sarah Henne
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Foundation Greenville, PA Fund
The Pittsburgh Foundation—GSWPA
Fund
The Pittsburgh Foundation—Kathryn
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The Pittsburgh Foundation—William
'Wil' Matthew Morrow Memorial Fund

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These donors have made gifts of \$1,000 or more and have exemplified a tremendous investment in our mission.

(\$20,000+)

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(\$5,000-\$19,999)

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These donors have made gifts between \$500-\$999 and have made a generous investment in our mission.

(\$500-\$999)

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In memory of Ann Ainsley
Laurel Highlands Snowmobile Club
Pam and Mike Betz
In memory of Susann Beardsley
John and Susan Bower
Shirley Gravenstreter
Tery Price
Nisey Sebak and William Scott

In memory of Dorothy "Dot" Brookes
Laraine D. Andrews
Sandra Bernardi Hathazy
Dorothy Ann and Ted Brookes
Christina Brussalis
Lori Carpenter
Debbie Collins
Andree Cusson
Heath Dhayer
Bridget Gertz
Susan Gold
Bonnie Grant
Linda and Brian Heery
Lois Kuttesch
Morning Star Service Unit
Sharon Piciacchio
Sarah Shaffer
Richard and Pam Siergiej
Susan and Fred Stahl
Kristin Svidro +
The Jefferys Family
Troop 543 & Friends
Charles H Van Dyke

In memory of Shirley Bulock

Andrew Drazdik

In memory of Lois Burns

Jacob Ostrop

In memory of Karen Facteau

Heritage Grove at Indiana LLC

In memory of Mary Lou

and Thomas Kus
Gwynne and Gary Schweiker

In memory of Elizabeth Lucas

Amanda Knapton

In memory of Barbara Meredith

Sue Coburn

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In memory of Angel "Sprite" Morris

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In memory of Rev. Elizabeth Rodewald

Martha Smith

In memory of Norma Shellito

Julie Weagraff

In memory of Beverly Storrick

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In memory of Carole Stumpf

Martha Smith

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Nancy and Paul Goodermote

In memory of Lisa Vernacchio

Janice and Jochen Kindling
Albert & Pamela Vernacchio

In memory of Virginia Wojciechowski

Dan and Anita Rogowski

In memory of Marianne Zimmerman

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Planned Gifts

Juliette Gordon Low Society
Individuals who have made a commitment to Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania through planned or deferred gifts to ensure a lasting legacy of Girl Scouting.

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***Girl Scout Movement-Wide Challenge
 Planned Gift*

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 University of Pittsburgh
 UPMC and UPMC Health Plan
 Valerie and Steven Faeth

“+” denotes that a donor is being recognized posthumously

Financials

Revenue

Product Sales, net of related costs
 Public Support
 Program Fees
 Investment Income
 Retail Operations, net of related costs
 Other Income

Total Public Support & Revenue

Expenses (before depreciation)

Program
 Management and General
 Fundraising***

Total Expenses

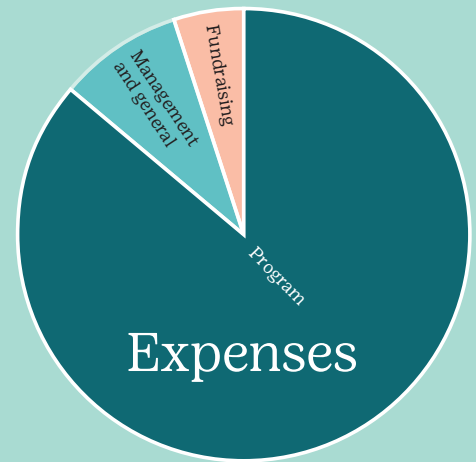
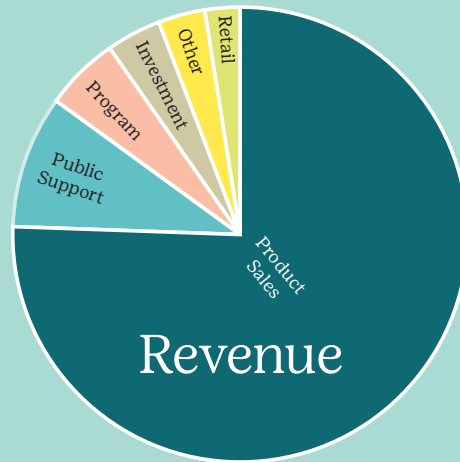
Net change in net assets from operations (before depreciation)

	10/1/2023- 9/30/2024	%	10/1/2022- 9/30/2023	%
Product Sales, net of related costs	\$7,915,242	75.8%	\$7,139,274	74.9%
Public Support	\$960,516	9.2%	\$1,052,107	11.0%
Program Fees	\$571,377	5.5%	\$578,748	6.0%
Investment Income	\$394,833	3.8%	\$338,758	3.6%
Retail Operations, net of related costs	\$242,245	2.3%	\$272,607	2.9%
Other Income	\$356,919	3.4%	\$150,829	1.6%
Total Public Support & Revenue	\$10,441,132	100%	\$9,532,323	100%
Expenses (before depreciation)				
Program	\$7,992,516	86.3%	\$8,532,215	87.1%
Management and General	\$810,701	8.7%	\$824,508	8.4%
Fundraising***	\$465,113	5.0%	\$445,306	4.5%
Total Expenses	\$9,268,330	100%	\$9,802,029	100%
Net change in net assets from operations (before depreciation)	\$1,172,802		(\$269,706)	

Statement of Financial Position

Total assets of the council	\$28,723,353	\$25,540,239
Total liabilities	\$3,724,708	\$3,775,950
Total net assets	\$24,998,645	\$21,764,289
Change in net assets	\$3,234,356	\$262,775

***Fundraising expenses include a portion of council management and program staff salaries.



A copy of Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania's official registration and financial information may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll free within Pennsylvania 800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

**Every effort was made to ensure the accuracy of the charitable giving list. Please report any discrepancies to the Fund Development department at 800-248-3355.*

Board of Directors 2023-2024

Board Chair—Dot Brooks (*Cranberry*) Oct. 2023-Feb. 2024
Nicole King Yohe (*Zelienople*) Feb. 2024-Present

First Vice Chair

Nicole King Yohe (*Zelienople*) Oct. 2023-Feb. 2024
Mary Lou Vargo (*Pittsburgh*) Feb. 2024-Present

Treasurer—Michelle Maccagnan (*Allison Park*)

Secretary—Jon Colburn (*Pittsburgh*)

Ex Officio

Patricia A. Burkart, Chief Executive Officer
Victoria Kush, Board Development Committee Chair

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- Elyse Hughes (*Masontown*)
- Jenna Nastal (*Pittsburgh*)
- Clarissa Seltzer (*Saint Marys*)

