

Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Donor Newsletter



Welcome to the first edition of the new Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan Donor Newsletter! This is your connection to staying up to date with what is happening in Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, learn about stories from local girls, and see the impact you've made in your community. The newsletter will be hitting your inbox once per quarter, so keep an eye out!

A Message from our Board Chair, Kate LeFevre



Girl Scouts are amazing. The girls involved build courage, character and confidence through meetings, badge earning, product program, and comradery. But girls are not the only ones who benefit; adult volunteers learn those same skills. I strongly believe in community involvement, and Girl Scouts recruited me to be on the Board. Having been a Brownie and Girl Scout may have helped that decision. I have not regretted my choice to join. I continually learn from the staff and adult volunteers. But the best part is learning from a Girl Scout. They inspire me to be a better community leader, employee, and human being because their curiosity, which produces results, is nothing less than... Amazing. Please consider investing in helping girls continue to be amazing!

Skau Memorial Scholarship

The Gerry and Eileen Skau Memorial Scholarship allows Girl Scouts to receive assistance for national activities and council-sponsored events. It was created by Gerry to honor his late wife's memory by helping girls who might not have the means to participate in camp experiences and travel opportunities. Eileen was a Girl Scout herself and became a troop leader when her own daughters entered Girl Scouts. This scholarship has helped to honor my parents' memory and preserve their legacy -- ensuring girls in Girl Scouts have the chance to spread their wings and follow their passions!

- Written by Liz Held, daughter of Gerry & Eileen Skau



Cares Act

The CARES Act allows taxpayers to take a charitable deduction of up to \$300 per individual for those who take the standard deduction. You might think this is a small amount and would not make a difference, but what if all of our donors gave "just" \$300? Such support would have a huge impact. For those who do itemize their deductions, the new law allows for cash contributions for qualified charities such as Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan to be deducted up to 100% of your adjusted gross income for the 2020 calendar year.

Other Ways to Give

Did you know there are ways to support Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan at absolutely no extra cost to you? Here are a few simple ways to support Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan while doing your day-to-day shopping!

- **AmazonSmile** is a simple way for you to support Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan every time you shop. AmazonSmile is available at smile.amazon.com and can be activated in the Amazon Shopping app for iOS and Android phones. Simply log into smile.amazon.com and select Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan - Grand Ledge, MI. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the purchase price from customers' eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organizations they select.
- **iGive** is essentially a store rebate program where iGive members have the opportunity to donate their rebate to their chosen cause. You can shop directly from [iGive.com](https://www.igive.com) by searching participating stores or by downloading the iGive button.
- **Kroger Community Rewards** is another simple way to give back to Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan! Simply create a digital account at [kroger.com](https://www.kroger.com) and search Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan - Grand Ledge, MI. Once you choose your cause, link your shopper's card to your account so all transactions apply towards Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan.



Pivoting to Virtual

If we had to choose one word to describe 2020, it'd be "pivot." Like everyone this year, we had no other choice but to pivot quickly and find a new way to serve girls. Girls need Girl Scouts now more than ever. It was imperative that we continued delivering Girl Scout programming so that they could have a sense of normalcy and community. Throughout the summer, we had daily virtual programming for all grade levels. Topics included space science, gardening, engineering, art, and so much more. Girls stayed connected, participated in activities, and earned badges from the comfort and safety of their own homes. Thousands of girls participated from all over the country. These videos remain part of our virtual programming offerings. This is only the beginning of virtual Girl Scout experiences -- it's who we are now!



With the cancellation of overnight camp due to COVID-19, we knew we had to provide girls with a camp experience. We launched our first ever virtual summer camp experience: Camp Reimagined! Wondering how in the world we pulled off virtual camp? Thanks to our amazing camp staff, we had a very successful summer, selling out three of five weeks. Girls from all across Michigan and from every corner of the United States joined us for Camp Reimagined. We even had to increase capacity for the weeks due to such a high demand! Each week had a different theme: Classic Camp, STEM, Nature Explorer, Outdoor Art, and Eco Action. Staff members hand delivered (when possible) boxes of supplies that girls would need for that week of virtual camp. This was our way of bringing a piece of camp to girls at home. Camp staff did "porch drops," sang camp songs, and announced each girl's "cabin." Each day, girls had two Zoom sessions: one was a "cabin meeting" with their grade level, and the other was an all camp session. The girls loved participating in camp, even if it was different than other years.

