

A Note from Our CEO

The following letter was shared in 5 on Friday, our weekly newsletter, on December 20, 2024.

Dear Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia Family,

As we wrap up another amazing year, I'm reflecting on the incredible moments that defined our Girl Scout community in 2024. We flexed our entrepreneurial muscles during the Girl Scout Cookie Program, celebrated grand openings and Highest Awards, cheered on marathon runners, worked together to clean up camp, made new friends, created sustainable solutions to issues in our communities, and so much more. I am excited to see what 2025 brings for all of us. In thinking about the changes that will come about in this year, I want to share an important personal change: I have decided to retire from my position as CEO of Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia, effective May 15, 2025.

I'm so proud of the many things we've achieved together over the years. As a council, we've strengthened our financial stability, creating a solid foundation for future generations. We navigated the challenges of the COVID pandemic and maintained strong membership that reflects the enduring power of our mission. We've also recently launched our first Girl Scout DreamLabs with plans to add more in the future. These accomplishments are a testament to the dedication of our staff, board members, volunteers, Girl Scouts, and supporters. I believe that the success of a leader is defined by the success of the organization, so thank you all for working together to ensure our collective success.

For the last 11 years, I have been continually inspired by all the ways I've witnessed girls step into their power, embrace challenges, and make lasting changes in their communities. Although stepping away is bittersweet, I am confident that the future of Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia is bright. We are a resilient and forward-thinking council, and I am excited to see how we will continue to evolve, innovate, and find new ways to empower girls. In the coming months, our Board of Directors will lead the search for a new CEO who will carry forward our mission with passion and purpose. I have full confidence that the next CEO will build on the strong foundation we've created and inspire even greater achievements for our Girl Scout community in the years ahead.

As I prepare for the next chapter in my life, I want you to know that I'll always be an advocate for the Girl Scout Movement. To each of you—Girl Scouts, alum, volunteers, staff, and supporters—thank you for enriching my life and allowing me to serve alongside you. Leading Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia has truly been one of the greatest privileges of my life, and I look forward to seeing all the wonderful ways Girl Scouts will continue to thrive in the years ahead.



Yours for the girls,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Sue Else".

Sue Else
Chief Executive Officer

Save
these dates!

Columbus Dessert Challenge

Feb. 17-23, 2025; Columbus

For more information, contact Sophie Jones at scjones@gshg.org.

Gainesville Woman of Distinction

March 11, 2025; Gainesville

For more information, contact Lindsay McCuen at lmccuen@gshg.org.

Legacy of Leadership

May 14, 2025; Savannah

For more information, contact Chelsea Simpson at csimpson@gshg.org.

New Augusta Event Coming Soon!

Spring 2025; Augusta

For more information, contact Shawn Risher at srisher@gshg.org.

Columbus Women of Distinction

May 8, 2025; Columbus

For more information, contact Sophie Jones at scjones@gshg.org.

Summer Summit

June 7, 2025; Walton

For more information, contact Lindsay McCuen at lmccuen@gshg.org.

GSHG Council Update

The new Girl Scout membership year started on October 1, and, as usual, we are busy!

Our Product Program team is celebrating another incredible Fall Product Program. This year, 1,265 Girl Scouts sold 33,404 items (nuts, candies, and more) to raise funds to benefit their troops. Our top seller was Daisy Girl Scout Braylee F. from Troop 12045, with 240 items. Way to go, Girl Scouts!

Now the Product Program team is gearing up for cookie season, which runs from January 2 to March 9, 2025. S'mores cookies will be retiring after this season, so make sure you stock up while they're still available. Get with your local Girl Scout to preorder cookies, or be on the lookout for cookie booths in your area starting February 14.

Our membership team had a successful recruitment season during Operation: Go Get Her this fall, and they're still working to reach new families, start new troops, and support our existing troops.

Thanks to an initiative through GSUSA, new Daisy troops have access to a complimentary Girl Scout Experience Box, which is a monthly supply box filled with step-by-step instructions, ready-to-go supplies and thoughtful script suggestions. You can learn more about these boxes on our website.



On October 3, we celebrated the grand opening of Girl Scout DreamLab in Albany. It is the first in the nation to be located inside of a Walmart. If you're in the Albany area, you should drop in and check it out. It's located at 2825 Ledo Rd. in Albany and is open Monday-Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

As many of you already know, Camp Tanglewood and Camp Low were severely impacted by Hurricane Helene in September. Thanks to our dedicated rangers and volunteers, Camp Low is well on its way to being restored, but Camp Tanglewood still needs work. If you'd like to support the restoration effort, you can donate to our GoFundMe. Together, we can ensure that future generations of Girl Scouts can experience the magic of camp.



Overall, we've had a stellar year as a council. It hasn't been without its challenges, but through it all, our mission remains clear: to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Past Events



More Than Cookies Summer Social, Macon

Our third annual More Than Cookies Summer Social was held on August 22 at Fall Line Brewing Co. This fun-filled end-of-summer event featured beer flight tasting, heavy hors d'oeuvres, and live music. There was a raffle for exciting prizes donated from some of our cherished community partners and businesses.



S'morevivor, Augusta

The fifth annual S'morevivor Team Challenge was held on September 7 at Camp Tanglewood. Participants completed in 3 divisions - corporate, community, and Girl Scout troop - in which they tackled fun outdoor activities at stations set up around camp, including canoeing, archery, robot building, knot tying, and more!



Promises to Keep, Athens

The twenty-sixth annual Clementi L. Holder Promises to Keep breakfast was held on September 12 at Epting Events. This year's speaker was Addie Kelly, Girl Scout alum and assistant director of product program for the council. This year, attendees got to step into the shoes of Girl Scouts learning about STEM with a BeeBot programming activity.



Into the Woods, Macon

The second annual Into the Woods Trail Run was held on September 14 at Camp Martha Johnston. Participants raced through miles of rustic camp scenery, enjoyed fireside s'mores, and supported CMJ's Adopt-a-Camp Team's efforts to help keep our beloved camp functional and beautiful.



Every Woman's Marathon & Pep Rally, Savannah

GSHG was a proud charity partner of Every Woman's Marathon, the only U.S. marathon designed by and for women, on November 16. The night before the big race, Girl Scouts gathered for a pep squad, and on race day, they lined the streets to cheer on more than 7,000 runners, including GSUSA CEO Bonnie Barczykowski.



We want to hear from you!

Whether it's a new job, a wedding, a troop reunion, or honoring the life of a GSHG alum or volunteer, we would love to hear about it. Email us at alumni@gshg.org to submit your news! Know a GSHG alum who should receive this letter? Pass it along and tell them to email alumni@gshg.org to sign up for the email list!

Alum Spotlight

Girl Scout alum and lifetime member Addie Kelly recently served as the guest speaker at GSHG's annual Promises to Keep Breakfast. Addie joined Girl Scouts as a Brownie in third grade and continued as a girl member until she graduated. She earned her Girl Scout Gold Award in 2017 by funding and directing a video tour guide of the Eagle Tavern in Watkinsville.

Addie is a graduate of the University of Georgia, where she earned a degree in Business Management from the Terry College of Business and a certificate in Non-Profit Management and Leadership from the School of Social Work. She credits her admittance to UGA to Girl Scouts because she was able to talk about her leadership and volunteer experiences from Girl Scouts.

She has been working for the council as a product program manager for several years and was recently promoted to assistant director of product program. In addition to working for council, she also teaches at her high school alma mater as a color guard instructor with the marching band.



In Memoriam

Dorothy "Dot" Dowling, Girl Scout extraordinaire and dedicated former troop leader who was featured in the spring 2023 edition of *Daisy's Dispatch*, passed away on New Year's Day 2025 at the age of 90. Her enduring legacy lives on through the countless lives she inspired throughout her lifetime.

Troop 2012 is an alum troop that originated to honor the centennial anniversary of the founding of Girl Scouts of the USA in 1912. These troops meet periodically to volunteer, reflect on their time as Girl Scouts, and much more.

If you're interested in joining Troop 2012-Gainesville or Troop 2012-Savannah, or if you're interested in starting an alum troop in your area, please email alumni@gshg.org so that we can assist you.

Troop 2012

Upcoming Outdoor Training

Interested in taking your outdoor skills to the next level so you can take girls on outdoor adventures? Check out these upcoming training opportunities:

Camp Low Challenge Course Facilitator Training- High and Low Elements- Region 3

Friday, January 24, 7 p.m. - Sunday, January 26, 4 p.m.

Required training for adult facilitators for the zipline and rock wall at Camp Low in Savannah, GA. Includes low elements training. Participants must be registered members of Girl Scouts. Please register by January 13, 2025.



Outdoor Skills Summit

April 26-27 at Camp Martha Johnston

More details and registration will be coming soon. Be sure to check our website and our weekly 5 on Friday newsletter for more updates.

Join a Giving Society

As a Girl Scout alum, you know firsthand the powerful impact our organization has on young girls, empowering them to become confident, courageous leaders. By joining one of our giving societies, you can continue to support this mission and help create more opportunities for future generations. Plus, when you join a giving society, you gain access to benefits like listings in the annual report, invitations to signature events, and more. Together, we can ensure that every girl has the chance to grow, thrive, and lead, just like you did (and do). Join one of our honorary giving societies today to make a lasting difference:

1912 Society

The 1912 Society is an honorary Girl Scout Society for adults who aspire to serve as role models and be a voice that shapes the next generation of leaders. Members of the 1912 society are committed to partnering with Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia financially with a monthly donation of \$19.12 (or more) and advocating for our girls council-wide and in your local community.



On My Honor Society

Juliette Low's legacy continues and is financially supported by generous contributions from members of the On My Honor Society, a group that advocates for the principles set forth in the Girl Scout Promise and Law by committing financial resources to Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia. Membership in the society is granted by allotting at least \$1,000 to Girl Scouts over a year.



Juliette Gordon Low Society

The Juliette Gordon Low Society is a special group of friends who have made the commitment to share their legacy with the next generation. You become part of this distinguished group when you leave a gift in your will, trust, or other account for Girl Scouts. Please email LaDon Shaw at lshaw@gshg.org for more information.



Girl Scout Spotlight



Gold Award Girl Scout, Elise Cookson, recently earned a \$5,000 Gold Award Scholarship from Girl Scouts of the USA. This year GSUSA awarded 111 Gold Award Girl Scouts from across our Movement a scholarship.

For her project, "Accessible Community Cupboards," Elise addressed a local poverty issues by creating accessible food pantries around her city so those in need have access to convenient, clean, and ready-to-eat food. Elise is one of 19 Girl Scouts across our council who earned her Gold Award in 2024. Congratulations, Elise!

Volunteer Opportunities

Camp Low A.C.T. Workdays (Savannah, GA)

Come help the Adopt-A-Camp Team work on various projects at Camp Low. Projects range from cabin clean up, to painting, brush pick up, building projects, etc. Upcoming workdays: January 11, 2025, March 15, 2025, and May 10, 2025. For more information, please contact Diana McDaniel at dmcdan@georgiasouthern.edu.

Camp Martha Johnson A.C.T. Workdays (Macon, GA)

Come help the Adopt-A-Camp Team work on a few projects at Camp Martha Johnston. For more information, please contact the Adopt-A-Camp Team at cmjadoptacamp@gmail.com.

Camp Tanglewood A.C.T. (Augusta, GA)

To volunteer with the Camp Tanglewood Adopt-A-Camp Team, contact Jane Behrend at sbehrend@bellsouth.net.

Camp Robert Lewis A.C.T. (Fortson, GA)

Join the Camp Robert Lewis Adopt-A-Camp Team and help take care of our beloved camp. To learn more, contact the Adopt-A-Camp Team at gshgcamproburtlewis@gmail.com.

Program Volunteers

Please look at the [council calendar](#) to see what activities are happening around the council. If you are interested in volunteering for any of the activities on the calendar, please get in touch with your [local program manager](#) to let them know of your interest.

Follow us on social media!

Want to stay up to date with the latest from GSHG? Follow us on social media for pictures and videos of all the exciting things girls are doing, program opportunities, council updates, and much more. Just search for "Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia" on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [LinkedIn](#), or [TikTok](#)!



I want to invest in girls!

INSPIRE..... ☐ \$25/month
Gives 12 girls a Girl Scout Membership for 1 year.

ENCOURAGE..... ☐ \$35/month
Gives a camp scholarship for a girl with *financial hardship*.

HONOR..... ☐ \$50/month
Provides leadership development for girls in outreach programs.

EMPOWER..... ☐ \$100/month
Provides leadership development for girls in underserved areas.

LEAD..... ☐ \$ _____
Builds girls of courage, confidence, and character.

Please include this form and mail your donation to GSHG at 6869 Columbus Rd, Lizella, GA 31052, or visit www.gshg.org/donate.

☐ Check ☐ Credit Card ☐ Checking Account (monthly)

☐ Make mine a pledge and bill me.

Name _____

Email _____

Address _____

Phone/Cell _____

Visa/MC/AMEX # _____

Expiration Date _____ 3 Digit Code _____

Checking Account # _____

Routing # _____