

Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons 2023 Annual Impact Report



Message from our Board President and CEO

As we reflect on the past year, we are delighted to share with you the highlights and achievements of Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons. It has been a year filled with growth, learning, and incredible moments. Moments that were made possible by the dedication and support of volunteers, parents, and Girl Scouts.

Throughout the year, Dakota Horizons' Girl Scouts have continued to embrace the values of courage, confidence, and character, while making a positive impact in their communities and beyond. From earning badges and completing projects to participating in outdoor adventures and community service initiatives, each girl has shown remarkable commitment and enthusiasm.

As a council, we continued to expand our ever-growing program options with clear intentions of meeting girls where they are and providing program options for how they want to participate. It was clear Girl Scouts and volunteers liked connecting in-person while also having the flexibility to attend virtual programs that work with their schedule. As a council, we saw an uptick in girl participation for both in-person and virtual options.

We are excited about the strides we've taken in STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) programming. We introduced new STEM badges and programs designed to inspire curiosity and innovation in our girls. From STEM Career Exploration and First Aid Training to Animal Habitats and Shapes in Nature, our girls have been empowered to explore their interests and pursue their passions in the STEM field.

One of the most exciting events of the year was the Girl Scout National Convention, held in Orlando, Florida. This convention brought together Girl Scouts from across the country to discuss, debate, and vote on issues important to the Girl Scout Movement and elect national leaders for the next triennium. Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons had four girl delegates representing our council. They passionately, yet respectfully, debated issues close to the heart of the Girl Scout Movement and helped move our organization into the future. It was a truly inspiring event to attend.

As we look ahead to the coming year, we are filled with excitement and anticipation for all that is to come. We know that we can inspire even more girls to dream big, take on new challenges, and make a difference in the world.



Jennifer Baloun
Board President



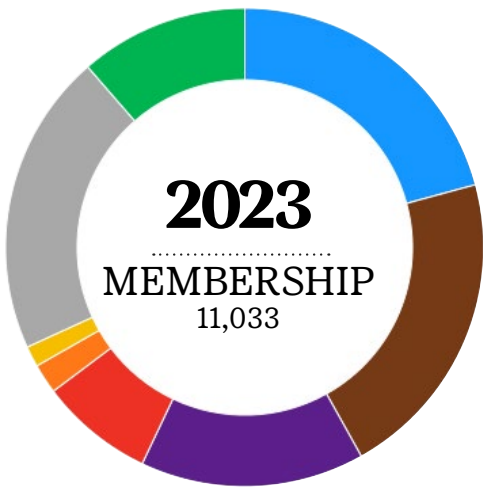
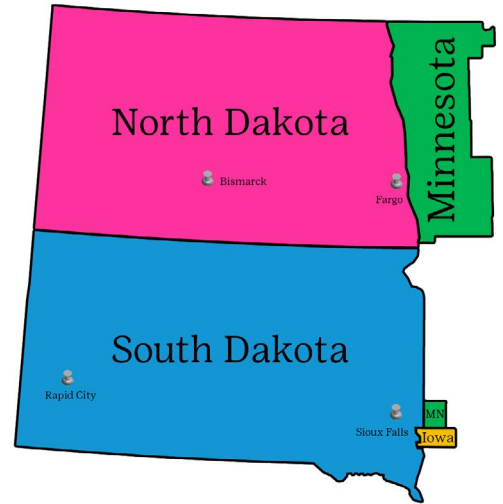
Marla Meyer
Chief Executive Officer



Our Council

Behind every Girl Scout and volunteer is a team of local staff ready to help them earn that next badge, embark on a camping adventure, or organize an impactful service project.

Serving nearly 1,000 zip codes spanning North Dakota, South Dakota, and parts of Iowa and Minnesota. We have girls reaching their fullest potentials in cities, towns, and communities across 164,000 square miles including three Airforce bases and 13 Native American Reservations.



- 21% DAISY | 2,292
- 21% BROWNIE | 2,331
- 15% JUNIOR | 1,672
- 8% CADETTE | 849
- 2% SENIOR | 222
- 2% AMBASSADOR | 155
- 20% VOLUNTEERS | 2,255
- 11% LIFETIME MEMBERS | 1,257

Board of Directors

Jennifer Baloun

President | Southwest District

Valerie Loudenback

Vice President | Southeast District

Laura Lueder

Secretary | Northwest District

Erica Johnsrud

Treasurer | Northwest District

Marla Meyer

Chief Executive Officer

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Southwest District

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Northeast District

Cindy Graffeo
Nicholas Killoran
Sue Klose
Casey Sanders-Berglund

Northwest District

Lori Leingang
Leslie Weigel



Programming

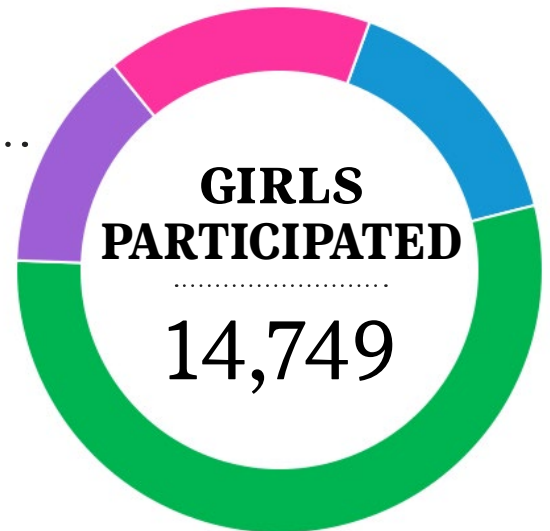
As the premier leadership organization for girls, we provide fun and challenging program opportunities in the four Girl Scout pillars of outdoors, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), life skills, and entrepreneurship.

Programs were offered in a variety of ways to meet girls where they are, which included virtual and in-person programs, patch programs, and other at-home activities.

Regardless of how they participated this year, our Girl Scouts learned new skills, overcame obstacles, met their goals, and made the world a better place.



- 38% LIFE SKILLS | 6,004
- 22% ENTREPRENEURSHIP | 3,577
- 19% OUTDOOR | 3,047
- 21% STEM | 3,361



- 55% ENTREPRENEURSHIP | 8,040
- 16% LIFE SKILLS | 2,287
- 16% OUTDOOR | 2,424
- 13% STEM | 1,998



Highest Awards

More than just pins on a vest, Girl Scout higher awards set the foundation for a lifetime of leadership and confidence. Starting in fourth grade, girls have the opportunity to develop and execute “take action” projects that positively impact their communities. The Bronze and Silver awards recognize troop efforts that teach key skills, such as communication, teamwork, critical thinking, and problem solving. The Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can earn, is an individual achievement that creates sustainable change in her community.

Sixteen extraordinary Girl Scouts earned their Gold Award this past year while creating positive change in their communities. Their projects focused on issues they cared about, including starting a youth book club, cemetery restoration, building a shelter for farm animals, upgrading local park equipment, and building a new dog park.



Gold Award Girl Scouts

Harriet Boltjes | Brookings, SD
History of Oakwood

Alexis Clausen | Grand Forks, ND
Welcoming Flower Beds

Norah Foreman | Fergus Falls, MN
Giving Back to the Prairie

Emily Gilbertson | Jamestown, ND
A Better Vision for Everyone

Mackenzie Krava | Fergus Falls, MN
Bee and Butterfly Habitat

Alexa Larson | Hartford, SD
A Park for Small Yet Mighty Dogs

Rachel Lorang | Hartford, SD
Tail Wagging Fun for All

Haley Lorensberg | Roslyn, SD
Church Mural and Fellowship Hall Painting

Samantha Meehl | Oakes, ND
Hockenberry Park Equipment

Emily Neset | Dilworth, MN
Family Time Outdoors

Mei Lin O'Connell | Rapid City, SD
Charm Farm Shelters

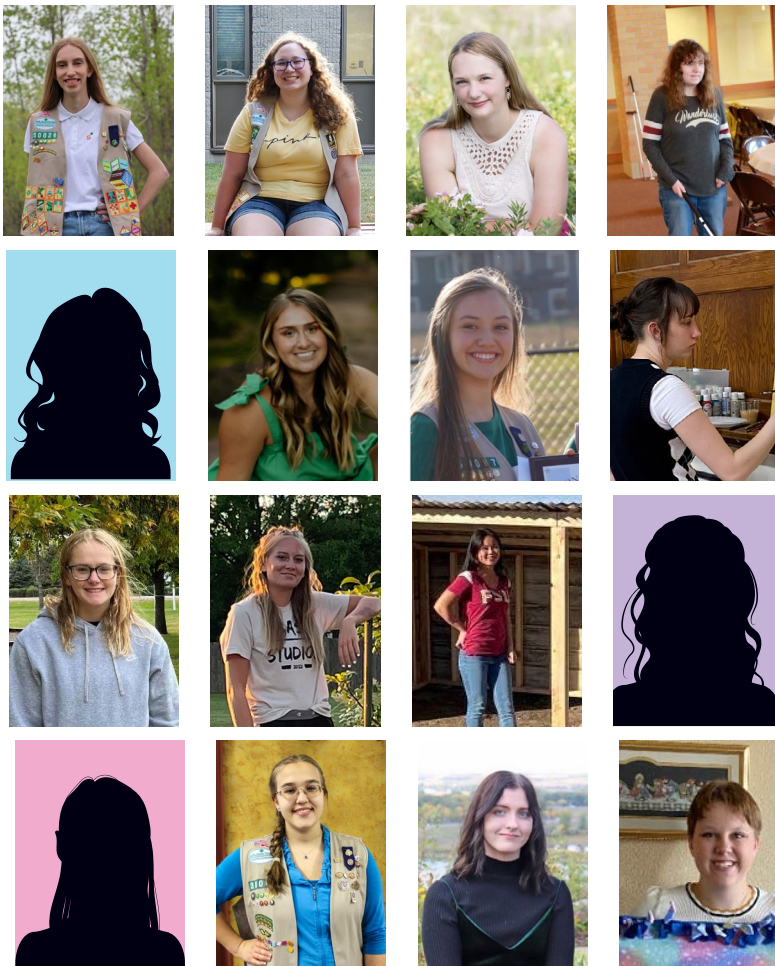
Elizabeth Parton | Minot, ND
Cemetery Restoration

Olivia Scott | Jamestown, ND
No Excuses for School

Rose VanNelson | Moorhead, MN
Soulful Spices

Milla Weigel | Bismarck, ND
Youth Book Club

Shelby Zachmeier | Mandan, ND
Fleece Hugs for Foster Kids





Financial Report

- 80% PRODUCT PROGRAM & RETAIL SALES \$4,397,137
- 4% RENTAL & INVESTMENTS \$245,717
- 6% UNITED WAY & CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS \$354,997
- 3% PROGRAM FEES \$163,300
- 6% OTHER \$311,032
- 1% SPECIAL EVENTS \$57,314

- 77% PROGRAM SERVICES \$4,022,287
- 15% MANAGEMENT & GENERAL \$751,294
- 8% FUNDRAISING \$425,801



The condensed statements of financial position and activities have been summarized from the audited financial statements. The Form 990 is available upon request.

Thank you to all of our 2023 supporters.

The complete list of donors, sponsors and supporters is available to [download](#).

Thank you to those who contributed to Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons in the 2022-2023 fiscal year. Your generous gifts made the difference in thousands of Girl Scouts' lives as they lived out our mission: building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

The Juliette Gordon Low Society was established to thank and honor friends of Girl Scouts who choose to make Girl Scouts part of their legacies and a beneficiary of their estate plans. We are grateful for their decisions to provide a legacy gift to girls, ensuring that the Girl Scout Leadership Experience will live on for generations to come.

- Erik and Eva Andersen Girl Scout Movement-wide Challenge Planned Gift
- Tonya Andersen
- Jennifer and Bryan Baloun
- Dianne Belk and Lawrence Calder Girl Scout Movement-wide Challenge Planned Gift
- Kurt and Valerie Loudenback
- Marla Meyer
- Stephen and MaryLynn Meyers
- Jeff and Tracy Munce
- Lorna Olson-Cooper
- Donnie Riedel
- Marie Ruettgers
- Jane VanHatten
- Susan and Bob Wefald