



girl scouts
of north east ohio



Around the Campfire

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Girl Scouts of North East Ohio held an all-council cookie rally recently, and when I was asked to share my favorite “cookie memory”, this photo came to mind. I was excited to share a personal Girl Scout memory of my own with the girls before I became a “professional Girl Scout,” -- I spent eight years as a girl member and an additional ten years as a volunteer. I shared with them how I grew up in a little bungalow with seven people, an iguana, a dog, fish, birds, a turtle, and one bathroom. Now I joke with my siblings that we were into the “tiny house living” before it was mainstream. In my family, if you wanted to do anything extravagant, you had to figure out how to fund it yourself.

So, I sold a lot of Girl Scout Cookies! I was able to raise enough money to go on trip to Washington D.C. with the rest of my troop. For the full Girl Scout experience, we checked into a beautiful camp with platform tents outside of Washington D.C. instead of a hotel. There we got dressed in our official Girl Scout uniforms, including knee socks and white gloves, before making our way into the city. The morning this photo was taken, we had the honor of raising the flag over the Capitol Building. It was magical – blue skies; fluffy white clouds; and the warm, humid air.

I still vividly recall that day as a precious memory. Our leaders wanted us to celebrate democracy in a tangible, memorable way, and they certainly succeeded. Girl Scouts still presents Civics Badges as an integral part of its programming and within the past year, six new badges were added in this subject. We teach our girls to discover what they care about, connect that passion to challenges in their community, and take action to make lasting change. Often, that change means advocating, changing laws, and speaking out, so they need to know how democracy works, and they need to have the tools to do something about it. Tomorrow’s leaders need inspiration and tools today, and Girl Scouts is here to deliver patriotism, still powered by cookies.



Jane Christyson, CEO
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New Program Addressing Racial Equity and Social Justice

Who better to lead the fight in equity than your local Girl Scouts? Girl Scouts of North East Ohio (GSNEO) and YWCA Greater Cleveland partnered to create the Social Justice Seeker Challenge, a brand-new program that provides the next generation with the tools needed to understand and advocate for justice in their communities.

Over the past year, our council heard from troop leaders looking for resources to help their girls better understand racism and fulfill the Girl Scout mission of “making the world a better place.” GSNEO staff connected with YWCA Greater Cleveland to learn more. YWCA Greater Cleveland has been a leader in the fight for racial and gender equality in the community for over 150 years by providing services to lift up women and people of color through various initiatives. In 2019 they launched their 21 Day Racial Equity and Social Justice Challenge, an online racial equity education tool for adults in the community. Participants in the challenge are asked to read an article, listen to a podcast, reflect on a personal experience, and more over the course of 21 days.

The Girl Scouts Social Justice Seeker Challenge is modeled after the YWCA’s 21 Day Challenge, with content specifically for Girl Scout members as young as Kindergarten. Participation will help girls and adults discover how racial injustice and social injustice impact their community, connect with one another, and identify ways to dismantle racism and other forms of discrimination. The Challenge will point girls directly to other Girl Scout resources that will activate the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, a process by which girls are shown how to Discover, Connect, and Take Action.

Topics range from understanding privilege and representation to recognizing racist language and empowering girls to be actively antiracist. Lessons will encourage girls to use their



voice to make positive change. Because of Girl Scouts’ history in social justice, we already have a number of badges like our Democracy, Public Policy, and Behind the Ballot badges that connect, inform, and build skills in concert with this Challenge. This virtual Challenge will provide troops the resources they need to have difficult, thoughtful conversations about race and privilege. We can’t wait to see how girls use their knowledge to Take Action in their communities and create a more equitable world!

The Challenge will launch in Spring 2021 for members of GSNEO. Local foundations in the community have already stepped up to ensure every girl has access to this program: KeyBank Foundation, GAR Foundation, the Nord Family Foundation, and the Jane Peirce Kirkham Fund at the Cleveland Foundation have all committed to financially supporting this pilot year. **Want to join this legion of changemakers? GSNEO is still accepting donations for the Social Justice Seeker Challenge.** Gifts of any amount mean more Girl Scouts have the opportunity to build antiracist muscle. Contact Julie Weagraff, GSNEO’s VP of Fund Development, for giving information and keep checking our website for updates on the program.

KeyBank Foundation



FirstEnergy
Foundation

GAR
FOUNDATION

THE
NORD
Family Foundation


CLEVELAND
Foundation

Forever Green

Getting to Know Our Volunteers and Supporters!

Carole Krupa

How many years have you been a Girl Scout (girl and adult years)? 4 years as a girl member (3 years as a Brownie and 1 year as an Intermediate). 37 years as an adult, so far.

How did you first learn about Girl Scouts?

When I started grade school, the girls would wear their uniforms on meeting days. I couldn't wait to be able to join when I was in second grade (in the 50's that was the age you could first join).

What is your favorite or most vivid memory about Girl Scouts as a child? Our troop of 20 girls held meetings in the basement of my house. I don't remember doing many field trips or district events, except for World Friendship Day. My most vivid memory was our field trip to Wonder Bread Bakery. I can still see all the different steps that it takes to make bread and all the loaves being processed and packaged. They even gave us a mini loaf, that was so cute.

What is your favorite or most vivid memory about Girl Scouts as an adult? There are so many of girls having fun. The one that is most vivid is at a Stargazing program that I run. For once it was a clear night and we were looking at Saturn. One of the younger girls looked through the telescope at Saturn and said, "It looks just like the stickers."

What is something you probably would have never been able to do if it had not been for Girl Scouts being a part of your life? Most definitely working locally with girls from all over the USA. In the 90's one of the [GSNEO] legacy councils hosted five Wider Opportunity Programs (now called Destinations) called Porpoises, Planets, and Polymers. The whole planning process was so much fun. By handling the logistics during the program, I was able to interact with girls from all these states. It was very interesting seeing them facing new experiences. For example, a girl wanted to know what the specks of light flashing in the night were. Of course, it was lighting bugs: but she had never seen any and was so excited! Something like this, not related to the program itself, you never think of as being exciting for a teenage girl.

Describe what Girl Scouting means to you in 10 words or less. Trying and learning new things and making lifelong friends.

Do you have a particular badge you are especially proud of? I guess it would be my Brownie Girl Scout Wings. There were no badges to earn as a Brownie, but the wings for flying up to Intermediate level. This was such a joy and accomplishment for me.

Do you know where your sash or vest is?

Our area had used uniform sales. My Brownie uniform was bought at this sale by a new Brownie Girl Scout. I do have my Brownie Beanie and pins, the Beanie is on my dresser.



Do you have a favorite Girl Scout song? If so, which one?

There are so many favorites. A silly song favorite would be- "What Can Make a Hippopotamus Smile". It has such great arm and leg movements, is so silly, and girls love it. A serious song favorite would be "Linger". This is what you want to do at Girl Scout Events; you never want them to end.

What advice would you give the young Girl Scouts of today?

Girl Scouts will give you opportunities that are unbelievable at all age levels. You will be able to try many different things: arts, crafts, science activities such as astronomy, robotics, NASA Programs, archery, canoeing, low and high ropes, zip lining, cooking, and many more. The sky is the limit, if you like something you can then follow this pathway. For new leaders or those thinking about it, Girl Scouting is something you will never regret. It may seem overwhelming at first but just remember the girls are having fun, learning, and will treasure these times forever. I know I thought I wasn't sure if I was doing a good job but continued on. As the years went by, I saw these same girls graduate, go on to college and enter their careers. They still talk about different things they had done in Girl Scouting and of all the fun. They say it helped them to be prepared for college and their future.

Girl Scouts are always prepared. What's something useful you always carry with you? Water and Sunscreen

If you could have lunch with any women in history (besides Juliette Gordon Low) who would it be and why? I would want to have lunch with Sally Ride, the first American woman in space. Since watching the first space launch on TV while in school, I knew this was something exciting and important because schools had no TV's and the teacher had to find a father of a student who had a TV and could bring the 50 pound set to school. From that moment I watched all launches and thought I would love to be an astronaut. I would have loved to talk to Sally and learn everything about her experience.

If you could ask Juliette Gordon Low one question what would it be? What one thing can we do to keep older girls excited about being a Girl Scout?

Why did you become a member of the Juliette Gordon Low Legacy Society? I became a member of the Juliette Gordon Low Society because Girls Scouts is a great organization that provides a safe place where girls can try new things that they would not have had a chance to do otherwise. Girls become leaders, which serves them forever.

Event Chair:

Sandra L. Reid

VP, Corporate Communications and Strategic Planning
at the Davey Tree Expert Company



We're so excited to celebrate the
10th Anniversary of our Women of
Distinction Awards Event in 2021!

Event benefits Girl Scout scholarships and financial aid
For details, go to gsneo.org/wda

Sponsorship opportunities available

Questions: Contact Laura Mottor at 330.983.0368 or lmottor@gsneo.org

2021 Women of Distinction Honorees



M. Ruth Coleman
Principal
ValTrans Health;
Founder
Health Design Plus



Tania Nemer
Community Outreach
Prosecutor
Summit County
Prosecutor's Office



Sandy Rapp
SVP and CIO
Travel Centers America



Marianne Crosley
President and CEO
Cleveland Leadership
Center



**QuynhGiao
Nguyen, Ph.D.**
Program Element
Manager and NASA's
Game Changing
Development Program
NASA



**Vivian von
Gruenigen, M.D.,
M.S., Prof.**
Gynecologic Oncologist
Northeast Ohio
Medical University



Elizabeth Engels
President
Acer Consulting



Tracy A. Oliver
Director Media and
Local Affairs
Dominion Energy Ohio



Lorna Wisham
VP, Corporate Affairs
& Community
Involvement and
President
FirstEnergy Foundation,
FirstEnergy



Jan Morrison
Founder and CEO
TIES

VIRTUAL JULIETTE GORDON LOW SOCIETY CELEBRATION

On February 23 GSNEO hosted its first virtual Juliette Gordon Low Society celebration. Featured speaker for the event was Dianne Belk, Gold Award Girl Scout, Honorary Trustee, and recipient of the Dianne Belk Visionary Award. Dianne is the Founding Chair of the Juliette Gordon Low Society, formed to honor those who choose to remember Girl Scouts in their estate plans. She was joined by her husband, Lawrence Calder, a 25-year Girl Scout member. GSNEO CEO Jane Christyson shared updates with the group and explained the impact that planned gifts have had on our council.

Over a dozen current Juliette Gordon Low Society members attended the event, along with other guests including lifetime members, Girl Scout alums, longtime volunteers, and GSUSA staff. Attendees shared heartwarming stories as well as treasured Girl Scout mementos. Inspired by our mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, 7 new members joined the Juliette Gordon Low Society. We are honored to welcome them into the society and are so grateful for their meaningful support of our girls that will provide resources to a future generation of Girl Scouts. Planned giving leaves a profound impact on our council and we are thrilled to share that we now have 37 planned giving donors! We thank those who have become members and those who have considered it.

Juliette Gordon Low Society members

Erik and Eva Andersen- Girl Scout Movement-wide Challenge Planned Gift
Dianne Belk and Lawrence Calder- Girl Scout Movement-wide Challenge Planned Gift
Mary Lou A. Britton
Patricia A. Broughton
Amie & Phil Cajka
Marian R. Calvin
Jane Christyson and Bob Mahoney

Tina Marie Collins
Laura Bailey Culp
Meredythe Gray Daley
Donna M. DeFiore
Gunta Douglas
M. Elizabeth (Beth) Frank
Brenda Heidinger
Claudia W. Jones
Mona Karoghlanian
Kimberly Klima

Lizbeth W. Kohler
Carole A. Krupa
Dot MacIntyre
Lisa Maida
Sharon Mathie
Judith E. Matsko
Leslie R. McGinnis
Debbie Minerich
Sue Neff
Benjamin G. and Jane Norton

Sandra L. Reid
Margaret A. Renwand
Susana L. Rogers
Kathleen Scheutzow
Laura and Tim Schultz
Pamela Valentine
Joan P. Villarreal
Marc and Julie Weagraff
Michele L. Weilnau



Dianne Belk, Founding Chair of the Juliette Gordon Low Society



Sandy Bonds shares a Girl Scout memento



Members and guests gathered on Zoom to celebrate the legacy of Juliette Gordon Low

If you have considered a planned gift, would like more information, or if you have questions, please contact Julie Weagraff, Vice President for Fund Development, at 330-983-0399 or jweagraff@gsneo.org.

**Are you a Girl Scout Alum
or Gold Award Girl Scout?**

**We'd love to hear from you!
Share your stories with us.**
Email your story to funddevelopment@gsneo.org



Gold Award Project Profile: Ayesha Qureshi

Ayesha Qureshi's Gold Award project aimed to address the issue of helping the Islamic Society of Northeast Ohio (ISNEO) in ac-

commodating the younger children of the community. Her Gold Award project focused on her local mosque where she created a designated place for younger children while the adults were praying. She presented and gained approval from the ISNEO board members for her plan to create a babysitting/playroom in the mosque. She worked with the ISNEO Board members to review and finalize a plan for the room. In her leadership role, she supervised the development of the room and worked towards keeping the project sustainable. When the room was completed, Ayesha created a class where she

trained teenagers and adults about how to properly take care of the children, and how to maintain cleanliness after every event.

Throughout her project, Ayesha led her team in a variety of ways. She made sure

that ISNEO had a productive and sustainable method for gaining donations for the room as well as volunteers to supervise the children. She also made sure to check the room while volunteering at the mosque during different events to ensure that everything was being properly taken care of in the room. With her team she made sure they set aside dates to meet together and discuss what had gone well after events and what could be done to improve the process.

Thanks to Ayesha's efforts and leadership, these gatherings will allow families and children of all ages to attend and enjoy any event hosted by ISNEO. Congratulations to Ayesha for addressing this need in her community and leading the way to create a solution!

