The Girl Scout Spirit

EXPLORE the World

2014 Annual Report

COOKIE SEASON IS HERE!

Winter 2015
We're only half-way through the Girl Scout year and it's been full of super-exciting adventures. Whether we're traveling the globe or making a difference in our own communities, when Girl Scouts come together, we truly make the world a better place. Girl Scouts are the heroes of their own stories, and with the help of supportive adults, they challenge their limits and discover they can do anything. Along the way, Girl Scouts make new friends and new connections that help them change the world.

In October, our girls returned home from the Girl Scout Leadership Institute (GSLI) ready to change the world. Part of the national convention held every three years, GSLI is a selective program gathering girls together from across the country to tackle serious problems and create lasting change. Check out their story on page 17.

One day, these girls might be the community, business and government leaders we celebrate at our annual Women of Distinction events. Do you know a special woman leader who is dedicated to service and leadership? Then celebrate her by nominating her for a Women of Distinction award. We are currently accepting nominations for the upcoming Women of Distinction Awards in Fort Worth and Lubbock. For more details, go to page 14.

Whether it’s through events like GSLI or travel programs such as Destinations, Girl Scouting always brings together girls and women from across the country, and even the world, to discover new ideas, meet new people and learn about different cultures. Just ask Yvonne Lowrie and Libby Watson – two Lifetime Girl Scouts who recently traveled abroad to meet up with old friends and celebrate the Girl Scout Movement. Their stories on page 15 show how powerful and long-lasting the impact of Girl Scouting can be.

Speaking of powerful impact, in this issue, we shine the Volunteer Spotlight on Dominquee “Nikki” Williams, Troop Leader for Troop #7029 in Abilene. She shares her favorite Girl Scout memories, activities and advice with us. Nikki helps her girls find their own inner spark; that special skill, talent, or moment when they discover something amazing about themselves that will carry them towards future success. She has made a big impression on her troop parents, too – so much so that they call Nikki “an inspiration to all of our adult leaders.”

Volunteers like Nikki are the heroes who make Girl Scouting possible for more than 21,000 girls across our council. With programs from Fort Worth to the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles, there’s a chance for every girl do something incredible. For a look back at the impact of Girl Scouts during the 2013-2014 membership year, take a look at our Annual Report, starting on page 6.

We had an awesome year, and the experience continues.

I can’t wait to see what our girls do next!
Cookies are back, and each box is packed with fun and great skills for our girls. Through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, girls fund and plan their own adventures all while running their own Cookie business. You’ll be amazed at the skills and confidence she gains as she becomes a #CookieBoss.

Find your cookies at girlscoutcookies.org

“Cookies is NOT just about selling the public cookies, it is an opportunity to learn about the many skills we will need as we become adults as well as giving us the chance to bond with our troop.”
Rebecca J.
Girl Scout Ambassador

“I feel that my self-confidence goes up each year when I sell cookies. Now my Girl Scout sisters and I pretty much run the whole table by ourselves.”
Caylynn W.
Girl Scout Cadette

“I make better decisions about how money is spent because you know how hard it is to sell cookies. I am more confident that I can reach my goal.”
Brianne D.
Girl Scout Ambassador

“I know if I set a goal and work really hard I can accomplish it. Selling cookies has allowed me to reach goals I never thought were possible. I know if I can do it any girl can!”
Allie R.
Girl Scout Cadette

We asked our Cookie Corp, our spokesgirls during the Cookie Season, what they get out of selling cookies.
Volunteer Spotlight

Girl Scout Troop Leaders make every day the best day ever. Leaders are role models, they teach new things, and best of all, they show girls what’s possible. With their Troop Leader by their side, girls develop skills and confidence that will last a lifetime.

Nikki is an exceptional person and leader... It is very apparent how much she loves the girls and helps them strive to be the best they can be.... She is a single mom, she works and has been going to school... She is an inspiration to all of our adult leaders.

- Elaine Herweck

Dominiquee “Nikki” Williams is, in a word, busy. Not only does she co-lead Troop #7029, a multi-level troop in Abilene, Nikki also works for the local Independent School District, goes to school herself, volunteers with her son’s Boy Scout troop and recently passed the state exam to become a certified teacher. Nikki’s schedule would make anyone take a step back and say, “Whoa!”

A Quiet Introduction to Girl Scouting

Girls grow in Girl Scouts — they try new things, make friends and learn that they can do anything...even things that scare them at first. Nikki’s daughter, Celicia, was extremely shy as a child. Nikki thought Girl Scouting could help her daughter get over her shyness and make friends.

Elaine Herweck was one of Celicia’s first troop leaders and she encouraged her to do presentations in front of her fellow Girl Scouts to complete her badge requirements. At first, Celicia was so shy she would whisper her speech to Elaine and then Elaine would repeat it so that the other scouts could hear. Celicia progressed to speaking on her own and is now a strong, confident Girl Scout Ambassador.

Elaine helped Celicia get over her shyness and, when she asked Nikki to become the troop’s leader, she gave Nikki the opportunity to be a positive force in many girls’ lives. From a special trip to Washington D.C. to community service, Nikki has led her girls on some awesome adventures.

Rockin’ the 100

Nikki’s favorite Girl Scout memory is when her girls celebrated the Girl Scouts Centennial with a trip to Washington D.C. for the Rock the Mall: 100th Anniversary Sing-Along. More than 250,000 Girl Scouts, friends, family and alumnae from across the world gathered on the National Mall to celebrate Girl Scouting with music and song.
“It was so breath-taking to see so many girls and meet people from all around the world that benefit from Girl Scouts,” Nikki said. “The crowds were amazing.”

Closer to home, Troop #7029 takes action in their community through a number of service projects. The girls have volunteered at 5K fundraising events for Cystic Fibrosis and disabled veterans, sorted through clothing donations for a local nonprofit that serves the homeless and have served meals at the annual H-E-B Feast of Sharing event. Nikki’s favorite badges all relate to community service and expanding her girls’ knowledge of how they can better serve their community.

Having a multi-level troop is an adventure all its own, both for Nikki and the girls. Older girls are mentors and help to guide their younger Girl Scout sisters. The younger girls are inspired by the older girls. They hope to fill their vests and sashes with as many badges and awards as their older Girl Scout sisters have.

Their next adventure? The girls are planning on earning enough Cookie funds to go to the birthplace of Girl Scouting — Savannah, Georgia — in 2016.

Unsung Hero

Nikki’s troop continues to grow (29 girls strong) and working with troop parents brings her immense joy. She loves to encourage parents and help them take an active role in developing their girl’s leadership skills. Nikki returns to Girl Scouting every year because of all the families who benefit from the program.

To recognize and thank Nikki for her exceptional leadership, some of those same parents nominated her for a special honor: the Unsung Hero Award, a Council recognition awarded to exceptional volunteers for their hard work and dedication. Nikki was the only 2014 Unsung Hero recipient in the Abilene area and submissions for her nomination were full of praise for her leadership and contributions to Girl Scouting.

Help Make More WOW Happen

Nikki has changed the lives of her girls — and you can too. By sharing your talents, stories and time with Girl Scouts, you can inspire the next generation of women leaders. Are you ready to help girls realize that they can do pretty much anything they set their mind to? Then start the fun now at [www.gs-top.org/join](http://www.gs-top.org/join) and remember some sage advice from Nikki:

“Think about what you were like as a girl and try to remember what was important to you. Whether you are teaching a new skill or giving a girl the chance to lead, approach each meeting or event with the vision of making a girl’s life better.”
Ella C. McFadden Trust

Ella C. McFadden was a remarkable woman who, during her lifetime, spent her time and resources on organizations that supported youth and those in need. Because she did not have children of her own, Mrs. McFadden felt a strong connection to youth-serving organizations. And, it is because of her planning, Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains continues to provide the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to thousands of girls in the Fort Worth area.

When Mrs. McFadden passed away in 1965, she stipulated in her will that a portion of her family’s wealth be set aside to create a charitable trust to benefit the community. This principal was left to build up over 20 years, and its first annual contributions to 13 local youth serving and human services organizations, including Girl Scouts, began in 1985.

The Ella C. McFadden Trust is managed by the Community Foundation of North Texas. Their careful stewardship of the endowment has ensured the distribution of $19.75 million over the course of two decades to those 13 local nonprofits. The annual gift to Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains helps build girls of courage, confidence, and character throughout Tarrant County.

“The fund created from Mrs. McFadden’s wealth will live forever through annual gifts to the causes she cared about most. By what other means is it possible to give indefinitely? An endowment fund is a special kind of legacy.” ~ Nancy Jones

Community Foundation of North Texas president

Planned Giving

Planned giving is an opportunity to make thorough, educated decisions about how to be most impactful with your philanthropy:

• What are your charitable goals?
• What do you want to accomplish?
• What causes and organizations are you most passionate about?

Taking charge of your will ensures your estate will go to the causes and organizations closest to your heart. Take action today to include Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains in your estate plans by contacting Katherine Curtis, CFRE, at 817-735-5313, or kcurtis@gs-top.org.
2014 Annual Report
girl scouts of texas oklahoma plains
At Girl Scouts, we laugh, explore, and make strides – all with friends by our side. Whether a girl is on her own for the first time at resident camp, meeting new people on a field trip to the fire station or making the world a better place by coming up with a Take Action plan to stop bullying at her school, Girl Scouts find what they love and grow into the leaders they want to be.

21,095 Girls 7,254 Adult Volunteers

**Girl Membership Diversity**
- 1%...... American Indian
- 1%...... Unreported
- 2%...... Asian
- 2%...... Other Races
- 3%...... Multi-Race
- 16%...... African-American
- 75% ..... White
- 33% of girl members are of Hispanic origin

**Adult Membership Diversity**
- 1%...... Other Races
- 1%...... American Indian
- 1%...... Multi-Race
- 2%...... Asian
- 3%...... Unreported
- 7%...... African-American
- 85% ..... White
- 12% of adult members are of Hispanic origin

2,470 Adult Training and Event Participants
196 Volunteers Receiving Recognition for Outstanding Service
2,042 Girl Scout Alumnae
Product Program

What Girls Learn While They Earn

A Girl Scout Research Institute study found that girls build a lifetime of skills and confidence when they participate in selling product:

- 85% increased their money management skills as they developed budgets, took cookie orders, and handled customers’ money.
- 83% developed business ethics, learning to fulfill promises to customers and considering how best to contribute to their communities with their earnings.
- 80% set goals and created objectives to reach them.
- 77% made important decisions, learning to work as a team to develop a business plan, deciding when and where to sell cookies, and determining what to do with the money they earn.
- 75% developed people skills, learning to talk to, listen to, and work with different kinds of people.


100% of the funds raised in product sales support girl program. A portion of the money earned by girls through the product program stays with the troops for funding their year-long Girl Scout activities. This year troops kept $1,439,776.38 for funding service projects, travel, and events.

Girls Served

Camp Pathway (Day Camps, Council/Area events held at camp, SU Events at Camp, Troop Camping) .................. 3,407
Resident Camp ..................................... 1,644
High Adventure Trips ............................... 49
TOTAL CAMP PATHWAY ............................ 5,100

EVENTS PATHWAY (Council/Area Events, Program Partners, Girl Trainings)

BFF-SERIES PATHWAY

5,582
411

Number of cookie packages sold - 2014 |
Troop Earnings - 2014 Cookies |
Number of magazines and nut & candy items sold - 2013

2,342,466 |
$1,439,776 |
108,074
Girls who participate in Girl Scouts will reach achievements that positively influence them for the rest of their lives. A unique way girls learn is through participating and achieving recognition through the Girl Scouts award program (Bronze, Silver, and Gold).

To earn the Girl Scout Gold Award (the highest award in Girl Scouting), girls:
- Identify and research an issue they are passionate about.
- Create a plan, build a team, and take action.
- Educate and inspire others.

Each Gold Award project represents, on average, a 1-2 year commitment for each girl. Working alongside their team of volunteers, girls who completed their Gold Award during the 2014 membership year contributed more than 6,000 service hours to their communities. The Gold Award is recognized as an indicator of strong leadership and achievement. Gold Award recipients who join the Armed Forces enter one rank higher than other enlistees. University research also indicates that adding the Gold Award to a college application is a key factor in the admissions process.

Join us in congratulating our 2014 Gold Award recipients and honoring these special young women who achieved the Gold Award last year. They join the ranks of generations of women who know the value of leading to create sustainable, positive change.

Number of Awards Earned
Each of these awards represents a significant achievement for the girls. As they fulfill award requirements, girls learn about helping others, organization, team building and leading. They find power within themselves to make a positive change in their communities.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Journey Awards</th>
<th>Gold</th>
<th>Silver</th>
<th>Bronze</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Count</td>
<td>4,999</td>
<td>166</td>
<td>404</td>
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</table>

Gold Award Recipients

Robyn Battles | Miranda Fatum | Micayla Lynch |
Claire Beckley | Meagan Gardner | Holley Lynn |
Aashna Bharwani | Monique Gassaway | Miranda Maceyra |
Sarah Bhimani | Holly Green | Rebecca Matlock |
Faith Bruton | Sarah Guenther | Serena Meghani |
Megan Buchanan | Payton Hernandez | Madeline Mendoza |
Jacqueline Campbell | Heather Hines | Macy Merritt |
Caroline Carr | Haley Hines | Megan Metcalf |
Elizabeth Catanzaro | Kellie Hunn | Veronica Miles |
McKenna Cherry | Ariel Hunter | Victoria Miles |
Bailey Coleson | Emily Inglis | Lydia Miller |
Abigail Cuellar | Baylie Jeppesen | Autumn Mizer |
Christina D’Aquila | Danielle Johnson | Kimberly Overstreet |
Wendy Davidson | Kristen Keane | Melissa Parham |
Kate DesHotels | Sarah Kleinwechter | Noelle Prax |
Kelly Edwards | Lindsay Lehman | Abigail Raef |
Stephanie Eubank | Sarah Lindsay | Salwa Rahaman |

Baleigh Roberts | Madison Roe | Rachel Sakakeeny |
Hailey Lynn | Melissa Sides | Anisse Sircar |
Miranda Maceyra | Cierra Sollecito | Aliya Somani |
Rebecca Matlock | Sharmeen Somani | Abby Tisdale |
Serena Meghani | Abby Walterscheid | Nikita Uppal |
Madeline Mendoza | Megan Trantham | Dawn Valden |
Macy Merritt | Serena Wadhwani | Briann Winters |
Megan Metcalf | Abigail Raef | Lora Walterscheid |
Veronica Miles | Margaret Watkins | Noelle Prax |
Victoria Miles | Abigail Raef | Salwa Rahaman |
Statement of Financial Activities

Financials unaudited as of time of publication. Audited financials are available by request.

Source of Funds $8,132,809

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<th>Source</th>
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<tr>
<td>Special Events</td>
<td>$39,541</td>
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<tr>
<td>United Way</td>
<td>$477,705</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Revenue (Investments and Oil/Gas)</td>
<td>$446,037</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Contributions</td>
<td>$289,095</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management &amp; General</td>
<td>$1,014,982</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$445,183</td>
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<tr>
<td>Program Services</td>
<td>$6,531,943</td>
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Use of Funds $7,992,108

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<th>Use of Funds</th>
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<tr>
<td>Other Sources</td>
<td>$3,537,111</td>
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Financial Position

ASSETS

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<tr>
<th>Asset</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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</thead>
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<td>Cash &amp; Equivalents</td>
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<td>Misc. Receivable</td>
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<td>Inventory</td>
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<td>Prepaid Expenses and Other Assets</td>
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<td>Short-term Investments</td>
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<td>Property &amp; Equipment, Net</td>
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<td>Long-term Investments</td>
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<td>Investments Restricted for Endowment</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Assets</strong></td>
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LIABILITIES

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NET ASSETS

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<td>Temporarily Restricted</td>
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<td>Permanently Restricted</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Net Assets</strong></td>
<td><strong>$8,158,695</strong></td>
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**Total Liabilities & Net Assets** $8,656,397
Your generosity allows us to provide critical programs to girls and adult volunteers, who in turn provide for their communities.
Your investment in Girl Scouting provides the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to all girls across our Council. And for that, we thank you!

For more information about Planning or if you have included Girl Scouts in your will or estate plan, please let us know!
Contact Katherine Curtis, CFRE, at 817-735-5313 or kcurtis@gs-top.org.
Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try: To serve God and my country. To help people at all times, And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be honest and fair, friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, courageous and strong, and responsible for what I say and do, And to, respect myself and others, respect authority, use resources wisely, make the world a better place, and be a sister to every Girl Scout.
Women of Distinction

2015 Call for Nominations

Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains is accepting nominations for the 2015 Women of Distinction in Lubbock and Fort Worth, recognizing women leaders for their leadership and service in the community. The Girl Scouts annual Women of Distinction Awards bring together and recognizes a group of purpose-driven, women leaders in business, government and philanthropy; who, like our girls, are dedicated to service and leadership. With the exception of the Lifetime Achievement Award, honorees do not need to be Girl Scouts, however a connection to Girl Scouts is recommended. Women of Distinction honorees will be chosen by a committee review based on their contributions to the community, both professionally and personally.

The Women of Distinction program is comprised of four awards:

- **Discover Award**: The recipient of this award demonstrates exceptional understanding of herself and her values and uses this knowledge in every way possible to help girls and women explore and discover themselves and their world.

- **Connect Award**: The Connect Award honors a woman who demonstrates exceptional leadership in connecting with others to create solutions in our community and beyond to make the world a better place.

- **Take Action Award**: The recipient of this award serves our communities and advances the quality of life and opportunities so vital to the development of and support of women leadership.

- **Lifetime Achievement Award**: The Lifetime Achievement Award is given to an individual lifelong Girl Scout that has dedicated her life to serving in the interest and support of women leadership.

Deadline for nominations is February 15.
Nominate a woman leader today at:
www.gs-top.org/form/women-distinction-nomination
Ready to See the World?
Destinations is a selective, national Girl Scouts program where individual girls can travel and take part in once-in-a-lifetime experiences both in the U.S. and abroad. These are just some of the Destinations trips girls can go on:

- **CampHERO:** Get hands-on first-responder experience under the guidance of female firefighters, paramedics and police officers. From rappelling to self-defense to police tactics, girls will experience what it takes to save a life.

- **The Great Panda Adventure:** Girls will travel to China to volunteer at one of the most progressive panda centers in the world, the Ya’an Conversation Center. While earning 24 hours of community service credit, girls will help staff care for the pandas, including preparing their food, feeding, cleaning their habitat and working on maintenance projects.

- **Costa Rica & Panama Service Challenge:** Focusing on two major service projects, this trip combines service and fun into 14 action-packed days. Girls will support the community of Talamanca, Costa Rica through food distribution, garden building, teaching English and building aqueducts. In Panama, girls will work on a sea turtle conservation project. When not serving the community, girls will brave whitewater rapids, zip through the treetops on a canopy tour and soak up the local culture on a tour of San Jose.

Girl Scouts Explore the World

**Yoi Ryokō o (Bon Voyage) Libby!**
In 1962, a U.S.-Japan Girl Scout Friendship statue was dedicated in Yokohama, Japan to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Girl Scouting in the U.S. and to welcome back Girl Scouts of Japan to the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Two young Girl Scouts were models for the statue.

Satoko Kajima-Best, a resident of Washington D.C. and troop leader in Japan, researched and located the two girls who were models for the Friendship Statue. The American girl is our very own Libby Watson, Lifetime Girl Scout and an active member of Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains.

Fort Worth Community Partners, a council committee that partners with community members to strengthen and enhance Girl Scouting, hosted a reception to honor Satoko’s amazing accomplishment and wish her and Libby safe travels before they flew to Japan for a week’s worth of Friendship Statue re-dedication events. Satoko shared her remarkable story of how she located Libby and how she fundraised for the restoration of the Friendship Statue with the sale of a Girl Scout Handshake Challenge patch. A proclamation from the City of Fort Worth declared November 5, 2014, “U.S.-Japan Girl Scout Friendship Statue Day.”
Yvonne Lowrie, World Traveler

What started out as a dream has turned into a world-wide adventure for Lifetime Girl Scout and long-time friend of the Council, Yvonne Lowrie. When Yvonne was 9 years old, she learned about Our Chalet and vowed that one day she would visit.

Our Chalet is a World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) World Center in Switzerland. World Centers are residential and training centers where girls and women from all over the world develop leadership skills through international programming. Since that promise she made to herself as a child, she has since traveled to all four World Centers. Throughout the years, Yvonne has served various organizations that raise funds to support WAGGGS and the World Centers, including the Olave Baden-Powell Society, Friends of Pax Lodge and Friends of Sangam. She has made friends from all over the world who help to keep the Movement strong across the globe.

In July, Yvonne attended the 35th Annual WAGGGS World Conference in Hong Kong. Every three years, attendees from WAGGGS member organizations come together to make decisions that shape goals and programming. Attendees also participate in what is truly a global conversation on a variety of topics, including leadership, self-esteem, and stopping violence against girls and young women. The conversation and presentations on girls’ self-esteem made a big impression on Yvonne — as a long-time Girl Scout volunteer, she knows many of the challenges girls face today.

Yvonne had a blast in Hong Kong, exploring street markets, museums, and temples. And her favorite part? “Meeting up with old friends, of course” said Yvonne.
The Girl Scout Leadership Institute (GSLI), part of the Girl Scouts Triennial Convention, brings Girl Scouts ages 14 and up to participate in a life-changing experience. For three days, GSLI participants build their leadership skills and focus on issues that they are passionate about. These young women work together on solutions with girls from across the country and around the world, and they return home ready to make a big impact on their communities.

Check out our girls’ amazing adventures on our Instagram @girlsouttop
“My experience with GSLI was really great because I got to learn new things about my community and get to apply them with Take Action projects. I also met lots of girls from around the country.”

- Baylee Low

“GSLI was an amazing experience. I learned about the issues facing today’s youth, how we can help others, and spread awareness of these issues in our community. I learned how to plan a Take Action project and I have a plan to fulfill it. I also made many friends who were at GSLI from so many places now I have friends all over the states who have the same mindset as me to make the world a better place.”

- Emma Baars

“GSLI was great and I would love to go again. I learned so much about how to help people in my community and all over. This was a great experience. I talked to many people, saw things I haven’t seen before and learned about people and places I didn’t know about before I went to GSLI.”

- Kaitlynn Lock

“GSLI was an amazing experience that allowed me to meet a ton of Girl Scouts and create many friendships along the way. I loved being able to interact with all of the activities and be a part of a movement to help communities — not just in my own, but throughout the nation.”

- Katy Restivo

“Knowing what I am doing is beneficial to another human being makes me smile and feel as if I can do anything I set my mind to.”
Building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Girl Scouts is a 501 c 3 nonprofit organization. For more information on how you can support our mission through outright gifts, professional goods or services, please call 800-582-7272 or visit gs-top.org

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Whether your girl loves hiking, horses, art or science, Girl Scouts has just the camp for her. Be on the lookout for the Camp Guide in February and check out all the possibilities camp has to offer.

Online registration starts April 1!