



girl scouts[®] of north east ohio



A CALL TO SUPPORT OUR GIRLS

At Girl Scouts, we believe in the power of girls. Girls face unique challenges in today's modern world and are navigating unprecedented times, but we know that girls are resilient and can thrive when they are empowered to explore their skillsets and build courage, confidence, and character.

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio is dedicated to providing programming that encourages girls to achieve their goals, learn new things, and make forever friends along the way.

The first half of 2025 saw us working hard on expanding upon our mission to support and empower the future generation of change makers. We opened the Jane Norton Girl Scout DreamLab in Sheffield Village in late January, and in May we had the grand opening of the Vivian von Gruenigen, MD STEM Center of Excellence on the Daley Family Campus for Innovation at Camp Ledgewood. Both spaces offer hands-on experiences in science, technology, engineering, and math and we are excited about the opportunities this will present local Girl Scouts, as well as local students!

We also collaborated with other Ohio Girl Scout Councils on the *Ohio: State of the Girl Report*. The report is a first-of-its-kind study in Ohio that offers a unique opportunity to learn more about how girls in Ohio are faring in the areas of social, emotional, and physical health as well as academic success.

Ohio girls need our support now, more than ever. When you give to Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO), you help support our programming as we continue to show up and champion girls in Northeast Ohio. We hope you'll join us in continuing to support the Girl Scout mission.

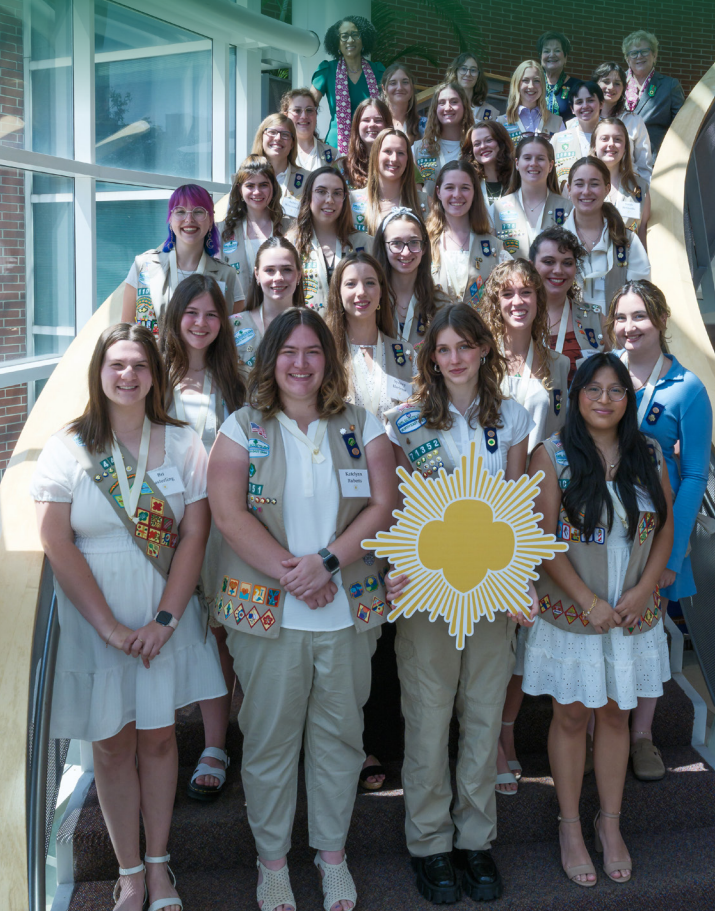
Thank you for playing a vital role in the Girl Scout journey and in building the supportive community that Ohio girls need.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Jane Christyson, CEO
Girl Scouts of North East Ohio



Gold Award



For more than 100 years, the highest award in Girl Scouting has stood for excellence and leadership. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the most prestigious in the world for girls - and the most difficult to earn.

In June, we presented 31 Girl Scouts with their Gold Award at our 2025 Gold Award Celebration at the John S. Knight Center in downtown Akron. These young women have shown they are not only enterprising and engaging, but they are also courageous leaders and visionary change makers.



Olivia Ullner: Gold Award Girl Scout Mints New Program Benefiting Guatemalan Children in Need

Olivia Ullner is a graduate of Orange High School and was a Girl Scout for 11 years. She has earned the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards. Olivia was born in Guatemala and for her Gold Award project, she wanted to create a program benefiting children in her birth country.

Guatemalan children face many impediments to obtaining an education, with only 55% attending primary school and only 15% attending high school. Children who cannot see clearly or hear are even less likely to attend school and escape poverty. Olivia's project educated people in Northeast Ohio about the needs in Guatemala and barriers to education. She collected and delivered nearly 800 eyeglasses and hearing aids to a medical clinic in Izabal, Guatemala, and provided an ophthalmoscope with 20 diopter lenses and a long-range battery to the clinic to allow the doctor to treat rural patients unable to travel to the clinic. Since earning the Gold Award, the program has spread to five schools and collected an additional 700 glasses and hearing aids!

Olivia is also one of 111 Gold Award Girl Scouts across the nation selected to receive a \$5,000 scholarship for her Gold Award project. The GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship recognizes one outstanding Gold Award Girl Scout per council who has demonstrated extraordinary leadership to drive lasting change in their community and beyond. Olivia will be able to use the scholarship toward tuition, fees, books, and supplies. Olivia will attend the University of Alabama majoring in elementary education and minoring in American Sign Language.

Crunching the Numbers



How many girls we serve: **18,132**

Number of badges earned: **53,187**

Number of highest awards:
Gold Award: **43**
Silver Award: **111**
Bronze Award: **199**



Number of programs offered: **351**

Number of girls served with Council-sponsored programs: **11,385**



Summer camp attendance: **3,587**

Number of girls in staff-led troops: **1,114**



Vivian von Gruenigen, MD STEM Center of Excellence is Now Open!

The Vivian von Gruenigen, MD STEM Center of Excellence at the Daley Family Campus for STEM Innovation opened in May with a three-day celebration, bolstered by extensive media coverage that helped amplify the moment. Girl Scouts of the USA CEO Bonnie Barczykowski served as keynote speaker for the opening events, and our leadership donors GSNEO Board Chair Kathy Mook, Meredythe Daley, GSNEO Board member Dr. Vivian von Gruenigen, and GSNEO Media Girls provided inspirational messages for the attendees.

GSNEO is deeply grateful for the outpouring of support from our community—including lead donors and over 300 generous gifts from individuals, corporations, foundations, and government entities—all of whom played an invaluable role in bringing our vision to life.

Over \$8.5 million was raised in the capital campaign under the leadership of Campaign Chair Betsy Engels! Such engagement illustrates the strong buy-in from many community stakeholders and partners. At the opening, our girls and supporters were able to immediately interact with the state-of-the-art technology and explore the early stages of our programming.



“The STEM Center of Excellence is not just a place where students will come to learn about coding, robotics, engineering, and chemistry. It’s a place where dreams will be sparked. Where curiosity will be cultivated, and where the next generation of thinkers and leaders and problem solvers will begin their journeys.” — U.S. Congresswoman Emilia Sykes

Both Girl Scout members and the broader community are actively accessing the rich educational opportunities the STEM Center provides. Looking ahead, we’re especially excited for Fall 2025, when we anticipate even deeper involvement from area schools and youth education organizations in dynamic, hands-on STEM programming.

“Starting this fall the STEM Center of Excellence will be hosting hundreds of school-aged students from our surrounding community each week. In addition to STEM-focused Girl Scout programming, these field trips will expose students of Northeast Ohio to how STEM and nature work together to innovate and inspire. Students will engage in rigorous and exciting learning activities rooted in core content standards, technology learning goals, and social emotional learning.” — Sarah Wallace, GSNEO Director of STEM Experience

To read and learn more about the Vivian von Gruenigen, MD STEM Center of Excellence, visit gsneo.org/stemcenter.





Building for the Future: The Jane Norton Girl Scout DreamLab

To build a diverse and qualified workforce in Lorain County, GSNEO is now providing educational and engagement programs in our recently opened Jane Norton Girl Scout DreamLab facility in Sheffield Village. When opened in January, the Jane Norton DreamLab was first in the state of Ohio and only the eighth facility of its kind in the country. Thanks to the incredible generosity of the Ben Norton family and several other generous donors, the Girl Scout DreamLab offers programming based on the four pillars of Girl Scout programming, namely Life Skills, Outdoors, Entrepreneurship, and STEM.

The facility also expands available STEM equipment and programs for all Lorain County girls and boys, with a focus on students in under-resourced communities.

To read and learn more about the Jane Norton Girl Scout DreamLab, visit gsneo.org/girlscoutdreamlab.

GSNEO's Investment in Mental Health & Wellbeing – *Ohio: State of the Girl Report*

On March 12—National Girl Scout Day—we released the *Ohio: State of the Girl Report*, a powerful look at how girls are really doing. Backed by research from the University of Cincinnati and The Center for Community Solutions, this report helps us—and our entire state—better understand girls' needs so we can drive meaningful, lasting change.

The report pointed out some very startling statistics regarding the health and wellbeing of girls in Ohio:

- 56% of Ohio girls in grades 9-12 reported feeling sad or hopeless, 32% seriously considered attempting suicide in 2021, and 15% reported a suicide attempt in 2021.
- 39% of Ohio middle school girls and 28% of high school girls were bullied online in 2021. Bullying and cyber-bullying negatively impact girls' emotional well-being.
- 18% of Ohio girls in grades 9-12 reported experiencing sexual dating violence in 2021, increasing by 64% between 2019 and 2021.



To read and learn more about this full report, visit www.ohiogirlreport.org

Donor and Volunteer Spotlights

Tom Tyrrell: *Multi-faceted Support from a Giant in Community Advocacy*

Since moving to Northeast Ohio in 1986, Tom Tyrrell has been deeply engaged with nonprofit organizations focused on the three E's – Education, Entrepreneurism, and Environment – all committed to enhancing regional economic development. GSNEO has been one of the privileged organizations benefiting immensely from Tom's endless energy, singular charisma, and invaluable expertise.

Tom is the Founder and Chairman Emeritus of Great Lakes Biomimicry, an entrepreneurial 501(c)(3) nonprofit with a mission to create conditions for innovation through biomimicry. Great Lakes Biomimicry focuses on assisting organizations' exploration of new ways to solve and drive sustainability by harnessing the intelligence found in nature's 3.8 billion years of acuity. This is to say that Tom's service on GSNEO's STEM Advisory Committee proved indispensable and provided great inspiration for GSNEO's recently opened Vivian von Gruenigen, MD STEM Center of Excellence, where biomimicry takes center stage both in programming and in the building itself. As further testament of Tom's ever-expanding commitment to GSNEO's mission, he recently became a member of the Juliette Gordon Low Society, GSNEO's planned giving society.

"GSNEO is one of the most progressive organizations in educating women about STEM careers and positioning them to stay in, successfully, that I have ever seen. Jane and her team are an incredible group, with unbounded passion, to make this happen. The day the STEM Center was announced, and I got together with Jane to talk about biomimicry's role, was the start of something in northeast Ohio that will surely be emulated, but difficult to replicate because of the organization's uniqueness and culture."

— Tom Tyrrell

GSNEO is incredibly thankful for Tom's leadership, passion, and generous support of both time and treasure which will continue to directly enrich our girls' STEM experiences.



Tom Tyrrell and
his wife, Diane
Montague Tyrrell

AT&T's Uplifting Partnership



As a valued partner, AT&T reached out to GSNEO with a generous offer to enhance internet connectivity at Camp LedgeWood, an initiative graciously championed by Tony Costanzo, Director, External and Legislative Affairs, AT&T Northeast Ohio and a member of GSNEO's STEM Advisory Committee. Thanks to Tony's advocacy and AT&T's thoughtful support and expertise, a signal booster was installed behind the Chickadee Program Center, ensuring that GSNEO girl members, volunteers, staff, and visitors can fully embrace the beauty of camp life without losing access to reliable and efficient internet service.

We are deeply grateful for Tony and AT&T's commitment and collaboration in helping us enhance the accessibility that makes camp experiences better for all.

Tony Costanzo and Girl Scouts of
North East Ohio CEO Jane Christyson

girl scouts
of north east ohio

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Upcoming
**COUNCIL
EVENTS**

*Mark your calendars for
these important GSNEO dates!*

September 13
Girl Scout Day at the Zoo

September 30
Last Day to Renew your GS Membership

October 9
Dessert First

Save the Date!
May 14, 2026



Scan for more information
15th Annual
Women of Distinction
Awards Luncheon

For more information and to keep
up-to-date, follow Girl Scouts of
North East Ohio on social media.



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