



# Connections

Girl Scouts of Utah | Monthly Donor Update

*June 2024*

## Trefoil Ranch Dedication Ceremony



The High Ropes Course Dedication Ceremony on June 6 was a huge success! To view pictures of the day's festivities, [please visit our Flickr album](#).

After years of planning, this incredible addition to Trefoil Ranch, made possible by the generosity of Janice and Brian Ruggles, is finally complete. The day began with a reception at the Lodge, graciously donated by Tea Zaanti, where volunteers, Girl Scouts, and Board members gathered before proceeding to the course for an inspiring program and the ceremonial ribbon cutting.

The program opened with an inspiring Color Guard presentation by Girl Scout Outreach Troop 1820, hailing from South Franklin Community Center and led by United Way of Utah County volunteers. This set the tone for a series of impactful speeches delivered by Lisa Hardin-Reynolds (CEO), Joelle Creager (Board Chair), and Lauren Raivan (Outdoor Programs Manager). Ropes Course Certified camp staff then highlighted the course's features, while Lisa and Rachel Benator, a long-time GSU supporter and close friend of the Ruggles Family, ceremonially cut the ribbon and officially inaugurated the course.

In the true spirit of Girl Scouts, the highlight for many was the chance for both Girl Scouts and guests to personally experience the course, including the exhilarating new zip line!

We extend our deepest gratitude to all the dedicated staff whose efforts made this event possible, affording GSU the privilege of acknowledging the Ruggles Family's generosity and their legacy of high adventure for countless generations of Girl Scouts to come.

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## Support our Campership Fund!



This Spring, you may have seen our campaign aimed at raising funds for camperships (camp scholarships). We are thrilled to announce that our campership campaign successfully raised \$5,325 – enough funds to send dozens of campers to summer camp with discounted or fully-funded opportunities.



Summer camp is a cornerstone of our Outdoor programming and a cherished part of the Girl Scout experience. Ensuring that every girl can participate, regardless of their family's financial situation, is paramount to the Girl Scouts of Utah. Through our campership fund, we are proud to report that we have never denied funding assistance to any girl for summer camp.

Another pivotal fundraiser for camperships is our annual Camping for a Cause event, held each August at Camp Cloud Rim and exclusively for women aged 21+. This event offers various ticket options, including single tickets, tents for four, or cabins for eight. Featuring a silent auction, merchandise sales, and other fundraising activities, GSU raises crucial funds to support camperships and our mission of sending all girls to summer camp each year.

**For more details about the event and to secure your spot, please visit [our website](#) . Early Bird pricing is available until June 30, so be sure to register early!\***

*\* Please note: Ticket sales will close on August 3 at 11:59 p.m.*

DONATE TODAY

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## Cornelia Benton Scholarship Recipients



We are delighted to announce this year's recipients of the Cornelia Benton Scholarship, an award dedicated to honoring the legacy of Cornelia Benton, Utah's

oldest Girl Scout who lived the Girl Scout Promise for 82 years. This prestigious scholarship recognizes active Girl Scouts for their exemplary service, leadership, and community contributions.

Justice P, a Girl Scout for 13 years, has excelled through the Leaders-in-Training and Counselor-in-Training programs, igniting her passion for community outreach. Isabella L, with nine years in Girl Scouts, showcased resilience and teamwork in the Girl Scouts and found her calling in our adventurous Winter camp activities. Savannah T, also a Girl Scout for nine years, became a self-reliant leader after moving to a new area and thriving as a Juliette, achieving her Gold Award and leading multiple community projects. Shayla B, with 11 years of service, demonstrated her capability to lead impactful projects and rallied community support, showcasing the power of collective effort.

These remarkable young women received \$1,500 in scholarship each to support their pursuit of higher education.

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## Girl Scout Night at the Hogle Zoo



Two weeks ago, our Girl Scout night at the Hogle Zoo gathered 216 participants for a family-friendly event. Siblings and parents were welcome to join in the fun at a discounted rate, making it an enjoyable evening for all. Our attendees enjoyed a variety of engaging activities at stations throughout the zoo, such as learning about animal adaptations and diets, playing animal jeopardy, and building and painting bee boxes that were later donated to the zoo.



A highlight of the evening was the free train ride around the zoo, offering close-up views of animals like tigers, bobcats, foxes, and Utah-native toads. The event centered around the new [Wild Utah exhibit](#), showcasing the state's native wildlife. Hogle Zoo night is one of GSU's most popular events, happening annually in June.

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## Partnering with Utah Transit Authority!



Earlier this month, our Wasatch Wanderlust event took 65 participants from 7 teams on an "Amazing Race" style adventure throughout Salt Lake City, completing challenges and earning points. This event was made possible through a valuable partnership with the Utah Transit Authority (UTA), which provided essential support and resources. UTA's Chief Planning and Engagement Officer, Nichol Bourdeaux, kicked off the event by sharing insights from her career and leadership journey.

UTA generously donated venue space for the kickoff and finale, providing public transportation passes, refreshments, and various giveaway items for participants. Additionally, they hosted a pre-event virtual session titled "Public Transportation 101," aimed at preparing participants and offering assistance on the event day to ensure smooth coordination. This partnership introduced Girl Scouts to the importance and safety of public transit and laid the groundwork for future collaborations between Girl Scouts of Utah and UTA.

The Utah Office of Tourism also contributed to Wasatch Wanderlust, providing

giveaways like posters of scenic Utah locations, information on state and national parks, and maps to inspire future travel plans. This enriching experience combined fun, education, and adventure, and we look forward to growing this event in partnership with UTA.

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**Support our Movement by joining Girl Scouts as an Adult Member**

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Have a question? Don't be shy!

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