

girl scouts  
of south carolina  
mountains to midlands

12

Leadership  
Line

*A quarter in review.*

girl scouts  
of south carolina  
mountains to midlands

**THERE IS POWER  
IN EVERY**

**G.I.R.L.**  
go-getter / innovator / risk-taker / leader

**Unleash it at Girl Scouts.**  
Join now at [www.gssc-mm.org](http://www.gssc-mm.org)

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

SPRING 2018

# A NOTE FROM *Rebecca and Kim*



**Rebecca Lever**  
Chair, Board of Directors



**Kim Hutzell**  
President/CEO

Why Girl Scouts? It's a question we get quite frequently. It's no secret that the "girl empowerment" space has filled up quickly over the past decade. Our society is finally realizing the truth: that girls have natural leadership potential and deserve opportunities to nurture that potential and take their place among the leaders in our society. We agree. But guess what? We've known and embraced that truth before it was ever popular or even accepted by society. We've known that girls are natural leaders for more than a century. Since before women had the right to vote, we've proven the difference!

Beyond the belief that girls make excellent leaders, Girl Scouts has been preparing girls to empower themselves through researched and proven programming since 1912. The success of our program is in the numbers. Fifty percent of women in the 115th Congress are Girl Scout alums. Four of the six current female governors are Girl Scout alums. Every female Secretary of State in U.S. history is a former Girl Scout. Need more proof? More than half (52 percent) of female business leaders are Girl Scout alums, and Girl Scout alums are more likely than non-alums to have a business degree.

Why Girl Scouts? Because Girl Scouts is the expert on girls. Our program is girl-led, designed for girls and

what they're interested in, and tested and proven by time and research. At Girl Scouts, girls aren't sidekicks or supporting characters. Girls are the main characters. They are the heroes. As you read through this publication, we can't wait for you to be inspired by the work our organization is doing right here in our own communities. Whether you are learning about the 25th Annual Women of Distinction event, the civic-minded girls who earned their Gold Awards, or about the promise of our new Leadership Center, it is clear to see that Girl Scouts is THE authority on female leadership and preparing the leaders of tomorrow to lead with courage, confidence, and character. Thank you for your continued support and for taking this journey with us into a better tomorrow.

## Did you know?

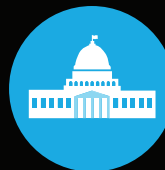
Girl Scouts fuels the female leadership pipeline.



**50%**  
OF FEMALE  
BUSINESS LEADERS



**80%**  
OF FEMALE  
TECH LEADERS



**73%**  
OF FEMALE  
U.S. SENATORS



**100%**  
OF FEMALE  
U.S. SECRETARIES  
OF STATE

...WERE GIRL SCOUTS.



Long time Girl Scout, South Carolina Legacy Board Chair, and former National Girl Scout Board Member Dodie Anderson celebrates her 90th birthday with Girl Scouts of South Carolina—Mountains to Midlands.

2018  
**WOMEN  
of  
DISTINCTION**

25 years

**Midlands Region**

On Thursday, March 1, 2018, our community came together to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the Women of Distinction Awards in the Midlands. This award not only epitomizes professional and personal achievement, but also focuses on community activism and philanthropy. The women honored each championed the Girl Scout values and are true G.I.R.L.s (Go-getter, Innovators, Risk-takers, and Leaders).



*from left to right:*  
*Kim Hutzell, CEO; Melanie Huggins, Honoree; Molly Spearman, Honoree; Kathleen Lawson Gibson, Honoree; Erin McCaskill, Honoree; Rebecca Lever, Board Chair*



**Kathleen Lawson Gibson** is the daughter of the late Henry Lawson and Faye Smith Lawson. She received her formal education at Clarendon School District One and was an honor graduate of Scott's Branch High School Class of 1970. She is a graduate of the University of South Carolina with a Bachelor's of Arts in Early Childhood with a concentration in Psychology. Among her many duties and daily activities, Ms. Gibson is actively involved with the following committees/boards: Clarendon County First Steps, Willow Glen Academy Human Rights Board, appointed by Clarendon County Council to the Disabilities and Special Needs Board, SC State Certified Guardian Ad Litem advocating for children of abuse and neglect for 15 years (Cass Elias McCarter Program), and Children's Trust of South Carolina.



**Melanie Huggins** is the executive director of Richland Library in Columbia, SC, which received the 2017 National Medal for Museum and Library Service, the nation's highest honor. In addition to her work in the library community, Huggins was appointed in 2017 to serve a three-year term on the Together SC Board of Directors. She was named Vice President of the University of South Carolina's University Associates Board from 2017-2018 and she currently serves on the Columbia City Center Partnership Board.



**Erin McCaskill**, vice president and private banker for First Citizens Wealth Management, has been involved in the banking industry and the Midlands community for over 13 years. Erin is a member of the Financial Planning Association, holds a Certified Financial Planner designation and is extensively involved in numerous civic and philanthropic organizations. She currently is chair of the Lexington Medical Center Foundation Board, co-chair of the American Heart Association's Heart Ball and vice chair of Women of Hope.



**Molly Spearman** was elected as the 18th South Carolina State Superintendent of Education on November 4, 2014. Native to Saluda County, Mrs. Spearman's childhood laid the foundations of family, faith and hard work that transcended into her professional career as an educator and civil servant. Superintendent Spearman's career has spanned 18 years as a public school music teacher and an assistant principal. In addition to teaching and administration, she has served four terms as a member of the South Carolina House of Representatives, six years as Deputy Superintendent of the South Carolina Department of Education, and ten years as the Executive Director of the South Carolina Association of School Administrators.

# Powerful Women Summit

Dozens of teenaged girls got a jump start on their careers at two Powerful Women Summits. In Columbia and Greenville girls had the opportunity to meet and learn from successful career women. The Powerful Women represent diverse fields including law enforcement, medicine, engineering and teaching.

Held on January 27, both events were sponsored by Publix Super Markets Charities. The Girl Scout Leadership Experience has always focused on providing girls with opportunities to become leaders in their communities and the world. This program connects girls with local leaders. The Powerful Women moved table to table every 8-10 minutes answering career questions that will prepare girls to empower themselves on the path to career success.



*from left to right:  
Dr. Cynthia King, Associate Professor, Furman University; Ashlee Brown, Veterinarian, Roper Mountain Animal Hospital*



*from left to right:  
Ashlee Brown, Veterinarian, Roper Mountain Animal Hospital; Dr. Cynthia King, Associate Professor, Furman University; Tiffany Craig, Advanced Machine Engineer, General Electric; Victoria Harrison, Girl Scout Senior; Myah Mastrogiamomo, Girl Scout Senior; Crystal Jamison, Senior Associate IT Auditing, RSM US, LLP; Kayla Mason, RN Manager, Greenville Health Systems; Natalie Hill, Sergeant, Greenville County Sheriff's Department; Karen Huff, Vice President, Masters Car Stereo*

## Medal of Honor

Caylee is a Girl Scout—there is no doubt about it. In January she accepted one of the highest honors Girl Scouts bestows—THE MEDAL OF HONOR. Caylee's mother didn't want publicity surrounding the honor, but she did give consent to share her story with other Girl Scouts.

In July of 2017 Caylee was swimming in a pool with several other children. Caylee jumped in and was playing in the water when a three-year-old on the pool deck slid and fell into the water. He went straight to the bottom. Caylee is a Go-getter and instinct kicked in. She reacted immediately, went down, grabbed him, and pulled him to the surface. Caylee's mother says if it had not been for her daughter's quick reaction the toddler may not have survived.

The following is an excerpt from the letter she received from GSUSA National President and CEO Sylvia Acevedo: "As you know well, at Girl Scouts we strive to help girls develop to improve their own lives and the world around them. By doing your very best to save a life, you are a living testament to the highest principles of the Girl Scout Promise and Law. You are a girl of courage, confidence and character, and through your actions you have truly made the world a better place."

Caylee's extraordinary courage, incredible confidence, and willingness to take decisive action in an emergency serve as a shining example for Girl Scouts everywhere.



*left: Caylee with her parents*



*right: Caylee receiving the Medal of Honor from GSSC-MM staff*

## Powering Experiences for Girls and Propelling Our Council: The Cookie Season Wrap-up

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is a powerful financial literacy program that teaches girls to practice courage by taking risks, learn practical financial planning and management skills, and lead with confidence. In our council, our girls excel in setting high goals and reaching them. Let us give you just a few stats on the 2018 Girl Scout Cookie Program:



**More than 1800 cases of cookies were designated for soldiers serving in our military**

**More than 1800 cases of cookies were designated for soldiers serving in our military**

**37% of GSSC-MM Girl Scouts sold online.**

Did we mention that 100% of the Cookie Program's profits stay completely local? That's right. All profits from the cookies are shared between the council for programming, supporting volunteer services and properties, the troops, and to power incredible experiences such as service projects, trips, events and beyond!

One of our favorite quotes came from one of our leaders in the Upstate about her experience this cookie season: "This is our fourth year selling Girl Scout Cookies. Just when I was getting a little burnt out this year, our girls told us that they wanted to use not some but all their cookie money to fund a service project at a local nursing home. At that moment, I knew that all the time was worth it."



## Believe in the Power of Camp

Through our research, we know that there is a direct correlation between leadership and outdoor experiences: 29% of girls overcame a fear by participating in an outdoor activity through Girl Scouts. While there are many ways girls can get outside, no one connects girls to the outdoors through meaningful experiences like Girl Scouts. Each of our camp sessions is specifically designed to allow girls to take risks in a safe space, practice independence and team work, and learn new skills.

We are proud to report that our registration numbers for the 2018 camp season are strong and already surpass the number of girls served in our 2017 season. With the summer almost upon us, would you consider giving the gift of camp? **Your donation could send a girl to camp and help her unleash the leader within!**

Call us at **1.800.849.GIRL**

## Greenville Women Giving

Girl Scouts of South Carolina-Mountains to Midlands was recently awarded \$88,540 by Greenville Women Giving. The funded program, Girls Who Thrive, will deliver the Girl Scouting proven leadership program to low income and homeless girls in Greenville County over the next two years. Girls Who Thrive will create three dedicated troops. Troop 6000 will serve homeless girls in partnership with United Housing Connections, United Ministries, and the Salvation Army. Two troops, one at Welcome Elementary and the other at Grove Elementary, will serve low-income girls.



*from left to right: Rebecca Lever, Board Chair; Kim Hutzell, CEO; Jane Dyer, GWG project contact*

# One BIG Step Closer: The Cathy Novinger Girl Scout Leadership Center

We're on the fast track with Cathy Novinger Girl Scout Leadership Center. \$1.8 million of the final \$3 million fundraising goal has been met and we are transitioning to the public phase of the campaign.

Public phase committee volunteers met in late April for orientation. They have toolkits on their wrists, by way of USB wristbands, and are ready ToGetHerThere! Girl Scouts of South Carolina—Mountains to Midlands delegates were updated in April as well. Now we are fine-tuning our messaging, plan and timeline for the public.

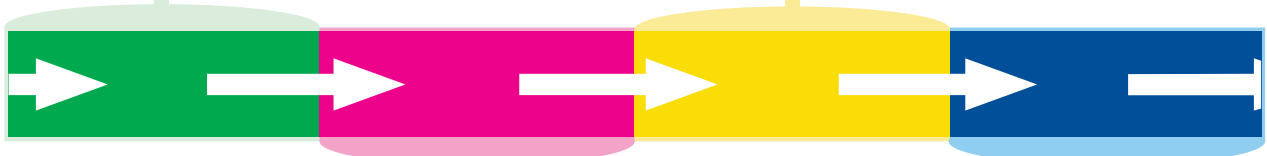


## Quiet Phase

- 60% of total needed raised.
- During this phase we worked to secure major gifts from donors and corporations.
- Service Units Delegates were trained on making case and messaging.

## The Goals

- Meet our financial goal.
- Have fun and creatively engage the community.
- Make many new friends and rekindle old friendships on behalf of the council.



## Public phase

- We are asking for help from the public and GSSC-MM stakeholders.
- Support for the campaign can come in cash or community connections.

## Wrap up

- 90% of the goal is raised.
- We will announce it loud and clear to the public.
- Be ready to celebrate!



You can see more preliminary drawings like these at [gssc-mm.org](http://gssc-mm.org) under the "ToGetHerThere" tab



## Michelin Charity Golf Tournament

Girl Scouts of South Carolina—Mountains to Midlands is excited to announce that we will be participating in the Michelin Charities Golf Tournament this fall. The tournament splits its receipts each year among ten local charities. Girl Scouts will volunteer at the event, which begins with a pairing party on September 30. Our Council will use the funds received to help complete and equip the Cathy Novinger Girl Scout Leadership Center in Columbia.

# Gold Award Girl Scouts Recognized



The Gold Award is the pinnacle of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. It represents the courage to lead, the confidence required to take risks and innovate new solutions, and the character that is so desperately needed in leadership today.



On Sunday, May 6, 36 Girl Scouts from our council were recognized for planning, organizing and working on projects that allowed them to complete their Gold Awards. Congratulations to:

 <b>Julia Babineau</b> Troop 8 Greer	 <b>Jaelyn Ellis</b> Troop 2253 Columbia	 <b>Elizabeth Malejko</b> Individual Girl Program Lexington	 <b>Victoria Singleton</b> Troop 2199 Irmo
 <b>Anna Bennett</b> Troop 2450 Simpsonville	 <b>Jolie Eppes</b> Troop 2542 Simpsonville	 <b>Alexis Miles</b> Troop 2253 Columbia	 <b>Bailey Stephens</b> Troop 3519 Clinton
 <b>Mary Strahley Benson</b> Troop 2251 Columbia	 <b>Quinn Filler</b> Troop 2638 Spartanburg	 <b>Emily Miller</b> Troop 5775 North Augusta	 <b>Elizabeth Stevenson</b> Troop 5275 Aiken
 <b>Adeline Cagle</b> Troop 2251 Columbia	 <b>Sara Fuller</b> Troop 9136 Chapin	 <b>Blake Osborne</b> Troop 1448 Moore	 <b>Akari Stolt</b> Troop 2228 Lexington
 <b>Robin Conner</b> Troop 2450 Simpsonville	 <b>Sakeena Ghandour</b> Troop 2374 Irmo	 <b>Sydni Parnell</b> Troop 2253 Columbia	 <b>Alexis Stone</b> Troop 2228 Gilbert
 <b>Eugena Davis</b> Troop 1586 Sumter	 <b>Tinley Johnson</b> Troop 2590 Clemson	 <b>Kiersten Potts</b> Troop 2374 Irmo	 <b>Laura Stuart</b> Troop 1334 Columbia
 <b>Tatianna Davis</b> Troop 1586 Sumter	 <b>Izabella Kamieniecki</b> Troop 2414 Greer	 <b>Brynn Reese</b> Troop 3519 Simpsonville	 <b>Emma Walker</b> Troop 2559 Greenville
 <b>Elizabeth Dillard</b> Undisclosed	 <b>Ashley Liddell</b> Troop 2638 Boiling Springs	 <b>Sarah Roberts</b> Troop 3519 Laurens	 <b>Mae Webster</b> Troop 2638 Spartanburg
 <b>Megan Drake</b> Troop 5335 Aiken	 <b>Ra'ven Logan</b> Troop 1586 Sumter	 <b>Samantha Rush</b> Troop 159 Boiling Springs	 <b>Katherine Woody</b> Troop 2251 Columbia

During the ceremony two generous donors who believe in the proven benefits of Girl Scouting awarded scholarships. Both scholarships are awarded only to Girl Scouts who have earned their Gold Awards.




In the girl-led spirit of our organization, Girl Scouts Celeste Paglialunga (pictured left) and Breelyn Grooms (right) emceed the ceremony.

Kris Burns (pictured right) awarded the Chandler-Burns scholarship to Tatianna Davis (left). The Chandler-Burns family has a multi-generational history of Girl Scout membership.



The Pauline Patterson Memorial Scholarship was awarded to Anna Bennett (pictured right) by Bill Patterson (left).

Our heartfelt thanks to both of these supporters. Congratulations to the well-deserving Gold Award Girl Scouts! Check out our full gallery on our Facebook page at [facebook.com/gsscmm](https://www.facebook.com/gsscmm)

  
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**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 4

Camp WaBak 70th Anniversary Celebration

### August 11

Volunteer Kick-Off

### Fall Product Program

September 21-October 21

