

# girl scouts of north east ohio



At Girl Scouts, we believe in the incredible potential within every girl to make a meaningful impact on the world around her.

We are dedicated to providing opportunities for all girls to explore their curiosity and build their skillsets to become confident and character-driven leaders.

Through Girl Scouts, girls build confidence in the outdoors by learning skills like fire-building and wilderness survival, while fostering leadership, teamwork, and a sense of adventure. Girls are actively participating in activities like STEM exploration in nature and conservation efforts, empowering them to become leaders in environmental advocacy.

This year we continue to make progress on our STEM Center of Excellence at Camp Ledgewood. We had a very exciting visit from Congresswoman Emilia Sykes when she presented GSNEO with a check for \$850,000 to fund progress on the center. She even took the time to meet with our Media Girls and some of our campers!

**STEM Center Updates** We also wrapped up another great season of summer camp. Over 2,730 Girl Scouts made Summer Camp Recap new friends and memories. as well as enjoyed new camp themes and adventures! Thank you to our amazing camp staffers for their time and dedication in making sure each Girl Scout had a great experience.

As we head back into the school year, I am looking forward to what lies ahead. Together, we will continue to build a more vibrant world where every girl is empowered to thrive and reach her full potential. Your support has been instrumental in making this vision a reality, and we eagerly anticipate the exciting adventures that this membership year will bring.

**GSNEO History** 

**Highest Awards** 

Thank you for being a vital part of the Girl Scout journey. Here's to an adventurous year ahead filled with growth and discovery!

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Jane Christyson, CEO Girl Scouts of North East Ohio

## VOTERGIRL Program Highlights!

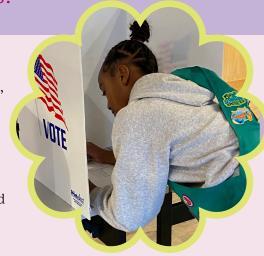
Encouraging girls to speak up and advocate for the issues and ideas important to them is not new. In fact, even before women could vote in the United States, Girl Scouts could earn the Citizen badge by displaying their knowledge of government and how to get involved!

Every year, Girl Scout Daisies through Cadettes gather on the second weekend of November to participate in the VOTER Girl Project program put on by the Kent League of Women Voters.

The sessions include the basics of being an educated and involved citizen, voting, and taking action for a cause.

The League of Women Voters is a nonpartisan political organization encouraging the informed and active participation of citizens in the government. The League was founded in 1920 after passage of the 19th Amendment confirming women's right to vote in the United States.

For the past eight years, Amie Cajka, co-coordinator of the VOTER Girl Project, and Sherry Rose, president of the League of Women Voters-Kent, have been volunteering with Girl Scouts on this educational program.



"I hope Girl Scouts come away from this program with the knowledge and confidence that their vote and voice make a difference in their community, no matter what their age is."

- Amie Cajka -

## 2025 Women of Distinction **Nominations Open**



Visit gsneo.org/wda or scan QR code to nominate a woman, Girl Scout, or organization by December 31.





## Making Girl Scout History *Did You Know?*

Brownie Holiday House, built in 1953 as a memorial to Mr. Lee Cotter for his contributions to Girl Scouting, opened at Camp Ledgewood on June 13, 1954. It provided a space for Brownies to experience overnight troop activities with their moms and troop leaders. Renamed Cotter Cottage over the years, it tragically burned down on January 16, 1975, but was rebuilt in 1976.

This year, GSNEO has restored the cabin and renamed it from Cotter back to its original name—Brownie Holiday House. We invite you to visit Camp Ledgewood to explore our new Brownie Display outside the cabin, showcasing the history of Brownies worldwide, the origin of their name, and the beloved Brownie Poem.



## GIRL *Highlights*

## 2024 Gold Award Highlight



As the 2024 elections draw closer, 103 new voters will cast ballots thanks to Sage's Fossaceca's Gold Award project, Activoting. After learning that many 18–24-year-olds don't vote or remain unregistered, Sage identified a need for better education on the registration process. She addressed this by creating pop-up registration stations at her school and a website to guide students through registering and voting, whether by mail or in person.

## 2024 <mark>–</mark> Silver Award Highlight

Tess, Kaelynn, and Adley from Troop 90396 completed their Silver Award by renovating and reopening the Amphitheater at Camp Ledgewood. They repainted the stage, added a new ramp to access the stage, and placed new plastic weatherproof benches so individuals can enjoy the performances put on by Girl Scouts!

### 2024 Bronze Award Highlight

Troop 71579 chose to address homelessness, focusing on women and children, for their Bronze Award project. After researching local organizations, they selected Providence House and held a holiday toy drive. They toured the facility, then shared what they learned with their troop, families, and community. Later, they spent a day at the sorting facility organizing supplies, developing a rotation system, and updating their online wishlist for future supply drives.



## SAYING FAREWELL to **SUMMER FUN.**

## Our 2024 Summer Camp Recap!

As we say goodbye to the long, sunny days of summer, we can't help but smile at the incredible adventures and experiences our Girl Scouts had together. With over 2,730 Girl Scouts attending camp, there was no shortage of a good time, especially with 35 new camp themes at both Camp Ledgewood and Camp Timberlane.

We would also like to thank our 73 incredible summer camp staff members, including 13 of our international staff joining us from Hungary, England, and Scotland, for providing our Girl Scouts with memories that will last a lifetime.

Take a look below at some wonderful camp memories.

We cannot wait to see what the 2025 Summer Camp season has in store!

















## AmeriCorps at Sugarbush and Timberlane

GSNEO was fortunate to have another team from the AmeriCorps NCCC North Central Region this summer to help with projects at both Camp Timberlane and Camp Sugarbush. Over their six weeks of service, they constructed two new decks, installed 11 water bars, painted a 55-foot bridge, erected new signage, and planted nine trees! We deeply appreciate the time and energy they dedicated to help beautify our camps for years to come in our Girl Scout community.



## UNDER CONSTRUCTION: Donor Hard Hat Tours Underway!

This summer, donors had exclusive tours of the STEM Center of Excellence construction site, witnessing the exciting progress firsthand! As we approach the final stages of construction, donor tours will continue through fall, building anticipation for our May 2025 grand opening.



Photos from left to right: Senator Emilia Sykes check presentation, Senator Dolan on tour with a group, and GSNEO Board Chair Kathy Moock and Meredythe Daley of the Daley Family Foundation.



Scan QR Code to view
our 3-D Flythrough of the
STEM Center
of Excellence.



One Girl Scout Way Macedonia, OH 44056 gsneo.org

Office of Fund Development 330-983-0430

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
AKRON, OH

PERMIT NO. 226





Mark your calendars for these important GSNEO dates!

#### December 1

Deadline for Volunteer Recognition Award nominations

#### December 31

Deadline for Women of Distinction Award nominations

#### January 13

Girl Scout Cookie Season Begins

#### January 31

Gratitude Gathering at Camp Ledgewood

February 21-23

National Cookie Week

February 22

World Thinking Day

**March 7-30** 

Girl Scout Cookie Booths

#### April 12

Volunteer Recognition Celebration & Annual Meeting

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











