

Your Gift at Work: May Edition



Welcome to the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan (GSHOM) Donor Newsletter! In our quarterly newsletter, we share inspiring stories from local Girl Scouts and highlight how your support is making a meaningful difference for girls throughout our council.

Girls are getting ready for an exciting summer at our GSHOM camp properties! They can earn their way to camp by extending their cookie season and participating in the Cookies to Camp Program. Girl Scout camp is a wonderful place where girls can embrace new challenges in a safe environment. Here, they build resilience, decision-making skills, courage, and an appreciation for nature, while forging lifelong friendships—all amidst a backdrop of fun! We are thrilled to share the magic of camp with girls this summer!

Stay tuned for quarterly updates to see the impact of Girl Scouting!



Troop Spotlight: Troop 80011

Community Tree Planting

Troop 80011 rolled up their sleeves and made a impact in Marshall by helping plant trees to create more green spaces around town. The girls worked hard to plant nine trees—digging the holes, setting the roots, and getting their hands dirty. Their dedication and teamwork didn't go unnoticed, with several community members complimenting how hard they worked. In total, the community group effort resulted in 60 trees being planted that morning. It was a rewarding experience and a great way for Troop 80019 to give back while learning about the importance of environmental stewardship.



The Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan's 2025 Cookie Bake-Off Benefit was a remarkable event that brought together talented local chefs to creatively take Girl Scout Cookies and make them into innovative dishes. We are grateful to our generous donors and sponsors; together, we raised an impressive \$84,000 to empower programs for girls to become strong, courageous, and confident leaders. The evening showcased the inspiring impact of a community coming together for greater good. A very heartfelt thank you to our sponsors, chefs, and judges whose dedication made this event a success. Together, we are shaping the next generation of leaders.

Get your tickets for next year!

Cookie Season is Coming to a Close!

Girl Scouts learn the Five Essential Skills when they sell cookies!

1) Goal Setting

Girl Scouts learn how to set goals and create a plan to reach them.

2) Decision Making

Girl Scouts learn to make decisions on their own and as a team.

3) Money Management

Girl Scouts learn how to create a budget and handle money.

4) People Skills

Although the season is winding down, cookie season isn't over yet! We're now into Cookies to Camp, where Girl Scouts continue selling cookies to help fund their summer camp adventures while building skills like goal setting, decision making, and financial literacy. Thanks to your support, we've already sold over a million packages this season, and every box sold gets girls one step closer to outdoor exploration, new friendships, and lifelong memories. If you'd like to continue supporting girls and find cookies near you, visit www.gshom.org/cookies. Thank you for investing in the future of girls. Your generosity is helping shape tomorrow's leaders.



Girl Scouts find their voice and build confidence through customer interactions.

5) Business Ethics

Girl Scouts learn to act ethically, both in business and in life.

We want to honor and congratulate our TOP cookie seller this year, Emelyn Phillips from Troop 90697 out of Paw Paw, for achieving her personal goal of selling 5,000 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies this season! This was a huge goal, and she absolutely soared—we can't wait to see what goals she'll accomplish next!

Secret Shopping

During cookie season, our staff and volunteers love to get out into the community and support our Girl Scouts by acting as “Secret Shoppers” at cookie booths! These surprise visits are a fun way for girls to practice their people skills and share their cookie goals with us—from saving for camp or a big troop trip, to giving back to their communities. Girls who are visited by a Secret Shopper can even earn a special patch! It's a playful way to reinforce the five skills of the Cookie Program while celebrating their hard work and ambition.



Troop 80107 was Secret Shopped in Battle Creek



Troop 40768 was Secret Shopped in Dexter



Troop 30024 was Secret Shopped in Owosso

Girl Scouts Programming

At Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan, our programs do more than fill a calendar—they shape futures. Girl Scout programming empowers girls with hands-on experiences that build confidence, leadership skills, and a lifelong love of learning. From celebrating achievements to exploring the outdoors, every event helps girls grow into strong, capable leaders.



Are you interested in getting involved and checking out a GSHOM program? Here is a list of some upcoming programs we will be hosting:

May 18th- Girl Recognition Ceremony
June 28th- Jamboree Camp Linden

If any of those peak your interest, please feel free to reach out to us at Give@gshom.org. We would be happy to connect with you to help you get involved and see the magic of Girl Scouts firsthand

Planned Giving

Is now the time for you to consider establishing a will or trust? **Absolutely!** Without a plan, state laws will delegate the distribution of your assets after your passing, and these laws often exclude charitable organizations from being beneficiaries.

Imagine the impact you could make by naming the Girl Scouts Heart of Michigan as a beneficiary in your will or living trust. You have the flexibility to define your gift in various ways—whether it's a specific dollar amount, a portion of your estate, the remainder after fulfilling other gifts, or even the entirety of your estate if your designated heirs are no longer living.

By including the Girl Scouts in your estate planning, you are not just securing your legacy but also empowering future generations of girl leaders. If you want to learn more about how you can make a meaningful difference through planned giving, please don't hesitate to contact Lyah VanSickle, our Chief Development Officer, at lvansickle@gshom.org or 517-742-4707.

Your support can create lasting change!



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