A Newsletter for Girl Scout Alumnae and Supporters

girl scouts of the green and white mountains

Spring 2023 Vol. 16

# Girl Scouting is a global force for good

You probably already know there are Girl Scouts all across the United States, but did you know the Girl Scout sister-hood stretches around the world, too? As members of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), we consist of ten million girls, young women, and adult volunteers in 152 countries! All of those members in all of those countries are working to make the world a better place.

Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., created the largest and most successful leadership organization for girls in the world. She is best remembered for her sheer determination and tireless efforts to promote and sustain the organization, now 111 years strong.

Over 80% of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide say that being part of the Movement has given them the drive to make a difference in society, both locally and worldwide. In addition, some 80% of all female entrepreneurs in the U.S. were once Girl Scouts, and credit Girl Scouting for preparing them to become leaders and run their own businesses.

Girl Scout alums are civically engaged, with 86% registered to vote. Fifty six percent of women in Congress are Girl Scout alums, reinforcing the idea that when young girls are inspired to be change-makers in their communities, they gain the tools to continue to be involved and to become advocates as adults.

From the moment a young Daisy promises to do their best, they step into a values-based leadership development journey. This nurtures and celebrates who they are and what they can bring to the world around them. As they grow, Girl Scouts use this experience to take the lead in their own lives. As adult members and volunteers, they become inspiring role models for young people and visionary leaders of the Movement. Girl Scouts develop their confidence and leadership



The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) supports 10 million girls and young women across 152 countries, making it the world's largest international organization dedicated to girls and young women. (Courtesy photo)

within the Movement, but they practice it in all aspects of their lives. They reach goals, inspire others, care for the world around them, overcome gender barriers and make positive changes in their lives and communities.

#### Girl-led advocacy

Advocacy plays a crucial role in achieving Girl Scouting's vision of an equal world where all girls can thrive and supports the Girl Guides mission that by 2032 we will be a girl-led movement where *every* and *any* girl feels confident to lead and empowered to create a better world together.

Being confident to lead means being prepared to speak out against injustice and take action on behalf of others. Girl Scouting enables young women to participate in and speak out at the highest global decision-making platforms. We provide girls with their first powerful experiences of speaking out to shape their future and that of their community.

Across the world, our Movement offers a powerhouse of skills, commitment and energy.

Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. enjoys special consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council. This standing helps us advance our efforts at the United Nations as we provide input on issues of special importance to Girl Scouts and girls around the world. In addition to decision-makers in the U.N., youth organizations and other partners continue to include Girl Scouts because they see the influence, exposure and unique contributions that Girl Guides and Girl Scouts can offer.

Together we send a strong message to society that there is a worldwide movement of millions of girls and the volunteers that



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#### FOR MORE INFORMATION

To donate to Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, visit: *girlscoutsgwm.org/donate*.

To learn more, contact the Advancement office by emailing *advancement@girlscoutsgwm. org* or calling 888-474-9686.

### Girl Scouting is a global force for good

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stand behind them and they speak out for *all* girls around the globe. As Girl Scouts, they not only advocate on behalf of girls and young women everywhere, but also empower young women to advocate for themselves and their communities.

Juliette Gordon Low also believed that when girls travel the world, they have an unparalleled opportunity to foster cultural understanding. Formed in 1927, the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund supports members as they travel internationally, have the opportunity to connect with sister Girl Scouts/Girl Guides from close to 150 countries, and take action globally.

In the last five years, Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains has enabled 26 Girl Scouts to participate in Destinations trips to places like Japan, Cambodia, Italy, South Africa, and the Mediterranean. Another 23 took part in council-sponsored trips to the Galapagos Islands, New York City, and Lake Placid. And that doesn't even count the many trips each Girl Scout troop takes as they make their own decisions and plans.

#### Girl Scouts think globally

Girl Scouts are exploring, discovering, and changing the world. Girl Scouts worldwide

are working to make our world a better place. Whether it's a young Daisy beginning to explore their neighborhood, or an older Ambassador earning their Gold Award with a sustainable project that has global impact, all Girl Scouts are taking steps to making a real difference.

Our Girl Scouts work locally to help those around the world. For instance, in Amherst, NH, Girl Scouts made scarves and cards they sent to orphans in Ukraine.

For Gold Award Girl Scout Nikhitha Arumgam, helping students gain an appreciation for different cultures was important, so she created an educational program for elementary school students and arranged for speakers to visit them and share the cultures of Italy, Pakistan, Liberia, and the Philippines.

And a little closer to home, Wolcott, VT, Troop 61654 donated to the local food shelf while working on their budgeting badges, taking their first steps toward community action.

It's through these experiences that Girl Scouts gain the power, inspiration, and resources to make the world a better place.



Girl Scouts of Troop 58250 hold up some of the scarves and cards they made to comfort children left orphaned by the war in Ukraine. (GSGWM photo)

### Our international impact is unique



Dear friends,

As a Brownie Girl Scout, I remember bringing in one penny for every inch of my foot length. We would all take turns at a troop meeting carefully measuring, then the next week the pennies we saved would "pour" in. In Juniors, Cadettes, and Seniors, we would bring in different amounts of money depending on how tall

we were, or what colors we were wearing, or how old we were. Each year the money was carefully collected and sent to the Girl Scout council for the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund (JLWFF).

Since 1927, small amounts from troops and members across our country have added up to a considerable sum held in a Donor Restricted Account at GSUSA. The funds are used to support international travel, our World Centers and WAGGGS projects. Many years ago, our council was fortunate to host two representatives of the Guides de France (the French Girl Guides) who spent time learning about Girl Scouting and our programming. As part of the cultural exchange, our council selected two representatives, including me, to spend one month in France learning all about our sister Guides, their policies, and programs. The entire cultural program and travel was paid for by the JLWFF and it changed my life.

It is essential that we provide opportunities for our children to learn about other cultures and benefit from programs focused on empowerment, inclusivity and understanding. Our international connections make Girl Scouting unique amongst girl serving organizations. Our members learn about local and global challenges and take efforts to make a positive difference.

The JLWFF has been so successful by bringing together donors both large and small for a greater good. Girl Scouts learn the value of philanthropy while having fun. We thank all of our troops who continue to develop creative ways to donate!

Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains also provides programs, scholarships and opportunities to our members through your support. Gifts large and small come together to create an impact felt now and into the future.

Thank you for supporting our council and our members. Your friendship makes our world go around.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Tricia

Patricia K. Mellor Chief Executive Officer, GSGWM Gold Award Girl Scout

### Peggy Piette keeps world travelers healthy

Exposure to different cultures and ways of thinking can give all of us a wider perspective and appreciation of our world, and our members benefit from the opportunities to travel provided by Girl Scouts.

Peggy Piette is a member of the council's board of directors and a former troop leader. Her daughter earned both the Bronze and Silver Awards. She is a nurse practitioner at Littleton Regional Healthcare in Littleton, NH, and has seen this benefit first hand.

"I think it's important to see how other people live or think," she said, "because there's a lot of similarities with the issues that we face that they do, maybe to a different scale."

Piette had a travel clinic in Littleton for



four years, focused on educating travelers about the vaccinations, medications, and other issues they might need to consider.

She became interested in global health at a conference where she

met another health care provider doing that type of work.

"It was interesting because I knew a lot of people from our area in the North Country and northern Vermont who travel," she said. "so I thought there was a need for that, because the closest place was Laconia or Dartmouth. That's at least an hour-and-a-half, two-hour ride for some people. So I decided to give it a try."

Piette enjoyed a trip to Tanzania in October with her husband to celebrate their 25th anniversary with a safari and enjoyed the beautiful landscape and meeting the Masai community.

"Even though for women it may seem we've taken a step back the last couple years with what we have for rights and freedoms, but we're better off than a lot of other countries as well, too," she said. "You can see the strides that they're making. And we are too. We're all fighting that same forward movement."

Piette said her involvement with Girl Scouts has made her more aware of the roles women play in other societies. "I am always thinking about what another group is doing that we could bring to our group or community."

# Global Leadership Conference inspires Girl Scouts to take the lead

High school-age Girl Scouts recently gathered at the Global Leadership Conference, a weekend that brings Girl Scouts from around the world to discuss topics like social justice, human trafficking, personal growth, financial literacy, and other global issues while having an opportunity to engage with women who are changing the world and interact with like-minded peers.

The conference took place at Salve Regina University in Newport, Rhode Island, March 17-19, and has been a Girl Scout tradition for 36 years.

Visiting international students who became Girl Scout members at the conference arrived from eight different countries. Most of them are here for one year with the international exchange program, American Field Service. The goal of AFS is to create a more just and peaceful world.

The students come to the U.S. and live with a family, go to school and become part of the community. Many of the students who attended received scholarships to participate. They are chosen from a huge pool of applicants from their countries and are thought to be future leaders. They are required to volunteer, learn about our government, and share their culture with people in the U.S.

"Our participants are from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Germany, Austria, Thailand, India, Mongolia and Haiti," said Carol Ritchie, an AFS and Girl Scout volunteer. "All of the international Girl Scouts were thrilled to be a part of the conference and so excited to share their culture and meet so many cool U.S. Girl Scouts. The girls very much appreciated being able to be a part of the conference, to share their experiences and learn so much from the other presenters."

New this year was a partnership with Kikori, a community-driven platform that delivers "experiential social emotional learning content" to schools, nonprofits and other organizations. Kikori puts the heart into learning with an easy-to-navigate platform boasting hundreds of ac-



Girl Scouts from the Northeast, California, and the world attended the 36th Global Leadership Conference at Salve Regina University in Rhode Island March 17-19. (GSGWM photo)

tivities and resources, including weekly planners, monthly calendars, themed webinars, hundreds of printables, and more. They offered a workshop and activities throughout the conference.

Keynote speakers this year were:

Kyleen Hashim, "Leading Through Listening: Working Towards Social Justice Change Together" - Hashim is a lifelong Girl Scout, Gold Award recipient, and alum of the Global Leadership Conference. She grew up in public housing, and later graduated summa cum laude from both Boston University and the Harvard Kennedy School, with her master's degree in public policy. She now works in Washington, D.C., as the Deputy Director for Choice Neighborhoods at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, focusing on improving the lives of families living in high poverty neighborhoods.

Terry Castillo, "A Change Will Do You Good—Space Collabs Outmatch Going It Alone" ¬ Castillo is a lifelong Girl Scout, a Gold Award recipient, and a Global Leadership Conference alum. She received an interdisciplinary bachelor of science and arts in mathematics and architecture from Carnegie Mellon University. She is currently the Gateway Integrated Safety

Review Panel chair at NASA's Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas.

Returning this year were students from the Rhode Island for Community and Justice Youth Empowerment program. These participants are primarily students of color from Providence who develop advocacy and activism skills and teach them to other students. Their experience at last year's Global Leadership Conference received rave reviews.

The Girl Scout Global Leadership Conference has always provided a safe space for teens to discuss challenging topics with accomplished female leaders. Leadership development, advocacy, and activism are central to engaging teens in complex global and local issues which engage their curiosity and passion. In order to maximize the possibilities for positive outcomes, it is important to continue to increase the diversity of participants and consultants. Girl Scouts have always provided financial assistance to participants.

The Global Leadership Conference would not be possible without the support of Salve Regina University, the Rhode Island Space Grant Program, Kikori, and Karen Pehrson.

## Susi Burke uses tech for good in the world

It can feel as though social media and the internet are creating a world that is mean and dark. But technology is nothing more than a tool, says Susi Burke, and that tool isn't inherently bad or good – it's just a tool doing what it's been told to do. She is determined to use that tool for good in the world.

Burke is the newest member of the board of directors for Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, and is the chief impact officer and strategic officer of Phin, a social impact platform that helps other companies be a force for good.

"The vision of Phin is to be an exponential force for good and compassion," she said. "And our mission is to help companies be great by doing good."

According to the company's LinkedIn profile, Phin provides an easy way for companies to boost engagement by rewarding employees and customers with company-funded donations to causes they care about. It provides personalized interactive tools that help companies create values based organizations and drive social impact. Phin is a certified B corporation, a for-profit enterprise that meets the highest standards of social environmental verified and performance, public transparency, and legal accountability to balance profit and purpose.

Burke spent 30 years in tech, helping start up a small company in the publishing field, eventually creating title management software used by Simon & Schuster, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, and Hachette Book Group. She grew up with five brothers, so going into the heavily male tech field didn't bother her at all.

"I just love solving puzzles!" she said. "To me, doing the programming, having a problem and solving it was what I cared about. And so, the more I started to develop, the more I started to program, the more questions I started to ask. Why are we doing this? Who are we doing this for?



Susi Burke provides a way for people to do good in the world through her social media platform, Phin. (GSGWM photo)

"I don't think people realize the positive impact Girl Scouts can have, especially as the girls progress into Senior and Ambassador levels."

> -Susi Burke, GSGWM board member

All of that. And so I ended up becoming, like... *you* ask the questions, *you* figure out what's going on." This led to her moving to the product development side.

Burke said she got to the point in her career where she was getting involved with women in tech and wanting to be a force for good in the world. She appreciated that her small company cared about its employees and held values she shared. She began exploring the possibilities with B corporations, which think about both its shareholders and stakeholders. Some well-known B corporations located in New Hampshire and Vermont include Stonyfield, Mascoma Bank, Pete &

Gerry's Eggs, King Arthur Flour, Seventh Generation, Cabot Creamery, and Ben & Jerry's.

"If you read any statistics, companies that have a purpose beyond profit do substantially better," she said. "And retain their employees significantly more."

Burke decided to join Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains to be a positive force for Girl Scouts.

"I hope being part of the council and having that background and knowing how to be part of a small business and having to be always innovating and always thinking differently, I hope I can bring that to the Girl Scouts," she said.

Burke was a Girl Scout herself through Juniors, happy to have one place where she could be surrounded by girls. She also spent five or six years leading Brownie and Daisy troops for her three daughters. She said she wishes more people knew what a positive influence Girl Scouts can be.

"I've talked to some people where it has made a tremendous difference in their life," she said. "I just watched this Equality Lounge presentation at SXSW in Austin called "Leaders Unboxed: How the Girl Scout Program is Building the Next Generation of Female Executives." There were Girl Scouts there. This one girl was talking about how she was very shy, and being part of the Girl Scouts and in particular the cookie program, she sold 3,000 boxes of cookies with her sister. And she was on stage, talking! This was someone who was very uncomfortable to start with. I don't think people realize the positive impact Girl Scouts can have especially as the girls progress into Senior and Ambassador levels."

Burke has seen how technology and Girl Scouting can have a huge global impact, and having her on the council's board will ensure that she is a force for good locally and around the world.

### World Thinking Day – a global initiative

Making the world a better place is Girl Scout Law, so it's no surprise we have a holiday dedicated to doing just that. Each February 22, Girl Scouts and Girl Guides across 152 countries celebrate World Thinking Day. It's a day of international friendship and a time to stand up for causes that could improve the lives of girls around the globe. And while the holiday itself comes in February, the World Thinking Day Award can be earned at any time of year.

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) has celebrated World Thinking Day since 1926.

Observed by 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts worldwide, World Thinking Day has a different theme each year. In 2023, the theme is "Our World, Our Peaceful Future: The environment, peace, and security." To earn the World Thinking Day Award, Girl Scouts explore environmental problems and learn how they can work with nature to create a more peaceful and secure future.

Girl Scouts in New Hampshire and Vermont often gather area troops to observe the day. In Exeter, NH, dozens of troops from the Circle of Friends community put together displays of countries around the world that included their signature foods, crafts, music, and more. Corinne George, who leads two troops in Durham, NH, said the event encompassed 21 troops with 20 embassies, 175 girls, and at least 60 leaders and helpers.

Donations made that day went to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund to help



Exeter High School was filled with Girl Scouts from Daisies through Ambassadors for the annual Circle of Friends Community's World Thinking Day in March. (GSGWM photo)

provide Girl Scouts in the United States with opportunities to experience the world, as well as connect with Girl Scouts from around the world. Food donations were given to a local food pantry.

"What a great day!" said George. "I was so impressed seeing all the creative booths, hearing what the girls learned, listening to them share, and watching the girls all interact and teach each other. This is what Girl Scouts is all about!"

Another large event took place in Plymouth, NH, as the Pemi-Baker Community ran its 20th Thinking Day at Plymouth Regional High School. Beverly Tedeschi, leader of Troop 62526 in Plymouth said they had

over 150 Girl Scouts participating, plus leaders, parents, and siblings.

"Each table sold a swap or food item for 25 cents which then went to the Juliette Low World Friendship Fund, The Pemi-Baker Destination Fund and the Emily Clogsten Camp Scholarship," she said. "Any girl attending Thinking Day is eligible to apply. We have sent many girls to independent and troop destinations including England, Space Camp, Costa Rica, and France."

WAGGGS asked Girl Scouts around the world to participate in a challenge to walk the world and think about ways to bring peace to the environment. The challenge began on February 22 and ended on Earth Day, April 22.



Troop 60244 of Rochester, NH, offered eclairs and tiny Eiffel Towers at their World Thinking Day booth on France. (GSGWM photo)



The Australia booth drew lots of attention at the World Thinking Day in Plymouth, NH. (GSGWM photo)

### Travel provides a worldwide perspective

From learning how to safely cross a street to flying independently across the world, travel experiences help Girl Scouts grow in their confidence, problem solving, and interpersonal skills. There's no better way to get an understanding and appreciation of the many cultures around the globe than to visit new places.

The Girl Scout travel progression ensures that girls learn the skills they need to become competent travelers, including how to plan and organize trips. They start with local field trips, and progress to day trips, overnights, regional trips, national and international travel, and reach the goal of independent travel. Girls who travel truly become global citizens.

In addition to troops that plan their own travel adventures, Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains hosts council trips, like our Alps and Mediterranean Coast trip taking place this summer, and Girl Scouts of the USA offers Destinations, the ultimate adventure for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors. Girl Scouts push past their comfort zone as they make new friends and have life-changing experiences.

Lydia Bens is a 14-year-old Cadette from Durham, NH, who went to Hawaii last year for the Destinations trip Camp Pacific Exploration.

"This trip meant a lot to me because I had never been to Hawaii," she said, "and the topics that the camp was covering included how technology can be used to help change global warming (and) a deeper dive into the ocean (we saw different types of plankton). We got to go on a wonderful snorkeling adventure. There was a great mix of physical and mental activities. I loved meeting girls from all over the country and even some that lived on different continents. My only regret is not having more time in Hawaii to explore the beautiful camp."

Niko Gallus, 16, a Girl Scout Ambassador from Raymond, NH, had counted for years on going to Poacher, the global camporee in England – until the pandemic changed everything.

"I'd been looking forward to this trip since I was a Brownie," said Niko. "Then it got canceled."



Lydia Bens looks through a shark jaw on her Pacific Exploration trip in Hawaii. (Courtesy photo)

Searching for an alternative, they settled on the Tall Ships Sail School – two and a half weeks aboard the U.S. Brig Niagara. Despite no boating experience, Niko powered through challenging tasks like climbing the rigging to set the sails, steering the ship, and helping it dock. Seasickness was also part of the experience, thanks to some bad weather.

"Tall Ships Sail School isn't for everyone, but it is for me," they said. "I made 13 new wonderful Girl Scout friends, and my plan is to go back and train as a professional crew member on the Niagara in the next few years. I'm still in disbelief that I got this opportunity, that I can't imagine finding anywhere else except for through Girl Scouts."

While girls certainly benefit from travel, so do our adult volunteers. Ursula Olender, a troop leader in Bristol, VT, was fortunate to travel to Europe with Girl Scouts at 17, and will now accompany girls to the Mediterranean and Alps this summer.

"Growing up in a low income, single-parent household in Indianapolis, kids I knew did not typically leave the city limits, let alone travel the world," she said. "With my sister Girl Scouts and thoughtful leaders, our two weeks in Europe included visits to two WAGGGS World Centres, Our Chalet and Olave House, and sites in Switzerland, Austria, Germany, The Netherlands, and England. This travel experience changed me - I came to believe that

I was part of something much larger than my troop. The trip helped me realize how much I had yet to learn about western civilization, world history, art, languages, interpersonal communication, and group dynamics. Fast forward six years and I found myself presenting sessions at conferences in Scotland and Ireland. And ten years later, I accepted a position at Dartmouth College advising students on their pursuit of national fellowships for international travel and study (e.g., Fulbright Scholarships, Rhodes Scholarships, etc.).

Research has shown that travel changes your life for the better – making you more open-minded, improving your mental health, even making you less likely to suffer from depression. Taking a trip is a stress reliever, and can allow you to reinvent yourself. Exposure to different cultures, food, music, and traditions allows us to celebrate our differences and be more tolerant of others. Girl Scouts who travel have some of the best learning experiences of their lives while making connections with people wherever they go.



Girl Scout Ambassador Niko Gallus, left, climbs the rigging on the tall ship U.S. Brig Niagara on their Destinations trip. The Flagship Niagara is one of the most historically authentic tall ships in the United States. (Courtesy photo)

### Leave a meaningful legacy through the JGL Society

In March 1912, Juliette Gordon Low gathered just a few girls to begin Girl Scouts. Juliette's outstanding leadership was matched by her stewardship when she converted the carriage house of her home into the first Girl Scout national head-quarters, and she gifted the property to Girl Scouts in her will.

Juliette's bequest was the beginning of planned giving to Girl Scouts. In her memory, 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.

These individuals seek to ensure that the future needs of girls are met by including Girl Scouts in their estate plans. This planning might include a will, charitable gift annuity, a trust arrangement, a real





estate gift, or a life insurance policy.

To learn more about the Juliette Gordon Low Society or to discuss your specific estate planning needs and opportunities, please contact Kelli Brown, GSGWM Director of Fund Development at 888-474-9686 or advancement@girlscoutsgwm. org.

#### Benefits of membership

When you join the Juliette Gordon Low Society, you will:

Be recognized locally by Girl

Scouts of the Green and White Mountains and by Girl Scouts of the USA in their national listing,

- be an honored guest at special events and programs hosted by Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains and at a reception for all Juliette Gordon Low Society members nationwide hosted by GSUSA at its triennium National Council Sessions,
- receive a society membership pin in honor of our founder, Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low, and
- receive regular updates on how your support is helping to impact girls' lives throughout New Hampshire and Vermont.

#### Juliette Gordon Low Society members

Erik and Eva Andersen - Girl Scout Movement-wide Challenge Planned Gift

Anonymous members

Stephen August

Susan Bates

Dianne Belk and Lawrence Calder - Girl Scout Movement-wide Challenge Planned Gift

Stephen and Robin Boyd

Sarah Brown

Mary Louise Brozena

Betsy and John Bugden

Mary Burchard

Asha Carroll

Patricia and Paul Casey

Sarah Chaffee

Jennie Clarke

Cynthia Cohen

Jacie Crump

Deborah Drake

Sherry and Louis Edmonds

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Vera Kirk

Amanda and Craig LaClair

Amy Snow Lothrop

Pamela and Charles Lyman

Craig and Pat MacPherson

Frank Manley

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Patricia Mellor

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Karen M. and Bruce A. Pehrson

Peggy and John Piette

Carolyn Pine

Danielle Pray

Stephanie Romero

Deborah Rossi

Carl Thompson

# Be a part of our Alumnae Association

The GSGWM Alumnae Association is open to any adult who is or ever has been a registered member of Girl Scouts. Each of us has a story to tell and memories to share. Reconnect with old friends while supporting the current generation of Girl Scouts!

Membership is free! You can meet, network and have fun at alum events, participate in service projects to benefit the council and our communities, enjoy informative and enriching events and workshops, and enjoy discounts and benefits available to the group.

To join, visit girlscoutsgwm.org/ Alumnae, or call 888-474-9686. See our Facebook page at www. facebook.com/groups/GSGWM Alumnae.