

Dear Friends of Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast,

Together, we've made incredible strides in empowering Girl Scouts across southeastern Wisconsin to discover their strengths, take on challenges, and lead with courage, confidence, and character.

As we focus on empowering more girls throughout their Girl Scouting experience, we're thrilled to share that we saw another year of membership growth. In 2024, we served 12,386 Girl Scouts in grades K5-12 and 6,069 adults, volunteers, and lifetime members. More than 1,800 of these Girl Scouts were served through our Community Outreach program—a 30% increase compared to the previous year!

Our programs reached new record-breaking heights, offering thousands of Girl Scouts opportunities to explore STEM, discover nature, develop life skills, and embark on entrepreneurial journeys. More than 8,500 Girl Scouts put their business skills to the test by selling 1,734,700+ packages of Girl Scout Cookies. But Girl Scouts provided more than cookies to our community. We honored 423 Girl Scouts who earned their Highest Awards by contributing over 12,150 hours of service toward projects that improved their communities.

We encourage our Girl Scouts to try new things—and we did that as a council too! In response to volunteer needs, we began offering Youth Mental Health First Aid trainings for volunteers, as well as a complimentary Daisy Supply Box to new Daisy troop leaders with all supplies, materials, and resources needed to facilitate meetings. After hearing feedback from community outreach participants, we hosted a family camp weekend at Camp Alice Chester to introduce summer camp experiences to Girl Scouts and their parents and guardians. This spring, eleven GSWISE Girl Scouts visited the state capitol for a special celebration with Governor Tony Evers, who recognized Gold Award recipients across the state.

In the next year, we will continue to provide non-cookie cutter experiences that not only provide girls with something to do, but help them express who they truly are. Girl Scouting is where girls gain their competitive edge - and move society's edge further through innovation and leadership.

Thank you for your unwavering support and commitment to our mission of empowering Girl Scouts, who are sharp, bold, and trailblazing through barriers with courage, confidence, and character. This wouldn't be possible without you—and we're ready to take this next step together.

#### Yours in Girl Scouting,



Ana Ingon

Ana Simpson Chief Executive Officer



Nicole Best

Nicole Best Board Chair

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EY

Senior Manager

# A Look at GSWISE's Membership

18,455 Total Membership

**12,386** Girl Scouts in Grades K5-12

6,069 Adults, Volunteers, and Lifetime Members



Milwaukee: 41.2% Waukesha: 34.2% Racine: 8.7% Kenosha: 5.8% Washington: 5.8% Ozaukee: 2.6% Other: 1.1% Walworth: 0.6% Daisy: 27%
Brownie: 32%
Junior: 23%
Cadette: 12%
Senior: 3%
Ambassador: 2%
Grade Unknown: 2%

Girl Membership by **Program** Level

American Indian or
Alaskan Native: 0.3%
Asian: 1.7%
Black or African
American: 7%
Hawaiian or Pacific
Islander: 0.05%
Choose Not to Share
or Not Reported: 21.4%
Other Races: 1.8%
Two or More Races: 3.5%
White: 64.3%

Girl Membership by **Race** 

\*Hispanic: 8% (Hispanic and/or Latina/Latino is defined as an ethnicity (and not a race) and is therefore reported separately.)



At Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast, our members will always be our top priority. As a council, we strive to offer more opportunities for Girl Scouts from all communities to experience the power of Girl Scouting. As we focused on increasing our K-3 membership, **GSWISE** was selected as just one of 14 councils nationwide to pilot a new Daisy Supply Box program.

Through this program, new Daisy troop leaders received a complimentary supply box, packed with meeting supplies and scripts to help ease the volunteer load that comes with starting a new troop. We're encouraged by retention numbers from the participating troop leaders and members, and we're excited to be offering it as a recruitment tool and volunteer resource again this year—rebranded as the Girl Scout Experience Box.





We exceeded both our girl and adult membership goals this year!

We ended the year with more than 12,300 girl members—surpassing our goal by more than 2%. We also had 6,069 adult members—exceeding our goal of 6,050.

We're here for all Girl Scouts. GSWISE's Community Outreach team brings staff- and volunteer-led bilingual programming to Girl Scouts at schools and community partners in historically underserved communities. Trained staff guide Girl Scouts through activities based in the Girl Scout program pillars (outdoors, STEM, life skills, and entrepreneurship), bringing the Girl Scout experience to Girl Scouts of all backgrounds. Our Community Outreach program grew by nearly 30% compared to last year, serving more than 2,000 participants!



# Program Highlights

# The Girl Scout Experience

This year was full of fun, creativity, and growth for Girl Scouts in every grade level. By discovering, connecting, and taking action, Girl Scouts tried new things, expressed their true selves, and took the lead in their communities.

Through unique programming and activities, Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast continues to empower the problem solvers, go-getters, dreamers, and doers who are creating our future.

# **STEM**

Girl Scouting encourages girls to explore how STEM can help make the world a better place. When Girl Scouts participate in STEM-focused programs, they are more interested in STEM and careers in tech (closing the gender gap!)—and they:

- Become better problem-solvers and critical thinkers who learn to think scientifically.
- Have confidence in their STEM skills and abilities even after just one STEM activity.
- Learn the importance and relevance of STEM to people and society.

1,380+

Girl Scouts attended STEM-related council events GSWISE received a grant from Amazon so local Girl Scouts could see STEM in action! More than 520 Girl Scouts in grades K-10 explored the Oak Creek Fulfillment Center for in-person and virtual tours where they completed activities and got inspired by computer science, robotics, and engineering.

# Life Skills

Girl Scout badges covering topics like civic engagement, healthy living, and communication skills help Girl Scouts grow in confidence as they develop the skills to lead their best life!

Whether by developing strong relationships with family and peers, advocating on behalf of others, protecting the environment, or exploring careers that can truly change the world for the better, Girl Scouts:

- Develop resiliency and a stronger sense of self.
- Are happier overall and display more positive values throughout life.
- Learn how to make an impact on the community.

Girl Scouts put their life skills into action when earning their Highest Awards, engaging in projects through direct action that create lasting change in their community and beyond. GSWISE honored 423 Girl Scouts who earned their Highest Award—23% more than the previous year! Girl Scouts contributed more than 12,150 hours of service toward projects that improved their communities.





# 17 Gold Award Girl Scouts



# 89 Silver Award Girl Scouts



# 317 Bronze Award **Girl Scouts**



For the first time, Gold Award Girl Scouts from all four councils across Wisconsin were welcomed and honored by Governor Tony Evers at a special celebration at the state capitol. Eleven Girl Scouts from GSWISE had the opportunity to talk about the state of Girl Scouting in Wisconsin and ask about issues important to them, like education and environmental conservation efforts.



Gold Award Girl 6/ **Scout Spotlight** Megan S., **Troop 4679** 

I learned a lot about my time management skills through this project. I learned that I need a hard deadline to complete things and that I work better when I make lists of what I need to complete. I also grew in my organizational skills. The packets took a lot of preparation so being organized was key to getting this project done.

When a teenager is diagnosed with cancer, that diagnosis can have a particularly large impact on emotional wellbeing and mental health. To combat this issue, Megan created monthly activity packets for teenage patients going through cancer treatment at Children's Wisconsin Hospital. The activity packet themes vary each month and provide a positive distraction during treatment. Megan also developed a new resource for friends of teenagers diagnosed with cancer to guide them in supporting their friends through treatment. The pamphlet includes activities, cancer support-related resources, and frequently asked questions to help friends understand what is most beneficial in these difficult circumstances. Megan received positive feedback through the hospital's MACC Fund representatives regarding the impact of the activity packets and the pamphlet. The MACC Fund and hospital nurses are continuing to provide these resources to newly diagnosed cancer patients and their networks.



# **Outdoors**

Technology and structured activities leave less time for girls to get outside, enjoy nature, and play. But, as a Girl Scout, girls have plenty of opportunities to create outdoor adventures and develop a lifelong appreciation for nature and the world around them.

When Girl Scouts get outside, they:

- Discover they can better solve problems and overcome challenges.
- Become team players and care more about protecting our environment.
- Unplug from technology and view the world differently.

**3,580**+ Girl Scouts attended summer camp

2,700+
Girl Scouts
attended
Day
Camps by
Community

490+
Girl Scouts
attended
Camp Alice
Chester
Overnight
Camp

370+
Girl Scouts
attended
GSWISE
Day Camp



GSWISE received a grant from Milwaukee Recreation, a department of Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS), to provide a free week of summer camp to 75 campers in grades 4-8 at select MPS schools. GSWISE also equipped the campers with all the supplies needed for a week at camp.



Camp Alice Chester celebrated its 100th anniversary in 2024. Throughout the year, **GSWISE** shared stories from campers and camp staff dating back to the 1940s in a nostalgic tribute to the property. The celebration culminated in a familyfriendly camporee in early October that brought together more than 900 new campers and alum for a fun-filled day of camp activities.

# **Entrepreneurship**

Research shows girls are actively interested in becoming entrepreneurs, developing financial stability, and using their skills to make a big impact on the world. Learning to think like an entrepreneur helps Girl Scouts gain key skills and maybe even discover a future career path. As an important part of learning vital business skills, Girl Scouts:

- Discover how to set and achieve realistic goals in their lives and future careers.
- Make better decisions and build stronger interpersonal skills.
- Develop a valuable work ethic and sense of responsibility.



Girl Scouts who sold more than 2,024 packages of cookies earned a special trip to Disney World this year from GSWISE! Twenty Girl Scouts sold more than 2,024 packages, and 16 Girl Scouts celebrated an unforgettable vacation at Disney World over the summer!

This year, more than 87% of GSWISE Girl

Scouts took part in unboxing their future by selling cookies. During the Girl Scout Cookie Program,
Girl Scouts develop five essential skills

Goal setting

**Decision making** 

Money management

People skills

**Business ethics** 



**8,500**+

Girl Scouts participated in the annual Girl Scout Cookie Program 144,550+

Girl Scout Cookie cases sold 1,734,700+

Girl Scout Cookie packages sold





# Congratulations to the 2024 Top Cookie Sellers!

**Annaka H.** 4,069 packages

**Lauryn D.** 3,099 packages

Love B.

2,567 packages

Amelia E.

2,539 packages

Sophia L.

2,201 packages

Sydney P.

2,152 packages

Marcelina F.

2,069 packages

**Angela H.** 2,065 packages

Lila G.

2,052 packages

**Annalise P.** 2,036 packages

# The GSWISE Volunteer Experience



91 Volunteers received awards

Businesses and corporations received Community Support Certificates

Non-volunteer individuals received Girl Scout Champion Awards

Girl Scout volunteers are the heart of our organization and key to our success. For everything that our volunteers give, we love to see everything they get in return.

"As a troop leader, you watch these Girl Scouts become more self-confident and leaders in their own right. It's a lot of work, but it's heartwarming."

- Girl Scout Troop Leader Heather C.

Through volunteering with Girl Scouts, troop leaders experience dozens of benefits, including:

90% feel they make a difference in the lives of Girl Scouts.

83% say they gain a sense of purpose volunteering with Girl Scouts.

76% make friends through their service as a troop leader.

74% become more involved in their communities.

20% gain career or job opportunities through volunteering with Girl Scouts.

# Volunteer Spotlight

# Charlene Stumvoll

Marion Chester Read Award



The GSWISE Marion Chester Read Award honors volunteers who received the Thanks Badge and continue to demonstrate noteworthy volunteerism, model the Girl Scout spirit, and share their skills and talents to advance the Girl Scout mission.

Charlene is a long-time volunteer and major player in her service unit. She runs the craft program for Lakeland Day Camp by Community and has frequently served as a troop leader for troops struggling to get off the ground. Girl Scouts can then still participate in a troop as she develops troop leadership.

Charlene regularly volunteers at the Marion Chester Read Service Center, assisting with the Girl Scout Cookie Program and the Resource Center. Charlene even stepped in with her years of volunteer experience and joined the Resource Center team several days a week to train two new Resource Center staff and assist our new Director of Customer Experience in getting up and running.

# Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast Financial Statement

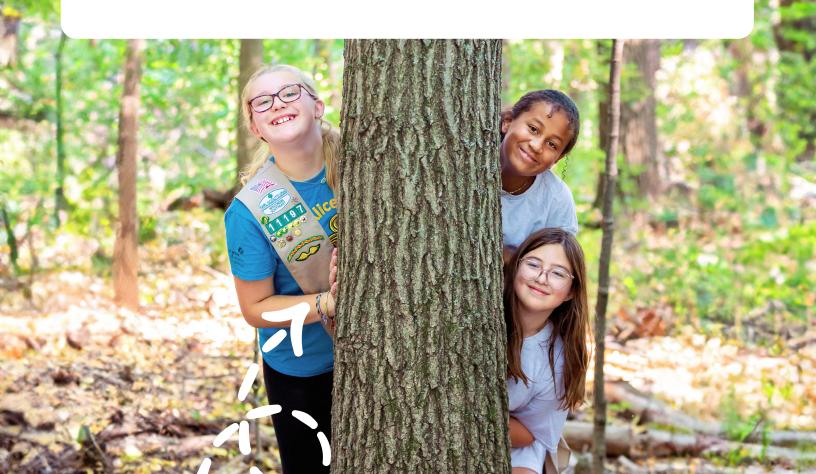
Statement of Activities for the year ended September 30, 2024

# **OPERATING REVENUE**

TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE	\$9,240,383
Other Income	\$501,315
Investment Income	\$526,103
Program Fees	\$1,154,579
Product Sales	\$5,311,120
United Way	\$378,824
Contributions and Special Events	\$1,368,442
Contributions and Special Events	\$1,368,442

# **OPERATING EXPENSES**

Program Services	\$7,266,141
Support Services	\$1,803,476
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES	\$9,069,617
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$170,766
NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES	\$1,923,700
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	\$2,094,466
Net Assets - Beginning of Year	\$29,677,717
Net Assets - End of Year	\$31,772,183



Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast Donors



Donations are critical for the continuation of Girl Scouting across southeastern Wisconsin. Philanthropic gifts close critical gaps, including covering membership fees, increasing transportation options, maintaining accessible program costs, and funding specialty programs like our Community Outreach Promise Program or STEM events. Unrestricted gifts give our council the flexibility to respond quickly to the current needs of local girls.

# Thank you to all who gave this fiscal year (October 1, 2023 - September 30, 2024) and made Girl Scouting possible!

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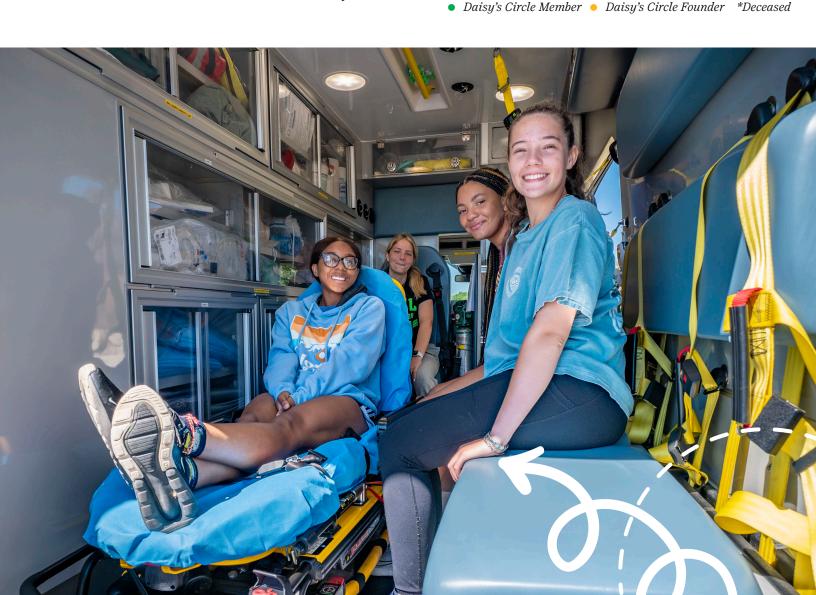
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1) Girl Scouts participate in STEM activities at our council Girl Scout Tree Promise event. 2) Girl Scouts enjoy campfire treats at Trefoil Oaks Program Center. 3) Top cookie sellers enjoy a rewarding trip to Disney World. 4) The Milwaukee Brewers honor Gold Award Girl Scouts. 5) Girl Scouts enjoy learning about speed skating and meeting Olympians at the Pettit National Ice Center. 6) CampHERO shows Girl Scouts about careers in fire fighting, police, and emergency services. 7) GSWISE CEO Ana Simpson meets and greets local Girl Scouts. 8) Girl Scouts get ready for cookie time at the annual Cookie Rally.

# The Girl Scout Difference



of alums assert that Girl Scouts has had a positive impact on their lives.



of Girl Scout alums hold leadership roles as adults.

Compared to other women, Girl Scout alums embody higher levels of:

# Courage

They show resilience when learning from failure and setbacks, take on challenges, are ambitious, and aren't afraid to take risks (46% compared to 36%).

Confidence—they accomplish what they set out to do and are assured in their abilities (66% compared to 53%).

# Character

They lead purposeful and meaningful lives, are honest and trustworthy, stand up for their beliefs and values, and actively contribute to others' wellbeing (74% compared to 62% showed positive values and 61% compared to 48% showed positive selfimage).



# **Donate**

Make an individual gift, join our Daisy's Circle monthly giving program, create a planned giving strategy, or support a fundraising event.

Learn more at www.gswise.org/give

# Volunteer

Make a difference in the lives of Girl Scouts by leading or supporting a troop, helping at summer camp, or assisting behind the scenes.

Learn more at www.gswise.org/volunteer



