

Discover

a community publication



Troop 30049 Earned Three Summit Awards,
Taking the Lead on Take Action Projects

Summer 2023

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girl scouts 
of wisconsin
southeast

Striving for the Summit

Six years ago, Girl Scout mom Rhonda registered Veronica as a Daisy and volunteered as Troop 30049's leader. She knew Girl Scouts would provide friendship and adventure, but she found that it also instilled ambition, leadership, and confidence for the troop members.

Since its formation, Troop 30049 has completed three Journeys each year, earning three Summit Awards – the highest award a Daisy and Brownie can earn!

“When the troop started, we told the girls they had three options for Journeys. They asked us, ‘what’s stopping us from doing them all?’ They wanted to earn the Summit Award Pin,” said Rhonda.

During Journeys, Girl Scouts do hands-on activities, connect with experts, and take the lead on a Take Action project. Journeys encourage Girl Scouts to think critically, boost their problem-solving skills, and make an impact.

Troop 30049 has created winter shelters for feral cats, hosted food drives, and distributed homemade meals to teachers. Each year, the troop maps out their Journeys and leads brainstorming sessions, where they promise to offer only constructive feedback and build off each other's ideas.

“They have strong opinions, but they're respectful of each other. They work with personalities they might not normally work with and honor them as people, recognizing their feelings,” reflected Rhonda. “It's helped the girls express themselves, come up with creative ideas, and feel heard. It gives them a chance in a small setting, which they don't have in a classroom.”

Your support encourages Girl Scouts to reach new heights and become true, empathetic leaders.



Why I Give: Creating Change and Opportunities for Girls for Decades

From kicking off her membership during World War II collecting cans for metal and donations to send cookies to military bases to serving as camp counselor in Shore Acres to establishing the council's former “Train the Trainer” to leading her daughters' troops, Marilyn John exemplifies the meaning of a lifetime Girl Scout.

Marilyn has led by example, advocating for opportunities and access. With 10 family members serving as firefighters, she dreamed of being a part of the fire department.

“Becoming a firefighter was not an option at the time. If I couldn't fight fires, at least I could have a red car,” said Marilyn, who still drives a red car to this day.

Instead, Marilyn opted for a path that was also largely unpaved for women: higher education. Marilyn served as a mechanical engineering professor at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee when the school opened in 1956.

“I was STEM before there was STEM,” reflected Marilyn.

With firefighting and public service still important to Marilyn, she's empowering today's girls to explore paths that are now open to them, supporting CampHERO, hosted in partnership with Milwaukee Area Technical College (Oak Creek Campus), Milwaukee Fire Department, Milwaukee Police Department, and Milwaukee Fire & Police Commission. At CampHERO, Girl Scouts receive hands-on experience in law enforcement, fire suppression, and emergency medicine.

Marilyn visited CampHERO this summer, arriving in her signature red car and donning dozens of Girl Scout patches. Marilyn observed Girl Scouts in professional gear rappelling down a building and saw girls fulfill the dreams she made possible.

Marilyn's pioneering STEM career and ongoing support of Girl Scouts as a volunteer and donor has given girls access to new career opportunities. She has a unique understanding of how the world has changed over the decades – because she drove the change. She looks forward to ensuring we all keep up with the dreams and ambitions of today's and tomorrow's girls.



Girl Scout supporter Marilyn helps GSWISE girls access public service career options.



Girl Scouts learning what it takes to be a firefighter at CampHERO.

Healthy Habits for All: Making a Lasting Impact



Gold Award Girl Scout Kathleen led a five-day camp teaching healthy habits and a new sport.

Gold Award Girl Scouts, like Kathleen, are world-changing rock stars who use everything they've learned as Girl Scouts to solve community problems and make lasting change.

Kathleen, who joined Girl Scouts in kindergarten, has been a part of the local lacrosse community since 6th grade. Throughout her time in the lacrosse club, she observed that there weren't readily available health resources. At the same time, she became aware of the alarming increase in children who suffer from physical or mental health concerns.

"I wanted to help the community that meant so much to me," said Kathleen.

Kathleen decided to create a Little Scoopers program for 1st and 2nd graders that taught healthy habits and a new sport. Kathleen worked alongside the Boys & Girls Club to launch the program and collaborated with the Oconomowoc Lacrosse Club's board to support Little Scoopers. Dedicated to the program, Kathleen persevered through challenges of board turnover and personal loss.

During the five-day camp, Kathleen taught children about healthy eating, fitness, hydration, healthy relationships, and how to play lacrosse through fun activities.

To extend her reach beyond camp, she created health information cards that shared family-friendly healthy habits.

The Little Scoopers program enrolled 42 youth participants in its first season, and the Oconomowoc Lacrosse Club will be bringing the curricula back for future participants.

"Through Girl Scouts and my Gold Award, I have been able to enhance my leadership skills overall, and I have the confidence to take charge in situations that require a leader, fueled by empathy, compassion, and communication," said Kathleen.

Girl Scouts of the USA recognized Kathleen's leadership and impact with the GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship. The scholarship will support her journey at the University of Wisconsin – Madison this fall, where she plans to study biochemistry for a future career as a physician assistant.

"I felt accomplished when I earned my Gold Award. My kindergarten self was so happy that I was able to complete my Girl Scout journey full circle," said Kathleen.

Your support helps Girl Scouts like Kathleen improve their communities – and helps empower their future endeavors and contributions.



42 Program
Enrollments



1 Gold Award



\$10,000
Girl Scouts of the
United States Gold
Award Scholarship

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Dear Girl Scouts Friends,

Let me take a moment to introduce myself. I'm Mary Charles, Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast's Interim CEO.

After serving as CEO of two GSWISE legacy councils, I'm excited to return to this region and play a role in building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Over the next few months, I'll serve as a resource for the GSWISE team and facilitate the transition with the new CEO. With that said, I want to take a moment to congratulate Christy L. Brown on her new role at Alverno College. While she is missed at GSWISE, her impact and passion to create spaces where Girl Scouts thrive is still felt throughout the council.

Now, as we close out summer and usher in fall, I'm excited to hear adventure-filled stories from camp and see new troops forming as school starts.

I'm in awe of our Girl Scouts, including Troop 30049, who earned the Summit Award three times (page 2), as well as Gold Award Girl Scout Kathleen, who is fostering a healthy community with quality education (page 3). These incredible feats are reminders of how Girl Scouts unite to solve community problems, all while deepening their values.

I appreciate your ongoing support of Girl Scouts in our community. Without donors like you and Marilyn John (page 2), we wouldn't be able to provide opportunities for Girl Scouts to build leadership skills, tap into their courage, and invest in their own communities.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Mary Charles
GSWISE Interim Chief Executive Officer



Mary I. Charles, Interim CEO