

GROWING IN FAITH THROUGH GIRL SCOUTS



An Invitation from Roni Luckenbill, CEO

Girl Scouts of Western Ohio is proud to celebrate our partnership with the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, which has served thousands of Catholic Girl Scouts across this council for more than 100 years. Fundamental to this proud legacy is that the mission of Girl Scouts and the goals of Catholic youth ministry and formation share much in common. Essential to understanding Girl Scouts and its relationship with the Catholic Church is to realize that everything in Girl Scouting is based on the Girl Scout Promise and Law, which include the values that we share. The Girl Scout Promise, for example, calls on girls to “serve God and my country” and to “help people at all times.”

We believe that Girl Scouts is the best leadership development organization designed to help girls build 21st century skills and learn to be leaders in today’s world. We have always prepared girls to take spiritual journeys via their faith, including the earning of religious recognitions. It has been part of the Girl Scout tradition since our inception in 1912 and remains a cornerstone of Girl Scouting. Thousands of women in our parishes have earned the Marian Medal and other Catholic recognitions through Girl Scouts, strengthening their own connections with the Church.

It is a blessing that the mutual respect and high level of trust between our organizations has led to an even stronger commitment to expand our partnership. In 2013, and again in 2016, Archbishop Schnurr and I signed our historic Memorandum of Understanding that clearly established the expectation that, when operating within a Catholic institution, the Girl Scouts will be in conformity with Catholic teachings and practice.

The relationship between the Archdiocese and the Girl Scouts has never been stronger. There are many “scouting” alternatives, but the inclusive, girl-led, all-female environment of a Girl Scout troop creates a safe space in which girls can find their voice and explore and strengthen their academic achievements, social-emotional growth, and their own understanding of their faith.

Will you work with us to reach even more girls and make an even bigger difference in our community? We would appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and discuss our unique program benefits for girls and the seamless way in which our program and yours can work together to maximize outcomes. We look forward to continuing to support Girl Scouts at your school.

Sincerely,

Roni Luckenbill, CEO

P.S. – I hope you’ll join me on Sunday, April 7 at 2 p.m. for a Girl Scout prayer service at St. Peter in Chains Cathedral. This annual event, called Fanning Faith’s Eternal Flame, celebrates Girl Scouts and the faith awards that they have earned, including the Marian Medal, which nearly 100 girls earn each year. It is a wonderful way for families to join together to celebrate their daughters’ growing commitment to Catholic faith, and a highlight of our continued partnership.

girl scouts 
of western ohio

888.350.5090 | gsw.org
customercare@gsw.org



In Partnership With:



SUPPORTING GIRLS' SPIRITUAL JOURNEYS

Religious Recognitions for Catholic Youth in Girl Scouts

Administered by the Office for Youth Evangelization and Discipleship Archdiocese of Cincinnati.



God is Love

The God is Love program is designed for use with students in kindergarten or first grade. The program helps students discover an appreciation that God created, cares for, and loves us all. A parent's/leader's guide is included in the program book. The companion prayer card invites children to embrace God's love for them and the world, and to share that love with others.



Family of God

The Family of God program is designed for students in grades 2-3. The program helps children discover the presence of God in their daily lives as members of their family and parish. A parent's/leader's guide is included in the program book. The companion prayer card encourages young people and their families to offer thanks for the blessing of family and church, and ask for continued strength and grace to grow and serve God.



I Live My Faith

The I Live My Faith program is designed for students in grades 4-5. The program is designed around the themes of belief, sacraments, Catholic Christian living, and prayer. As the students work through the program, they will reflect on what we believe, how we celebrate those beliefs through sacraments, and how prayer fits into our lives. A parent's/leader's guide is included in the program book. The companion prayer card encourages young people and their families to seek God's guidance and help, while asking for greater understanding, grace and wisdom.



Mary, the First Disciple

Mary, the First Disciple, is designed for students in grades 6-8. The program teaches them more about Mary, and about themselves. They will meet Mary in Scripture as a young teenager, follow her journey, and watch her grow into the woman known as the Mother of God. A step-by-step guide for adults contains detailed instructions for guiding students through the program. The companion prayer card encourages young people and their families to ask for Mary's intercession for openness to all the possibilities that God has in store for them. The Book of Mary-Prayers in Honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a resource for the Marian medal program and is sold separately.



Spirit Alive

The Spirit Alive program is designed for students in grades 9-10. The program assists them in discovering how the Holy Spirit moves in their lives, calling them to greater participation in the church's ministry. A Spirit Alive Mentor Handbook is a step-by-step guide for adults that contains detailed instructions for guiding students through this program. The companion prayer card encourages young people and families to turn to the Holy Spirit for guidance, wisdom, and commitment to the Gospel message.



Missio

Missio is designed for students in grades 11-12. The program invites young people to explore missionary discipleship and their own religious identity. Missio was jointly created by the Pontifical Mission Societies in the U.S. and the NFCYM. The guide for adults contains detailed instructions for aiding students through the program. A companion prayer card is also available. The Missio bilingual book and prayer card include text in Spanish as well as English.

Website Resource: Catholic Committee for Girl Scouts

Please visit, www.archcincigirlscouts.org for more information

My Promise, My Faith Program

Everything in Girl Scouting is based on our Girl Scout Promise and Law, which includes many of the principles and values common across religions. So, while we are still a secular organization, Girl Scouts has always encouraged girls to take spiritual journeys via their faith's religious recognitions.

Girls of all grade levels can earn the My Promise, My Faith pin, which complements existing religious recognitions and allows girls to further strengthen the connection between their faith and Girl Scouts. Once each year, a girl can earn the My Promise, My Faith pin by carefully examining the Girl Scout Law and tying it directly to tenets of her faith. Requirements for this pin are included in The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting for all levels.



Daises



Cadettes



Brownies



Seniors



Juniors



Ambassadors



FANNING FAITH'S ETERNAL FLAME

An Annual Catholic Awards Ceremony for Girl Scouts

Join the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, Girl Scouts of Western Ohio, and hundreds of girls, leaders and troops to celebrate Girl Scouts receiving Catholic Religious Recognitions and My Promise, My Faith Awards.

**Sunday, April 7, 2019
2:00 - 4:00 p.m.**



Fundamentals of the Girl Scout Program

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience, the foundation of all Girl Scout programming, is a variety of fun and challenging activities that help girls discover who they are, where their talents lie, and what they care most about. Designed to connect them with community members, the program prepares girls to empower themselves as they take action on issues they care about. 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.

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

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.

Plus, we continually track, measure, and optimize our program to make sure these outcomes remain achievable and adaptable in a changing world.



We are Girl Scouts

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.*



Did you know?



Girl Scouts are go-getters and optimists!

They earn better grades, and have greater expectations for their futures.



Girl Scouts are innovators and risk-takers! They're more likely than non-Girl Scouts to:

- Participate in healthy activities (82% vs. 69%)
- Pursue leadership opportunities (79% vs. 37%)
- Explore the outdoors (76% vs. 43%)
- Be civically engaged (79% vs. 37%)
- Learn financial literacy (65% vs. 36%)
- Work on STEM projects (60% vs. 35%)



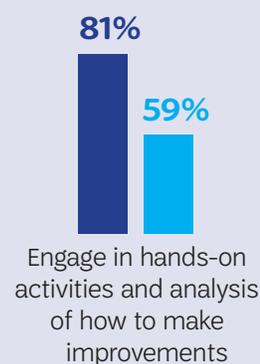
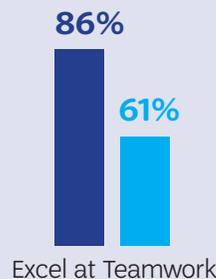
4 IN 5
Girl Scouts are **leaders**



2 IN 5
Non-Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts are self-starters!

They take the lead in their lives and it shows.



THE GIRL SCOUT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience is built on four core program pillars:



Science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM)

With a focus on high-quality multi-year programs in engineering, computer science, and outdoor STEM, girls become increasingly interested, confident, and competent in STEM subjects.



Outdoor

Through progressive outdoor programs for girls of all ages, girls experience nature, build skills, and take action in their communities as environmental stewards.



Life skills

By partaking in life skills programming, girls enhance the academic skills they learn in school through topics such as civic engagement, healthy living, communication skills, financial literacy, and global citizenship.



Entrepreneurship

Starting with the iconic Girl Scout Cookie Program, this pillar explores ways in which girls can change the world by learning business skills and provides them with a variety of entrepreneurship opportunities, including social entrepreneurship.

Putting Plans In Action: The Girl Scout Journey

As a Girl Scout, she'll team up with other girls to identify a problem she wants to do something about, find a creative solution, and create a team plan to make that solution a reality. Then she'll put her plan into action and tell others about what she learned. That's the Girl Scout Journey, which we offer at every grade level.

• Advocacy (It's Your World—Change It!)

Girls experience unique leadership and advocacy challenges and discover what it means to be a leader who makes a difference in the world.

• Environmentalism (It's Your Planet—Love It!)

Girls learn about environmental topics, such as clean water and air, noise pollution, global warming, soil contamination, and agricultural processes.

• Self-Esteem (It's Your Story—Tell It!)

Girls explore important personal themes, like developing a strong sense of self, discovering the benefits of a balanced diet and physical activity, and navigating healthy relationships.

• Engineering (Think Like an Engineer)

Girls learn how to think like a designer by participating in hands-on design challenges and completing a Take Action project.

• Computer Science (Think Like a Programmer)

Girls learn how programmers solve problems by participating in interactive computational-thinking activities and completing a Take Action project.

• Outdoor STEM (Think Like a Citizen Scientist)

Girls learn the scientific method by undertaking a citizen science project that involves making observations, collecting data, and working with scientists. Girls also complete a Take Action project.

• Outdoor

Anchored by the Troop Camping badge, the new Outdoor Journey will deepen girls' outdoor skills through badges that inspire girls to take an interest in environmental stewardship and lead to a Take Action project.

Learn more: girlscouts.org/program/journeys.

Did you know?



THE MAJORITY OF
ALL FEMALE
U.S. ASTRONAUTS...



80%
OF ALL FEMALE
TECH LEADERS...



76%
OF FEMALE
U.S. SENATORS...



100%
OF FEMALE
U.S. SECRETARIES
OF STATE...

...were Girl Scouts

THE GIRL SCOUT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

Critical Thinking and Social Skills: A Powerful Combination

At Girl Scouts, girls learn to think critically about different issues and to solve problems together. We encourage teamwork and collaboration as much as we encourage independence and self-discovery. Here, a girl learns to believe in the power of go-getter within herself as well as count on her community for support. She works as part of a team, brings people with varying perspectives together to devise solutions, and respects and appreciates the views of others as much as she does her own.

Bullying Prevention and Friendship

Teaching girls how to prevent bullying and providing them with a safe space for self-expression is crucial in today's increasingly complex social landscape. That's why, at Girl Scouts, we focus so much on community, on appreciating everyone's unique value, and on supporting one another through obstacles and conflict. We teach girls about relational aggression and about how best to develop and maintain healthy relationships and trusting friendships. Girl Scouts gives girls the tools they need to rise above bullying and champion everyone's right to live free of it.



Volunteer-Driven and All-Female, Girl-Led Environment

Girl Scout troops create a safe space in which girls can find their voice and explore and strengthen their academic achievements, social-emotional growth, and their own understanding of their faith. Volunteers make Girl Scouts possible every day by devoting themselves to support and guide girls as they prepare for a lifetime of leadership. Although all activities are girl-led, volunteers play an important role in providing the sense of community and caring adult support girls need to thrive. Volunteering with Girl Scouts is also a great way to engage parents and encourage their involvement at school.

THE GIRL SCOUT LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE: A FOUNDATION FOR SUCCESS

Highest Awards

As girls progress in Girl Scouts, they can earn our highest awards: Bronze Award as a Junior, Silver Award as a Cadette, and the Gold Award as a Senior or Ambassador. They conduct **Take Action** projects with sustainable impact. The Girl Scout Gold Award is the most prestigious award a Girl Scout can earn. Once achieved, it shows colleges, employers, and her community her leadership abilities and dedication to changing the world.



Bronze



Silver



Gold

Gold Award Impact:

Safeguarding Personal Information Online

Dhira held several workshops on how to prevent identity theft and opt out of data brokers. She is working with legislators to get a bill passed in Ohio to tighten regulations on how data brokers collect information.

Roselawn Condon Courtyard Enhancement

Ava renovated a courtyard that was previously unusable to provide an outdoor learning space at the Roselawn Condon School where 99% of students fall at or below the poverty line. Ava engaged the students to plant a flower and vegetable garden that is now used regularly.

A Spot for Thought

Rachel worked with the Maria Stein Spiritual Center to create an outdoor space at the new facility in Montezuma that encourages reflection and prayer which positively impact mental health.

Short Film to Combat Mental Health Stigma

Maria self-directed a short film to help young people understand and relate to those with mental illnesses to help decrease the stigma associated with mental illness.



The Outdoor Experience

Regular outdoor exposure is a key driver of leadership in girls. Our research shows that girls who get outside at least once a month are stronger problem-solvers and challenge-seekers. Girl Scouts of Western Ohio has several camps and offers a robust outdoor experience. More than 14,000 Girl Scout families utilize our camp properties every year.

To include or grow Girl Scouts in your school, contact:

Regional Director Cincinnati:

Erin Focke
513.619.1414
erinfocke@gsw.org

Regional Director Dayton:

Lissa Brown
419.225.3043
lissabrown@gsw.org