

# Report to the Community 2023

This year could be summed up as Rebuilding Our Future: together! While the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic have blended into the fabric of our lives, the impacts on girls, adults, volunteers, caregivers and staff can be seen throughout everyday experiences.

Long term effects of the virus itself, isolation of families and communities, the impacts of shut-downs and economic downturns are realities we all face. It has been well documented that girls are facing a mental health crisis of utmost proportions.

We have a bold vision, here at GSNENY. We aim to eliminate self-doubt in girls forever.



Through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, delivered by trusted adult volunteers and top-notch Council programs and camp, we see that girls develop belief in themselves, learn to fail and learn in a safe environment, and develop key skills that serve them their whole lives through. Girl Scouts is the best place for this life changing experience: it is safe, girl-focused, girl-led and developed with the unique needs of girls in the forefront.

To make this happen, we worked hard this year to recruit and hire the best possible staff, and to make the volunteer experience simpler. We brought to life Rallyhood- the collaborative platform for volunteers that was a top voted choice by elected Council delegates at last year's strategic planning retreat. And this coming year, will launch a companion resource hub- at their top request. Our commitment to providing excellent customer service, support for our volunteers, and most importantly- the best experience a girl can have - is unwavering.

We invite you to join us in our mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Kristen Navarette, M.D., Board Chair and Brenda Episcopo, Chief Executive Officer





## **Girl Scout Experience**

Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York (GSNENY) offered 149 programs in MY23, including:

Career Try It: Plumbing & Steamfitting I Tried SCUBA

Performance of The Nutcracker Sisterhood SHEnanigans Ghoul Scout Archery Pack 'n Paddle





# **Destination: Japan**

In May, 16 girls and 8 adults, including two Council staff, traveled to Japan on a GSNENY-sponsored Destinations trip. They spent 10 days, learning more about the culture with their visits to the temples and shrines and other cultural sites. They also enjoyed the trip to Tokyo Disneyland, the zoo where they were able to feed the animals, and the high-speed train for travel.









# **Around the Campfire**

2023 brought the return of international staff to camp. Counselors came from Turkey, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, England, and Scotland.

New changing stalls, generously built by Regeneron, made their debut at Camp Is-Sho-Da, affording all campers privacy and dignity when changing at camp.

A total of 902 Girl Scouts attended camp!

697 Camp Is-Sho-Da

127 Hidden Lake Camp 78 Lake Clear Camp

# Volunteer Services

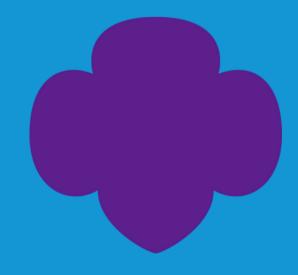
In 2023, we provided training for nearly 250 volunteers! Three volunteers completed a Train the Trainer program, which enables them to deliver New Leader Training within their Service Unit.

During the Annual Volunteer Dinners we were pleased to recognize many of our loyal volunteers, including:

Pat Flath for 75 years of membership

Pat Flath for 75 years of membership Priscilla Altizer for 80 years of membership!







# **Philanthropy**

The Annual Women of Distinction event honored four outstanding role models from the GSNENY North Country footprint for their professional success and community impact.

Ignite Her Flame, a virtual fundraiser, garnered more than \$20,000 to support GSNENY camps and outdoor programs.



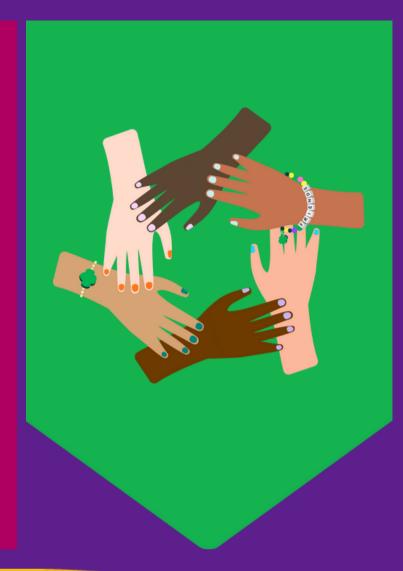
# Membership Achievements

GSNENY ended MY23 at 99% to goal and achieved 10.3% growth.

The total number of Girl Members increased by 9.9%, placing our Council 28th in the country for Girl market share.

Council welcomed 1,747 new Girl members (+35.8%) and retained 3,568 Girl Members (+2.2%), placing GSNENY 13th in the country for Girl Retention.

The total number of Adult Members increased by 11% (3,393), including 871 new Adult Members (+37.4%) and 2,522 Adult Member renewals (+0.8%).



## From the Executive Office

The Executive Office leads the strategic and governance work of our Council.

In MY23, we accomplished a few major highlights:

An update was made to our bylaws, where we added an Advocacy Committee to our board, changed the timing of the Annual Meeting, and made it easier for a Service Unit to keep their delegate and alternate roles filled, to promote engagement in our governance.

We also attended and took our National Delegates and Alternates to engage in the governance of our movement at the 56th National Session and Girl Scout Convention.

Completed the first full year of our strategic plan, with great success in hitting our performance targets, as seen throughout this report. Council delegates participated in ranking priorities for this plan in the year prior. This year, we launched Rallyhood: an online collaboration platform for volunteers, caregivers and Council to collaborate in a more efficient way- a top voted project by your delegates!

# Agrity, Equity, and Inclusion

The DEI Task Force of GSNENY released the mission and vision statements for their next iteration of work:

The Mission: Empowering Girl Scouts to be their authentic selves, the GSNENY Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Task Force provides leadership that cultivates belonging throughout the GSNENY community.

The Vision: We will be a Girl Scout-led Movement where all Girl Scouts feel confident and empowered to create a better world together- no matter where all Girl Scouts come from, or what they look like.

Our priority areas of focus will be to welcome more Girl Scouts who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color, and to welcome more Girl Scouts who are Hispanic and to ensure Girl Scouts is a safe place for LGBTQ+ folks to belong.

# Highest Awards Highlights

In 2023, 28 Girl Scouts earned the Silver Award and 14 earned the Gold Awards. These Girl Scouts were celebrated during a joint ceremony on May 21, guest-hosted by 2022 Gold Award Girl Scout Rigel Gordon. An Honorary Gold Award was presented to Major General Denise Donnell, the first woman to command one of the New York Air National Guard's five flying wings and one of only five women to attain the rank of major general in the New York National Guard. Maj. Gen. Donnell has also served as a Troop Leader for Girl Scouts of Northeastern New York. Thank you to the following sponsors of the 2023 Silver & Gold Ceremony Brunch: John Thomas Canajoharie NY Moose Lodge #853 Lions Club of Plattsburgh American Legion Post 219 Carol Felsen Oueensbury Memorial VFW Post 6196 Nancy C. Sapio MD

## Gold Award Scholarship



Each Girl Scout Council was provided with one \$10,000 scholarship that was to be awarded to a Gold Award Girl Scout. Isabelle Relyea was the awardee from GSNENY. Her project was a community garden in Brunswick NY, featuring raised beds, a compost system, and a greenhouse. The core purpose was to provide people of all ages with access to fresh, locally grown produce, while also fostering awareness about the origins of our food and promoting the significance of a circular agricultural system, where food is utilized efficiently throughout its life.

5,315
girl members
&
3,393
adult
members

\$183,151.27 raised from individuals, organizations, & foundations

208
volunteers
attended
New Leader
Training

1,800 girls attended GSNENY programs

13 teams & 100+ girls participated in Girls CAN Do

902 girls attended summer camp 28
Silver Award
Girl Scouts
&
14 Gold Award
Girl Scouts

836,250 packages of Girl Scout cookies sold

22,538 boxes of Girl Scout cookies donated \$19,520 Girl Grants awarded

37
volunteers
completed
Blended Outdoor
Skills
Training

149
GSNENY
programs
were offered



girl scouts of northeastern new york

# 2023 GIRL SCOUT COOKIE WRAP-UP

836,250 Packages Sold!





4070 Girl Scouts participated in the cookie program

Proceeds for Girl Activities: \$765,204



22,538 packages of cookies donated



23,974 Digital Cookie emails sent

3344 Girl Scouts participated on Digital Cookie





Congratulations to our Girl Scouts on another amazing Cookie Selling year!

And thank you to all who bought, sold, and ate our cookies!



5 Skills Girl Scouts Learn in the Cookie Program





Decision Making











Emalyn 2023 Top Cookie Seller

girl scouts of northeastern new york

Emily C

2023 Top Cookie Entrepreneurs

Girl Scout	Troop and Service Unit	Level	Packages Sold	
Emalyn D	Troop 5508, SU 151-Averill Park	CAD	3,104	
Danielle S	Troop 1085, SU 136-East Greenbush	CAD	2,500	
Madison M	Troop 3229, SU 309-Granville	JR	2,364	
Caroline C	Troop 5024, SU 183-Albany	JR	2,187	
Lily S	Troop 1104, SU 146-Latham	CAD	2,144	
Marybeth H	Troop 2244, SU 207-Scotia/Glenville	JR	2,024	
Aria M	Troop 5512, SU 126-Chatham/Kinderhook	BR	2,023	
Morgan L	Troop 1104, SU 146-Latham	CAD	2,023	
Megan G	Troop 1104. SU 146-Latham	CAD	2.023	



CAD

2,023

Troop 1104, SU 146-Latham

## **Properties**

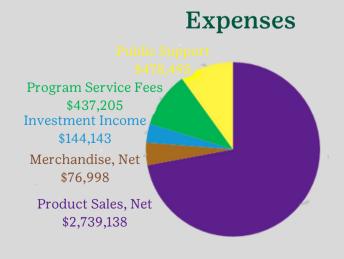
2023 saw the completion of the Forest Management Plan and the beginning of forestry work at HIdden Lake Camp. Additionally, the Long Range Property Plan was approved by the board of directors. Camp Is-Sho-Da received a new waterfront deck and changing stalls, as well as renovations to HIlltop Lodge. The outdoor theater area at Hidden Lake Camp underwent a complete stage renovation, and landscaping at the main property entrance was updated. At Lake Clear Camp, new docks were installed, repairs were completed at Weld House and new water heaters were installed in the bath house. Camp Woodhaven received a new barn roof. Furthermore, parking lot repairs were completed at the Albany Service Center and Queensbury Service Center.

Our small but mighty Properties Staff is focused on reconfiguring spaces as needed to provide a

better experience for girls and volunteers. Additionally, they facilitated special projects with groups of corporate volunteers from Regeneron, Milton Nuclear Naval facility, AYCO, and the Bonodio group.



## Fiscal Year 2023 Financials





# Juliette Gordon Low Society

The Juliette Gordon Low Society recognizes those who have made provisions for GSNENY in their estate plans or through life income gifts.

Ms. Roberta Alexander Anonymous (5) Mary and Jim Buszuwski Ms. Alexandra De Grandpre Jennifer M.W. Demarco The Dianne Belk and Lawrence Calder Girl Scout Movement-wide Planned Giving Challenge Brenda and Matt Episcopo The Erik and Eva Anderson Girl Scout Movement-wide Planned Giving Challenge Donna Rae Gelder Bigelow Ms. Marilyn Gillespie Kathleen Godfrey Susan Gustafson Byrnes Cindy Hess Mr. Craig Hilchev Mrs. Lynn Hilchey Ms. Carol Hyde Sue and Robert Larsen Alaina McCreary Jill Rafferty-Weinisch Ms. Chandler M. Ralph and Mr. David K. Aldrich Roo Sanford and Martha Searleman Joann Tiemann Mrs. Valerie Trudeau Diane White Chancey Ann Young and 12 donors who have fulfilled their planned gift.



#### Pearl

Donors of \$10,000 & Above

Anonymous Gloria & Lori Noto Debra Weiser

## Gold

Donors of \$5,000 to \$9,999

NBT Bank
Donna Rae Gelder Bigelow
April Dalbec
GSUSA
LPL Financial
John & Elizabeth Prybylowski
Stewart's Foundation

## Silver

Donors of \$2,500 to \$4,999

Adirondack Foundation Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services Chapel Hill Foundation GlobalFoundries, Inc. UBS Financial Services United Way of the Adirondack Region

# Bronze

Donors of \$1,000 to \$2,499

Anonymous (2) Bank of Greene County Charitable Foundation Benevity Community Impact Mary and Jim Buszuwski Community Resource Federal Credit Union Susan Delehanty Dodge & Cox Funds Fenimore Asset Management, Inc Franklin County Youth Bureau Goldman Sachs Ayco Personal Financial Management Greene County Youth Bureau Groove Phi Groove Social Fellowship Incorporated Ironman Foundation, Inc. Nicole Kelton Jennifer Mahar Megan and Ken McGivney Monaghan Medical Corporation Ms. Chandler M. Ralph and Mr. David K. Aldrich Sandy Hill Foundation David S. & Janet R. Sheridan Foundation Town Fair Tire Foundation, Inc. Town of Clifton Park -

Community Action Fund

UFirst Federal Credit Union

United Way of the Greater

Capital Region - SEFA

WGY Radio 810

Troop 1692

Troop 3039

Donors up to \$999

Anonymous (20) Adirondack Foundation Jaidvn Alderson Alexander Orthodontics Amanda & Craig Allen Erin Almy AmazonSmile Foundation American Legion Post 219 America's Mattress Amsterdam Rotary Club Marilyn & Daniel Andrews Amber Arnold Arthur J. Gallagher Risk Management Services Beth Ashline Carol Asiello Genie Babb Paula Bachman Karen & Neal Baillargeon John & Rosemarie Bailo Aurelia Ball Ballston Spa National Bank Bank of Greene County Charitable Foundation Ashley Barnaby Donna Bell Amanda Belzile Benevity Community Impact Fund Diane Bengtson-Kilbourn & Scott Kilbourn Theresa & Mark Bennett Bethlehem Memorial VFW Post 3185 Tahnee Bickerton Cecia Bicknell Bonnie Black Monica Bliss Barbara Blumberg Travis Bogdan Daniel & Sybil Boldi



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Thank you for supporting the Girl Scout mission:
building girls of courage, confidence, and character,
who make the world a better place!

If you prefer to be listed differently, contact us at 518-489-8110 or
Give2GirlScouts@girlscoutsneny.org

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