



December 2021

Remembering Edith Gates



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Edith Gates. Edith passed away on Monday, November 22, due to complications of heart failure. Our hearts go out to Edith's family and friends at this difficult time.

Edith Gates was a valued member of Girl Scouts of Utah for over 50 years as a member and 48 cumulative years as a volunteer. She stepped up three separate times to save her service unit from dissolution and serve as its manager, spending the last 10 years leading Mt. Olympus Service Unit. Edith has also volunteered over the years as a day camp helper, troop cookie manager, service unit fund development representative, service unit awards and recognition representative, and member of the GSU Board of Directors.

Edith has said the highlight of her Girl Scouting experience is the Activity Credit program she helped create. In the 1970s, Edith worked with Char Corbit and the council's camping task group to encourage girls to attend GSU's resident camps. Activity Credits earned during the cookie program brought families into Girl Scouts by allowing girls to earn credits so they could go to camp.

Since the creation of Activity Credits, the program has evolved in a big way. What once was designed to increase attendance at GSU camps now makes it possible for girls to participate in Girl Scouts, regardless of their ability to pay. Activity Credits are still used to help pay for camp, and now can be used to purchase items in the council shops and cover registration fees associated with GSU programs and other activities.

Edith had a welcoming presence, inviting girls and adults into Girl Scouts as a way to meet their needs. She will be missed by her community and all of us in Girl Scouts. Edith's family has asked donations be made to camperships. As you complete your donation, change the designation to "Camperships" and select "This gift is in honor, memory, or support of someone" to donate in honor of Edith.

"I've been feeling really happy that I've had the opportunity to work in the Girl Scout Movement." – Edith Gates, January 2021

[Donate to Camperships](#)

Why I Give: AJ Johnson

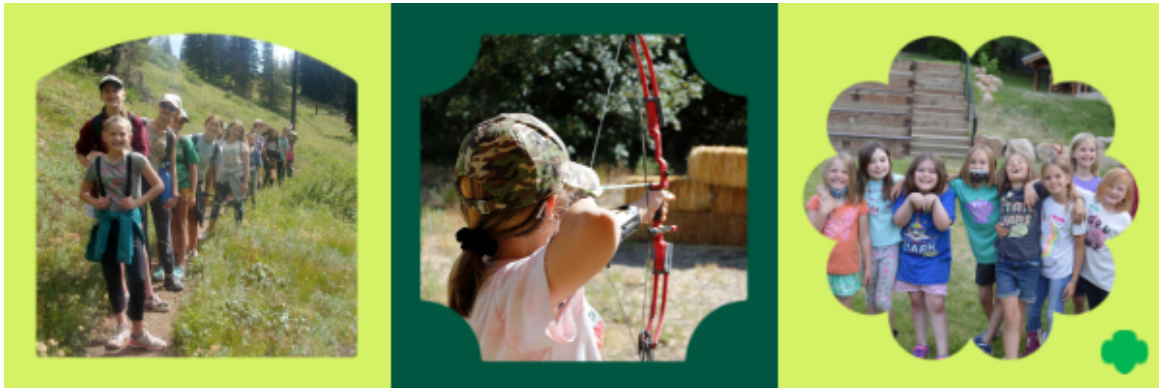
AJ Johnson has been involved with Girl Scouts of Utah for the last 16 years as a Girl Scout, camp staff member at Trefoil Ranch, Troop Supporter, Service Unit Cookie Manager, and now works for the council as the Retail Sales Associate. AJ gives directly to the equestrian program at Trefoil Ranch because her experiences there as a camper and camp staff member helped shape who she is today.

When AJ was a kid, she jumped at the opportunity to attend Trefoil Ranch and participate in the equestrian program, which was made possible via a campership. After her memorable time at camp, she knew she wanted to share the camp experience with all girls.

AJ loves working with girls. Her favorite Girl Scout memory came during a one-week session where it took her four days of one-on-one time with a girl to help her feel comfortable getting on a horse. To AJ, getting on a horse is second nature but for the girl, getting on was the hardest thing for her. AJ was able to help her and many other girls overcome obstacles and face their fears while at camp.

To AJ, Girl Scouts means so many things: it's a place for any and all girls to learn something as basic as cooking or as complicated as mechanical engineering, a place where girls can learn with and from each other, and it's a place for a girl to

feel comfortable in an environment where they can make and learn from mistakes. Being part of GSU has changed AJ's life for the better, and has taught her so many skills that she would never have learned if not for Girl Scouts.



Giving Tuesday Recap

On Giving Tuesday, you gave and we thank you! Giving Tuesday, a day of online philanthropy during the holiday season, gives you the chance to invest in the non-profits enriching your community all year. This year, we set up Amazon wish lists for Camp Cloud Rim and Trefoil Ranch to help get our camps ready for summer 2022. Your response was overwhelming; our camps received \$1,400 in items and direct contributions. Thank you so much!

Missed Giving Tuesday?
Purchase items from [our wish lists](#)

In the Spotlight: Elise, Cadette Girl Scout



Elise has been a Girl Scout for 8 years. She earned her Bronze Award as a Junior and is planning for her Silver and Gold Awards in the coming years. Elise recently participated in Girl Scouts of Utah's Tree Promise event at Trefoil Ranch.

The Tree Promise is a Movement-wide initiative to plant five million trees in five years and to protect and honor new and existing trees. At the October event, Elise learned about tree care, parts of trees, and Leave No Trace principles before planting trees. She said a program like the Tree Promise is a

fun way to get out, earn a badge, hang out with other Girl Scouts, and learn something new.

Programs like the Tree Promise highlight how the Girl Scout experience strengthens our communities. According to Elise, "If you donate to Girl Scouts, it will come back to you in some way... It will come back to you and your community and make a difference." Please consider giving the gift of Girl Scouts this holiday season and enable current and future girls the opportunity to change the world.

[Give the Gift of Girl Scouts](#)

Looking Back at Recognition of Excellence

On Saturday, November 13, we rolled out the red carpet to honor our Gold Award Girl Scouts, Silver Award Girl Scouts, Cornelia Benton Scholarship recipients, and adult award honorees at the annual Recognition of Excellence Awards Ceremony. Award recipients walked the red carpet for a photo opp and were recognized in an award ceremony with inspiring remarks by Leslie Egan and Lisa Hardin-Reynolds. The event featured a panel discussion with our Gold Award Girl Scouts and a heartfelt impromptu speech by Alida Hannum, who was recognized for 80 years of membership. Thank you to our Recognition of Excellence planning team for their collaborative work delivering an organized, uplifting event!

[Donate Now](#)

[Support our Movement by joining Girl Scouts as an Adult Member!](#)

Stay Connected! Follow Us:



Have a question? Don't be shy!

Contact us for more information.