

**IN YOUR HONOR**  
**May 14, 2016**  
**Trinity University**

*Barbara Krumsiek Keynote Remarks*



Good morning to the Gold Award Girl Scouts and Silver Trefoil Girl Scouts here today at this very special Awards Ceremony. Greetings to your families and friends, and to honored guests.

100 years ago, our founder Juliet Gordon Low established the highest award in Girl Scouting. You now join tens of thousands of women – perhaps hundreds of thousands of women - who have earned this award over the decades. And now we can say...have earned this award over the past century.

I am proud to be one of those women.

You are now part of an alumni group of accomplished and powerful women.

Forty-nine years ago, I earned the First Class Award. And I can prove it! I have my sash with me today. Now this is really vintage, and unfortunately it no longer fits. But here it is. When I earned the highest award in Girl Scouting, I needed to satisfy Four Challenges, in the areas of: Social Responsibility, Active Citizenship, Emergency Preparedness and the Girl Scout Promise. With each challenge I earned one of these pins, and when I completed all four, I earned the First Class Patch.

I would like to share the three most important parts of my Girl Scout experience.

- First, we have cookies. Of course! I loved selling cookies. I learned about marketing and sales, and importantly, I learned confidence in my “cookie math” skills. From the third grade on, I believed I was good at math. And I believe you are too. I went on to study math in college, and I encourage all of you to keep up your math studies.
- Second we have camping. I was a “city kid”, growing up in New York City. Girl Scout camp was my outdoor experience. Without Girl Scouts, I would not have had the opportunity to build a campfire, hike trails and lead a sing-along or a flag ceremony.
- And this brings me to the third most important part of my Girl Scout experience...leadership. My Girl Scout experience prepared me for leadership in business and a career in finance. I truly believe I would not have been a CEO without the foundation of Girl Scouting in my life. Not long ago I did an interview with the New York Times, for a business column called “Corner Office”, and when I was asked about my first leadership experience, I mentioned Girl Scouts. Now I had intended to speak about my college and educational experiences in this interview, so I quickly added that I benefited from my education as well, but my immediate answer was “Girl Scouts”.

What does your Gold Award accomplishment mean for your future?

- First, you have earned an Honor. You have earned an award that is a milestone for life. Scholarship opportunities will be open to you; this honor will be on your resume throughout

- your career. Past Gold Award recipients, and the Gold Award Centennial Committee at our Council, are working hard to elevate and publicize the value of this award, and honor your accomplishments into the future.
- Second, you are Ready. You are ready for college or advanced studies; you are ready for the work world. And yes, you are ready for setbacks and challenges. We all experience them. You have demonstrated that you are resilient.
  - And you have friendships for life. I still have close friends from my Girl Scout troop, forty-nine years later!

In closing, the personal, inner strength you have developed through Girl Scouting may be your most important achievement. When you feel down, you can come back to this day, to this Honor, and remember how hard you worked, and that you got the job done. You can accomplish whatever you set your sights on.

CONGRATULATIONS.

Your families are proud of you. The adult volunteers in your Girl Scout world are proud of you. And the members of the Board of Directors of the Girl Scout Council of the Nations Capital are proud of you.

Thank you for all you have done, through your exceptional Gold Award projects, to make Girl Scouting flourish and shine brightly in our communities.