



As we transition from the colder months into spring, I find myself reflecting on the power of connection—and the incredible role our community plays in advancing the Girl Scout mission.

At Girl Scouts, we believe every girl has the potential to make a meaningful impact. That's why we're committed to creating opportunities for all girls to explore their interests, develop new skills, and grow into confident, values-driven leaders. Through strong community partnerships and dynamic programs across Northeast Ohio, we continue to create opportunities for girls to thrive.

Looking ahead to summer and beyond, we're excited to begin work on two new Girl Scout DreamLab locations in Mahoning Valley and

North Canton. These innovative spaces encourage girls to try new things—whether that's tackling STEM projects, launching a podcast, performing on stage, or climbing a rock wall. Your continued support makes this growth possible, and we are deeply grateful to have you with us every step of the way.

Thank you for championing Girl Scouts and helping create a brighter future for girls in your community. Here's to another year filled with growth, connection, discovery, and new possibilities!

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Jane Christyson, CEO
Girl Scouts of North East Ohio

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When the girls of Service Unit 945 in Wadsworth set their sights on New York City, they dreamed big – and thanks to the generosity of the Georgianna Bonds Wider Opportunities Fund, that dream became a reality.

Due to the high applicant interest from Service Unit 945, the Bonds scholarship committee awarded the full domestic travel scholarship to help defray the cost of the trip. Combined with dedicated cookie sales, creative troop fundraisers, and steadfast parent support, the girls were soon on their way to the Big Apple.

What a journey it was! From the dazzling Rockettes to the lights of Broadway, the girls experienced the magic of live performances. They stood high above the city at the top of the Empire State Building, reflected quietly at the 9/11 Memorial, explored the Financial District, and felt the energy of Times Square. They walked through Central Park, visited the Statue of Liberty, and took in the breathtaking skyline that defines possibility itself.

Beyond the sights, this trip offered much more: independence, confidence, cultural awareness, and sisterhood. The girls navigated a new city together and returned home with broadened horizons and cherished memories.

Experiences like this embody the significance of philanthropy like the Georgianna Bonds Wider Opportunities Fund. Such support opens doors, expands perspectives, and reminds girls that the world is wide, welcoming, and waiting for them.

When Girl Scouts engage with the wider world, they don't just see new places; they begin to see new possibilities.



Still a Girl Scout

Enduringly, Girl Scouts has been a place where girls discover who they are and who they're becoming. As life grows busy, evermore dynamic with education, careers, and family, that connection can sometimes feel tucked away in a keepsake box of badges and memories.



That's why Girl Scouts of North East Ohio created the Still a Girl Scout purse charm, a meaningful reminder that **once a Girl Scout, always a Girl Scout.**

These tassels are more than an accessory. They are a symbol of belonging, leadership, resilience, and sisterhood that lasts well beyond the troop years. Worn on a purse, backpack, or luggage, each charm quietly celebrates the values that continue to guide women in our communities across Northeast Ohio.

Proceeds directly support today's girls—funding camp experiences, STEM programming, leadership development, and financial assistance to ensure every girl can participate. In this way, yesterday's Girl Scouts help lift up the next generation.

Being a Girl Scout isn't just something you were. It's something you carry with you—always.

Visit www.gsneo.org/stillagirscout for more information or scan the QR code.



2026 Women of Distinction

Please scan the QR code to learn more and purchase tickets!



Join us Thursday, May 14, 2026 for the 15th Annual Women of Distinction Awards Luncheon, celebrating women, Girl Scouts, and organizations whose leadership in the community makes the world a better place. The luncheon will be held at the InterContinental Hotel in Cleveland.

Congratulations to our 2026 Women of Distinction recipients:

2026 Women of Distinction Honorees



Virginia Addicott
Retired CEO, FedEx
Custom Critical



Terri Bradford Eason
The Cleveland
Foundation



Greer Gibbons
The Lubrizol
Corporation



Stephanie A. Lammlein
Bio-Med Science
Academy STEM School



Rebecca Kopp Levine
Porter Wright Morris
& Arthur LLP



Mary Cole Mertz
Ohio Department of
Natural Resources



Judge Joy Malek Oldfield
Summit County Court
of Common Pleas,
General Division



Margaret D. Sanchez
Founder and CEO,
MagnifyFund



Pamela Valentine
Retired, Girl Scouts of
North East Ohio;
Community Leader



Janis Rhea Worley
First Congregational
Church of Akron UCC

2026 Leaders of Tomorrow Scholarship Recipients



Lillian Didytch
Stow-Munroe Falls
High School



Colette Fuda
Niles McKinley
High School



Marie Lochridge
North Canton Hoover
High School

2026 Advancing Women Award Honoree

TIMKEN

The Timken Company

The Vivian von Gruenigen, MD, STEM Center of Excellence continues to be a place where Girl Scouts roll up their sleeves, ask big questions, and discover just how powerful they are.

Over the past several months, girls have explored everything from robotics and environmental science to outdoor adventure and engineering design, building not only technical skills, but confidence, friendship, and career pathway exploration.

Thanks to the generosity of our community, the STEM Center remains a vibrant hub of hands-on learning. Troops from across our council gather to test prototypes, tend gardens, study local ecosystems, and imagine bold solutions to real-world challenges. Whether launching rockets, coding their first programs, or navigating high ropes courses, girls are learning that STEM isn't just about science, technology, engineering, and math—it's about teamwork, leadership, and believing in their own potential.

We are also expanding partnerships with local educators, industry leaders, and volunteers to ensure even more girls have access to high-quality, experiential STEM opportunities. Every investment in the Vivian von Gruenigen, MD, STEM Center of Excellence fuels innovation and helps us reach girls who may not otherwise see themselves in STEM fields.



2025 Dessert First a sweet success!

Every other year, our community gathers for one of our most joyful traditions, Dessert First. On October 9, friends and supporters filled House Three Thirty for an evening that was as heartwarming as it was sweet, all in support of the 19,000 girls and 9,000 adult volunteers who make Girl Scouts of North East Ohio shine across our 18 counties.

Local chefs and bakers delighted guests with imaginative Girl Scout Cookie-inspired desserts, sparking friendly competition and plenty of smiles, casting votes for a variety of awards. This year, the top prize, the People's Choice Award, was presented to Takila Nuss of Essential Dipped Delights.

With 50 auction packages, an enthusiastic Fund-a-Need, and the energy of our S'mores Singers, the room buzzed with generosity and Girl Scout spirit. Together, we raised more than \$95,000—including \$11,810 to help bring a Rube Goldberg Miracle Machine to our Daley Family Campus for STEM Innovation —fueling hands-on learning, creativity, and confidence for years to come.

Dessert First reminds us that when our community comes together, something truly powerful happens. Yes, it's a sweet night, but even sweeter is the impact we make for girls.



Donor Spotlight:

A Legacy of Leadership: Honoring Beth Herman

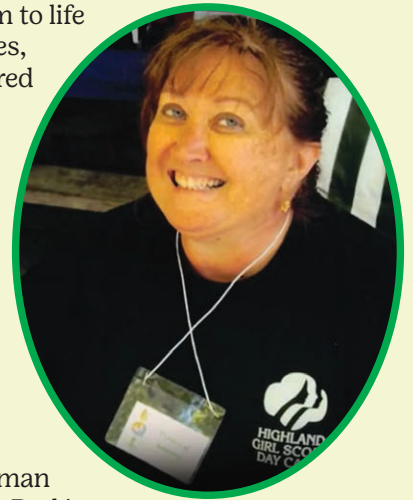
For more than a decade, Beth Herman's leadership shaped what would become one of the most treasured traditions in the Highland community: Highland Girl Scout Day Camp. As founding director (1999–2013), Service Unit Director of Highland Service Unit 958, and a devoted troop leader, Beth poured her heart into creating meaningful opportunities for girls to lead, create, and belong.

Highland Day Camp began in July 1999 as Troop 341's Silver Award project—an ambitious response to the need for stronger older-girl programming. What started as a small camp serving 125 girls quickly grew into a beloved annual tradition that now welcomes more than 200 campers each summer at Hinckley Metro Parks. The structure, leadership model, and vibrant spirit that define camp today were established under Beth's thoughtful guidance.

A creative visionary, Beth introduced imaginative themes—from Arabian Nights to

Broadway Bound—and brought them to life with handmade songbooks, costumes, and immersive activities. She mentored generations of Program Aides, empowering older girls to step confidently into leadership while inspiring creativity, courage, and community.

Though she stepped down in 2013, the foundation Beth built continues to thrive under successive directors, each carrying forward the traditions she so carefully cultivated. John Herman, Beth's devoted husband, generously established the Beth Herman Memorial Scholarship Fund to honor Beth's tireless commitment to the girls of GSNEO. Her legacy lives on in every camp song sung in horse-shoe, every girl discovering her voice on stage, and every leader shaped by her steady encouragement.



Valerie Mayén and Yellowcake Shop: Purposeful Partnership

Valerie Mayén, Latinx designer, artist, alumna of Project Runway, and former Girl Scout, is the visionary behind Yellowcake Shop Clothing, a Cleveland based women's fashion line recognized for bold design, exceptional craftsmanship, and a strong commitment to empowerment. She credits the values cultivated through Girl Scouting as a driving force behind both her career and her advocacy within the fashion industry. Inspired by the “underdog” spirit reflected in its name, Yellowcake uplifts women and underrepresented communities through sustainable practices, meaningful community partnerships, and customer centered initiatives such as complimentary lifetime repairs and accessible purchasing options. We'd expect nothing less from a Girl Scout!

In February, Valerie partnered with Girl Scouts of North East Ohio to co-host a vibrant evening at Yellowcake Shop celebrating creativity, community, and entrepreneurship. Guests enjoyed curated wine tastings, small bites, and a specialty dessert by Takila Nuss, owner of Essential Dipped Delights and a featured winner from Dessert First. The evening also included shopping, networking, and custom hand-stamped brass tags in support of our Still a Girl Scout initiative, bringing together local women in celebration of and support for girls across Northeast Ohio.

We are proud to partner with leaders like Valerie who put the Girl Scout spirit into action. As we continue to expand dynamic, mission driven events throughout our community, partnerships like this help strengthen the Girl Scout movement by celebrating innovation, uplifting women-owned businesses, and inspiring the next generation of leaders.



girl scouts 
of north east ohio

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Office of Fund Development
330-983-0430

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AKRON, OH
PERMIT NO. 226



April 18
Annual Meeting & Volunteer
Recognition Celebration

May 14
2026 Women of Distinction
Awards Luncheon

June 20
Girl Scout Gold Award
Ceremony

August 5 - 9
A.L.E. (Adult Learning
Experience)

September 30
Last Day to Renew your GS
Membership

*Mark your calendars
for these important
GSNEO dates!*

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



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North East Ohio
@GSNEO