

Annual Meeting 2024

Chief Operating Officer, Colleen Cibula, Remarks

Hello Girl Scouts!

I'm **Colleen Cibula**, your Chief Operating Officer.

While we're on the topic of Convention!

Last July, **thirty-three Delegates** represented our Council as voting members at the 56th National Council Session in Orlando. The national delegates were charged with electing the GSUSA Board of Directors and voting on seven proposals from the National Board and our sister councils. I saw true democracy at work.

We witnessed a vital decision, incorporating "anti-racism" into the Girl Scouts Constitution, reinforcing our Movement's commitment to a just world. We also saw debate over a proposal to change the Girl Scout Promise and Law – the proposal was brought to the floor by a troop of Girl Scouts from New Jersey.

As we prepare for the 2026 National Convention, I encourage everyone to play a role in our national governance process. So, if you have identified an opportunity to strengthen the movement – please reach out to me or to Kim to discuss. Who knows, your proposal may be put to a vote in July 2026.

Now, the key updates.

In Membership, we ended FY23 with a vibrant community of **76,648** members, including **46,187** youth members. Our commitment to the Girl Scout troop has been the key to our council success. For our troops to thrive, we need our service units and associations to thrive.

Many of you know, every year, two **Membership bells** are presented to the Association with the largest increase in youth members by percentage and number. This August, we awarded **Association 40** and **Association 53** with the Membership Bells. Let me hear those bells! For 2024 the competition is tough with Associations 40, 42, 50, 60, 37, and 80 all battling for the Bells. There's still plenty of time for any association to take the lead!

In Program, last year **165 Gold Award Girl Scouts** exemplified the transformative impact our young leaders have. We know that their path to leadership began early as reflected in our Juniors earning **1,534 Bronze Awards**, and our Cadettes earning **628 Silver Awards**.

This year, we're excited to honor our Gold Award Girl Scouts as well as our **163 Silver Trefoil Awardees** who contributed over a hundred hours of service.

As you have heard our Cookie program was strong this year and our opportunities in the outdoors are expanding. Last year, over 51,000 youth and adult members spent time at our camps - the great news is that we can serve far more.

We successfully re-opened Camp Winona for the first time since the pandemic. This year, I am pleased to share our sleep-away camp staff recruiting remains strong, and we still have opportunities for campers to join us at both sleep-away and volunteer-lead day camps. Please join the nearly 6,000 Girl Scouts served by these programs each summer.

We established a new Diversity, Equity, inclusion, and Accessibility department to support the Council's work to fulfill our DEIA Commitment, adopted by the Board in 2022. We are developing a strategic plan in partnership with our members by gathering your feedback on listening tours and a survey planned for the fall.

Over the past year, it's been my privilege to serve you in dual capacities and I'm proud of the progress we have achieved together.

Progress made possible by the partnership between our members and the outstanding council staff. I am continuously amazed by the dedication and hard work of our staff team. Please give them a round of applause.

I look forward to us continuing to work together seamlessly to drive our council forward with **Kim R. Ford** leading the way.

With that, **PLEASE JOIN ME IN WELCOMING KIM R. FORD**, Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts Nation's Capital!