



2018-2019 Girl Scouts Of Northern Illinois

Annual Report



*Taking challenges and
turning them into opportunities –*

that's what Girl Scouts

In 2018–19, we were faced with significant obstacles to overcome. Working side-by-side with our committed volunteers, supportive Girl Scout families, invested donors, and local leaders, we mobilized our Girl Scout community for an exciting and stable future where girls consistently lead the way!

Following our cutting edge moves to new Resource Centers in Freeport, Lake Zurich, and South Elgin last year, we continued to modernize by moving into our new Rockford Resource Center, with a high visibility location opposite the busy CherryVale Mall. Like all our Resource Centers, this location offers an on-trend Girl Scout store and airport lounge-style accommodation for staff. Additionally, we have a large meeting room for activities and a cookie cupboard onsite.

We expect high visibility in frequently traveled areas will increase awareness of Girl Scouts in our communities, enabling increased membership growth. Last year, challenges to membership growth included increased competition from youth programming and an overall population decline in our geography. As a council, we acted quickly, planning and implementing ways to turn these problems into future successes.

We continue to focus on recruitment and retention of Girl Scouts in troops, as individually registered girls, and in our alternative programs, which are supported by local grants, often from area United Ways, as well as AmeriCorps. We reintroduced an improved Honor Troop program, so leaders and parents can be sure girls are receiving a varied and quality Girl Scout Leadership Experience. With Girl Scouts of the USA's support, many councils across the country, including Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois, rolled out a Discover Daisy program to attract our very youngest members to the program in large numbers!

For older girls, we offered a sold-out leadership conference—Inspire, at Rockford University—as well as a much improved and lower cost Counselor-in-Training program during our summer residential camps. This specialized training gives older girls the tools to learn outdoor mentorship and leadership of younger girls while testing their own physical and mental capacities. This provides us with a pipeline of qualified leaders who can serve as future camp counselors, as well as improve their own resumes.

We also introduced a three-year cycle of council-led travel opportunities to add to the many currently offered national and international troop and GSUSA travel opportunities. In the summer of 2019, GSNI CEO Fiona Cummings led a group of girls to London, her home city. In 2020, the council will be accompanying a group of girls to Orlando, Florida, for the triennial National Convention. In 2021, girls will have the chance to visit Our Chalet in Switzerland!

In addition to the many new STEM badges introduced by GSUSA last year, we introduced a council-wide STEM competition, Rope Runners, with local and regional races and council finals at our Over the Edge 4 Girl Scouts rappelling fundraiser.

Our biggest successes came outdoors! As part of our Long Range

2018–19 Our Year in Review



Scouts do!



Property Plan, we made a number of investments in all four of our camps. At Camp McCormick, we built new roads and expanded the parking lot at Friendship Center. We also converted Friendship Center into the summer Dining Hall, so meals were served closer to activities and the pool, as girls had requested. A highlight of this was the addition of air conditioning! Thanks to a generous grant from Woodward, Inc., Troophouse was substantially improved.

At Camp Dean, outdoor activities such as archery, crate stacking, and hatchet throwing, were relocated to the Pine Tree Activity Area, next to the beloved goat pen. A slack line and mini-zipline were also added. Additionally, thanks to a grant from the Kane County Riverboat Fund, the exterior of Whispering Oaks was upgraded, including the addition of solar panels. Plans also began for the building of two all-season cabins in the same vicinity. Cabin construction began in the fall of 2019. An automatic gate with a keypad was also erected to improve security and usability by our members!

Mary Ann Beebe Center saw the addition of an exciting zipline over the pond, as well as a new bouldering wall. There were multiple infrastructure improvements including construction of an improved

“One of the most valuable gifts I’ve received from this organization is courage: the courage to express my ideas, to talk to people, and to fail, all while knowing I have support from both my sisters and my mentors.” *Caitlin F.*



one-way road system to permit school buses for volunteer-led day camps, a new maintenance shed, and an automatic gate.

Camp Far Horizons saw the installation of air conditioning at Tamarack Lodge, which means all GSNI camps now have at least one comfortable year-round lodge accommodation! Plans were also created for tube slides to be installed in the fiscal year 2019–20.

On the program side, we introduced Weekend Adventure Programs on a rotating basis at all our camps, so troops can easily book accommodation and activities without needing trained leaders to run activities. Additionally, troops can book qualified facilitators as they choose their own camping experiences!

What a thrilling year of changes and moving forward in preparation for success! We are so grateful for the continued support of every person who raises their voices and stands up on behalf of today's girls as they become tomorrow's leaders through the best girl-centered, girl-led organization in the world!

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Nuclear facility pressurized water reactor. This steam drives a turbine to produce electricity.



Our Vision

Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois will be every girl's first choice for developing her own leadership potential through meaningful opportunities and relationships.

Outdoor Program

This year our Outdoor Program Team had one BIG goal—to get every girl outdoors! In 2018–19, we introduced two new outdoor-themed patch programs to do just that—the Outdoor Skills Patch & Charms and the seasonal Get Outdoors Challenge Patch. Each program has been a resounding success! In fact, GSNI Girl Scouts have earned:

Outdoor Skills Patch & Charms

- 1,199 Outdoor Skills Patches
- 620 First Aid Charms
- 649 Knife Safety Charms
- 688 Outdoor Cooking Charms
- 592 Finding Your Way Charms
- 776 Knots Charms
- 710 Fire Building & Safety Charms
- 780 Leave No Trace Charms
- 744 Dressing for the Weather Charms

Get Outdoors Challenge Patch

- 2,649 Outdoor Challenge Center Patches
- 1,720 Spring Rocker Patches
- 1,882 Summer Rocker Patches
- 1,267 Fall Rocker Patches

Volunteers throughout GSNI also hosted a total of 22 volunteer-led day and twilight camps serving 2,017 girls while 645 girls participated in GSNI resident camp and day camp!

Camp improvements are also being made to better serve GSNI troops and council programs! This year, we remodeled Troophouse at Camp McCormick, redesigned the kitchen in Friendship Center, and added a walk-in cooler and freezer.

Mary Ann Beebe Center installed a new dual zipline which we introduced to our members at the popular Zip into Summer at Mary Ann Beebe Center event where 150 girls were able to zip down the zipline for the first time!

Our Outdoor Program Team also initiated a council facilitator program allowing troops to directly hire facilitators or attend a Weekend Adventure Program at any of our camps where facilitators served a total of 65 girls!

Alternative Program Delivery

We're thrilled to report 1,902 girls in low-income and underserved areas participated in GSNI's outreach programs across eight communities, including Aurora, Boone County, Carpentersville, DeKalb, Elgin/U-46,

GSNI Highlights



Freeport, McHenry, and Rockford in 2018–19! Girls participated in a variety of Girl Scout Leadership Experience skill builder badges and Journeys, from dance and music to financial literacy and learning how to think like a programmer!

Over the Edge 4 Girl Scouts

Courage, confidence, and character were on full display at the second annual Over the Edge 4 Girl Scouts event on June 1, 2019, at Pheasant Run Resort in St. Charles! Fifty fearless rappellers braved the edge after raising funds to earn their spot to rappel down the resort's 16-story tower. Several representatives from Jewel Osco, our generous presenting sponsor, boldly rappelled at the event!

In addition to Jewel-Osco, several new sponsors signed on to support the event in our second year, including Northwestern Medicine, Dugan & Lopatka, Houlihan's, Ashdon Farms, and QSP. Our loyal returning sponsors included BMO Harris Bank Wealth Management, Elgin State Bank, and Esser-Hayes. Shaw Media and Star 105.5 did an amazing job as our media sponsors!

Through sponsorships and the heroic fundraising efforts of our rappellers, GSNI raised \$85,000 from this event. Proceeds from the event support our financial assistance fund and outreach programs for underserved girls across the council. Many rappellers, especially girls, said they were thrilled not only with their rappelling experience but also to help other girls have the same Girl Scout Leadership Experience they enjoy!

Over the Edge 4 Girl Scouts 2019 also included a GSNI 10th Anniversary Celebration, Air Fair, which featured a variety of hands-on activities for rappellers, Girl Scouts, and their families. GSNI's inaugural Rope Runners Championship, presented by Danfoss, also took place during the event!

2019 Thin Mint Sprint

The 15th Anniversary Thin Mint Sprint provided a new twist on the long-standing Girl Scout fundraiser with a new route for the race at Harlem High School in Machesney Park!

The Faster than Fiona Challenge was again very popular in 2019, with dozens of Girl Scouts earning the special patch for turning in a time better than GSNI's CEO Fiona Cummings.

New to the event was the Thin Mint Sprint Wellness Challenge which provided free race entries courtesy of the Winnebago County Health Department for adults who set and met personal wellness goals in the months leading up to the event. Special fun patches for children were also available! There were 18 adults and five children



who earned these rewards for reaching their personal wellness goals.

A celebration of GSNI's 10th Anniversary, Finish Line Fun, was also part of the 15th Annual Thin Mint Sprint. Several GSNI Preferred Partners and other community groups offered exciting "land based" activities for race participants and their fans to enjoy! The activities, including GSNI's climbing wall, were very popular during the wait for results and awards presentations.

The Thin Mint Sprint volunteer committee, along with board members and other volunteers, were instrumental in the success of the event!

The new venue, as well as the added challenges and Finish Line Fun, proved to be a winning combination, as 460 people participated in the 8K run, 2-mile run, and 2-mile walk, with many more joining as spectators!

Registration, troop fundraising efforts, and sponsorship support from Physicians Immediate Care/OSF Healthcare, SmithArmundsen, MembersAlliance Credit Union, Ackerman Family, Bradley & Georgann Gummow Family Foundation, Aqua Aerobic Systems Inc, Greenlee, Rocktown Adventures, Network Craze, Fleet Feet Sports Rockford, Rockford Road Runners, and in-kind donations, including advertising from media sponsors WREX-TV13 and B103, generated \$37,598 in support for GSNI!

Long Range Property Plan

Generous grant support in 2019 allowed GSNI to continue progress on our Long Range Property Plan!

With funds from the Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley, a new mud kitchen and natural playground with a sound garden was installed at Camp Dean. A Kane County Riverboat Fund grant provided a new metal roof on Whispering Winds at Camp Dean, along with solar panels to generate electricity for the building, as well as new safety lighting. An interior upgrade is also underway thanks to this funding!

The kitchen in Troophouse at Camp McCormick was renovated with funding from a grant from Woodward, Inc. for which we are very grateful!

Highest Awards

In the 2018–19 membership year, GSNI celebrated:

- ◆ 217 Bronze Award Girl Scouts
- ◆ 79 Silver Award Girl Scouts
- ◆ 16 Gold Award Girl Scouts

Inspire

More than 100 Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors attended Inspire! GSNI's first, sold-out teen leadership conference on Saturday, November 9, 2018, at

Rockford University!

Susan Bulkeley Butler, acclaimed author of *Woman Count: A Guide to Changing the World and Become the CEO of You, Inc.*, was the keynote speaker. Girls gained insight from successful community role models and learned why female leadership is so important to the success of our region.

Girls also fulfilled partial badge requirements toward their Public Speaker Cadette Badge, Business Etiquette Senior Badge, or the Bliss Live It! Give It! Ambassador Journey as they attended various sessions focused on Butler's book and her "12 Important Guidelines for Career Success."

Inspire was provided in part by a generous Economic Development Grant from Winnebago County.

Travel

GSNI announced our new three-year cycle travel plan! The first year is a trip to the GSUSA National Convention. The second year is an international trip. The third year is a national trip. The first round of currently scheduled trips are:

- ◆ 2020—G.I.R.L. 2020 in Orlando, Florida, on October 22–25, 2020
- ◆ 2021—Our Chalet in Switzerland on July 22–29, 2021
- ◆ 2022—Savannah, Georgia in the summer of 2022

Rope Runners

2018–19 marked GSNI's first-ever, council-wide Rope Runner competition! Rope Runners are wooden figures which roll down a rope on a single wheel, using weights to balance. The competition is designed to teach girls important STEM concepts—such as center of mass, gravity, and mass vs. weight—in a fun, hands-on way. Girls can earn badges in Mechanical Engineering, Fair Play, Leader in Action, Field Day, and Think Like an Engineer through participation in a Rope Runner race!

In this first year, 18 GSNI service units held local Rope Runner Races with the first and second place winner at each level moving on to Regional Races. The top three winners at each level then moved on to the Rope Runner Finals. The Rope Runner Finals, presented by Danfoss, was held at the second annual Over the Edge 4 Girl Scouts. There was also a theme design contest for "Adventure" held in conjunction with Rope Runner.

Girl Scout Recruitment

In 2018–19, we continued to embrace our council-wide recruitment efforts, holding recruitment events across our council from September 9–15, introducing hundreds of new families to Girl Scouts! Activities at these



Rope Runner Finals Winners

Daisy Race

- 1st ♦ Kaitlyn Kramer, Marengo
- 2nd ♦ Kayla Klich, Lake in the Hills
- 3rd ♦ Jocelyn Reece, Hampshire
- Design ♦ Emlynn McKay, Bartlett

Brownie Race

- 1st ♦ Emily Busam, Pingree Grove
- 2nd ♦ Betsy Dirck, St. Charles
- 3rd ♦ Aubrey Miller, Roscoe
- Design ♦ Bristol Hurcombe, Bartlett

Junior Race

- 1st ♦ Natalie Zimmerman, Algonquin
- 2nd ♦ Amelia Weingartz, Sycamore
- 3rd ♦ Layla Peterson, Marengo
- Design ♦ Celsey Cooper, South Beloit

Cadette Race

- 1st ♦ Maya Cassell, St. Charles
- 2nd ♦ Alyssia Garcia-Vandervort, Rockford
- 3rd ♦ Sofie Burke, Apple River
- Design ♦ Anne Turnrose, Poplar Grove

Senior Race

- 1st ♦ McKayla Dennis, Kingston
- 2nd ♦ Emily Liautaud, Woodstock
- 3rd ♦ Elisabeth Goldie, Freeport
- Design ♦ Jenna Hart, Sycamore

Ambassador Race

- 1st ♦ Jordyn Guse, Marengo
- 2nd ♦ Sarina Goldie, Freeport



events featured GSNI's four focus areas—Practical Life Skills, Outdoor Activities & Adventures, Travel & Global Community, and Careers & Interest Exploration—so girls could sample all Girl Scouts has to offer!

Going forward, our recruitment theme is “Today. Tomorrow.” including powerful concepts such as “Friends Today. Change-makers Tomorrow.” and “Hiking Today. Trailblazing Tomorrow.” Parents, families, and caregivers can have confidence that the skills their girl learns in Girl Scouts today will have a positive impact on their future tomorrow!

Super Seller-bration

Super Seller-bration—our signature event held at Camp McCormick every year—was another huge success with over 267 girls earning an invitation to attend! This has become a highly desirable reward event for our young

cookie entrepreneurs with 500+ boxes sold during the cookie program. The girls who attend this event enjoy numerous activities from archery to rock wall climbing and a chance to make s'mores. The day begins with our final Bake-off competition celebrity judges tasting the sweet treats made by our top 10 finalists and announcing the first, second and third place winners! The rest of the day is filled with more fun and adventure!

The Juliette Gordon Low Society was established to thank and honor friends of Girl Scouting who choose to make Girl Scouts part of their legacies and a beneficiary of their estate plans.

Mark and Carol Ackerman

Carolyn Allison

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Members of the Juliette Gordon Low Society are recognized locally and nationally by Girl Scouts of the USA. If you are interested in discussing planned gift opportunities and becoming a member of the Juliette Gordon Low Society, or if you have already named Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois in a planned gift but do not see your name listed above, please contact Lynn Momberger at 1-844-476-4463.



Girl Scouts of Northern Illinois
Juliette Gordon Low Society

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GSNI is deeply grateful to those individuals, families, and companies for all financial donations made October 1, 2018–September 30, 2019.

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 Lyndsey and Matthew Wolfsmith
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 Rochelle Chapter 438
 Jessica Wood
 Wendy Woodward
 Ceri Woodworth
 Pam and Alan Woolbright
 Kristen and Damian Woszczak
 Nancy Wriedt
 Peter Wynn
 Beth Yucus
 Patricia Zahn
 Sue Zimmerman
 Steve and Patricia Zoerlein
 Keith Zuhlke

“Without Girl Scouts providing me with the fundamental skills to grow and develop my confidence, I would have never grown out of my shell and been able to help others out of theirs as well.” *Casidy B.*



We strive for accuracy in recognition of our donors and apologize for any errors. If a name doesn't appear on this list as it should, please contact Lynn Momberger at 844-476-4463.



G.I.R.L. AGENDA

go-getter/innovator/risk-taker/leader

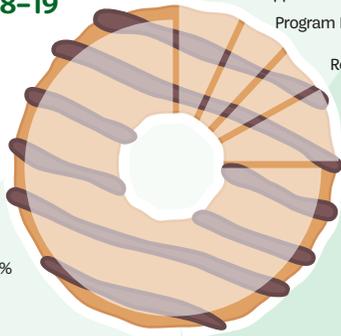


Finances

GSNI Income 2018-19

Total Income
\$5,571,751

Product Programs—76%
\$4,260,052



Public Support—7%—\$531,446
Program Fees—5%—\$253,936
Retail—5%—\$262,125
Other—8%—\$426,637

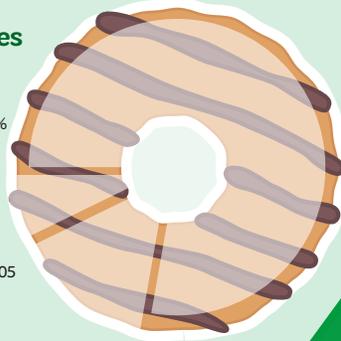
GSNI Expense 2018-19

Total Expenses
\$6,646,535

Program and Property—78%
\$5,185,324

Fundraising—7%—\$439,506

Administration—15%—\$1,021,705



Current Assets \$3,500,441

Non-Current Assets 5,836,634

Total Assets \$9,337,075

Liabilities \$749,494

Net Assets 8,587,581

Total Liabilities & Net Assets \$9,337,075

GSNI Statement of Financial Position 2018-2019

GSNI's complete audit report and 990 tax filing are available by request, or online at www.girlscoutsni.org.

Membership

13,957 Girls
+ 4,718 Adults
= **18,675 Total**

Ambassadors 1%

Seniors 2%

Cadettes 9%

Junior 18%

Brownies 24%

Daisies 21%

Adult 25%

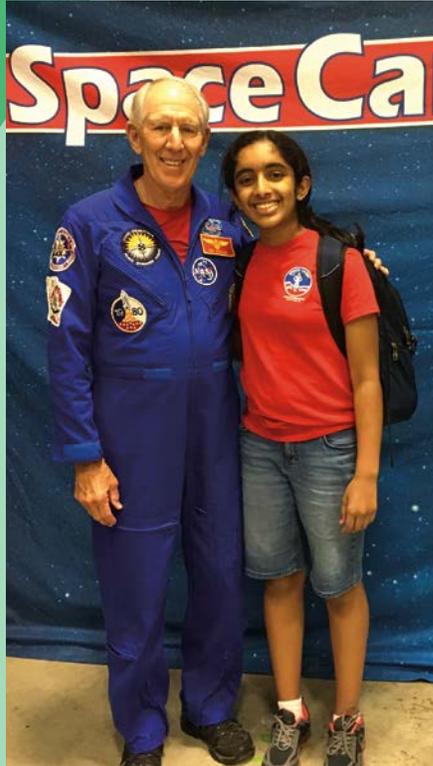


Because of Girl Scouts:
78% of girls have a strong sense of self

Because of Girl Scouts:
56% of girls seek out and are prepared for challenges.

Because of Girl Scouts:
73% of girls understand and promote positive values.






girl scouts
 of northern illinois

South Elgin Resource Center
 353 Randall Road, South Elgin, IL 60177

Freeport Resource Center
 1834 S West Avenue, Suite 21, Freeport, IL 61032

Lake Zurich Resource Center
 499 Ela Road, Lake Zurich, IL 60047

Rockford Resource Center
 1886 Daimler Road, Rockford, IL 61112

Oswego Resource Center
 3425 Orchard Road, Oswego, IL 60543

Rock Falls Resource Center
 229 First Avenue, Suite 1, Rock Falls, IL 61071



844-GSNI-4-ME

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