



# Connections

Girl Scouts of Utah | Monthly Donor Update

*October 2023*

## Utah Day of the Girl



We are so proud of the success of our recent Utah Day of the Girl event! We were fortunate to have three inspiring speakers: Liz Adeola, Andrea Williams, and Tanya Yu, who shared their experiences and wisdom with us. The event's highlight was recognizing four Girl Champions. Recognized were Dr. Yasmen Simonian, Dean of Dumke College at Weber State University for STEM; Amanda King, performing arts and adaptive sports teacher for Outdoors; Jenessa Jimoh,

founder and executive director of D.I.V.A. for Life Skills; and Eli Madrigal, founder and CEO of Rancho Markets for Entrepreneurship. We had an impressive turnout, with over 200 Girl Scouts of Utah supporters. There was a mentoring and networking session, where girls had the chance to engage with professionals during breakfast, gaining valuable insights. A huge shout-out to our dedicated staff whose hard work made this event a great success!

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## **Juliette Gordon Low Takes Her Place on the Quarter**



Get ready to celebrate a significant moment in history! Juliette Gordon Low, the founder of the Girl Scouts, is set to feature on the American Women Quarters Program in 2025. This is a moment of immense pride. Juliette's dedication to improving the lives of young women has been unwavering. Now, she'll be among the remarkable women who have shaped history, serving as an enduring source of inspiration for generations to come. For more details, [read the full story](#).

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## Eclipse Adventure



This October, Utah experienced an annular solar eclipse and GSU celebrated with an exciting event at Trefoil Ranch. Over 125 Girl Scouts and caregivers joined us for the program, where we completed space science themed activities and observed the eclipse. Everyone was mesmerized as the eclipse reached its maximum, with the moon covering 87% of the sun at its peak. We were able to observe the eclipse through eclipse glasses, pinhole projector experiments, and on our telescope with a special solar filter. We are so grateful for everyone who helped bring this once in a lifetime event together!

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**Why I Give – Lauren Raivan**





*What does Girl Scouts mean to you?*

I have always been a proud Girl Scout, and my life wouldn't be the same without my Girl Scout experience. Even when my Girl Scout troop disbanded after earning our Silver Award, I continued in the program as a Juliette, creating my own Girl Scout experience. I sold cookies, attended and taught leadership courses, and worked camp programs. I give because my experiences with Girl Scouts gave me the confidence to become President of the Nonprofit Leadership Alliance organization while in college and taught me the skills I needed to know to travel internationally independently.



*What is your experience/journey with Girl Scouts? When did your journey begin?*

I grew up in the suburbs of Kansas City. I joined Girl Scouts when I was six years old as a Brownie and stayed in the program through my senior year of high school, then becoming a Lifetime member. During my time in Girl Scouts, I earned my Girl Scout Bronze, Girl Scout Silver, and Girl Scout Gold Awards, attended camp programs every summer, and went on a destination to Atlanta, Georgia. I give because Girl Scouts gave me the courage to teach leadership and Program Aide training to younger Girl Scouts, serve as an assistant troop leader, and join camp staff when I was 16 years old.

*Any special memories with GSU or Girl Scouts in general?*

One of my most treasured memories was assisting with the 2014 National Convention, hosted by the GSU Council in Salt Lake City. I had just joined GSU as a full-time staff member and the camaraderie I experienced so quickly was special. I give because only in Girl Scouts do you get to witness the National CEO and National Board Chair ride across the stage at a nationally sponsored event on trail bikes.

*Lauren started as a full-time staff member for GSU in 2014 and is the Program Manager for our program and outdoor program team.*

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## **Recognition of Excellence Ceremony**



We are thrilled to once again honor our Highest Awards earners and adult honorees at our annual Recognition of Excellence ceremony on November 11. This year we will be recognizing 10 Girl Scout Gold Awards and 34 Girl Scout Silver Awards. These Girl Scouts all acted in their community to address the root cause of an issue they are passionate about while developing their leadership skills. Project topics such as educating the public on proper flag retirement and pet care during a fire to district recycling programs and creating a crosswalk beacon to increasing pedestrian safety at a roundabout will be shared. These Girl Scouts have worked hard to make the world better, and we couldn't be prouder of their efforts.

We will also be recognizing over 30 adults for their leadership with girls and other adults and their dedication to the Girl Scout program.

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## **Outreach Program Update**





The Girl Scout Outreach Program is excited to share the latest updates on our fall activities for MY24. Our new curriculum catalog launched earlier this year and has sparked enthusiasm among our troops as they embark on a year full of exciting badge and patch-earning opportunities. It has been fun to see the range of activities the girls have chosen this year.

Currently, we are featuring three engaging curricula: “All About Bugs,” “Cooking and Nutrition,” and “Environmental Change.” These curricula are thoughtfully designed, encompassing learning materials, games, crafts, and interactive activities that keep our girls excited and involved.

In addition to these curriculum updates, we are committed to expanding our reach. We are working to reestablish troops in Davis/Weber and Utah Counties. We are excited to announce our first troop in the Murray School District. Additionally, we welcomed a troop at the Christmas Box House, which has been incredibly rewarding.

Our dedication to the Girl Scout Outreach Program continues to profoundly impact these girls' lives. Every day, we witness their growth, development, and the building of trust with adults in their lives. It is a journey of transformation and empowerment, and we look forward to another season of growth and learning together.

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## Please Give to STEM Robotics Programming



Girl Scouts of Utah is proud to offer outstanding STEM programming to our girls. A highlight of our programming is FIRST Robotics, serving girls in grades 1-12. In partnership with the [STEM Action Center](#), Girl Scouts gain hands-on skills in engineering, programming, and robotics.

Our First Tech Challenge (FTC) program, an in-depth, year-round program where Senior Girl Scouts learn from STEM mentors as they build and program a robot. The programming is supported by adult volunteers and expert mentors from the STEM Action Center and University of Utah and is very popular. Funding this program is currently our biggest need. Would you please consider supporting the FTC Robotics program through a donation? As you complete your donation on our website, change the designation to “Unrestricted” to support our incredible members.

**GIVE TO STEM ROBOTICS**

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