

girlscouts
heart of michigan

111 Years of
Girl Scouting

**Celebrating
Leadership
2023**

Honoring Our Dedicated Volunteers

Saturday, May 6, 2023

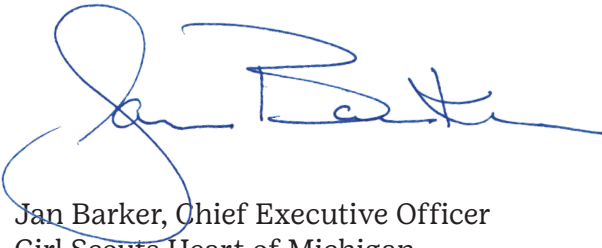
12:00 p.m.

To our honorees:

Girl Scouts is a place where volunteers can thrive, meet new friends who care about girls and learn alongside some astounding girls. Girl Scouting is a unique place to create life changing adventures and gentle gatherings that allow you to witness the extraordinary growth and excitement these moments create for girls. Thank you for creating this magical place for girls and the adults who care about them, to learn and grow while making friends and having fun.

Your leadership is a gift to girls they'll never forget and will shape their lives forever. Thank you for giving graciously of your time and talents to make a difference in the lives of girls. Our girls are our future, and because of your investment in them, the future is blindingly bright and filled with an abundance of hope. Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan volunteers make the world an astoundingly better place. From the bottom of our hearts, thank you for all that you do. We are so grateful for volunteers like you!

Yours in Girl Scouting,



Jan Barker, Chief Executive Officer
Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan



Celebrating Leadership 2023

honoring our dedicated volunteers

Opening Flag Ceremony

Mackinac Island Governor's Honor Guard, Troop 7901

Welcome

Jasmine Chalmers, Senior Patrol Leader

Mackinac Island governor's Honor Guard 7901

Luncheon

Guest Speaker

Jan C. Whitcomb

Remarks

Jan Barker, Chief Executive Officer

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan

Recognition

Remarks

Susan Thorman, Chair

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Board of Trustees

Closing Flag Ceremony

Mackinac Island Governor's Honor Guard, Troop 7901

The 15 Outcomes of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience

Discover

+

Connect

+

Take Action

=

Leadership

1. Girls develop a strong sense of self.
2. Girls develop positive values.
3. Girls gain practical life skills.
4. Girls seek challenges in the world.
5. Girls develop critical thinking.

1. Girls develop healthy relationships.
2. Girls promote cooperation and team building.
3. Girls can resolve conflicts.
4. Girls advance diversity in a multicultural world.
5. Girls feel connected to their communities, locally and globally.

1. Girls can identify community needs.
2. Girls are resourceful problem solvers.
3. Girls advocate for themselves and others, locally and globally.
4. Girls educate and inspire others to act.
5. Girls feel empowered to make a difference in the world.





Board of Trustees

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan is governed by a dedicated Board of Trustees who work in partnership with our CEO and Chief Officers to ensure girls continue to enjoy and benefit from the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

- Laura Bell, Honorary Board Member
- Pat Brasseur, Honorary Board Member
- Tricia Cramer, Trustee
- Georgia Fojtasek, 2nd Vice Chair
- Josh Gettig, Trustee
- Larry Halman, Trustee
- Barb Henton, Trustee
- Tom Kuslikis, Treasurer
- Kate LeFevre, Trustee
- Jamie Lettow, Trustee
- Dan Liehr, 1st Vice Chair
- Anita-Maria Quillen, Trustee
- Casey Stevenson, Secretary
- Susan Thorman, Board Chair
- Janice Werbinski, Honorary Board Member



Member Advisory Committee

The Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Member Advisory Committee (MAC) serves as the connection between the Board of Trustees and the members. As such, MAC members serve as an advisory team providing policy input to the Board and operational input to the Chief Executive Officer.

Samantha Anderson

Renee Graham

Barb Henton

Kelley Hissong

Kate LeFevre

Katrina Parker

Jennifer Rudolph

Casmiera Thorman

Susan Thorman



2023 Girl Scout Volunteer Appreciation Day



Service Unit Managers

Service Unit Managers make Girl Scouting happen in communities across Michigan. These key volunteers are the faces and voices of Girl Scouting, and they provide key leadership to volunteers on their administrative teams.

Dawn Andonian, SU 474	Rebecca Lalk, SU 582
Wendy Atkins, SU 487	Tonda Lobenherz, SU 692
Jessica Austin, SU 554	Kristen Lorentz, SU 485
Kathy Austin, SU 473	Julie Lowry, SU 335
Heather Balzer, SU 301	Libby Mannes, SU 804
Merri Bayard, SU 360	Mary McDonald, SU 670
Brenda Breece, SU 533	Crystal McGowan, SU 350
Jennifer Cartwright-Peckham, SU 507	Rita McLaren, SU 512
Allison Catrell, SU 582	Miranda Murphy, SU 829
Tina Cousineau, SU 692	Mandy Orlando, SU 953
Sarah Cross, SU 483	Amber Orlik, SU 554
Julie Davenport, SU 595	Amanda Partin, SU 354
Terischa Dean, SU 457	Melinda Perez, SU 690
Kathy Dryja, SU 420	Sue Prynne, SU 458
Christine Duffy, SU 330	Sara Reedy, SU 351
Amber Ferguson, SU 473	Amy Renshaw, SU 307
Jodi Fuller, SU 309	Raquel Rimbach, SU 472
Deanna Gates, SU 320	Latrice Robbins, SU 537
Kara Gavin, SU 420	Tiffanie Robinson, SU 578
Katie Goff, SU 322	Jennifer Rudolph, SU 363
Jennifer Harms, SU 962	Jennifer Sahl, SU 474
Tamara Hart, SU 567	Lindsey Schiel, SU 630
Lisa Hosted, SU 569	Tina Schumacher, SU 560
Ryan Kelly, SU 418	April Scott, SU 350
Susan Kinaitis, SU 341	Kimberly Seaburg, SU 621
Jen Klink, SU 471	Christina Sharpsteen, SU 577
Karrie Krapohl, SU 324	Tina (Virtina) Schrader, SU 651
	Lauren Sickle-Vining, SU 810

Service Unit Managers, cont.

Ellen Siel, SU 382

Amy Stearns, SU 364

Heather Stewart, SU 512

Renee Svetic, SU 535

Cassie Tennant, SU 545

Debbi Thomas, SU 570

Jennifer Thornby, SU 464

Liberty Torrence, SU 320

Jenny Verlinde, SU 301

Miranda Werner, SU 362

Suzie Wiborn, SU 352

Sheila Wiitala, SU 370

Emily Williams, SU 600

Abby Woodman, SU 463

Linda Wright, SU 321

Jennifer Wykes, SU 640





Adult Trainers

Adult Trainers are selfless in sharing their valuable knowledge with new and experienced volunteers. Their work makes it possible for all girls to enjoy the Girl Scout Leadership Experience.

Margaret Bales

Betty Bishop

Sally Cook

Christine Duffy

Stacy Flynn

Leonora Forist

Joann Germinder

Renee Graham

Tamara Hart

Erin Hemenway

Marie Hernandez

Kelley Hissong

Jacqueline Jeffery

Gwen Juip

Wendy Kropp

Lisa Leibrand

Rosemary McMullen

Marjorie McRoberts

Kelsey Moberg

Cheryle Moberley

Gail Morton

Karla Murphy

Toni Noakes

Joanne Paddock

Crystal Parsons

Amanda Partin

Jan Radak

Stacey Seaver

Nancy Shaw

Tara Shields

Debbi Thomas

Cheryl Vosburg

Linda Wawzysko

Val Wenke

Jan Whitcomb

Sheila Wiitala





Product Program Volunteers

Product Program Volunteers are the cheerleaders, organizers, trainers, technical support, inventory controllers, business partners, marketing directors, and confidants in their communities. These amazing volunteers understand and embrace the idea of empowering troop volunteers and girls through our two product programs: Treats & Reads and Cookies. They motivate and celebrate troop successes in learning and practicing five main life skills: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics.

Julie Abe, SU 831	Christine Duffy, SU 330
Justine Alderete, SU 567	Kimberly Evans, SU 330
Kelly Alexander, SU 483	Tammy Farler, SU 651
Joy Andres, SU 487	Amy Ferrell, SU 301
Stephanie Asip Leavitt, SU 361	Megan Fiero, SU 533
Wendy Atkins, SU 487	Chelsea Flores, SU 600
Becky Austin, SU 670	Shannon Fritz, SU 805
Kathy Austin, SU 473	Jodi Fuller, SU 309
Jennifer Austin, SU 572	Deanna Gates, SU 320
Tamika Banks, SU 453	Karen Green, SU 582
Merri Bayard, SU 360	Lori Hall, SU 512
Nicole Berger, SU 600	Pam Hargan, SU 651
Jennifer Black, SU 810	Maribeth Harger, SU 350
Amanda Bollinger, SU 829	Tamara Hart, SU 567
Darcie Bolo-Owen, SU 822	Michelle Hatfield, SU 600
Dawn Carmody, SU 351	Jeani Hesse, SU 804
Joetta Cherry, SU 981	Chris Holbert, SU 630
Sarah Cichon, SU 692	Jeanette Holm, SU 962
Amanda Clark, SU 595	Lisa Hosted, SU 569
Tina Cousineau, SU 692	Mary Ellen Huettelman, SU 474
Leanne Curtis, SU 341	Erin Hutchinson, SU 582
Terischa Dean, SU 457	Cassandra Jackway, SU 362
	Sharon Jaimes, SU 690

Kate Jimenez, SU 630
Kim Kachur, SU 471
Kelsey Kelly, SU 323
Sarah Kemp, SU 343
Kisten Kerns, SU 476
Mary Kerschke, SU 350
Beth Kribs, SU 524
Jennifer Legner, SU 554
Laura Lince, SU 324
Devyne Lloyd, SU 370
Becky Loveland, SU 471
Carolyn Lowery, SU 472
Brenda McDowell, SU 353
Crystal McNett, SU 595
Robin Moessinger, SU 810
Nancy Neff, SU 471
Susan O'Leary, SU 420
Kathy Pabst, SU 351
Jennifer Peckham, SU 507
Nichole Petrie, SU 640
Jessica Phillips, SU 962
Weese Pope, SU 458
Sherrie Reese, SU 831
Latrice Robbins, SU 537
Tiffanie Robinson, SU 578
Jennifer Rusnock, SU 351
Stephanie Satoh, SU 351
Leann Schaefer, SU 351
Patricia Schriner, SU 352

Tina Schumacher, SU 560
Christine Schweigert, SU 322
April Scott, SU 350
Frank Seaburg, SU 621
Christina Sharpsteen, SU 577
Megan Smith, SU 577
Beth Sparks-Jackson, SU 471
Pam Spurbeck, SU 582
Debbie Srock, SU 301
Krista Story, SU 321
Renee Svetic, SU 535
Cassie Tennant, SU 545
Debbi Thomas, SU 570
Renee Tillmon, SU 981
Anna Mae Trievel, SU 462
Liz Walker, SU 810
Angela Wellman, SU 364
Maegan West, SU 422
Christine Whetstone, SU 307
Suzie Wiborn, SU 352
Elaine Wisniewski, SU 472





Gold Award Mentors

The Gold Award Mentors Committee advocates for Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards in their local community. This group of dedicated volunteers monitors girls through all aspects of earning their Girl Scout Gold Award. In addition, they assist with the delivery of Bronze, Silver, and Gold Award trainings across the council and guide new mentors.

- Katie Brewer
- Ina Germain
- Renee Graham
- Lori Hall
- Lucinda Hall
- Jacqueline Jeffery
- Jenny Weaver



The Girl Scout Rose

In celebration of Girl Scouting's 50th anniversary, the Girl Scout Rose was developed by Eugene S. Boerner, a member of the Rhode Island Rose society. That rose no longer exists but the organization it celebrated lives on. In memory, a single yellow rose is given by Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan to celebrate the life of beloved friends and volunteers when they pass.

Yellow roses symbolize friendship, joy, and caring. A bouquet of the sun-filled blossoms signals warmth, gladness, and affection.





Volunteer Day Camp Directors

Volunteer Day Camp Directors/Co-directors coordinate the staff and finance of area day camps so that hundreds of girls may have an amazing experience.

AIO Day Camp

Tina Schumacher

Juliette's Dream Day Camp

PJ Rasmussen

Maybury Day Camp

Heidi Vacca

Jenny Weaver

Midland Day Camp

Jill Dougherty

Sunny Woods Day Camp

Betty Melrose

Debbie Srock





Honor Guard Directors oversee two troops that Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan takes to serve the State of Michigan on Mackinac Island each summer. The girls spend their time performing flag ceremonies, guiding tours, doing service projects, and more.

Mackinac Island Governor's Honor Guard 609

Brenda Coleman, Director

Mackinac Island Governor's Honor Guard 7901

Jacqueline Jeffery, Director





Friends of Our Camps

The Friends of Camp committees are dedicated groups of volunteers who help girls learn and grow outdoors at our Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan camps. Friends of Camp groups' main job is to help keep camp full and well cared for. They are instrumental in coordinating girl programs, assisting with maintenance projects, and trainings as needed.

Friends of Camp Linden

Abby Baum, Chair

Kara Gavin, Marketing Liaison

Renee Graham, Base Camp/Team Communications Liaison

Kelsey Moberg, Girl Council Liaison

Joanne Paddock, Service Liaison

Skylar Peggie, Camp Maintenance Liaison

Renee Svetic, Girl Council Liaison

Miranda Werner, Chair

Friends of Camp Merrie Woode

Sally Cook, Resource Member

Joann Germinder, History Liaison

Holly Hawke-Jordan, Training Liaison

Rosemary McMullen, Membership Liaison

Cheryle Moberley, Resource Member

Jodie Mrak, Fund Development Liaison

Tara Shields, Maintenance Liaison

Cheryl Vosburg, Chair

Tamara Webster, Alumni Liaison

Jan Whitcomb, Marketing Liaison

Friends of Camp Wacousta

Jaclyn Barcroft, Membership Liaison

Christine Duffy, Chair

Kim Evans, Archery Liaison

Deanna Gates, Marketing Liaison

Dan Zay, Community Liaison



The purpose of the Catholic Committee on Scouting is to provide guidance, vitality and leadership in the development of the spiritual emphasis of Girl Scouting to all Catholic Girl Scouts. The committee seeks to serve all Catholics involved in scouting whether in parish troops or troops not chartered to Catholic organizations.

Jennifer Kramer
Diocese of Lansing Catholic Committee on Scouting

In honor of
Sarah Stroik
Diocese of Lansing Catholic Committee on Scouting

Jan C. Whitcomb, Keynote Speaker

Jan is a lifelong resident of Portage. In third grade, she joined Girl Scouts as a Brownie and continued through Cadettes. Jan spent many weekends camping with her troop at Camp Merrie Woode, and spent several summers attending Camp Merrie Woode. She decided to become a volunteer after setting a new life goal: “Give back to Girl Scouts what Girl Scouts did for me as a child.” Jan has been a volunteer with Girl Scouts for many years, and in several positions: Co-Leader, Leader, Service Unit Manager, District Manager, MAC Member, Adult Awards Committee, Range Safety Officer (Level 2 Archery Instructor), Friends of Camp Merrie Woode, and is now a Delegate for the 56th National Convention Session. Jan attended Kalamazoo Valley Community College, majored in Business and Lower Elementary Education. Now retired, she fulfilled her dreams of several careers, a Certified Optician, a Coordinator for a group of physicians, next in a law practice and finally the guild power industry with engineers. While working and being a Girl Scout volunteer, she was appointed by the Portage City Council to the Portage Parks Board, serving two terms as Secretary and Vice Chair. Jan is a member of Saint Catherine of Siena Church in Portage, Godmother to five cousins. Jan is also a mom to four small rescue dogs.



Girl Scout Years of Service Pin

The Girl Scout Service Pin is given at five-year anniversaries to volunteers who are registered and active members in any of the Girl Scout or Girl Guide Associations. Today, we honor those who have served Girl Scouts for 25 years or more.

50 Years of Service

Betty Melrose

40 Years of Service

Grace Rutkowski-Kamerow

35 Years of Service

Mary Jenkins

Heidi Magyar

30 Years of Service

Katharine Beach

Karen Cook

Michele Hoxie

Susan Kallewaard

Amy Kremkow

Chery Rosebush

Ellen Siel

Jenelle Steele-Elkins

Jan Whitcomb

Sheila Wiitala

Melanie Winegar

25 Years of Service

Kimberly Blodgett

Kelly Kelley

Sherrie Reese



Volunteer of Excellence Award

The Volunteer of Excellence Award recognizes those volunteers who have contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE) through use of the National Program Portfolio, or who have contributed outstanding service in support of the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Key Priorities for girl and adult members.

Amanda Aldrich

Stephanie Asip Leavitt

Yolanda Chapman

Melissa Decker

Katie Egan

Nicole Fickes

Rachel Gruhn

Sarah Jackinchuk

Nicole Justice

Tonda Lobenherz

Miranda Murphy

Douglas Orlando

Gina Polce Scheetz

Kelly Proxmire

Melanie Rasmussen

Emily Rose

Christine Schweigert

Sheri Stankorb-Geiselman

Molly Wurzler



Community Spirit Pin

The Community Spirit Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service by

- supporting the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Key Priorities
- promoting the mission of Girl Scouting (to prepare girls to have courage, be confident and make a positive impact on the world)
- or by building the presence of Girl Scouting in one or more Girl Scout Service Unit for a period of two or more years.

Valerie Anderson, SU 322

Laura Bryan, SU 363

Sally Cook, SU 805

Katie Goff, SU 322

Gretchen Highfield, SU 321

Becky Schalow, SU 322

Mary Sharp, SU 322

Ashley White, SU 322



Friend of Girl Scouting— Service Unit

The Friend of Girl Scouting Certificate recognizes community and business partners who support Girl Scouting at the local or service unit level.

Chuck Grinwell, SU 351

Church of Nazarene, SU 322

Clinton Township Public Library, SU 692

Dexter United Methodist Church, SU 472

East Olive Community Center, SU 322

Hanover Horton Historical Society, SU 640

Hillside United Methodist Church, SU 640

Lighthouse of Athens,
Lighthouse Funeral and Cremation, SU 810

Paw Paw United Methodist Church, SU 962

Pulaski Free Methodist Church, SU 640

St. Joseph Parish Center, SU 472



This certificate recognizes community and business partners who support Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan at a regional level.

Oh Mi ORGANICS

Oh Mi ORGANICS has been a supporter of local Girl Scout troops for many years and has been flexible with the activities Girl Scouts do with them and through them. The owners, Brent and Megen Hurst, are outstanding supporters of St. Johns and have reached out to Girl Scouts to help with the very popular Fall Festival the last two years. Oh Mi Organics offers support in helping Girl Scouts earn badges, and work with area leaders to tailor their Girl Scouts' needs; from learning about running a business to helping girls learn about their delicious candy making. In the midst of the pandemic, one Junior Girl Scout troop wanted to paint a mural in downtown St. Johns and, after careful consideration, decided they wanted the mural to be on the side of Oh Mi Organics. With Brent and Megen's support, the troop completed their Bronze Award. This business not only plays a huge role in the local community, but they have shown over and over their consistent support and dedication to the Girl Scout mission. The Girl Scouts in the Saint John's Service Unit are profoundly grateful for the support they provide.

Oh Mi Organics' support of Girl Scouts and the St. Johns Community makes them an ideal recipient for this award.
Nominated by Christine Schweigert



This certificate and plaque recognizes community and business partners who support Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan at council level.

Rodger Salinas

Rodger Salinas has supported Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan for over 10 years as our Commercial Print Sales Representative for printing The Source, The Camp Guide and the Gold Award Yearbook. He advocates for Girl Scouting to ensure we get the best pricing for high quality publications. Rodger is honest, fair, helpful and considerate in all his Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan negotiations. Because of Rodger’s reputation, when he switched printing companies we followed as well. He has saved us thousands of dollars over the years in shipping and freight costs as he very generously drives three hours back and forth to deliver our publications directly to Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan. This generosity allows us to spend our precious resources elsewhere. He clearly believes in the power of Girl Scouting and is a generous, amazing friend of Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan!

Nominated by Catherine Below



*“This knot is woven in friendship true,
And interlaced with memories too,
Of friendship found and shared by two,
The ties time and miles can’t undo.”*

Awardees each receive a friendship knot in honor of their dedication to Girl Scouting.



Green Heart Pin

The Green Heart Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service by supporting the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Key Priorities, by promoting the mission of Girl Scouting or by building the presence of Girl Scouting in one or more Girl Scout Service Units through sustained and significant involvement for a period of five or more years.

Tylina Zimmerman, Kalamazoo

Tylina has been a leader of troop 80443 for 13 years and has helped the girls grow and thrive. She is a role model for her girls and leaders alike. She has instilled a sense of courage and confidence in all the of members of the troop. She is always well prepared for meetings, camp and any activity she is involved with. She has encouraged the girls in her troop to reach for the stars and has supported them through earning their Bronze, Silver and currently working on their Gold Awards. She has role modeled how to be kind, professional and respectful to all people while making your voice heard. She role models that Girl Scouts should be by always being ready to stand up for what she believes. She has mentored many new leaders and organized many school-wide event over the years. She has set the bar high for future leaders to follow.

Nominated by Lori Babb



Girl Scout Appreciation Pin

The Girl Scout Appreciation Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience in one Girl Scout Service Unit within Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan jurisdiction, and is separate from service previously awarded.

Raquel Alexander, Dexter

Raquel is a wonderful leader to her troop. She has led them through Daisies and Brownies and is ready to continue their journey as a role model and mentor through the rest of their Girl Scout leadership experience. Raquel sees a need and never hesitates to fill it. She jumped in when the area needed leadership and hit the ground running. As a Service Unit Manager she kept the focus on the future while not forgetting about the needs of today's Girl Scouts. Raquel successfully planned and executed multiple events for the area, overnight winter and spring camping events at Camp Linden, ski and snowboarding events at a local ski resort to mention a few. She kept the communication going between leaders and troops by starting up an area newsletter. Raquel is a great at listening to all the leaders. She is the go to person if you have a question about Girl Scouts, if she doesn't have the answer, she'll find someone who does and get the correct answer back to her area.

Nominated by Kari Stroschein

Amanda Bollinger, Kalamazoo

Amanda comes to us from the Kalamazoo area and has been in Girl Scouting for over 13 years. She has served her community as a service unit product manager, a troop leader, an advocate for the camping program, and a great volunteer. Her fellow scouts all remarked about her abilities to maintain a positive attitude and a warm heart when working with fellow adult Girl Scouts and with girls. Amanda is a major encourager to all to receive trainings to make their understanding of Girl Scouting meaningful and successful. She is always there on time and the last one to leave. Amanda is responsible, a great communicator, makes sure that everyone has all the materials that they need to be successful. She is consistently available to help others!

Nominated by Kali Newman

Nichole Cekola, Kalamazoo

Nichole started her troop when the girls were Daisies, now they are Ambassadors. The troop has been very active, completing 20 service projects, earning their Bronze and Silver awards and currently working on Gold Awards. Plans for an international trip started several years ago and are on-going. Nichole has been a wonderful role model for her girls! She has also been an active member of the service unit, and has helpful advice to share with new leaders. She shares ideas, stories, and guidance with everyone and is always brightens up our day!

Nominated by Christine Brown

Stacy Conquest, Pinckney

Stacy has been involved with Troop 40275 for over ten years as an adult volunteer, co-leader and troop Treats and Reads coordinator. She has also served for many years as an area encampment committee volunteer and served one year as a Mackinac Island Scout Services Program volunteer. After her daughter, Tori, graduated she joined a Daisy troop as a co-leader. She is a very involved adult helping at meetings and outings. She encourages girls to safely explore their world. While staying at a hostel in Chicago, she encouraged girls to communicate with others staying at the hostel. Some didn't speak English so she urged the girls to think of other ways to communicate. As the area Treats and Reads coordinator, she supports and guides all troop leaders in the program requirements and the online system. She is persistent in answering all questions and ensures all troops get their incentives. Stacy has been a glowing representative of the principles of Girl Scouts and shining that light for other to follow.

Nominated by Susan Prynne

Leanne Curtis, Eaton Rapids

Leanne is a troop leader to two different troops (30786, 30284), and has also been the Service Unit Treasurer for four years, and Service Unit Product Manager for three years. She is continually encouraging and supporting the leaders in the entire area, leading by example by participating in most Service Unit activities such as parades and recruitment open houses. Leanne shows her Girl Scout spirit by engaging her troops and the Service Unit leaders in activities to promote the mission of Girl Scouts and regularly attends Volunteer Bootcamp to grow herself as a Girl Scout.

Nominated by Jaclyn Barcroft

Girl Scout Appreciation Pin, cont.

Kate Hoffman, Dexter

Kate is a troop leader and was the service unit treasurer for many years. As the service unit treasurer not only does she keep up the books, but offered to assist and help troops with a hands on meeting to teach leaders how to complete their financial forms accurately and effectively. Her sound judgement and attention to details is amazing. Kate has also planned service unit events, such as bridging ceremonies and leader appreciation nights.

Nominated by Kari Stroschein

Jeanette Holm, Kalamazoo

Jeanette has been involved with her service unit for several years. She started as a troop leader in 2016, and she is currently the Service Unit Product Manager. When a girl is close to her goals, Jeanette reaches out to let the Leader know. She always makes herself available to help all leaders! Jeanette is always available to lend a helping hand with the service unit. She is patient and kind, and is always willing to offer advice or help! Jeanette is an asset to the East Van Buren Service Unit!

Nominated by Christine Brown

Kris Honig, Milan

Kris goes above and beyond for the Girl Scouts in Milan. Kris is always there with a badge she has found online for girls at every level. Need a craft idea or a fun activity “just ask Kris! She continues to co-lead each new Daisy troop that launches, she provides leadership on service unit activities, and she donates her time to assist with badge/patch placement on uniforms for all Milan Girl Scouts. Kris is a beloved and valued leader of the Milan Girl Scouts. She also spent many years as a Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan trainer.

Nominated by Lisa Renfrow

Alicia Jensen, Dexter

“Alicia is Awesome” is a common phrase when describing Alicia. Aside from running two troops of her own, Alicia is quick to lend a hand to other leaders. She excels at planning and executing events and programs such as the annual Halloween party and winter and spring camping events. She led the way through the challenges brought on by COVID-19, and developed multiple ways for Girl Scouts to stay safe while staying involved. As involved as she is, she has also taught the value of balance. Her preparedness and generosity make her stand out as everything a Girl Scout Leader should be.

Nominated by Kari Stroschein

Laura Paredes, Northville

Laura is a vital part of the Northville (Service Unit 418) Girl Scout community. During this time she has led, recruited, or had a direct impact on the scouting experiences of more than 200 girls in the Winchester Elementary Community. Laura oversaw the implementation of three well-cherished events: Christmas Craft, Thinking Day, and the Mother-Daughter Banquet. For all three of these events, the entire Girl Scout population of Winchester is invited. These three events are amazing ways to bring Girl Scouts together and to develop the Sisterhood of scouting. Laura has also helped foster traditions across the Winchester Elementary troops. Whether it be the three annual cluster events, the annual trips to camp most troops take, the Can-or-Treat event, participation in the Northville Holiday Lighted Parade, bridging ceremonies, or the welcome-back and year-end celebrations, the girls always have beloved traditions to look forward to each year.

Laura Paredes has been a Girl Scout leader who has always gone beyond the call of duty to support girls and has encouraged a strong sisterhood among the girls and their moms.

Nominated by Ronald Frazier

Jessica Phillips, Paw Paw

Since 2016, Jessica has volunteered in Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan as a leader as well as Service Unit Treasurer and Secretary. She not only leads an active older girl troop, Jessica also has been active in planning many of the service unit events, such as a summer journey program, a Girl Scout Grand Prix, and a bridging award ceremony. She also hosts the local Cookie Cupboard. Not only does she set an example for girls by being successful in her STEM-industry job, but she then shares her experiences, energy, and time with girls at troop meeting and events. Her emphasis on empowering these young leaders exemplifies the Girl Scout Way.

Nominated by Christine Brown

Laura Preston, Whitmore Lake

Laura serves as a troop leader and contributes in many way to her service unit. She has organized community service projects, badge programs for the service unit, and other fun service unit activities. Laura works with her fellow volunteers to ensure that the girls in her troop and in her service unit are receiving the best experience possible, and always puts girls first in Girl Scouts.

Nominated by Kari Stroschein

Girl Scout Appreciation Pin, cont.

Jennifer Rudolph, East Lansing

Jennifer serves as a service unit manager and built up the volunteer team in her area to support the volunteers and girls. She also serves on the Member Advisory Committee and goes above and beyond to engage volunteers in meaningful conversations and receives constructive feedback to help Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan continuously improve. Jennifer has a passion for alumnae engagement, and shares the impact Girl Scouts has had on her with others to continually grow Girl Scouts in the East Lansing area. Jennifer's enthusiasm for Girl Scouts brings out the best in those around her and makes everyone feel excited to be contributing to the Girl Scout mission.

Nominated by Renee Graham

April Scott, Mason

April serves as the Mason Co-Service Unit Manager as well as the Service Unit treasurer. She has helped the Mason Service Unit to continue to grow through her devotion and commitment in both of these jobs. April is constantly encouraging and mentoring new and established leaders by providing a great example of how new experiences can show girls the exciting world of Girl Scouting. April also stepped up last year to have a Cookie Cupboard at her house and supported leaders through the cookie selling process by providing a nearby cookie cupboard. In addition, April is also the dynamic leader of a very active Cadette troop of 19 Girl Scouts which is "girl-led", providing a wonderful range of activities and experiences planned by the girls themselves.

Nominated by Jenny Chaney

Lauren Sickle-Vining, Battle Creek

Lauren is a very committed Service Unit Manager in her area. She has been involved in planning and attending recruitment events at many schools open houses to share her love of Girl Scouting with prospective girls and families, helping Girl Scouting to grow in her community. Lauren goes above and beyond to plan service unit events and community service events with the Service Unit troops and volunteers. She has mentored new and seasoned leaders through a variety of exciting Girl Scout experiences. Lauren is also the leader of a very active "girl-led" Cadette troop. When her troop plans activities she often shares their ideas with other volunteers, inviting other troops to participate. Lauren's positive attitude and wealth of Girl Scout knowledge make her a great leader and volunteer.

Nominated by Kali Newman

Kelly Thelen, Portage

Kelly is the troop leader for two troops. She leads a Cadette troop and a brownie troop. She is invested in giving Girl Scouts the best experience possible and is committed to being an amazing role model as well as mentor to other leaders. Kelly is an active member of Service Unit 829 leadership team. Kelly is the treasurer and helps the Service Unit Product Manager by sorting rewards and answering product questions. She attends the monthly leader meetings regularly and voices her thoughts and experiences. Kelly connects with other leaders in Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, she mentors new leaders in our area, and she is an active participant on the Facebook Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Leader page. Kelly and her other service unit volunteers have also been active in planning a CookiePalooza event to prepare the whole service unit for cookie season. Kelly is dedicated to making sure that Girl Scouts are present in the Portage community. She helped to plan the Girl Scouts section of Monster Mash, a huge family event in the area. Kelly makes certain that her girls are having fun and learning new things while ensuring the activities and planning are girl led. Kelly has a heart of gold and has truly made a positive impact on Portage Girl Scouts and Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan!

Nominated by Kali Newman

Elaine Wisniewski, Ann Arbor

Elaine comes from the Dexter area and has been in Girl Scouting for over ten years. She has served as a troop leader, a Service Unit Manager, and a Unit Product Program co-chair for several products sales. Her fellow Girl Scouts have all remarked about her tenacity in getting a job done and done right. Elaine's organization skills make the product sales run more smoothly in their area. Punctuality and communication were appreciated by all who were involved. She has given each girl a positive role model to follow when times get a little stressful and that it is possible to be flexible when things do not always work out the way that we plan.

Nominated by Kari Stroschein



Girl Scout Honor Pin

The Girl Scout Honor Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience in two or more Girl Scout Service Units within Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan jurisdiction and is separate from service previously awarded.

Jaclyn Barcroft, Eaton Rapids

Jaclyn's scope of volunteering includes many levels of Girl Scouts. She is a Troop Leader, a Recruitment chair for the Eaton Rapids Service Unit, a member and contributor to the Friends of Camp Wacousta and developer of the Michigan State Police Girl Scout Preparedness Patch Program and hosted two Preparedness Day events in 2022 for Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan and our sister council. She has also served as the Recruitment Chair for the Eaton Rapids Service Unit for the past two years. Both years she has coordinated Girl Scout recruitment tables at five Eaton Rapids school open houses, and organized additional outside recruitment events to introduce more girls to Girl Scouts. Last year, Jaclyn helped develop the Michigan State Police Girl Scout Preparedness Patch Program. The program is a self-paced, all-level, fun patch that helps girls with emergency situations, identifying community needs and public safety.

Nominated by Christine Duffy

Allison Collins, Saline

Allison has served as a Saline area troop leader as well as a Mackinac Island Scout Service Camp volunteer. She started with the Mackinac Island program as a girl, serving for seven years before leaving for college. She has since returned and has served for seven years in this program as an adult, developing innovative ways for girls to still participate in the skill development and leadership opportunities even in the virtual environment caused by COVID-19. She is an inspirational, creative, and inclusive leader, and has shared the girl-led foundation of Girl Scouts with countless girls from across the state.

Nominated by Jacqueline Jeffery

Kim Evans, Lansing

Kim is a committee member of the Friends of Camp Wacousta, and has been instrumental in raising donations, instructing archery programs, offering additional programming, and continuing the support of Camp Wacousta. She is also a troop leader and has been supporting and mentoring the girls in her troop for several years. In addition to these roles, Kim also serves as the service unit product manager. Through all of these roles, she has been able to impact the lives of the girls in her troop and countless other girls throughout the council. Kim's commitment to Girl Scouts and her community is priceless.

Nominated by Christine Duffy

Erin Hemenway, Paw Paw

Erin has been a trainer for the last five years. In addition, she has, for years, managed the Campapalooza event at Camp Merrie Woode which is a weekend-long encampment for Girl Scouts of all ages from Southwest Michigan, allowing them to enjoy the outdoors, learn new skills and make new friends. Erin is a very successful Product Sales Manager for her Service Unit as well as the leader of an active Senior Girl Scout troop, all of whom serve as Program Aides. Erin has mentored new and experienced leaders in her Service Unit and at the yearly Campapalooza event which she manages. She has greatly impacted recruitment and troop retention in her area with her vast Girl Scout knowledge and enthusiasm.

Nominated by Christine Brown

Girl Scout Honor Pin, cont.

Kelley Hissong, Clarklake

Kelley comes to us from the Tecumseh area and has been in Girl Scouts for over 18 years. She has served the council as an outdoor skills trainer with an emphasis on developing and delivering several outdoor educational opportunities; served on the Member Advisory Committee where she demonstrated her willingness to go above and beyond in engaging volunteers in providing input in providing meaningful solutions for pressing issues; worked at camp with adults and girls by providing engaging programs; and worked tirelessly as a trainer of small craft water safety, knot tying, lashing, reading a compass, fire building, etc. Kelley has shown girls how to take ownership of their experience and become leaders in their community, serving with determination to be their best. In her private life, Kelley brings her self-confidence, self-sufficiency, patience, empathy, and of course a sense of humor having served in the US Army and the Tecumseh Police Department. She has the uncanny ability to encourage girls to get out of their comfort zones and try new things.

Nominated by Renee Graham

Jennifer Katt, Birch Run

Starting as a Daisy Troop Leader, Jenn has continued with her girls, who will graduate this year. Taking her skills to the next level, she became Service Unit Manager. Under her leadership, other leaders have learned how they can support and rely on one another, and that they are strong and resilient. Jenn didn't stop there, she has also been a role model to other local areas, offering her advice and support and leaving a legacy as she role models Leadership and Girl Scout Sisterhood.

Nominated by Julia DeGuise



Girl Scout Thanks Badge

The Thanks Badge honors an individual whose ongoing commitment, leadership, and service have had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting the Key Priority goals of Girls Scouts Heart of Michigan or the entire Girl Scout Movement and is separate from service previously awarded.

Christine Duffy, Lansing

Christine is a great asset to the Girl Scout Community and truly demonstrates how discovery, connecting, and taking action leads to great leadership. Christine's involvement in Girl Scouts is multi leveled. She has been a Troop Leader for 11 years, served as the Delta Township Service Unit Manager and Product Manager for 11 years, has been an Outdoor Trainer for four years, and has been the Chair of the Friends of Camp Wacousta Committee since 2019. As the chair of Friends of Camp Wacousta, Christine was instrumental in bringing an archery program to Camp Wacousta in 2021, a slingshot program in 2022, and recruiting and managing nine volunteers to run these programs. This has resulted in over 170 Girl Scouts coming to camp to try a new skill. Christine is creative, enthusiastic, decisive, helpful and is a great team leader.

Nominated by Deanna Gates

Deanna Gates, DeWitt

Deanna is not only a Troop Leader to Cadette Troop 30790, she is also the Dewitt (320) Service Unit Manager, as well as a founding member of the Friends of Camp Wacousta (FOCW). She has volunteered countless hours at Camp Wacousta helping to improve the property buildings and grounds, maintains the FOCW Facebook page, and help develop and promote the archery program. She often volunteers to lead an archery session, lead a tubing trip, or assist other troop leaders that stay at Camp Wacousta with their troops throughout the year. The most remarkable thing about Deanna is that she does all of the things above plus more always with a smile on her face and positive attitude. She is always thinking about how our actions as volunteers impact our Girl Scouts and our greater Lansing community, as well as girls all across the council. With all of her actions, many girls have had experiences that they would never have received anywhere else. They also have memories that will last a lifetime. She has shown what true leadership is. This leadership has had, and will continue to have, a huge impact in Girl Scouts and within Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan.

Nominated by Jaclyn Barcroft

Susan Kiniatis, Eaton Rapids

Susan Kiniatis is a Troop Leader, Service Unit Manager, an archery instructor, and a member of the Friends of Camp Wacousta (FOCW). While serving as the maintenance chair for FOCW, she worked to make sure the property was safe for everyone to use. As a Troop Leader and Service Unit Manager she is always trying to find different opportunities for her girls to learn and grow. Susan is always thinking about how our actions as Girl Scouts can impact the world around us, and encourages her girls and fellow volunteers to push themselves to make the world a better place.

Nominated by Deanna Gates

Carolyn Lowery, Dexter

Carolyn first became a Daisy Troop Leader and stayed in that position until her girls graduated. She didn't stop there, she stayed active in her Service Unit, serving as Cookie Chair, Treats & Reads Chair, plus the local Cookie Cupboard. Carolyn always has a ready ear and clear advice for new Leaders, as well as helping them make the connections they need with other leaders and opportunities. When Carolyn has attended All Aboard events, she has assisted many new leaders to find their way around camp, plus inspire them to relax, learn, make new friends and have fun!

Nominated by Kari Stroschein



Girl Scout Thanks Badge II

The Girl Scout Thanks Badge II is presented to a Girl Scout adult volunteer who is a previous recipient of the Thanks Badge. Their service continues to impact the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan council or the entire Girl Scout Movement in extraordinary ways, and is the highest adult honor in Girl Scouts.

Karen Micklatcher, Lansing

Karen has without a doubt made a lasting impact on Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, and Girl Scouting as a whole. It was Karen who was instrumental in sharing the “Five Skills” nationwide for Girl Scouts everywhere. Karen has been a Girl Scout all her life, and she brought wisdom and experience to the table that were critical in the decision-making process. Even when faced with unprecedented challenges, Karen brought background knowledge and context that truly were priceless.

Having overseen so many departments and mentored so many staff members, Karen left behind a steadfast legacy. She led by example to show all staff what dedication and tenacity look like.

Karen has helped so many staff with her experiences and help build their skills with courage, confidence and character. She has helped sustain a culture that is girl-centered, adaptive, fun and rewards taking risks in order to win for Girl Scouts.

Karen always worked hard to ensure that girls were getting the best out of both Program and Product Program. She was the first to volunteer to help whether it was tubing down the river in Lansing or driving up to West Branch for cookie delivery day. As Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan moves forward in its work to build a robust culture of diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging, Karen was always one of this work’s staunch supporters. She encouraged collaboration with other staff, Leadership and Executive Teams to help educate the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan family (including our wonderful, dedicated volunteers) about the need for this work, so that all girls, families and volunteers feel welcome at Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan.

Karen is deeply deserving of this honor.

Nominated by Kris Wurm



Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Volunteer Awards Committee

We thank the members of the committee for their diligence and service to Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan and fellow volunteers.

Ina Germain Barb Henton
Joann Germinder Carol Middel
Jan Whitcomb

Mackinac Island Governor's Honor Guard 7901



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