

girl scouts  
of south carolina  
mountains to midlands

12

Leadership  
Line

A quarter in review.

girl scouts



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

Summer 2019

# A NOTE FROM *Meredith*



In 2017, the Girl Scout Research Institute (GSRI) performed the first ever research report focused solely on the health and well-being of girls living in the United States. Unfortunately, the findings for our state of South Carolina looked grim. Overall, compared to the other 50 states, South Carolina ranked 40th when measured against 13 standards of well-being for girls. According to the study:

- **26%** of girls in South Carolina lived in poverty
- **78%** of girls were not proficient in math
- **63%** of fourth grade girls were not proficient in reading.

Those statistics were just a few among many not favorable for South Carolina.

This is where the Cathy Novinger Girl Scout Leadership Center comes in. We have to improve the conditions and leadership climate for girls in South Carolina to thrive. The Girl Scout Leadership Experience has an undeniable positive impact on girls. Just look at these statistics to know this is true:

**64%**

Consider themselves leaders.

**52%**

Boys who consider themselves leaders.

**44%**

Do not consider themselves leaders.

**Girl Scouts** are more likely to consider themselves leaders compared to **other girls** and **boys**:

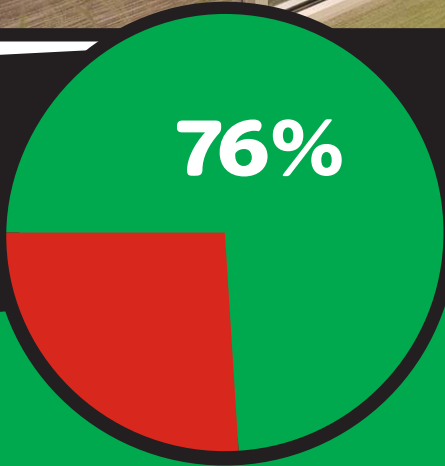
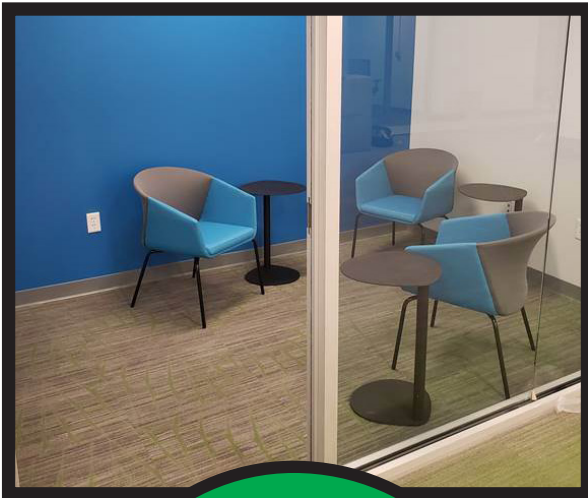
64% of **Girl Scouts** consider themselves leaders compared to 44% of a **national sample of girls** and 52% of **boys**.



53% of female entrepreneurs and business owners are **Girl Scout alums**.

**53%**

**Cathy Novinger**  
**Girl Scout**  
**Leadership Center**



76% of Girl Scout alums say Girl Scouting positively impacted their lives today.

After extensive research and input from community leaders, donors, agency partners and Girl Scouts past and present, our council, Girl Scouts of South Carolina-Mountains to Midlands (GSSC-MM) created a visionary plan to inspire Girl Scouts and provide them with unparalleled learning experiences and life-changing leadership opportunities. This plan is now coming to life in the Cathy Novinger Girl Scout Leadership Center- a unique, first of-its kind destination in South Carolina that will house comprehensive leadership development programs for girls of all ages, backgrounds and zip codes.

This Cathy Novinger Girl Scout Leadership Center has been a long time in the making. After years of careful planning, fundraising, aligning ourselves with the very best program partners, and recent construction, we are preparing to open the doors for programming this fall.

Thank you for your unwavering support for the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. We hope you will watch our social media and council communications in the coming days for our grand opening announcement!

**E. Meredith Manning**  
Chair, Board of Directors

# VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CEREMONY

Girl Scout volunteers open girls' eyes to a world of possibilities. They help her transform into a force for good. They prepare her to empower herself to unleash her most confident self. Girl Scout volunteers are everyday heroes with extraordinary super powers. Because of volunteers, every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™ has the opportunity to learn what she's capable of accomplishing and reach for the stars.



On Saturday, April 27, we celebrated our volunteers at the Riverbanks Zoo and Garden in Columbia, in beautiful Kentucky Derby themed attire.

Our council offers our most sincere congratulations and gratitude to each volunteer who was recognized during our awards ceremony, and all the volunteers across the 22-county jurisdiction of our council.

Left to right:  
Volunteers Hope Bursac  
and Jeri Cockerel



Service Unit 653 receiving the President's Award.



Patty Carter represents the true spirit of Girl Scouting, always willing to help and take the lead for the good of the group. She has been involved with Girl Scouts for 46 years, both in Virginia and Lancaster, SC. She is known for taking new leaders under her wings and guiding them to become the mentors, leaders, and role models our girls need. The positive impact a volunteer has on the life of a girl is hard to measure, and we can't begin to estimate the impact Patty Carter has had on girls in her community throughout decades of service. Congratulations to Patty Carter on a well-deserved Thanks Badge II!

# THE BISHOP'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

There is good reason why the mission of Girl Scouts resonates with girls from every background, religion, race, and ethnicity. No matter what a girl is passionate about or believes, Girl Scouts encourages her to chase her goals, connect with her values and community, and help others. For many girls, exploring their faith and how it connects to making the world a better place is a large part of their Girl Scout journey.

The Bishop's Award of Excellence is established for the purpose of recognizing congregations and units within the United Methodist Church that extend their ministry to children and youth by creating a faith based environment for children, youth, their families and their leaders to participate in Girl Scouting and other youth organizations.

Congratulations to Girl Scout Troops 582, 679, 680, 2250, and 2402 of St. Mark United Methodist Church-Sumter!



*Girl Scouts of St. Mark United Methodist Church-Sumter receiving The Bishop's Award of Excellence.*

## THE ORDER OF THE PALMETTO



The Order of the Palmetto is the highest civilian honor awarded to citizens of South Carolina for extraordinary lifetime achievement, and for national or statewide service. This once in a lifetime achievement was awarded to longtime friend of Girl Scouts, Dodie Anderson, by Gov. Henry McMaster.

Dodie Anderson is a well-known presence in the Girl Scouting community. Since even before the merger of our Mountains to Midlands council, Dodie worked with Girl Scouts in our area to form a coalition of different communities to increase our Girl Scout presence and bring the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to more girls. From serving on the Girl Scout National Board of Directors, to funding the construction of the Dodie Anderson Administration Building at Camp WaBak in Marietta, South Carolina, Dodie Anderson embodies everything the Girl Scout Leadership Experience strives to instill in girls.

*(top) Dodie Anderson with GSSC-MM board and staff*

*(bottom) Dodie Anderson receiving the Order of the Palmetto from South Carolina Governor Henry McMaster.*



## REMEMBERING BECKY RODGERS

Girl Scouting is truly a sisterhood: Once a Girl Scout, always a Girl Scout. It is with deep sadness that we say goodbye to a beloved member of our Girl Scouting community, Becky Rodgers. It is with gratitude and joy that we remember the legacy she leaves behind through Girl Scouts.

Becky served our council, and the girls of South Carolina, through her love of the outdoors, passion for female leadership, and advocacy for girls from every background. We continue our work, remembering and honoring Becky's dedication to building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

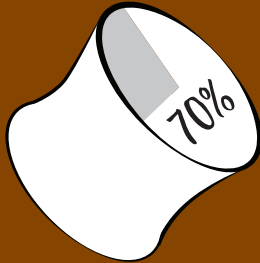


# Outdoor Experiences=Success

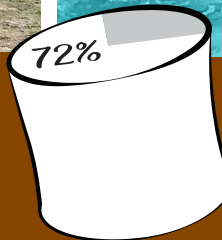
With help from you, our donors, girls are creating memories and building leadership skills! Girls from around our council are gaining confidence by spending time outdoors. Girls are learning, exploring, and building friendships that will last a lifetime.



## More than S'mores



70% of all girls from all Socio-Economic Status backgrounds had their **first outdoor experience** through Girl Scouts.



72% said they **improved an outdoor skill** through Girl Scout programming.



50% said **they would not have been exposed to outdoor activities** if not for Girl Scouts

**Camp WaBak** is accredited by the American Camp Association that sets high standards for the health and safety of campers.

**Camp Mary Elizabeth** not only has one of the only public/private pools in Spartanburg, it offers swim passes and swim lessons at affordable prices. In addition to the pool, day campers are exploring 56 acres, and five miles of trails for walking and mountain biking.



# Girl Scout Gold and Silver Award Recognition Ceremony

From the inception of Girl Scouts in 1912, service to others has been a central component of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. The Girl Scout Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting, recognizing girls who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through remarkable Take Action projects that have sustainable impact in their communities—and beyond.

On Sunday, May 5, 2019, we hosted our 2019 Gold and Silver Award Ceremony and Reception to honor our Gold and Silver Award Girl Scouts as well as their families who have supported them in their leadership journeys. At this ceremony, we learned about the incredible projects our girls completed—from community education to advocating for mental health awareness and creating care packages for cancer patients.

## 2019 Gold Award Girl Scouts



**Holly Lodmell**  
Troop 13  
Spartanburg



**Aisha Griffin**  
Troop 2199  
Lexington



**Emma Sandango**  
Troop 2638  
Spartanburg



**Erin Villanueva**  
Troop 34  
Inman



**Reagan Davis**  
Troop 2199  
Columbia



**Lauren Stover**  
Troop 2900  
Easley



**Bethany Bagwell**  
Troop 100  
Fountain Inn



**Bonnie Frick**  
Troop 2222  
Little Mountain



**Jimeace Bonaparte**  
Troop 3271  
Greenville



**Sylvia Zaragoza**  
Troop 162  
Chester



**Kayleigh Jordan**  
Troop 2243  
Sumter



**Elisabeth Harkins**  
Troop 5295  
North Augusta



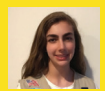
**Trystyn Gaston**  
Troop 162  
Chester



**Aniaya Price**  
Troop 2253  
Columbia



**Amelia Guerry**  
Troop 5335  
Aiken



**Camden Meetze**  
Troop 760  
Chapin



**Zola Jane Aplin**  
Troop 2374  
Irmo



**Cameron Barron**  
Troop 5375  
Aiken



**Brianna Wangsness**  
Troop 940  
Columbia



**Celeste Paglialunga**  
Troop 2542  
Fountain Inn



**Madeleine Maylath**  
Troop 9136  
Chapin



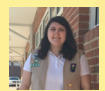
**Loren Brown**  
Troop 940  
Columbia



**Grace Davis**  
Troop 2549  
Greer



**Janaki Raman**  
IRM  
Columbia



**Jessalyn Stevens**  
Troop 1651  
Cayce



**Caitlin Roberson**  
Troop 2616  
Lyman



**Micah Cook**  
Troop 2128  
Columbia




**Nichole Reitz**  
Troop 2616  
Lyman



**Congratulations to this year's scholarship recipients!**

Emma Sandango (left) received the Chandler-Burns Scholarship, and Bonnie Frick (right), who received the Pauline Patterson Membership Scholarship.



  
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To the household of:

**SHARE YOUR NEWSLETTER:** Let others in your community know about Girl Scout opportunities for girls and volunteers. When you are finished with *Leadership Line* or if you receive more than one copy, take it to the medical office, school, gym, salon, or other places you visit. Thank you!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### August 10

Volunteer Kick-Off

### Fall Product Program

September-October

### G.I.R.L. Expo

September 21

### Back in the Woods

October 19

