



2019 Annual Report

## The 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.

## The Girl Scout Mission

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

## The 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.



Dear Friends and Supporters of Girl Scouting,

At Girl Scouts Louisiana East, girls are at the center of all we do. As we reflect on 2019, we're excited to build on our legacy as the premier leadership development organization for girls. We continue to offer innovative programming designed specifically for girls, delivered in an all-girl learning space. We are always thinking about how we can help the future generations of female scientists, educators, business owners, and community leaders succeed. Whether it's exploring the outdoors at Camp Whispering Pines or learning how to leverage social media to boost their cookie sales, girls gain the skills and inspiration they need to accept challenges, overcome obstacles, and take the lead.

Today, we celebrate all of you, who mentor, invest and advocate for our most valuable resource—our girls. On behalf of Girl Scouts Louisiana East, we thank you for your support and commitment in 2019 and hope you will recommit your energy, your hearts, and your financial support to Girl Scouting. Our Annual Report demonstrates the impact Girl Scouting has on our community, and you are an integral part of that. From having our voices heard in the state legislature to demonstrating STEM skills in state and national robotics tournaments, our girls continue to speak up, demonstrate their skills, and advocate for others. For that, we thank all of you.

Please take a moment to review the highlights in our Annual Report, along with our financial information and the names of those who support our mission. Thank you for your commitment as we continue to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.



Lyndia M.G. Jones, M.D. Board Chair

Zyndia Geresio



Rebecca Renington

Rebecca Pennington, Ph.D., CFRE Chief Executive Officer

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Juliette Gordon Low Founded March 12, 1912

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# LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

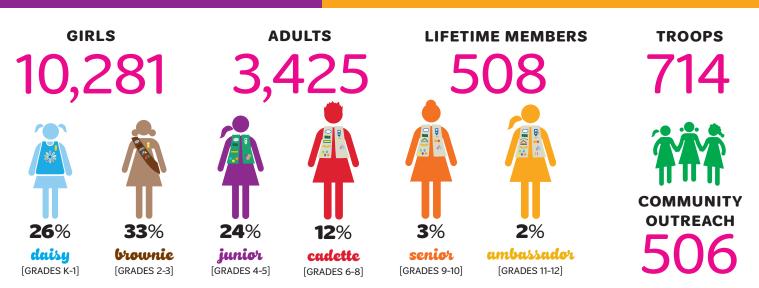
The **Girl Scout Leadership Experience**, the foundation of all Girl Scout programming, prepares girls to empower themselves as they take action on issues important to them. At Girl Scouts, every adventure is rooted in three core ways of learning: girl-led, learning by doing, and cooperative learning.

Simply put, Girl Scouting helps girls discover themselves and their abilities through skill-building activities and opportunities to try new things, connect with others to create change, and take action by developing projects that make their communities, and the world, a better place.

## Five Benefits of Being a Girl Scout

By participating in the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, girls benefit in five key ways as they:

- Develop a strong sense of self. She'll find confidence in herself and all that she's capable of, as she tries new things, takes on challenges, and learns from her mistakes.
- Display positive values. She'll learn to act ethically, lead with honesty, be responsible, and show concern for others.
- Seek challenges and learn from setbacks. She'll take age-appropriate risks, open herself up to new opportunities and experiences, and embrace failure as an opportunity to learn.
- Form healthy relationships. She'll practice leading with positivity, learn to communicate her feelings directly, and resolve conflicts constructively.
- Become community problem-solvers. She'll identify problems in her community and create action plans to solve them.



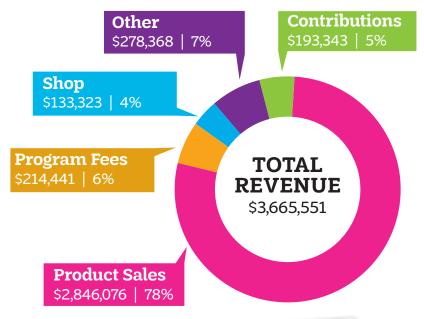


The Foundation of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience

LIFE SKILLS
STEM
OUTDOORS
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

# Financials General Operations 2019

(Audited Financials for the Year Ended 12-31-2019)











TOTAL EXPENSES \$3,581,814

Fundraising \$206,657 | 6%

**Management & General** 

\$733,441 | 20%

**Troops & Girl Programs** \$2,641,716 | 74%





STEM fields boast the highest paying jobs in our economy, and this sector is expected to grow exponentially in the coming years as we usher in a more digital society.

A 2019 study conducted by the Girl Scout Research Institute found that Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to be interested in STEM fields and tech skills, including app development, robotics, coding, cybersecurity, and engineering.

Girl Scouting may reflect the most promising practices from developing girls who are not just comfortable engaging digitally today, but who are primed to lead us into the digital future.

### **STEM related Events**

1,790

16
PROGRAMS

## **Council Sponsored Robotics Teams**

Nine FIRST LEGO League (FLL) Robotics teams Four competed in the State Championship One team was named the Grand Champion and received the Global Innovation Award



# OUTDOORS 4

Spending quality time outdoors has well-established implications for a person's social, emotional, cognitive and physical health, and formation of values. Girl Scouts provides girls with unparalleled opportunities to develop the skills, courage, confidence, and appreciation of the natural world that sets them up to become the leaders of tomorrow.

According to a 2019 study conducted by the Girl Scout Research Institute, *Girl Scouts Soar in the Outdoors*, 84 percent of girls say they engaged in outdoor activities through Girl Scouts that they wouldn't otherwise have access to, and 68 percent of girls say doing outdoor activities in Girl Scouts helped them overcome at least one fear.



**8,651** girls and adults visited one of our three camps last year

**23** girls attended camp on scholarship



## **CAMP UPDATES**

The pool was installed at Camp Covington





# **ENTREPRENEURSHIP**

Helping girls enter the business and entrepreneurial workforce is beneficial for girls and the world.

The social and emotional qualities that lead to successful entrepreneurship, like curiosity, confidence, and innovation, are crucial for all types of academic and career success. Building such skills prepares girls for workforce readiness no matter where they go or what they decide to do in life.



1,149 **Girl Scouts** participated in **Fall Product Sale** 



## **GIRL SCOUT COOKIE PROGRAM STATS**



6,394

**Girl Scouts** participated



1,148,280

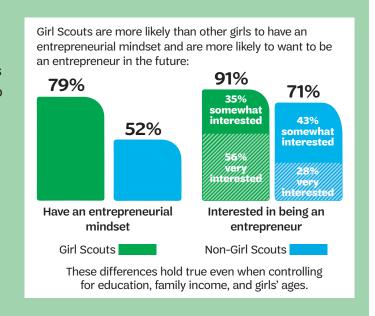
boxes sold



According to a 2019 study conducted by the Girl Scout Research Institute, Today's Girls, Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs, Girl Scouts are more likely than other girls to have an entrepreneurial mindset and are more likely to want to be an entrepreneur in the future.

Girl Scouts have had more opportunities to do the types of activities that support entrepreneurship. On average, Girl Scouts were twice as likely to have done entrepreneurship activities than other girls.

Girl Scouts particularly shine when it comes to community problem-solving, innovation, social capital, and using failure as an opportunity to learn.



# LIFE SKILLS

Through Girl Scout experiences, girls develop the attitudes, skills, and behaviors they need to succeed in life, giving them the courage to fail and keep trying, the tools to create an independent future, and the power to do good in the world.

## **Girl Scout Legislative Day**

**Girl Scouts Louisiana East** and **Girl Scouts of Louisiana - Pines to the Gulf** held a joint Girl Scout Legislative Day on June 4, 2019, where 27 Girl Scouts from across Louisiana spent the day meeting legislators, learning about advocacy, citizen engagement, the role of government, and much more.





## **Girl Scout Thin Mint Sprint**

A total of 203 girls and 144 adults got active at our 7th Annual Thin Mint Sprint and 1 Mile Daisy Dash held April 6, 2019.

# **Highest Awards**

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award a Girl Scout can earn and is presented to Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors who have planned and executed Gold Award Take Action projects that create sustainable change within their communities and beyond.



Highest Awards at a Glance:



14 GOLD AW GIRL SCO



46 SILVER AWARD GIRL SCOUTS



159 BRONZE AWAR



Myrle LeBlanc is a longtime Girl Scout volunteer and proud mother of five Girl Scouts, grandmother of two Girl Scouts, and great grandmother of three Girl Scouts. She has been honored with several awards by GSLE, including an award for 50 years of service to Girl Scouts Southeast Louisiana and the Minnie Finley Award for exemplary leadership to Girl Scouting and to our community.

Mrs. LeBlanc began volunteering with Girl Scouts Southeast Louisiana when her oldest daughter, also named Myrle, was seven years old. She served as Brownie leader, Intermediate leader, Service Unit Chairman, Leader of the Development Committee, Board Vice President, and President.

She says her experiences in the organization were formative for both her and her daughters. "I was a very young mother. I really think I learned how to raise children. There was always an adult who would have influence on me. Even children taught me things. When my girls were young, there was not another organization where girls could be in charge," she explained, "The Girl Scouts taught [my daughters] and me that [they] could do anything that [they] wanted to do."

Mrs. LeBlanc says she has too many wonderful memories of Girl Scouting to list, with the majority of them having to do with her five daughters and their respective Girl Scout experiences. One particular memory stands out: pinning her daughter, Melinda, with a special pin prior to Melinda's departure for Thailand on a Girl Scout trip. Mrs. LeBlanc firmly believes that the Girl Scouts helped to instill a love of travel and culture into Melinda, who now operates a highly successful Metairie travel agency and has traveled the world several times over.

Although Mrs. LeBlanc has stepped back from volunteering with Girl Scouts, she remains a generous and loyal donor to our council. When asked why she thinks it's so important to give to Girl Scouts, she shared, "Your money should go where your heart is. If you want this organization [to succeed], you don't have to look to somebody else to support it. You have to support it."

# Thank You

Some people might call this an Annual Report, but we also call it a Gratitude Report. Thousands of volunteers, families, and donors from all GSLE jurisdictions share in our mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Together, we invest in the power of girls—transforming them into the next generation of leaders and trailblazers. Because of you, we serve more girls and change the trajectory of girls' lives now and in the future. For this, we share our deepest gratitude for your gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

### Donors with cumulative giving of \$1,000 or greater in 2019

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Ting Yi

The following

The following members of the GSLE Juliette Gordon Low Society have helped to ensure the future of Girl Scouting in this Council by making a planned gift.

Jacqueline K. Alexander Allison Augustus-Wallace Mary Jane and John Becker Jacquelyn Daniels Candace Davey Miriam "Mimi" K. Delaune Myrle LeBlanc Patricia LeBlanc Juana Lombard Martha J. Long Pat Mackey Elizabeth Matherne Debbie McDowell-Tate Joan Mollohan Laurence "Laurie" Neeb Jill Pollard Marguerite Redwine Gina McBride Sledge Mary Stringfellow Jameeta Youngblood

### **Girl Scouts Louisiana East**

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