

The Girl Scout Impact

girl scouts of central illinois

2024 Annual Impact Report

October 2023 - September 2024

Through Girl Scouts, I learned that girls like me can do ANYTHING!

Girl Scout Brownie

The science experiments we did with Girl Scouts were awesome!

Girl Scout Junior

I liked trying new things at Girl Scouts that I couldn't normally do.

Girl Scout Senior

I love that we get to build a sisterhood in Girl Scouts.

Girl Scout Cadette



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Jennifer Williams, Virden

I like that Girl Scouts helps me to work as a team and try to help others.

Girl Scout Junior

Welcome to the Girl Scouts of Central Illinois 2024 Annual Impact Report

We are proud to share the significant achievements of our past year with you. Whether you are a member, troop leader, volunteer, donor, sponsor or community supporter, we commend you for your involvement in empowering girls in central Illinois and moving the Girl Scout Movement forward. Our accomplishments could not have happened without you!

This past year over 2,400 girls attended our camps and outdoor programming. Highlights included a second year of **Camp Fury**, an overnight camp experience for girls to learn what it means to be a first responder by practicing search and rescue skills, understand crime scenes, repel from buildings, and perform firehose drills, all taught by women in Fire, EMS, and Police Services.

Girl Scouts across our council stepped out of their comfort zones and challenged themselves through ropes courses, hiking, fishing, canoeing and archery at one of our three camps. Our popular equestrian program at Camp Tapawingo continues to connect girls with horseback riding, helping girls develop strong riding skills in both our arena and on our trails.

At **Girl Scout Day at the Capitol** this past May, close to 900 Girl Scouts and their families had the opportunity to visit the Capitol Building and various sites throughout downtown Springfield, participate in a Great Girl Expo, connect with women legislators and work towards their Democracy Badges.

And of course, we sold cookies! Girl Scouts developed entrepreneurial skills while selling over 1 million boxes of cookies this past year, which helped girls attend camp, and even travel in the United States and abroad. Our Operation Cookie Share continues to be a successful way for the community to buy Girl Scout cookies for us to distribute to local first responders and those in the military.

While we're proud of our accomplishments in 2024, we are even more excited about 2025 and future plans. We are financially healthy and will continue to be a good steward of our funds. We're strengthening our already deep commitment to leader appreciation and member relations, insuring our valuable volunteers have what they need to lead troops and organize events. By emphasizing relationships and local connections, we plan to increase our membership and provide the Girl Scout Experience to more girls across Central Illinois.

This coming year, girls will have the opportunity to make and personalize a stuffed bear of their own at our new, larger and more visible service center in Champaign. Our partnership with **Build-A-Bear** will provide a unique, fun and hands-on activity for local Girl Scouts - and for other girls who are not yet part of our Movement.

Our expansive 640-acre Camp Tapawingo will be the focus of new investment as we look to enhance our aquatics and the overall outdoor experience Girl Scouts and their families have come to enjoy.

We are deeply grateful to our many funders and donors who make our work to empower girls possible. Whether it's attending or sponsoring an event, providing grant funding, or making a meaningful gift, your support makes a difference.

We need girls who have the courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place,
and Girl Scouts of Central Illinois plans to deliver!

With Girl Scout Pride,

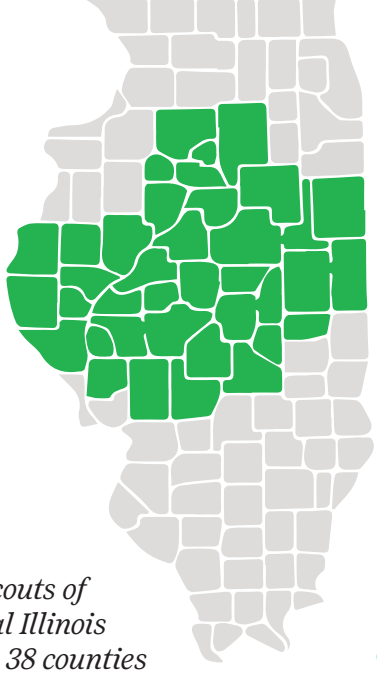
Anne Warth
Board Chair, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois

Jennifer Sedbrook
CEO, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois

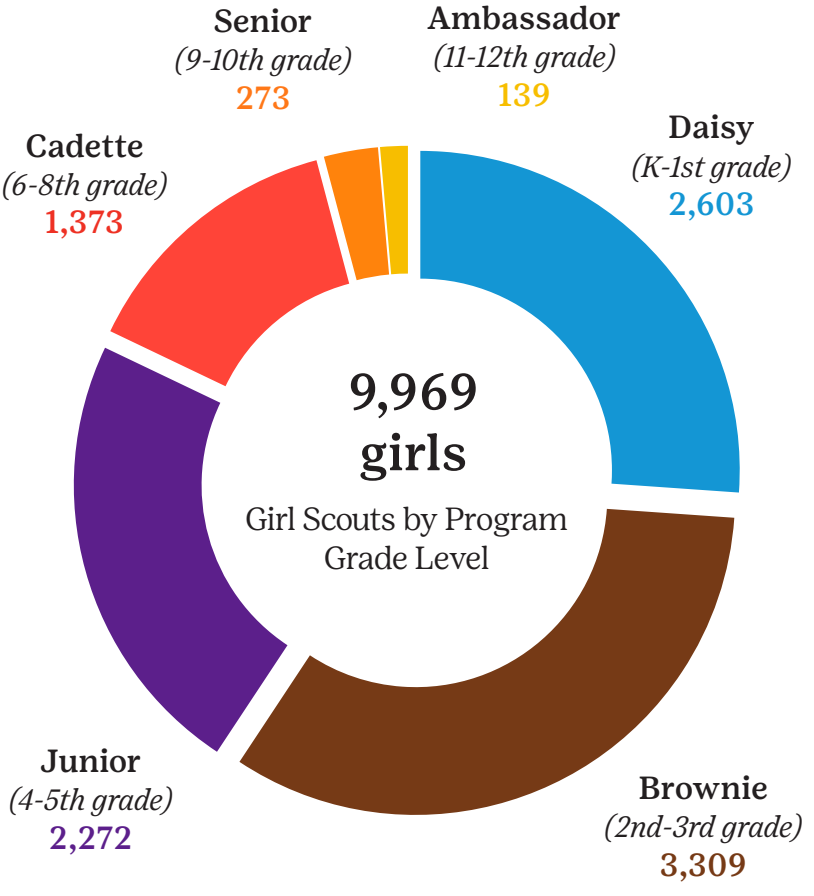
We are Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts create the world they want to live in and strive to make it better every single day. They explore their strengths, take on new challenges, and can always be themselves, regardless of background or ability.

Supported by adult volunteers and mentors right here in our community, as well as millions of alums around the globe, Girl Scouts lead the way as they discover who they are and how they can make the future a brighter place.



Girl Scouts of Central Illinois serves 38 counties throughout central Illinois.



753
troops in our council

2,863
adult volunteers

977
lifetime members

Ways to Be a Girl Scout

Girl Scouts of Central Illinois inspires every girl to discover who she is and what she can do. She has big dreams, and within a supportive community, she'll find opportunities to explore, learn, make a difference and succeed on her own terms. Girl Scouts choose their own adventures and discover their interests alongside other Girl Scouts. And, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois provides a variety of accessible, inclusive pathways for girls to participate.

Volunteer-led
Led by a volunteer—usually a parent or caregiver of one of the members in the troop.

Juliettes
Individual Girl Scouts guided by a mentor.

Community Outreach
Delivering programs to girls in underserved areas through community centers and schools.

Every girl deserves to be a Girl Scout



Girl Scouts of Central Illinois remains committed to ensuring that anyone and everyone who wants to participate in Girl Scouting has the option to do so regardless of their family's financial situation. That's why Girl Scouts is proud to offer financial assistance to our members, so that all girls may participate fully in Girl Scout program activities and camp.

In 2024, 880 Girl Scouts required financial assistance.

Throughout the last few years, financial aid requests were at an all-time high for Girl Scout memberships and programming/camp participation.

Girls Lead the Way

Girl Scouts look at our world and take action to change it for the better. They make friends, challenge themselves with new experiences, write their own stories, and develop the skills and confidence to say, “I know I can do this!”

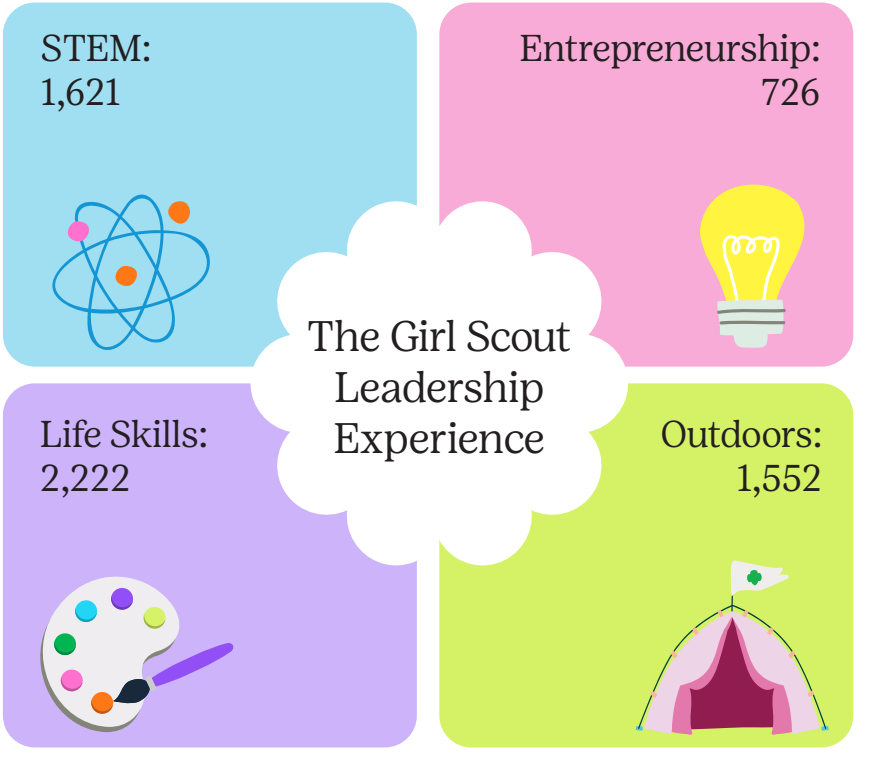
So how do we do it? It’s all part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, and it’s what makes Girl Scouting a unique experience for girls.

Highlights from programs in membership year 2024 include:

Ready. Set. Robot.
Input, processing, storage, and output. Those are the 4 steps any computer must take to complete an information processing cycle. More than 50 girls learned about how computers work, what computer code does, and coded their own robots in Monticello. Robotics is a valuable skillset that girls often aren’t exposed to in school.

Big Tap Campout
Girl Scouts experienced camp in one jam-packed weekend of fun, many for the very first time! Sleeping in cabins and tents at Camp Tapawingo, campers enjoyed classic camp activities like tie dye, archery, horseback riding, rock wall climbing, zip lining, and boating!





Girl Scouts who attended programming related to each pillar



Mother's Day Celebration
Through the Girl Scouting Beyond Bars program, girls whose female caregivers are incarcerated participate in a variety of Girl Scout activities, strengthening healthy family bonds and creating meaningful connections for both girls and their mothers. In May, Girl Scouts of Central Illinois organized a Mother's Day Celebration so mothers and grandmothers at Decatur Correctional Center could enjoy a fun afternoon filled with lunch, crafts, family photos and time spent with their children and grandchildren.



U.S. National Parks Trip
Central Illinois Girl Scouts experienced the beauty of the American West on a U.S. National Parks trip! They sled down the sand dunes at Coral Pink Sand Dunes State Park, hiked at Bryce Canyon, explored Zion National Park, floated down the Colorado River, and stood on top of the nation's most recognizable and stunning landscapes—the Grand Canyon. Not to mention, these Cadette, Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts practiced independence, life skills, and learned a lot about geology and other environmental topics. One Girl Scout completely funded her trip with earnings from the Girl Scout Cookie Program!

I will go on adventures with Girl Scouts as long as I can because it makes me happy. I don't get to do a lot of things at home, but I get to do cool things all the time here. It is special to me.

Girl Scout Senior

Building Campfires and Confidence

During the summer of 2024, 80 camp sessions were offered over the course of eight weeks. Girl Scouts were excited to spend time at camp with one another swimming, riding horses, canoeing, sleeping in tents, and more.

Along with experiencing classic camp activities, girls are building outdoor skills and the confidence to challenge themselves to do more. And, it's time away from screens, belly laughing with bunkmates, sing-alongs around the campfire, and playing outside in the fresh air. Camp is a place to make lifelong memories and just be a kid in the outdoors!

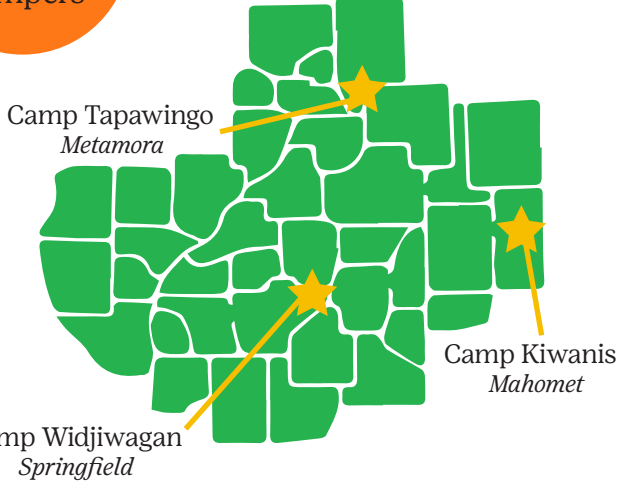


477 overnight campers

435 day campers

1,052 camp experiences

140 equestrian campers



Impact Story:

Conquering Fears at Camp Fury





Camp Fury is week-long camp that allows girls to join the ranks of firefighters and law enforcement personnel to learn how they ensure public safety for our communities. It is held in partnership with the Illinois Fire Service Institute, local fire departments in Champaign and surrounding communities, and the University of Illinois Police Department.

Sarah was the oldest but most timid camper during Camp Fury this past summer. She encountered a multitude of challenges and fears throughout her week at camp. But with every obstacle, Sarah was persistent and remained open-minded to try the activity.

Rappelling at the University of Illinois Fire Service Institute was particularly difficult for her since she was scared of heights. Joe, one of the rappelling instructors, noticed that Sarah was having a difficult time and immediately took her under his wing. After much encouragement from her peers and watching other campers rappel off the two-story building, she conquered it too!

Later in the week, the campers visited the coroner's office. Sarah immediately lit up - she had great questions for the coroner and deputy coroner, and even asked about job shadowing opportunities. She had found something that sparked her passion!

At the end of the week, the campers made thank you cards for the volunteers who had shared their time and knowledge. Sarah made sure to make a card especially for Joe and thank him for how much he had helped her that week.

Sarah encountered new challenges during Camp Fury, and through those challenges found mentors who supported her. There is no doubt this one short week at camp had a positive impact on her future career path and gave her the confidence to know that she can overcome difficult situations.

Sweet Success

The 2024 Fall Product Program encouraged Girl Scouts to “embrace possibility” and earn start up funds for the troop year by selling nuts, candy, magazine subscriptions and more. The program generated $553,844 in revenue to support Girl Scouts of Central Illinois programs.

Through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world, our Girl Scouts collectively sold more than one million packages of cookies and generated more than $6.3 million in revenue. One-hundred percent of proceeds remain local and are critical to fund our troops’ activities throughout the year.



4,221
Girl Scouts participated in Cookie Program

516
troops participated in Cookie Program

248
Per-Girl-Average (PGA) packages sold

1,057
packages donated to Operation Cookie Share



How Do Girl Scouts Use Their Cookie Earnings?



Troop 7300 worked hard during cookie season, setting their own goals, holding cookie booths at their schools, and practicing their customer service and financial skills - all while having fun! The Girl Scouts exceeded their goal and chose to use their cookie earnings to go horseback riding for the very first time! Any nerves quickly turned into confidence as they commanded their horses and went on a trail ride!

Troop 2053 wanted to use a large portion of their cookie earnings to give back to their community. The Girl Scouts decided to adopt three “angels” from their local Angel Tree, a program that helps provide Christmas gifts to children in need. Using cookie earnings and their angels’ wish lists, they purchased toys, clothing and shoes to gift for the holiday season.





Troop 1883 wanted to show their appreciation for their local first responders. The Girl Scouts collected cookie donations and used some of their earnings to donate Girl Scout Cookies to their local fire department. At the conclusion of cookie season, the troop delivered cases of cookies to these community heroes and toured the fire station.

Creating a Brighter Future for All

The Gold, Silver and Bronze Awards are the highest honors Girl Scouts can earn. By leading their communities and working on issues they care about, our highest award recipients are making their world and futures brighter.

This past year, Girl Scouts volunteered more than 2,800 hours in their communities while earning their Highest Awards.

5 Gold Award Girl Scouts

20 Silver Award Girl Scouts

70 Bronze Award Girl Scouts



Bronze Award: Ronald McDonald House Bookshelf
While touring their local Ronald McDonald House, Troop 4754 learned the facility was in need of a bookcase for their playroom, where families with young children staying there could come to read, make crafts and play games. The Girl Scouts designed, built and painted a bookshelf to mimic the iconic Ronald McDonald pop tab collection boxes, and collected books and stuffed animal reading buddies to add to the new bookshelf. The troop plans to collect books each year to keep the bookcase well stocked.



Silver Award: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle in Style
Zoe is passionate about helping the environment and making an impact locally. For her Silver Award, she strove to reduce the use of plastic bags by collecting over 200 t-shirts that would otherwise be thrown away and making them into reusable bags. Zoe learned how to sew, then washed the shirts, cut the sleeves off and sewed the bottoms to make bags. She passed out the reusable bags at the Decatur Central Park Farmer's Market, sharing about the importance of using reusable bags over plastic ones. She also donated some of the bags to be used for an Easter Egg hunt for foster families.

National Gold Award Scholarship

The Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouts, and those who earn it set themselves apart from their peers through their perseverance and grit. GSUSA's 111 councils have the opportunity to nominate one of their outstanding Gold Award Girl Scouts to receive a national scholarship. Girl Scouts of Central Illinois' Maia Dothager, a 2023 graduate of Staunton Community High School, was the recipient of this $5,000 national scholarship.

Maia wanted to help preserve and share her town's history. She knew the Staunton City Cemetery did not have an up-to-date map or record of who is buried there, preventing community members from locating their ancestors. For her Gold Award Project, Maia worked with the city cemetery board and community members to GPS map her town's cemetery using the Find-A-Grave app. The Find A Grave app contains information on billions of graves and allows users to access information on ancestors' gravesites and historical information from anywhere. Maia trained dozens of volunteers to help the project run smoothly and accurately. Through her project, Maia was able to increase the number of memorials documented in the Find-A-Grave by 379 and increase the number of memorials that were GPS mapped by 1,191 - with community members continuing to add to these counts.

Maia (left) shows volunteers how to use the Find-A-Grave app to map graves at Staunton City Cemetery during volunteer day.



"Through this project, I have learned so much about perseverance, the joy of working alongside others, and advocating for things to be better.

This project has taught me about the importance of community and being part of something bigger - being a small part in a greater whole and how people working towards making changes actually make a difference."

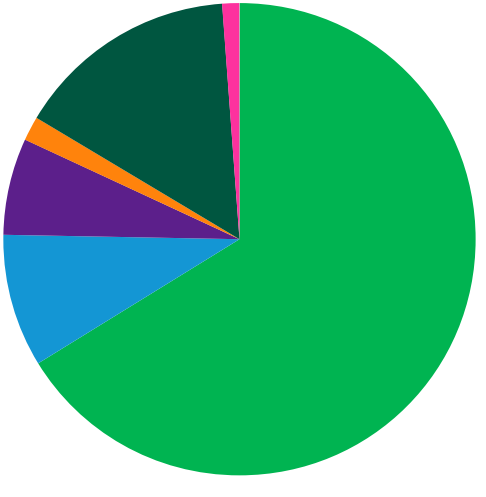
- Maia Dothager, Gold Award Girl Scout



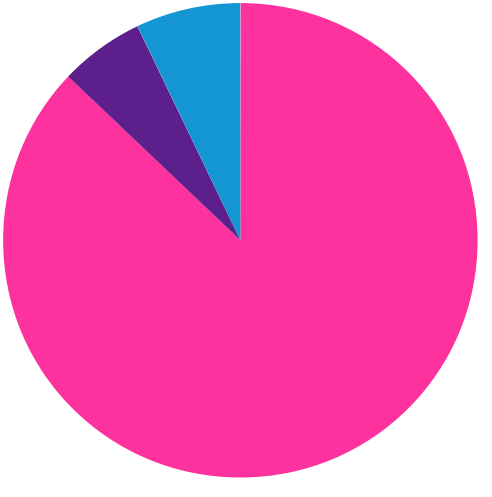


2024 Financials

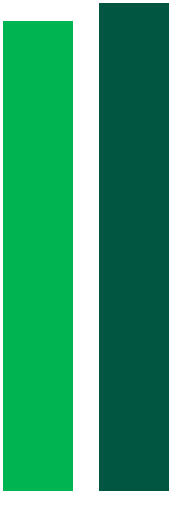
How We're Funded



What Our Funding Provides



Net Assets



How We're Funded	$6,820,246
Product Sales Income	$4,515,721
Public Support	$619,647
Programming Fees	$451,351
Retail Merchandise	$113,132
Investment Income	$1,040,326
Miscellaneous Income	$80,069

What Our Funding Provides	$5,954,318
Programming Services	$5,186,701
Administration	$343,060
Fundraising	$424,557

Net Assets

Year Beginning	$19,778,727
Year End	$20,644,655
Change in Assets	$865,928



Our Supporters

Girl Scouts of Central Illinois relies on the generous support of corporations, foundations and its many friends and partners to maintain the high level of programs and services it offers to girls and adults. We are grateful for the support that makes our work and mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character possible. With sincerest appreciation and gratitude, we recognize those who invested in Girl Scouts of Central Illinois from October 1, 2023 to September 31, 2024.

$10,000+

Anonymous
Caterpillar Foundation
Community Foundation of East Central Illinois
W. Dan Hardy
Illinois Prairie Community Foundation
John Ullrich Foundation
Marion Gardner Jackson Charitable Trust
State Farm Companies Foundation
Tracy Family Foundation

$2,500 - $9,999

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Andreas Foundation
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$500 -$2,499

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Carol Ann Kessler
Sheila Kistner
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Kohl's Cares
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Norha Plumey
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Hope and Josh Whitman
Jessica Wisher
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Promise Partnership

We are incredibly grateful to our promise partners who ensure the development of the next generation of female leaders through a three-year recurring giving program.

Bronze
INB

Risk Taker
AA Harvey Foundation
Nora Baldner
Sandy Bellatti
Ms. Beverly Herzog

Juliette Gordon Low Society

The Juliette Gordon Low Society recognizes those thoughtful individuals who have named Girl Scouts of Central Illinois as a beneficiary in their will, trust or other account.

Erik and Eva Andersen
Anonymous
Dianne Belk and Lawrence Calder
Sandy Bellatti
Beverly Herzog
Carla Jenkins Houser
Cam Lahart
Debra Wozniak



United Way Partners

We gratefully acknowledge the generous support of our United Way and United Givers partner agencies.

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Eureka Area United Fund
Heart of Illinois United Way
McDonough County United Way
Menard County United Fund
Prairieland United Way
Schuyler County United Way
Streator Area United Way
United Community Fund of Paxton & Vicinity
United Way for Fulton County
United Way of Adams County
United Way of Brown County
United Way of Champaign County
United Way of Danville Area
United Way of Decatur & Mid-Illinois
United Way of Greater Cleveland
United Way of Greater Kansas City
United Way of Greater St. Louis
United Way of Livingston County
United Way of Logan County
United Way of McLean County



The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God* and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

**Members may substitute for the word God in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.*

The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong,
and responsible for what I say and do,
and to respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place,
and be a sister to every Girl Scout.

girl scouts
of central illinois

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customercare@girlscouts-gsci.org
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