

# Advocacy

Girl Scouts has a long-standing commitment to the well-being of girls. For more than 100 years, our organization has been an expert on girls' growth and development. We stand ready to discuss the issues, suggest policy solutions, serve on advisory committees, testify at hearings, and provide valuable research to our elected officials and community leaders.

*In our effort to build tomorrow's leaders, Girl Scouts emphasizes these public policy priorities:*

- **Promote Economic Opportunities for Girls**
  - Increase girls' involvement in STEM
  - Strengthen financial literacy and entrepreneurial skills
- **Encourage Healthy Living Opportunities for Girls**
  - Increase access to outdoor activities
  - Prevent bullying/relational aggression and build healthy relationships
- **Foster Global Citizenship and a Global Voice for Girls**
- **Support a Strong Nonprofit Community and Girl Scout Experience**

The South Carolina Legislative Committee is a partnership effort between the two councils in the state, Girl Scouts of South Carolina – Mountains to Midlands and Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina. Comprised of board members and key staff from both councils, its purpose is to be the thought leader as well as the voice for, and of, girls with policymakers and community leaders at the local, state, and federal levels. We do so in partnership with the McNair Law Firm, P.A. that provides governmental relations consulting services.

Our network provides elected officials with a tool to communicate with constituents on key issues facing girls. **As future leaders who will change our world, girls' voices need to be heard.**

The two South Carolina councils serve approximately 20,000 girls and are supported by 8,000 adults to advance our Mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

## Girl Scouts of South Carolina Mountains to Midlands

Service Centers located in  
Columbia, Greenville, and Spartanburg  
**800-849-GIRL (4475) ▾ [www.gssc-mm.org](http://www.gssc-mm.org)**

## Girl Scouts of Eastern South Carolina

Service Centers located in  
North Charleston and Florence  
**800-868-9911 ▾ [www.girlscoutseasc.org](http://www.girlscoutseasc.org)**

# Raising our Voices for Girls

## South Carolina Girl Scouts



girl scouts   
of eastern  
south carolina

girl scouts   
of south carolina  
mountains to midlands



# Alumnae by the Numbers

Girl Scouts has always been about leadership. Many women who are leaders in their fields – medicine, law, journalism, education, science, politics, finance, the arts, and more – credit Girl Scouting with helping them build the skill sets that paved their roads to success! Currently, one of every two adult women is a Girl Scout alumna – approximately 59 million women. Of those, Girl Scout alumnae are:

## Elected Officials

- **70%** of female senators
- **57%** of women in the House of Representatives
- **100%** of female governors, including Nikki Haley

## Businesswomen

- **52%** of women in business
- More likely than non-alumnae to have a business degree

## Girl Scouting Works: The Alumnae Impact Study\*

Women who were Girl Scouts report statistically significant higher education levels (**30%**), income (**25%**), volunteerism (**66%**), and sense of self (**71%**).

\*Girl Scout Research Institute, 2012

Girl Scouts serves as a resource to policymakers, courtesy of our national, evidence-informed programming and original research conducted by the Girl Scout Research Institute (GSRI). In 2014 it released a report, *The State of Girls: Thriving or Surviving*, which examines girls' well-being across each of the 50 states and the District of Columbia. The 384,050 girls in South Carolina, ages 5-17, rank 38th out of 50 on an overall index of well-being that includes measures of girls' physical health and safety, economic well-being, education, emotional health, and extracurricular activities. **Particularly startling are the low rankings for economic well being (47th), physical health and safety (46th), and education (40th).**



# Why Girl Scouts is the Solution!

Both Girl Scout councils in South Carolina are addressing these issues. Here are a few examples:

## Economic Well-Being

- Girls can't live by cookie sales alone! Our full-time STEM manager introduces girls to science, technology, engineering and math activities, and career opportunities. Women only comprise 24% of the STEM jobs in the U.S. today, and women in STEM careers earn 33% more than women in other fields.

## Physical Health

- A Healthy Living Curriculum teaches girls about the importance of nutrition, exercise, dealing with stress, and building self-esteem.

## Emotional Health

- The BFF (Be a Friend First) program helps middle school girls prevent and deal with bullying.

## Education

- The Daisy Power Project provides literacy enrichment activities for K5 and 1st grade girls and parents.
- The Leadership in Action series is a pilot program for high school girls who may be at risk for dropping out of school.