

Faye Fields
President of the Board
Girl Scout Nation's Capital
April 13, 2019 Annual Meeting



Thank you for another great Annual Meeting. I hope you enjoyed our theme: Step Outdoors with Girl Scouts, and the wonderful Girl Scout camp stories.

We know that girls face many challenges, and it is important to provide a safe space just for girls. I am proud to say that the Girl Scout community in the Greater Washington Region is strong, and our girls are receiving robust and wide-ranging Girl Scout experiences.

I may be standing here alone, but I realize that along with me is a very committed and talented team of volunteers: adult educators, board members, cookie managers, SHARE volunteers, troop leaders, welcome specialist, service unit managers, troop organizers, high adventure outdoor facilitators and more.

April is volunteer appreciation month, but I want you to know that we appreciate our volunteers year-round. To thank adults with 10 or more years (*including years as a girl*) of volunteer service at Girl Scouts for their dedication to our Movement, Girl Scouts of the USA is offering a limited-time opportunity to renew in April—National Volunteer Month—as lifetime members at a discounted rate of \$200.

You heard the treasurer's report from Judy Walter, I'd like to dig a little deeper. This Council is strong because of the generous corporations and foundations that support us. This council is great because our members give both their time and treasure to deliver the best Girl Scout experience. And this council does amazing work because this staff believes passionately in the Girl Scout mission.

Girl Scouts Nation's Capital is recognized as the best leadership organization for girls. Corporations and foundations in this region grasp the value of partnering with Girl Scouts, to build a female pipeline of talent that will fuel the future of American ingenuity and business.

We are forming strategic, multi-year partnerships with corporations to foster employee engagement and fund the Girl Scout leadership experience.

As we continue our work to close the gender gap in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), this year we secured major funding from Hewlett Packard Enterprises (HPE) to engage Girl Scouts in cybersecurity. This partnership has been nothing short of stupendous. Girl Scout juniors have access to a new plugged-in cybersecurity patch program and game. They are learning how to safely navigate the internet and protect their identity. Girl Scouts Nation's Capital garnered tremendous industry accolades in the media for our effort. In such a digital age, I am at ease knowing that Girl Scouts are ahead of the game and prepared for leadership roles in STEM.

The Truth Initiative continues to support our environmental program and for a second year, have provided major funding for our innovative patch program, Earth Defender. Truth is focused on eliminating smoking in this generation, and they are getting this message across by demonstrating the impact smoking has on our environment. Girl Scouts at camp have earned the Earth Defender patch and capes—but most importantly they've learned the devastation cigarettes have on our forests and waterways.

The program, patches and capes are now being rolled out at service unit encampments this spring.

Major Gift contributions from individuals, along with our dedicated camp volunteers, have pooled their resources to fund major construction projects at our camps.

Because of these investments:

- the health center at Potomac Woods has been renovated;
- water access at White Rock has been updated;
- the deck at Brighton Woods' main lodge has been replaced; and we've installed new waste water treatment at Winona.

All of this, in addition to maintaining some of the most beautiful outdoor spaces in this region. The next time you are at one of our camps, check out these cool rope tying stations and new directional signs.

They point to the next Girl Scout camp. It's 125 miles to Camp Potomac Woods from May Flather!

To ensure the legacy of Girl Scouting in this region, we encourage you to join the Juliette Gordon Low Legacy Society. You can recognize these members by the purple ribbon on their name tag.

If you are a member, please stand.

The easiest way to join is by making this Council a partial beneficiary of your 401K or Thrift Savings Plan.

We value every contribution, from a Daisy troop's SHARE donation to Oprah Winfrey's \$25,000 check to support Raise Your Hand. Our friends and family giving campaign, SHARE, is a crucial part of our fundraising efforts. To date, SHARE has raised over \$500,000, and this is essential as our Council will be giving over \$700,000 in financial assistance this year, to ensure that every girl can fully participate in Girl Scouting.

Because of strong financial support, Girl Scouting in the Greater Washington Region works.

I am excited to share with you some of the special events we have organized just for our members.

Girl Scouts are headed to Disney next month for a special council-wide excursion. About 300 Girl Scouts will explore Disney while earning Girl Scout badges. Girls have selected one of five STEM or Leadership educational programs. They will complete badge or Journey activities covering STEM topics like, physics, gravity and motion, animal sciences and wildlife conservation. Disney also offers our older Girl Scouts the opportunity to participate in their award-winning leadership of Excellence program.

On November 16th we are hosting the Girl Scout Expo at the Dulles Expo Center. All 100,000 square feet of the facility will be filled with fun activities for the entire Girl Scout family!

In the spring of 2020, Girl Scout Cadettes and higher can grab their tents, hiking boots, canteens and sleeping bags and join us for a Camporee at Camp Aquasco. I promise there will be lots of high adventure activities and Girl Scout traditions!

Then, get ready because in October 2020, Girl Scouts of the USA is holding the 55th National Council Session and Convention in Orlando, Florida. In addition to our delegation, we hope you will join us at this mega event which will provide

attendees with unforgettable experiences and inspiration. How many of you have attended a National Council Session before?

I am excited by all the opportunities coming down the pike. I want to thank you all for your unfaltering commitment to the success of Girl Scouts Nation's Capital. Because of you, girls feel supported, can take risks and face whatever challenges come their way.

With that, I am delighted to introduce your CEO, Lidia Soto-Harmon for an update on our Council's operations.