




**World
Changers**

 **Powered by You**

Fall 2020



a message from Chief Executive Officer, **Lora Tucker**
and Chief Development Officer, **Lara Winburn**

Right now, there is a lot of talk about connectivity. Whether it is referring to broadband or the isolation of quarantine, there are many conversations about how vital connectivity is for all of us. As we face this pandemic together, your investments in Girl Scouts are impacting those connections for girls in our council's 22 counties. We know that beyond getting sick, many young people's social, emotional, and mental well-being have been impacted by the pandemic. For extroverts like the two of us, our well-being could be improved with regular coffee conversations with friends and colleagues. But for now, we are changing plans, exploring new opportunities, and reaching out through the small screen, and sometimes, even the big screen to ensure we stay connected.



Because of your generosity, we continue to offer girls and partners opportunities to stay connected through Girl Scouting. We are still hosting virtual badge activities and online girl hang outs. New this fall are virtual interest clubs connecting girls with the amazing volunteers of the Junior League of Columbia; you can read more about this fabulous partnership later in this newsletter. Thanks to generous sponsors like you, we have celebrated Women of Distinction in both Columbia and Spartanburg. It may not be exactly how we envisioned these events, but your support is so appreciated! At times, we have been able to gather safely outdoors, celebrate, and join our car honks of congratulations, even when we could not personally applaud out loud. These are just a few ways your investment in Girl Scouts keeps this community connected. Thank you so very much for making a difference in the lives of our girls!

SUFFRAGE CENTENNIAL ON THE STATE HOUSE STEPS

A century after some women across America gained the right to vote, Girl Scouts of South Carolina-Mountains to Midlands stood with elected officials, women leaders in business, university presidents, and supporters on the South Carolina State House steps to recognize how far women have come. Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette led the ceremony as Girl Scouts from across South Carolina and GSSC-MM CEO Lora Tucker stood in support.

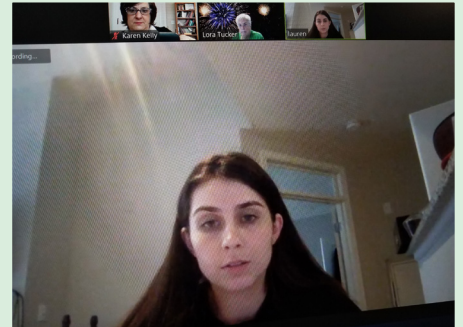
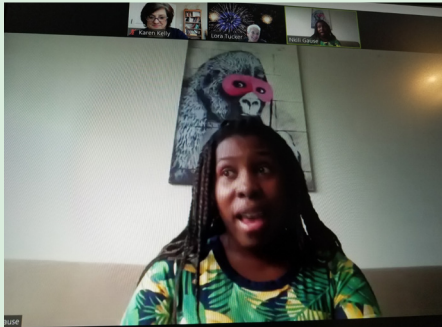


Above: South Carolina Lt. Governor Pam Evette with Girl Scouts and Girl Scout council CEO's from South Carolina
Top Right: Girl Scouts with SC Representative Pat Henegan - Photo courtesy of The Post and Courier
Bottom Right: Girl Scouts with GSSC-MM CEO Lora Tucker

ADVOCACY

During the short summer recess, CEO Lora Tucker met virtually with congressmen from South Carolina to advocate for girls. Zoom calls with Rep. Ralph Norman, and staff from Rep. William Timmons and Rep. James Clyburn's offices focused on council response to the pandemic, balancing financial strain with unparalleled demand for programming for girls, a call to expand the charitable tax deduction, and information about our anti-racism work with an ask to sign the Girl Scouts' anti-racism pledge.

www.gssc-mm.org/DiversityEquityInclusion



Every girl deserves access to the resources, role models, and experiences to fulfill her potential. When you are a Girl Scout GEM you join a group of people who are passionate and believe in the power of girls: **Your monthly gift of \$19.12 makes a difference. Challenge 12 friends to do the same.**

1 donor giving \$19.12 a month = Annual membership for **9 Girl Scouts**



6 donors giving \$19.12 a month = STEM outreach kits (with supplies) for **45 Girl Scouts**



12 donors giving \$19.12 a month = Camp Counselor training for **6 older Girl Scouts** to become leaders and mentor **countless girls**



Your recurring gift ensures that girls will experience an inclusive leadership development program.

Become a Girl Scout GEM Today

1.800.849.GIRL | gssc-mm.org/en/donate/Monthly.html

2020 WOMEN of DISTINCTION



Lora Tucker with (from left to right) Honorees Nikole Mergo, Meghan Hickman, Dr. Rosyln Artis, Adrienne Gist (on behalf of A'ja Wilson) and Representative Beth Bernstein

For more than a quarter of a century, we have honored Columbia area women who exemplify what it means to lead with courage, confidence, and character and make the world a better place. When COVID-19 began to seriously impact our region of the country, we were only a few weeks away from our annual Women of Distinction celebration in Columbia. As the CDC released significant restriction recommendations for the sizes of gatherings, we made the difficult decision to postpone the event in the interest of safety.



COO Crystal Gaines with volunteers

However, in the steps of Girl Scouts before us, we identified the problem and innovated a solution. Social distancing? How about a drive-in! Contactless program? No problem. We pre-recorded each speaker to be played on the big screen. We may have encountered unprecedented challenges (more than once!) like the weather, but we met them with unprecedented solutions. Through honoring female leadership in its highest form, we show girls that their leadership and voices are seen, valued, and needed to make the world a better place.

Congratulations once again to our outstanding honorees, and thank you for continuing to support the world's largest and best leadership development organization for girls, right here in South Carolina!

Watch the Women of Distinction video:
bit.ly/WoD2020

2020 Women of Distinction Midlands Sponsors

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Honoree Dr. Aubrey Sejuitt receiving her award

Boots & Pearls

The Spartanburg Girl Scout community is a tight-knit group who recognize the life-changing impact the Girl Scout Leadership Program has on girls' lives. This year, our Boots and Pearls Women of Distinction celebration looked different than ever before. On October 22, despite mounting challenges, we found a way to gather together and honor two incredible Spartanburg area leaders.



Lora Tucker with honorees Stacy McBride (left) and J. Ruth Littlejohn (right)

Watch the Boots & Pearls video:
bit.ly/BootsPearls2020



J. Ruth Littlejohn is a native of Spartanburg County. She attended Claflin University in Orangeburg, and as the wife of an Air Force Officer, she continued her education by taking courses at Minot State (North Dakota), Belleville College (Illinois) and Brevard College (Florida). Prior to her retirement in 2007, Littlejohn was a successful realtor for nearly twenty-three years. She was a licensed realtor in Illinois, Virginia and Florida. She now serves as the District 3 representative on Spartanburg City Council.



Stacy McBride has lived in Spartanburg for 28 years and during that time, has focused on working as a community volunteer for children and families. As a former volunteer with the Safe Homes Rape Crisis Coalition, she assisted victims of domestic violence and sexual assault. She spent several years serving on the Spartanburg Art Museum Board. Stacy served on the Spartanburg Day School Board for six years and started the vacation bible school at St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church where she currently serves as the Vice Chair of the Christian Outreach Committee and on the Board of the Society of St. Paul the Apostle.

We'd like to thank our sponsors of our drive-in movie event at Piedmont Interstate Fairgrounds:

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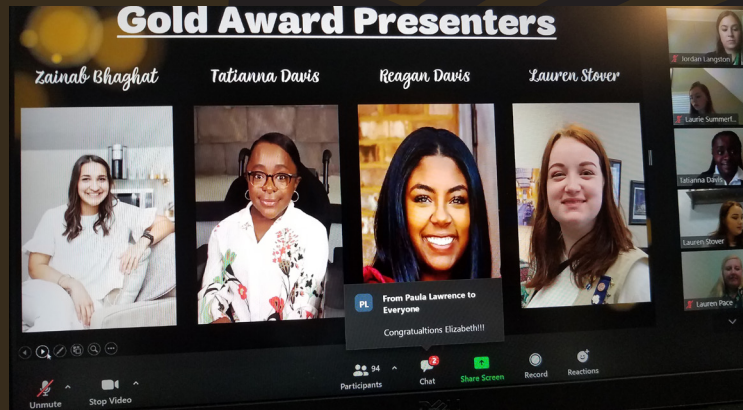
**J. Ruth Littlejohn
& Stacy McBride**

from

Susu & George Dean Johnson

GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD

The Girl Scout Gold and Silver Awards are the mark of the truly remarkable—proof that not only can she make a difference, but that she already has. This year, the 2020 Gold and Silver Award Ceremony went virtual over Zoom.



During the 2020 Gold and Silver Award Ceremony, two outstanding GSSC-MM Gold Award Girl Scouts were awarded scholarships to help them pursue their dreams in college.

We want to thank our donors for helping these outstanding Gold Award Girl Scouts further their education.

Chandler-Burns Scholarship

Elizabeth is a 2020 graduate of Boiling Springs High School and a Gold Award Girl Scout. Elizabeth has been a Girl Scout for 11 years. She has earned many achievements and awards and participated in a list of activities including performing with the Carolina Youth Symphony: Symphonic Orchestra. Elizabeth says that "Girl Scouts has helped build her character, courage, and confidence, and would recommend it to everyone!" Elizabeth is a freshman at Clemson University studying microbiology.



Pauline Patterson Memorial Scholarship

Josie is a 2020 graduate of River Bluff High School and a Gold Award Girl Scout. Josie has been a Girl Scout for 10 years. Her passion is all things film, volunteering for the media team covering high school sports and even being named Media & Design student of the year. Josie states that "Girl Scouts is one of the few unique opportunities in life to connect with those who are like you and who are different in their own amazing way." Josie is a freshman at Ohio University studying film.

MICHELIN GIVES TO GIRL SCOUTS



For more than 30 years, the Michelin Charity Golf Tournament has raised more than \$6 million for charities across the United States.

This year, despite moving to a virtual event, Michelin donated \$33,100 to Girl Scouts of South Carolina—Mountains to Midlands.

Thank you Michelin for making sure there are generations of female leaders!

GIRL LEAGUE



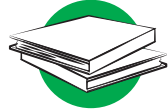
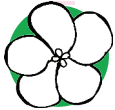
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JUNIOR LEAGUE
of COLUMBIA

presents

Girl League



The Junior League of Columbia trains a class of first-year members each year, beginning in August, to prepare them for effective community and League involvement. New members complete a comprehensive training series that allows them the opportunity to develop new friendships, serve the local community, and learn about the JLC's structure and history. The new members class devotes much of its time volunteering with various organizations in the community.

This year, it's dedicating the entire JLC new member class, 151 women in Columbia, to our council. The new members are creating virtual interest clubs with Girl Scouts. We have scheduled club series, such as a book club, cooking club, etiquette club, crafting club, self-confidence club, gardening club, fashion club, and fitness club. These clubs will ensure that Girl Scouts have exceptional content facilitated by women leaders in the community.

Thank you Junior League of Columbia for stepping up to work with the future female leaders! In partnership with them, we're proud to present a monthly series of events that will teach girls life skills such as cooking, crafting, fitness, reading, and self confidence. These events can be found under the "Events" tab on our website.

DONOR CORNER

The generous support of corporate sponsors make a tremendous impact on girls in the 22 counties we cover. AgFirst Farm Credit Bank is a loyal supporter of the Girl Scouts of South Carolina—Mountains to Midlands. Their generosity makes a true impact on girls in this council. AgFirst contributed to our capital campaign naming the patio at the Cathy Novinger Girl Scout Leadership Center, sponsors events like the Women of Distinction Drive-In, and invests in programming, supplies and the council in general. Their contributions ensure we can provide the amazing Girl Scout Leadership experience to countless girls across our 22 counties.



AGFIRST
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"AgFirst is very proud of our ongoing partnership with the Girl Scouts of South Carolina—Mountains to Midlands and our combined efforts in growing the next great generation of leaders. Both of our organizations value leadership development by encouraging personal responsibility, committing to continuous education and collaborating with others in a dedicated inclusive environment. AgFirst is reliable, value-driven and committed to serving our communities – just like the traits you find in any G.I.R.L."

Frances Griggs

AgFirst Farm Credit Bank Senior Vice President General Counsel



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Cathy Novinger Girl Scout Leadership Center

1107 Williams St
Columbia, SC 29201

Greenville Service Center and Corporate Headquarters

5 Independence Pointe, Suite 120
Greenville, SC 29615

Spartanburg Service Center

349 East Blackstock Road
Spartanburg, SC 29301

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Serving girls in 22 South Carolina counties.

