



8383 BLUE PARKWAY DR.
KANSAS CITY, MO 64133

GSKSMO.ORG

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Building girls of
courage, confidence,
and character, who
make the world
a better place.



Inspire
a Girl

Save the Date
FOR OUR BRAND NEW EVENTS!

2016 celebrates the 100th anniversary of the highest awards in Girl Scouting! If you earned the Golden Eaglet, First Class, Curved Bar or Gold Award, it's been 100 years since Juliette Gordon Low pinned the first Girl Scouts with this Highest Award. We're celebrating by debuting new events, and we hope you will join us!

Inspire a Girl Week of Service

Sun., March 6 – Sat., March 12, 2016
Throughout our council

Celebrate Girl Scout Week and the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts earning their highest awards as we come together to make a difference in communities across our council. Girl Scouts and troops will be participating in projects throughout the week culminating in multiple projects on Saturday, March 12. We would love to have you join us on March 12 as we serve together!

Inspire a Girl Honors Ceremony

Sat., April 2, 2016
Overland Park Convention Center

Learn the history of the Highest Awards, meet some of our Bronze, Silver and Gold Award Girl Scouts and celebrate our 2016 Gold Award recipients as they are officially pinned.

Learn more and register for
these events at
gsksmo.org/inspire

You help girls change the world

Girls who engage in Take Action projects (especially through the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards) report that these projects helped prepare them to play an active role in their communities in the future.

Because of you, Girl Scouts across our 47 counties feel supported to make a difference in their communities and beyond. On average a Girl Scout gives about 25 hours of service to her community each year. So multiply that by 23,000 Girl Scouts and that's 575,000 hours of difference-making a year!

Girls are motivated, innovative and compassionate. They seek solutions to problems. Girls are changing the world! I am so honored to see our Girl Scouts grow in their service to others. From our youngest Daisy Girl Scouts

making pet treats for their local animal shelter to our Gold Award Girl Scout like Abby who is ensuring our neighbors do not go hungry, our Girl Scouts are most definitely making the world a better place!

We want more girls to take action in their communities! Daisy's Circle, our monthly giving program is one way to make that happen. I offer my thanks to those who have already joined this initiative. If you want to learn more and join the more than 300 Daisy's Circle members, please visit our website below. Your generous gift makes all of this leadership skill-building possible!

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Joy Wheeler, Chief Executive Officer



SPRING 2016
Connections
DONORS • ALUMNAE • FRIENDS

From Trash To Treasure

You inspire action that is leading one Girl Scout to change the face of hunger in Kansas City

For most of us, having enough food every day isn't a concern. Often we find that eating is an activity to enjoy with friends and family rather than a stress point. Sadly, this is not the case for thousands across our region who face hunger daily. Girl Scout Ambassador Abby Mitchell from Troop 493 in Overland Park, Kansas has discovered a passion for fighting to end hunger. This 2016 Gold Award recipient has turned what was once trash into treasure for those who face daily hunger issues in Kansas City.

"If we could all, as a country, as a world, learn to give to others in need and to not be so wasteful, eventually, I don't think we would have an issue with food insecurity anymore."

Abby began her Girl Scout adventure as a Daisy and quickly fell in love with programs like camping and field trips. Through badges and programs like the "Sow What?" Journey, Abby found a passion for the complex subject of food. That passion turned into action when she was sitting in the lunchroom one day at her high school and noticed good food going to waste. That's where her Gold Award project was born.

After looking into the lunch program at her school, Blue Valley West,

she realized that the waste was coming from a health initiative that offered discounted lunches if students added a fruit or vegetable. Sadly, many of these healthy sides become trash – purchased only to get the discount on the meal.

That's when Abby dove into action. The Fruit Basket Initiative, her Gold Award project, has the simple mission of saving quality food destined to become trash and instead putting it in the hands of people who are hungry. Working with Blue Valley West and Harvesters, she implemented a donation system for unwanted fruits and vegetables. Once donated, the food is repackaged and Harvesters collects it and distributes it to those in need.

For Abby, it's all about finding ways to give in unexpected places. "If we could all, as a world, learn to give to others in need and not be so wasteful, eventually, I don't think we would have an issue with food insecurity anymore," Abby said. This inspiring Girl Scout is making a real difference for others, and in her own life as she continues to live a life of service and taking action.

Passions become actions because of donors like you who support programming that inspires. Thank you for being part of this change that is ensuring our fellow citizens can access food.



TOP: Abby Mitchell as a Daisy Girl Scout developing a love for service early on. ABOVE: Girl Scout Ambassador Abby Mitchell shows off fruits collected from her Gold Award project at Blue Valley West – The Fruit Basket Initiative.



CEO Joy Wheeler celebrates with the Girl Scouts of El Centro Troop 1033 at their Bridging ceremony.



Daisy's Circle
Bring her promise to life

You can bring her promise to life at DaisysCircle.org

When you make a gift to Girl Scouts, you empower girls. gsksmo.org/donate

A Career of Service

Former GSKSMO employee and Girl Scout advocate leaves a legacy to empowering women of the future

Kim Flynn is a Girl Scout alumna, educator and nonprofit leader who has dedicated her life to service. As a former employee at Girl Scouts of NE Kansas and NW Missouri, Kim knows the power of the organization firsthand. "As a staff member, girl and someone working with volunteers, Girl Scouts empowers people to be their best," Kim said. Beyond Girl Scouts, she has worked with adult education programs and as a professor at Rockhurst University in Nonprofit Leadership Studies.

relationships as an adult. "When you meet girls out at camp you don't think about differences. You don't think 'you came from this background and I came from this background.' At camp you're just people," Kim said.

As an alumna, daughter and mother of a Girl Scout, Kim has watched the organization change with each generation to fit the needs of girls. "The values of the organization are timeless, but it's able to change for each generation. What was appropriate for my mother's generation wasn't appropriate for mine. The fact that the organization can evolve as girls do is a powerful thing," Kim said.

While teaching a Volunteer Management course at Rockhurst, Kim worked on a program called "Badges Rock," designed for Girl Scouts. The program gave her students real world experience managing volunteers and gave Girl Scouts in the Outreach Program an opportunity to earn badges. She fondly remembers the smiles on the faces of girls who came to the event, many of whom had never been on a college campus before.

Recently, Kim decided to join the Trefoil Society to leave a legacy that honors her family. It was important to her to give to an organization that had great utilization of resources and a personal connection. "Something I learned as a staff member was that gifts given to Girl Scouts are utilized so well. I have confidence in the organization and know that gifts directly impact the lives of girls. I wanted to leave that kind of legacy for my family in a place that was impactful for me," Kim said. By leaving this legacy Kim is continuing her dedication of service long into the future.



TOP: Girl Scout advocate and Trefoil Society member, Kim Flynn. ABOVE: Kim Flynn's students from her Volunteer Management class and Girl Scouts at the Rockhurst University "Badges Rock" event, 2008. LEFT: Kim Flynn and daughter, fellow Girl Scout Alumna, Allie Flynn.

Kim Flynn invites you to join her in ensuring a bright future for the leaders of tomorrow by including Girl Scouts in your estate plans. Call Mary Pat Beals, VP of Development at 816.759.3045 or email marypatbeals@gkskmo.org

You can make a powerful impact in the lives of girls!
Use the coupon on the right and the envelope enclosed to make your gift today, or make a donation online at gkskmo.org/donate.



"The values of the organization are timeless, but it's able to change for each generation. What was appropriate for my mother's generation wasn't appropriate for mine. The fact that the organization can evolve as girls do is a powerful thing."

Growing up in Wichita, Kansas, Kim loved being a Girl Scout. She remembers getting to meet new girls at camp and how those experiences helped her develop

Kansas City, Kan. Troop Inspires Young Children Through Reading

Junior Girl Scouts are learning through service with a Bronze Award project that brings books to youths in their community.

There's something magical about giving children new adventures through reading. Girl Scout Troop 2300 at John Fiske Elementary (one of our troops in the Outreach Program) is giving those experiences to urban youth through their Bronze Award project, a book drive benefitting the Family Conservancy. Five mighty Girl Scout Juniors are working hard on gathering donations by creating flyers, networking and community resources. Supported by Program Leader Nikki Schaper and her team, these girls are learning through service.

Troop 2300's Bronze Award project has collected almost 60 books already and the girls couldn't be more proud. The project has given these Juniors valuable leadership and problem-solving skills that are vital to future success. "The girls understand that the Bronze Award is something special.



They're learning the value of service projects and they're the most excited I've seen them this whole year," Nikki said.

As part of the Outreach Program, girls are provided leaders, experiences and supplies because of donors like you. For John Fiske Elementary, Girl Scouts is providing important experiences these girls might not otherwise have. The girl-led initiatives are particularly important because they encourage independence and confidence in a girl's ability to adapt, no matter what challenges she may face. "[Girl Scouts] gives the girls an autonomy that enables them to come up with their own solutions, instead of just giving instructions. This allows the girls to learn to trust their ideas and problem solve when an idea may not turn out as planned," John Fiske Elementary Principal Josie Herrera said.

To learn more about the project and how to donate to their book drive, ending March 1, 2016, contact Nikki Schaper at nschaper@gkskmo.org.



ABOVE: Junior Girl Scouts Yoselyn G., Ashley V., Jocelyn S., and Katelin N. proudly showing their collected donations for their Bronze Award project.

LEFT: Yoselyn G. and Jocelyn S. work on donation request flyers and letters to gather more books for their book drive.



Yes! I want to build girls of courage, confidence, and character!

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, ZIP: _____

Email: _____

Phone: (_____) _____

I am interested in volunteering with Girl Scouts.

I have included Girl Scouts in my will or estate plan.

Thank you!

Select a gift amount:

\$250 \$100 \$50 \$35

Surprise us: \$ _____

I want to support girls by joining Daisy's Circle and making this a recurring monthly gift.

Payment Method: Check enclosed

Credit Card

Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____

Signature: _____

GIRL SCOUTS OF NE KANSAS & NW MISSOURI
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