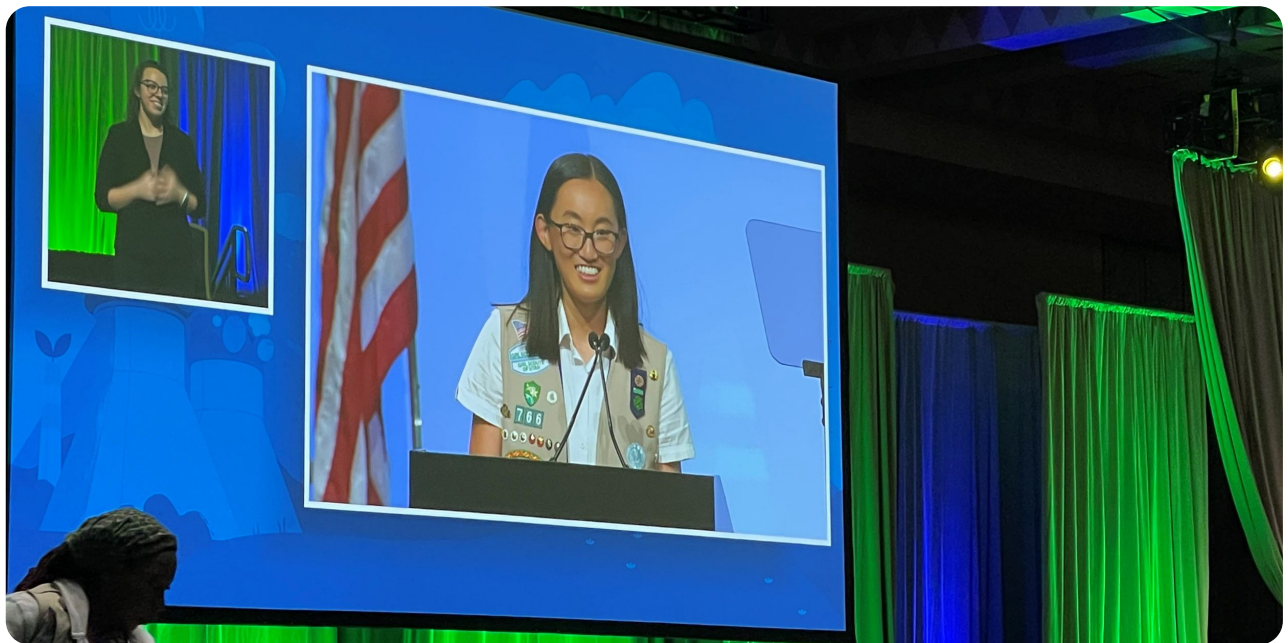




Connections

Girl Scouts of Utah | Monthly Donor Update

August 2023



Girl Story

Tanya Y. has certainly made her final year as an Ambassador Girl Scout one to remember. In 2022, Tanya became a Gold Award Girl Scout after completing Project Radon. What started out as a school research assignment turned into a take action project wherein Tanya hosted 15 community events, taught 500 students in 10 elementary schools, educated 300 STEM teachers, and spoke in front of her local city council about radon awareness. After her project concluded, Tanya even took her passion for the subject to the International Radon Symposium as an invited speaker. Tanya was further recognized as the VFW's Scout of the Year and was a recipient of GSUSA's Gold Award Scholarship and GSU's Cornelia Benton Scholarship.

Girl Scouts of Utah proudly sent five National Delegates and two alternates to represent our council at the 56th National Council Session in Lake Buena Vista, Florida from July 18-20. As one of the GSU National Delegates, Tanya had the special distinction of serving as one of 13 girls chosen to be a Presiding Officer during the National Council Session. Tanya also presided over all three sessions of the National Council as she and Vidya Krishnan, National Board member, gave the credentials report daily to start each session. The attached photo shows Tanya presiding over the Installation of Officers for the new members of the National Board and National Board Development Committee. It was a very proud moment for her and for those attending from the Utah delegation.

Tanya literally became one of the most recognizable faces at National Council Session and Phenom by Girl Scouts (the event that followed the National Council Session). She was stopped everywhere for selfie requests--in the convention center, Disney Parks, and the airport for photos with fellow attendees. The Utah delegation felt like they were traveling with a rockstar!

We are so proud of Tanya and her accomplishments at National Council Session. Tanya will be attending the University of Utah this fall and will be studying Data Science.



**Why I Give- Lindee Nance, VP/Marketing and Advertising,
Harmons Grocery**

Lindee (4th from right) and fellow Girl Scouts of Utah board members at Trefoil Ranch.

Although I was never able to participate in Girl Scouts as a girl myself (not for lack of wanting to—we lived in a small town in rural Idaho where there wasn't a troop), Girl Scouts touched my life as an adult in a tremendously personal way. During my time as a single mother raising my daughter, I watched as she struggled to make friends and be comfortable in social situations. She was an only child, and so this concern was amplified. Knowing how important it is to a child's overall well-being to feel confident in social situations, I began a campaign to get her more involved in activities of interest. She tried softball, but it wasn't a great fit; dance didn't last long either; she loved guitar lessons, but that seemed to be a rather isolating activity. Finally, we found Girl Scouts, and I watched her blossom as she engaged with her troop. Through earning badges, spending time with her fellow Girl Scouts, and being included in the sense of community that Girl Scouts offered, she became more confident, gained courage in her cookie business, and made friends with other girls who shared common interests with her. My daughter is now grown, but I have never forgotten how much influence access to a troop and Girl Scouting had on her individual growth. As a single mother, this sense of community was immensely meaningful to us both and I often think about other girls in similar situations who can benefit from—or need to be welcomed in to—the sisterhood of Girl Scouts.

Since that time of my life, I've never hesitated to support a Girl Scout with the purchase of a box (or several) of cookies because I know how much of a difference it makes when she succeeds! So, when COVID-19 shut down cookie sales nationally, and the opportunity to help the council by arranging a consignment program in Harmons stores came up, I had no hesitation in doing what we needed to make it work. I learned so much more about the importance of this program as I worked with Lisa Hardin-Reynolds, Callie Birdsall-Chambers (GSU's former vice president of marketing and communications), our collective creative teams, Harmons' store teams, our operating board, sales team, and distribution center to create a wholly original "in store cookie booth" program in the span of two months. It was an incredible experience and one that I was grateful to participate in. Through that connection, Harmons has continued to support Girl Scouts of Utah and I have been honored to serve on the board. Over the past few years, I've marveled at the quality of women who serve our girls, but also at the magic that sisterhood can add to my life—even as an adult.

I had a chance last year to bring my daughter along to Camping for a Cause. We created special memories together at Camp Cloud Rim as she tapped into to her own Girl Scouting roots. As for myself, as a lifetime member now participating locally, I can hear my inner eight-year-old self cheering out loud because sometimes in life, the things we dream to do can come back full circle.

DONATE



Cornelia Benton Scholarship recipients

Each year Girl Scouts of Utah is able to recognize four graduating Girl Scouts for their leadership skills, service to their community, and awards they've received, thanks to the legacy of Cornelia Benton. "Cornie" was a Girl Scout for 82 years, and we are proud to be able to honor her dedication to the organization through the next generation of Girl Scouts. This year's recipients were Abigail S, Emily G, Emily H, and Tanya Y.

Abigail has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and just earned her Gold Award for implementing a district-wide recycling program. She has attended four Girl Scout conventions and two Destinations trips. She cites her visit to the Catalina Island Marine Institute with Girl Scouts of Utah as the reason she fell in love with STEM, and she plans on pursuing a degree in Environmental Science in the fall.

Emily G. has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and earned both her Bronze and Silver Awards. She also created and led a service initiative entitled “What a Difference a Year Makes” wherein she led 50 teens through 27 different service opportunities and hopes to turn this initiative into a nonprofit in the future.

Emily H. has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and is currently in the final stages of completing her Gold Award. Emily points to camp and booth sales for helping her develop her teamwork and customer service skills. She has contributed over 700 hours of service to her community from projects ranging from the Disabled Activity Program to the Draper Mayor’s Youth Council.

Tanya Y. Read about her exceptional story at the beginning of the newsletter.



Join Us As We
Celebrate Girls & Women

**Celebrate the impact that women and girls have
in our communities while supporting Girl Scouts
of Utah!**

Held the same week as International Day of the Girl, Utah Day of the Girl is a celebratory breakfast where business and community leaders come together to mentor high school and young alum Girl Scouts in a professional setting. We also recognize the positive impact women and girls have in our communities by honoring women of achievement in each of our four Girl Scout pillars: STEM, Outdoors, Life Skills, and Entrepreneurship. Proceeds from this event support our “Gift of Girl Scouts” initiative, which provides free membership to new and current Girl Scouts of Utah members.

For information about sponsorship, contact Lisa White at lwhite@gsutah.org or 801-716-5153 or download the [Sponsorship Brochure](#).

- \$125 - Single ticket
- \$25 - add on tax-deductible "Gift of Girl Scouts"
- \$1,000 - Table purchase (seats 8)

GET YOUR TICKETS!



**Explore Girl Scout History at our Heritage
Museum Open House**

Girl Scouts, volunteers, and community members of all ages are invited to join our volunteer Heritage Committee for an Open House on September 9. Open from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for tours and activities, the Heritage Museum showcases Girl Scout memorabilia, books, and uniforms from throughout the ages. Girl Scouts are even able to check out books and uniforms from the museum to use at troop meetings or events. The Heritage Museum is housed on the second floor of our Salt Lake City office and is run by a volunteer committee.

Action needed: **RSVP** by September 7 for a reminder email or join us in person at the Salt Lake City office on September 9 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. To learn more about volunteering at our Heritage Museum, please contact Barbara at **btombo@hotmail.com**.



Phenom Recap

Girl Scouts of Utah had the pleasure of traveling with 36 Girl Scouts to attend Phenom By Girl Scouts at the end of July as part of GSUSA's triennial national convention. The festivities started off with an opening ceremony that featured speeches from GSUSA's CEO and Board President and performances by the Citrus Singers, That Girl Lay Lay, and Disney Broadway performers. Disney star Susan Egan spoke on the power of dreams before delighting the audience with

songs from her memorable roles. The Hall of Experiences allowed our Girl Scouts to try out some hands-on activities from a variety of companies that support the Girl Scout mission. Meeting Girl Scouts from across the nation and exchanging SWAPS, or “special whatchamacallits affectionately pinned somewhere”, was a favorite activity for our Girl Scouts. But the highlight for many was being able to participate in mentoring sessions where they got to hear from and ask questions of industry professionals in small group settings. One Girl Scout even proclaimed that attending these sessions helped her pinpoint the core theme for her Gold Award project. Thanks to generous donors, we offer affordable travel experiences that bring the core elements of Girl Scouts to our teenage members so that they stay involved and have these moments that help them develop into passionate leaders.



The Gift of Girl Scouts

As the new Girl Scout Membership Year approaches, GSU wants to ensure all girls have the opportunity to participate in Girl Scouts. With the help of generous donors like you, GSU is able to offer free membership to girls and adult members for the upcoming membership year. This gift is a small way to show the immense appreciation and gratitude we have for our Girl Scout community.

If you'd like to help us continue giving the gift of Girl Scouts, consider making a donation towards membership. Annual membership is \$25 per girl. As you

complete your donation on our website, change the designation to “Membership” to support our incredible members.

GIVE THE GIFT OF GIRL SCOUTS

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.