


The future is here,
the future is her.



girl scouts 
of north east ohio



By high school, only **11%** of girls declare an interest in STEM.

47% of the current workforce are women but comprise less than **28%** of STEM jobs.

As early as second grade, youth are articulating that **“math is for boys, not girls.”**

Girl Scouts’ Commitment to STEM

Developing a workforce for the future.

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO) is uniquely positioned to play a role in changing the workforce pipeline in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) to meet the urgent need for female voices, engagement, and leadership in the fastest growing sector of the U.S. economy.

It begins with opportunities to learn.

At Girl Scouts, we believe every girl deserves the confidence to dream big and

build a better world. For over 110 years, we have proudly encouraged girls to do anything they set their sights on. And we cannot wait to see how today’s girls will change our world tomorrow.

The future of America’s economy lies in STEM-related businesses, yet opportunities for STEM education are limited.

Why STEM and Why Now?

When girls participate in Girl Scout STEM programs, they benefit in four important ways:

STEM Interest

Girls are excited about STEM subjects and want to learn more about them.

STEM Confidence

Girls have confidence in their STEM skills and abilities.

STEM Competence

Girls think scientifically to solve problems.

STEM Value

Girls learn the importance and relevance of STEM to people and society.

Reflections on my Girl Scout and STEM Experiences

by Meredythe Daley

Meredythe Daley represents the Daley Family Foundation, a donor to Girl Scouts of North East Ohio's STEM Center Capital Campaign. We asked her to comment on how her background motivated her to donate and the importance of the project.

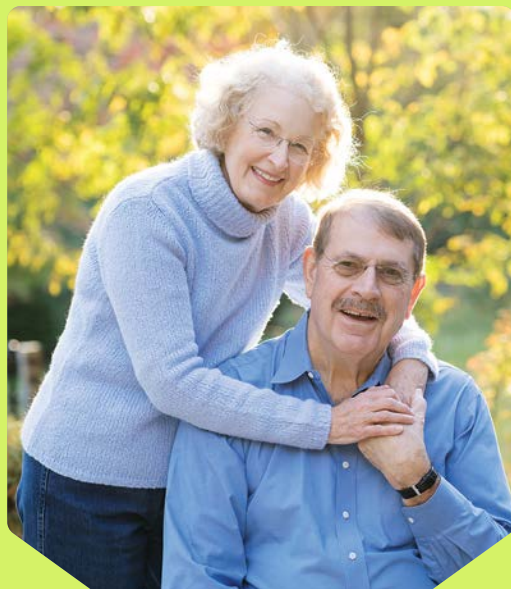
My earliest memories of Girl Scouting take me back to Midland, Michigan, where I began Girl Scouts as a six-year-old, second-grade Brownie with my mother as my troop leader. I have no idea how my mother (who came from a poor, rural Wisconsin family) learned about Girl Scouts, but I must credit her with introducing me to this important organization, which throughout my life has had a great influence on who I am today.

While I earned my share of badges and patches, my favorite part of Girl Scouts was always being outdoors at camp. Each summer I would join a circle of strangers, be myself, and find friendship and acceptance among my sisters in Girl Scouts. I learned many skills along the way, but the most important things I learned were to have confidence in myself and to always be truthful when asked my opinion, even if it wasn't the popular choice.

In 1970, I went off to attend Bucknell University, and throughout the next four years I found my favorite courses were math and computer programming (at that time, using the language FORTRAN). My self-confidence enabled me to speak up and ask questions when I felt the professor was not providing a clear explanation of the subject matter at hand. These vocal experiences helped me master the material and become a resource for many other classmates.

In 1974, Procter and Gamble (P&G) was seeking to hire women into their Finance and Accounting Management Trainee program, and my strong background in math, my character, and my values enabled me to become the fourth woman accepted. While I enjoyed my various assignments in finance and accounting, my favorite was Internal Auditing, where I evaluated the flow of internal systems and sought to identify weaknesses where fraud or theft could occur. When I later had the opportunity to transfer to the Management Systems Division doing IT (Information Technology) work, I jumped on it, mastered the database management language called FOCUS, and began to improve the lives of other P&G employees.

It has been said, "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." This is exactly how I felt when I wrote computer programs. To me it was one big game where you had to get from point A to point B.



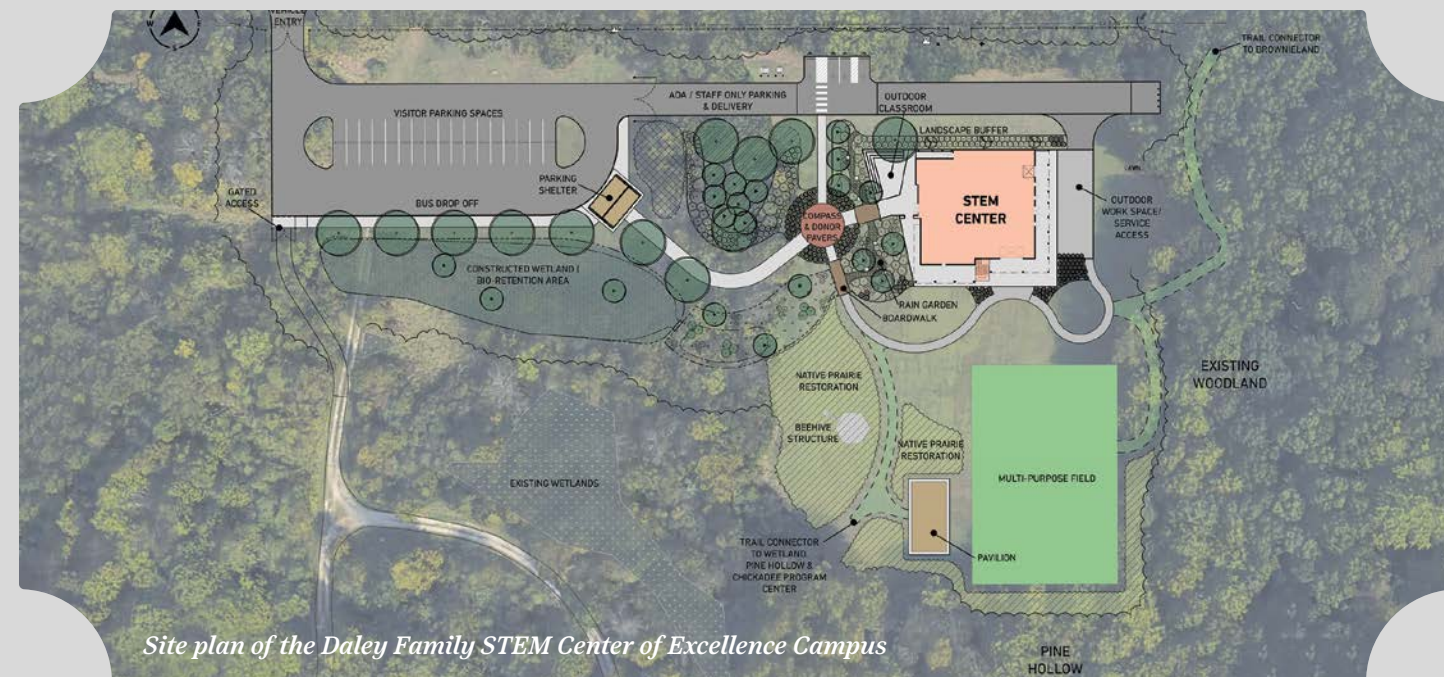
Meredythe & Clayton Daley, Jr.
Daley Family Foundation

After I left the work world, I realized my passion in life was to make a difference wherever I could. While I was not able to tackle projects of an international or national scale, I did my best to make positive improvements in my community. For these 35+ years I've fed my soul through the improvements I have made in the lives of others.

When the GSNEO FabCab opportunity came along at the end of 2018, I was excited by the chance to make a difference in the lives of far more young people than I had ever been able to reach in my community volunteer efforts. And to have it located at Camp Ledgeswood, where I spent seven joyful summers, was an added bonus! Fortunately, my enthusiasm was echoed by my husband, our two adult sons (who have professional roles in IT and custom home design and construction), our daughters-in-law (one who is a food scientist and the other who relies on technology in her design work), and the Daley Family Foundation who chose to provide the major project funding.

Much to our delight, the original FabCabs, along with their enhanced capabilities offered by the addition of several more computers, have enabled thousands of Girl Scouts to experience how it feels to successfully instruct a computer to accomplish a project they requested. And no doubt for some this exciting and positive hands-on experience will prove to be a teaser as to what their future could hold should they choose to pursue a career in a technology-related field.

For GSNEO's CEO Jane Christyson, these FabCabs were just the start of her vision to bring even more STEM experiences to GSNEO. A year after the FabCab project got underway, she was already promoting the concept of funding a STEM Center. And here we are after four more years of research, design, and fundraising with a fabulous opportunity to not only enrich the lives of Girl Scouts, but to also share these STEM experiences with the broader community... with all of this happening at Camp Ledgeswood! This combination of content and location became an exciting opportunity for the Daley Family Foundation to give back in appreciation for both the stimulating and creative STEM career I was fortunate enough to enjoy and the opportunities for personal growth provided to me by my weeks of summer camp at Camp Ledgeswood. We hope others will seize this opportunity to make such an important difference in the lives of today's youth and those to come.



Site plan of the Daley Family STEM Center of Excellence Campus

The STEM Center of Excellence



Architectural rendering of The Dr. Vivian von Gruenigen STEM Center of Excellence

The STEM Center of Excellence

Making the world a better place through nature-inspired design

Girl Scouts of North East Ohio is continuing to strengthen its STEM programs with the plan to build **The STEM Center of Excellence**. Located in Peninsula and within the boundaries of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, the STEM Center will be within 30 minutes of 51% of our Girl Scout members.

This is a terrific opportunity to further the education of STEM subjects for girls. The space at **Camp Ledgewood** will provide a living laboratory for a larger group of youth to collaborate with local educators and experience year-round opportunities in robotics, computer coding, botany, chemistry, and more.

This program will allow Girl Scout members to spark and fulfill their interest in STEM and environmental topics, including hands-on and unconventional learning opportunities.

Facility Details:

The STEM Center of Excellence will be 8,000 square feet, including program spaces:

- Wet Lab
- Tech Space
- Workshop
- Outdoor Classrooms

It will also have a green roof to study alternative energy and an observatory to study the stars.

Benefit to the Community

The STEM Center for Excellence will be dedicated to Girl Scout members on weekends during the school year and all summer. In addition, through collaborative efforts with schools, students will be inspired on field trips from all over the region, whether day trips or overnight. The STEM Center's unique location makes it accessible for students from the urban core or rural communities. More than 100,000 K-5 students, both girls and boys, live within 30 minutes of this location.

Girl Scouts STEM Champion

Dr. Vivian von Gruenigen

Honorary Co-Chair of the STEM Center Capital Campaign

In her career as a physician leader, Dr. von Gruenigen has been a Division Chief, Chair, and Chief Medical Officer. She has received numerous educational, service, and research awards locally and nationally.

She has served on many boards including the Foundation for Women's Cancer, Society of Gynecologic Oncology, Summa Health System, Accountable Care Organization, Stark State Community Foundation, and the American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology (ABOG) as ABOG's Excellence Foundation Chair. She is also currently a Board Director-at-Large for GSNEO.

For most of her career, Dr. von Gruenigen's research focus has been on quality of life, patient-related outcomes, and lifestyle change in endometrial and ovarian cancer survivors. As a physician leader, her attention has been on reliability, safety, and quality of patient care. Currently, she serves as a professor at Northeast Ohio Medical University.

Dr. von Gruenigen has been a strong supporter of STEM programming for Girl Scouts ever since she joined our Board of Directors.

"As a female STEM leader, I believe it is important to ensure that our Girl Scouts have a safe and supportive environment to explore all that STEM has to offer them. Women have gone through the challenging process of becoming successful, and we should be role models to support the next generation. By sharing our growth, we can help girls navigate and reach their own success."

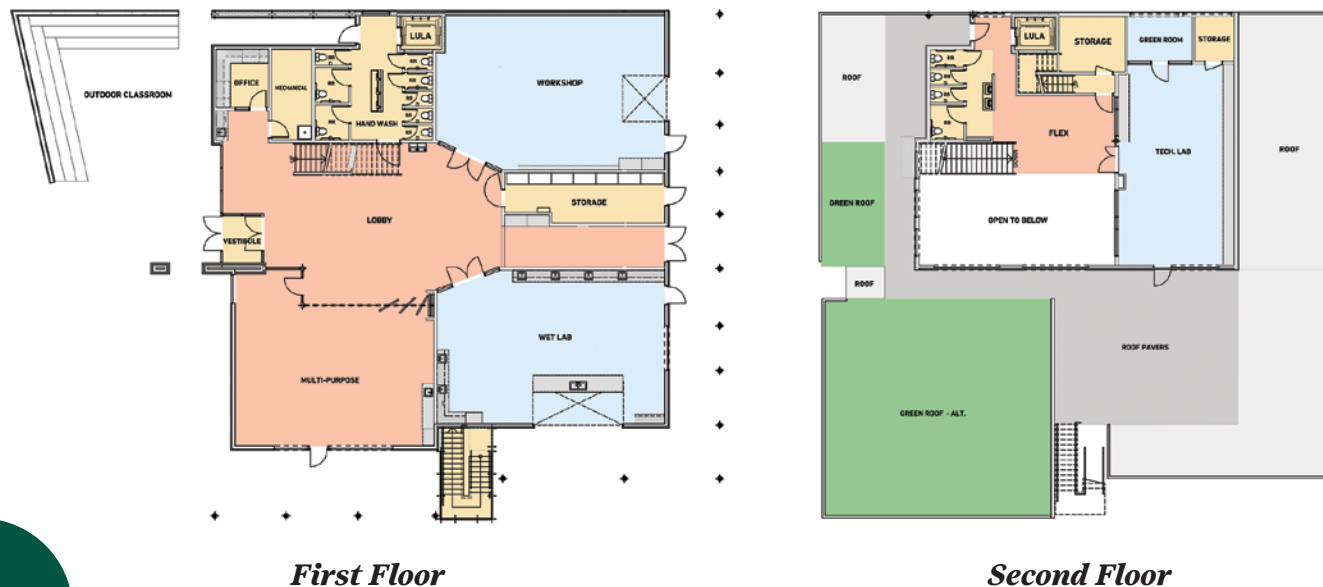
Dr. von Gruenigen and her husband, Dr. Dominic J. Bagnoli, have been strong advocates for the STEM Center of Excellence in their roles as Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs. They both have been actively engaging their peers and community leaders to become involved with this effort. By sharing how critically important it is to immerse young girls in educational STEM experiences, Dr. von Gruenigen and Dr. Bagnoli have helped to secure the support of over 50 individuals for the STEM Center.

"We have been overwhelmed by the enthusiastic response for the vision of the STEM Center from everyone we have spoken to about this transformational project."



Drs. Vivian von Gruenigen and Dominic J. Bagnoli,
Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs

Floor Plan and Areas of Concentration



STEM-Specific Badges

Since adding new STEM badges in 2017, Girl Scouts has enhanced programming for Cybersecurity, Automotive Engineering, and Space Science badges. This Girl Scout programming builds girls' skills and encourages their interest in STEM and environmental conservation from an early age.

There are now a total of more than 144 STEM badges—all based on a common-core curriculum—developed exclusively for Girl Scouts!



Girl Scouts STEM Champion

Kathy Moock

GSNEO Board Chair

Kathy Moock has been a long-time volunteer and supporter of GSNEO. She joined Girl Scouts in grade school and remained a member through high school, when she achieved the First Class, now known as the Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. She currently serves as the Board Chair for GSNEO and has been a board member for eight years.

Kathy has served as Board Secretary and Chair of the Board Development Committee, as well as a member of the Community Engagement and Strategic Planning Committees. In addition, she served as Chair of the Women of Distinction Awards event in 2020 and was a 2019 Woman of Distinction.

Beyond the Girl Scouts, Kathy's community involvements include Women in Touch with Akron's Needs (WITAN) where she has been a board member for nine years as well as serving as past President and Treasurer for the organization. She has been a board member of the Junior League of Cleveland for nine years and held various positions with the Brecksville-Broadview Heights Parent School Organization Council for 16 years. She has also provided leadership to numerous other community organizations and chaired many fundraising events.

Kathy spent most of her professional career with Proctor & Gamble, where she retired as a Regional Sales Manager. She holds a degree in Finance and Marketing from Miami University of Ohio.

Girl Scouts has always been special to Kathy and her family. She remembers a time when an adult volunteer helped her complete her Gold Award.

"I was developing a coloring book with the theme 'Just Say No to Drugs' for young school children. How was I going to get this coloring book distributed and printed? Without the guidance of one of our troop leaders, I would not have been able to find someone to print my project for free. It is small experiences like this that teach our Girl Scouts how to help others and give back to the community."

As a former troop leader for her daughters' troop, she has fond memories of volunteering for Girl Scouts. Her favorite memory as a troop leader was when she was the Cookie Mom for her youngest daughter's troop. She had cookies stacked to the ceiling in her living room because her daughter and her friends had sold hundreds of boxes as first-year Brownies. The troop paid for an entire camping trip with their cookie money.

"The STEM Center of Excellence at Camp Ledgeswood is a transformational project that will positively impact the lives of Girls Scouts and other school aged children for years to come," she said. "The STEM Center will benefit the entire community as well as expose girls to careers in STEM. That is why Andy, my husband, and I are supporting this effort and are urging others to join us as well."



Kathy Moock and Family
GSNEO Board Chair

Our Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

“The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers.”

Juliette Gordon Low

To learn more about the STEM Center of Excellence and ways you can support the campaign, please contact the Office of Fund Development at **(330) 983-0399** or visit **gsneo.org/stemcenter**

Scan this QR code to donate:

