



2024 Annual Report

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois

A Letter From Our Leadership

Watching Girl Scouts grow into leaders at a young age is thriving at our council. These young leaders are changing the world right now, and we have the pleasure of experiencing this impact every single day at Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois. In the 40 counties we serve, girls are growing, leading, and thriving thanks to the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

Our commitment to building the leaders our communities want and need has never been stronger. This year, we had a market share of 6.6%. This market share puts us in the top 20 councils nationwide, and in the top 5 of councils of similar size. Also, our member retention exceeded the nationally set goal. Our girl-led programming not only strives to deliver girls the opportunities they are craving, but in a way that helps them build the courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place.

We have also continued our commitment to invest in our beloved Camp Torqua. So many updates happened this year to provide an even more enjoyable experience for our girls and volunteers. Of note are the many ADA compliant upgrades – such as sidewalks and paved trails – that ensure EVERY person can get the most out of their camp experience. From a program perspective, a Camp Torqua highlight was the exciting growth of our overnight camps. If you haven't been to Camp Torqua recently, we invite you to visit!

As we continue looking forward, we are excited about the future. Our girls are showcasing the true leaders they are. Our volunteers are serving as exceptional role models to bring these experiences to life. Our donors and partners ensure we can continue this momentum for years to come.

On behalf of Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois, we thank you for your commitment in being a part of this extraordinary journey. Together we are making a difference. Together we are leading tomorrow.

Loretta Graham | CEO

Linda Manley | Board Chair



Girl Scout Mission

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.

6,363
Girl Members

3,618
Adult Members



5 KO + 4PP = 1 GSLE



Five key outcomes reflect the positive impact of Girl Scouts. Designed to help girls thrive and grow into confident, capable, and caring individuals, Girl Scouts have identified these key outcomes:

- **Strong Sense of Self**
- **Positive Values**
- **Challenge Seeking**
- **Healthy Relationships**
- **Community Problem Solving**

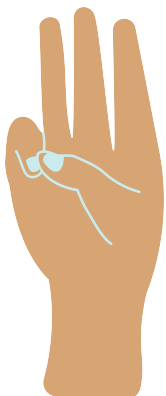


Four program pillars are the foundation of Girl Scouts. Every program offered by Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois helps girls build skills in at least one of these vital pillars:

- **STEM** (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math)
- **Outdoors**
- **Life Skills**
- **Entrepreneurship**



By providing programs based on these **four pillars**, with an objective to achieve the **five key outcomes**, the end result is the empowering **Girl Scout Leadership Experience**.



Key Fact: Girl Scouts in our Community Outreach program earned their Engineering Badge in partnership with the Southern Illinois University Edwardsville STEM Department. After the program, 98% of the girls reported that they were more confident in pursuing a career in Engineering.

Impact in Action



Gold Award Girl Scouts are shining examples of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. While earning their Gold Award, these Girl Scouts tackle issues that are dear to them and drive lasting change in their communities and beyond. Here are just a few examples of recent Gold Award Girl Scouts making a difference.



Bella Durbin

Project: Increasing Mental Health Awareness

Bella developed and held three events focused on mental health education and awareness. Kids learned the importance of taking care of their mental health as well as coping tools in the form of activities and crafts. Bella furthered her impact by educating Girl Scout volunteers in her community how to make their own “calm box” and how to utilize a mental health app. As part of her project, she also held a mental health expo where local businesses and organizations were invited to offer their resources on the topic to her community.

“While discussing mental health is much less taboo than in the past, people are still wary around the subject,” said Bella. “When I was planning my Gold Award project, I knew I wanted to do something relating to mental health education in order to make those who are struggling feel less alone and more supported and seen.”



Kameron Gresham

Project: Safe in Faith

Kameron transformed a room at her church into a teen room after she discovered that teens like her needed a safe space to connect and learn. Safe in Faith is now a permanent resource at Macedonia Baptist Church thanks to Kameron’s desire to give back and make an impact on the youth in her community.

“I learned a lot about how independent I am,” said Kameron. “This project helped me really see that I can do anything I put my mind to.”



Gabrielle McQuay

Project: Lori Schultz Memorial Reading Garden

Gabrielle's former teacher, Lori Schultz, had a vision of creating a reading garden in front of Medora Intermediate School. Schultz worked with the student government to raise funds for the garden. The following year, Schultz was diagnosed with brain cancer and passed away. Gabrielle stepped in and completed the project in honor of her teacher.

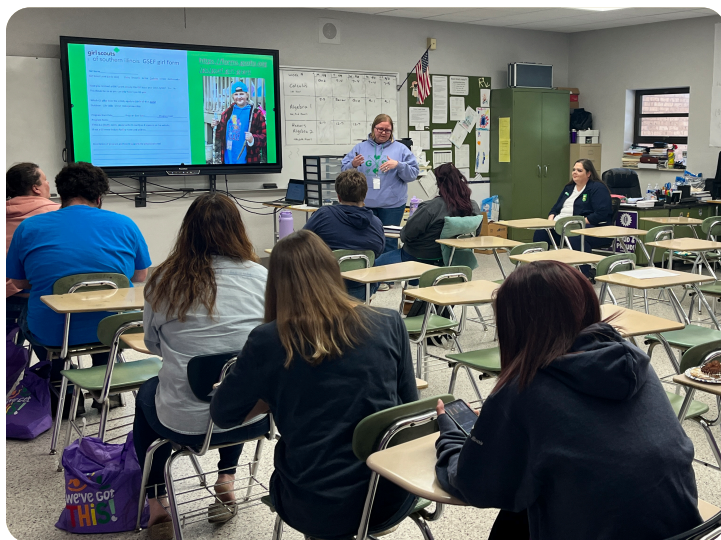
"Through my Girl Scout Gold Award Project, I learned to never give up on my dreams," said Gabrielle. "Even if things get tough and you hit road blocks, you can – and should – push through."

Empowering Growth

When we invest in our volunteers, not only do they grow personally, but they also enhance the experiences and outcomes for the Girl Scouts they mentor. Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois offers an array of training opportunities for volunteers year-round. A highlight of our volunteer investment this year was the Volunteer Training Summit where 55 dedicated adults received a variety of trainings while networking with their peers throughout the council.

By investing in our volunteers, they gain enhanced skills and knowledge, increased confidence, personal growth, and a network of support. In turn, our girl members experienced improved program quality, positive outcomes, wonderful role models, and effective mentorship and growth.

By supporting our volunteers with training and certification programs, we continue to create a brighter future for our Girl Scout community and the next generation of leaders.



Camp Torqua



Camp Torqua, nestled on 72 acres of meadows, rolling hills, and woods, continued to offer a variety of outdoor activities. Girl Scouts enjoyed hiking trails, a fitness course, tether ball, gaga pit, volleyball, and pond exploration when visiting the camp. Add-ons like archery, sling shots, and hay rides were also popular.



Notable programs and upgrades to Camp Torqua include:

- Mindful Morning Yoga was offered to all girl and adult members to enjoy a free yoga session during Mental Health Awareness Month.
- Badge opportunities such as Night Owl, Trailblazer, and Primitive Camper were earned by Girl Scouts throughout the year.
- Overnight camp was a huge success in the summer of 2024. Air-conditioned cabins, flush toilets, warm showers, and a new nurse's station enhanced the girls' overnight experience.
- Thanks to a generous grant from American Water Charitable Foundation, the beloved frog pond received an incredible face lift and the area has been transformed into a fully functional outdoor education space.



Entrepreneurship



The future of entrepreneurship is female! Through Girl Scouts, girls gain five valuable skills when participating in entrepreneurship programs such as the Girl Scout Cookie Program. Goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics are skills that will serve girls for the rest of their lives. These skills encourage girls to be curious, embrace challenges, take initiative, collaborate with others, and adapt to change.



The 2023 Fall Product Program exceeded the established goal and resulted in \$525,506 in sales.



The 2024 Girl Scout Cookie Program also exceeded goal. Over 4,000 girls participated, selling 803,957 packages.

Thank You, Volunteers!



Because of the dedication of volunteers, Girl Scouts learn to listen to their hearts, think on their feet, and raise their voices for what they believe in. From everyone at Girl Scouts, we thank you. The following extraordinary volunteers were recognized at the 2024 Recognition of Excellence ceremony for their commitment to the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

President's Volunteer Service Award

Tiffany Davis | Waterloo
Mary Anne Hopper | Waterloo
Kendra Kennedy | Waterloo

Sustained Service

Sheila Jolly Scrivner | Bluford
Dawn Quicksall | Stewardson

Living Her Legacy

Rebecca Huller | O'Fallon

Thanks Badge II

Karlene Hoefener | O'Fallon

Thanks Badge

Donna Aaron | Belleville
Alicia Dixon | Benton

Honor Pin

Sharon Knowles | Effingham
Laura Koehler | Belleville
Emily Myers | Paris
Teresa Stacey | Sesser
Lisa Wagner | Oblong

Appreciation Pin

Gretchen Critchley | O'Fallon
Katina Deremiah | Mattoon
Lori House | Waterloo
Jessie Hull | New Baden
Jennifer Mumper | Troy
Sarah Spytek | Elkhville

Volunteer of Excellence

Victoria Birchem | St. Louis, MO
Sara Clough | Lawrenceville
Joanna Dardeen | Belleville
Dena Fox | Sesser
Leigh Anne Gentry | O'Fallon
Jeanne Greuel | Browns
Melissa Heuerman | Effingham
Christina Mason | O'Fallon
Michelle Mater | O'Fallon
Patricia McDonald | Mattoon
Rosalinda Molla | Tamaroa
Charlene Parsley | Oakland
Libby Pearson | Mt. Carmel
Brandi Sharp | Greenup
Susan Sonderegger | Wildwood, MO
Adrian Summers | Troy
Bridget Wilson | Altamont
Casey Wilson | Hindsboro



Thank You, Volunteers!

President's Award

Service Unit 039 | Lawrence/Wabash/Edwards County
Service Unit 051 | North Franklin County
Service Unit 054 | Perry County
Service Unit 087 | West Frankfort
Service Unit 207 | Belleville/Swansea
Service Unit 211 | Waterloo
Service Unit 511 | Effingham County
Service Unit 522 | Eastern Coles County
Service Unit 531 | Edgar/Clark County
Service Unit 544 | Crawford/Jasper County

Board of Directors

Board Officers

Linda Manley | Highland | Board Chair
Marianne Doll | Edwardsville | First Vice Chair
Elizabeth Shore | Marion | Second Vice Chair
Gloria Sweida | St. Louis, MO | Treasurer
Norma Trimble | Robinson | Secretary

At-Large Members

Steven Bushong | Waterloo
Julia Deien | Aviston
Kathryn Diak | Edwardsville
Kevin Doak | Edwardsville
Trish Manning | Waterloo
D-Lori Newsome-Pitts | Caseyville
Lesley Sanchez | St. Louis, MO
Michelle Yates | Edwardsville

Board Development Committee

Steven Bushong | Waterloo
Julia Deien | Aviston
Trish Manning | Waterloo
Melanie Mills | Charleston
Janice Monroe | Neoga
Michelle Yates | Edwardsville

**Thank you for
your committment
to Girl Scouts of
Southern Illinois!**

Girl Awards



13 Gold Award Girl Scouts

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the mark of the truly remarkable – proof that not only can she make a difference, but that she already has. Gold Award Seniors and Ambassadors tackle issues that are dear to them and drive lasting change in their communities and beyond.

2023/2024 Gold Award Girl Scouts

Violet Barnett | Troy
Kennedy Cason | East St. Louis
Emily Dunn | Belleville
Bella Durbin | Belleville
Creighton Endsley | Belleville
Rachel Feder | New Athens
Kameron Gresham | Belleville

Hadley Hagler | Shumway
Theo Jackson | O'Fallon
Jennifer McDermott | Marion
Gabrielle McQuay | Medora
Elise Passalacqua | Teutopolis
Emma Tolppanen | Charleston

Congratulations Girl Scouts!



48 Silver Award Girl Scouts

When Cadettes focus on an issue they care about, learn the facts, and take action to make a difference, they gain the confidence and skills that will catapult them to lifelong success.



82 Bronze Award Girl Scouts

When Juniors team up to make a difference in their community, they learn important skills, discover new passions, and watch how seemingly small actions make a big difference.



9 Trifecta Award Girl Scouts

The Trifecta Award recognizes girls who have earned all three of Girl Scouting's highest awards – the Bronze Award, Silver Award, and Gold Award.

Invest in Girls

United We Lead Gala



Thank you to all who attended or donated to our 6th annual United We Lead Gala in September 2024. With your help, we were able to raise over \$115,000 to further our mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Save the date! The 7th annual United We Lead Gala will be held on Friday, September 12, 2025 at the LeClaire Room in Edwardsville, IL. Visit gsofsi.org/gala for more information!

Pearl Society



With a recurring monthly gift of \$50 or more, Pearl Society members commit to investing in girls for the long term. To join our Pearl Society, visit gsofsi.org/pearl.

Pearl Members

Diane & Rick Siemer

Gold Members

Linda Manley

Silver Members

Roxanne Frey

Bronze Members

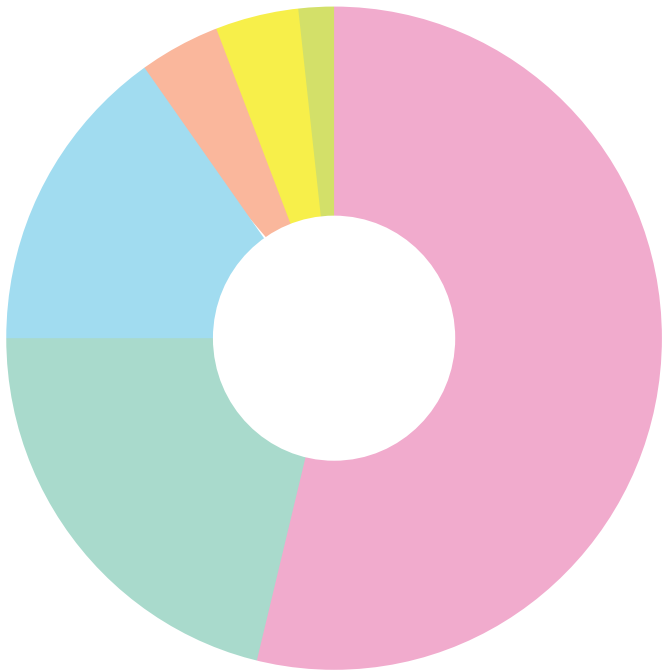
Barbara Adelman
Robert & Susan Bowman
Ron & Jeananne Buerges
Linda Byassee
Warren & Laurie Carter
Julia Deien
Alicia Dixon
Marianne Doll
Toni Goodwin

Loretta Graham
Katie Grayling
Ashley Green-Bryant
Fred & Candis Isberner
Dean & Deanna Litzenburg
Bob & Patricia Manning
Susanna Mills
Tim & Melanie Mills
Janice Monroe
D-Lori Newsome-Pitts

Jon & Penelope Pejka
Mike & Robin Pinkel
Barbara Rieder
Lesley Sanchez
Elizabeth Shore
G. Scott & Nancy Smallie
Carrie Smith
Tiffany Stellhorn
Bryson & Heidi Weaver

Financial Report

Income:



56% Product Program

**24% Investments
and Other Income**

**12% Grants, Contributions
and Special Events**

3% United Way

3% Programs

2% Retail

Total Income: \$5,520,650

Expenses:



**77% Girl Scout
Leadership Experience**

39% Program

27% Membership

6% Volunteer

5% Communications

17% Management

6% Development

**Total Expenses:
\$4,453,473**

Thank You, Donors!

\$10,000 +

- Agency for Community Transit
- Ameren Illinois
- American Water Charitable Foundation
- Bayer Fund
- Charles & Mary Lukas Trust
- Dana Brown Charitable Trust
- Gordon Cohen Trust
- Rick & Diane Siemer
- Trio Foundation
- Girl Scouts of the USA
- Holland Construction Services
- Ida Flores
- Jim & Jenny Maher
- Jon & Penelope Pejka
- Junior Service Club of Collinsville
- Kathryn Diak
- Leadership Council Southwestern Illinois
- Legence Bank
- Lisa Shashek
- Loretta Graham

\$5,000 - \$9,999

- Anders Technology Advisors, LLC
- Anne Haltenhof
- Charities Aid Foundation of America
- Edward Jones
- Linda Manley
- Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery
- Siemer Milling Company
- The Korte Company
- Tim & Melanie Mills
- Marathon Petroleum
- Mathis, Marifian & Richter, LTD
- O'Fallon Public Library
- Old Newsboys
- Prairie State Generating Company
- Ralph & Donna Korte Family Charitable Foundation
- Robert & Susan Bowman
- Bob & Patricia Manning
- Robin Pinkel

\$1,000 - \$4,999

- Alicia Dixon
- Allsup Charitable Services
- Anderson Hospital
- Archford Capital Strategies
- Barbara Dick
- Belle Clair Rotary
- Big City Asphalt, LLC
- Blues for Kids Foundation
- Bridewell-Henning Foundation
- Busey Bank
- Carrie Lincoln
- Carrie Winter Trust
- CEFCU
- Commerce Bancshares Foundation
- David & Catherine Flatley
- David & Kay Werner
- Edna & Emma Sawyer Trust
- Fidelity Charitable
- Ron & Jeananne Buerges
- Rotary Club of Highland
- Sally Landmann
- Schweinfurth Foundation Grant
- Sentry Foundation
- St. Louis Community Foundation
- Terra Properties
- The Boeing Company
- Walmart
- Yoxall Trust

Thank You, Donors!

United Way

Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois receives support from various United Ways throughout our jurisdiction. Thank you to United Way for their continued support of Girl Scouts of Southern Illinois.

- United Way of Greater St. Louis
- United Way of Edgar County
- United Way of Effingham County
- United Way of Coles County
- United Way of Crawford County



Juliette Gordon Low Society

The Juliette Gordon Low Society is a special group who have made the commitment to share their legacy with the next generation. We'd like to recognize and thank them for the legacy they are leaving our council.

- Barbara Adelman
- Villie Appoo
- Mary & Terry Armes
- Melissa Barnett
- Mary Buchanan
- Laurie & Warren Carter
- Ellar Duff
- Bobbi Drotos
- Loretta Graham
- Cheryl & Chuck Heimerman
- Richard Huntington
- Rebecca Irvin
- Candis & Fred Isberner
- Emily & Jay Kimmey
- Tammy & Fred Klapetzky
- Deanna & Dean Litzenburg
- Linda Manley
- Sharon & Alan Mayo
- Stacey & John McCracken
- Melanie Mills
- Mary Mueller
- Elisabeth & Donald Murphy
- Carla & James Nilson
- Julie Reed
- Micah & Matt Salonis
- Glenn Seeber
- Diane & Rick Siemer
- Nancy & G. Scott Smallie
- Kay & David Werner



800-345-6858

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