



2025 Proposed Slate Biographies

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Officers

President

Dr. Deirdre Dixon believes that leaders can always continue to develop. After over 20 years as an Army officer with combat experience, she applied her knowledge and practical leadership to teaching and designing leadership programs. Dr. Dixon is an Associate Professor of Management and Associate Director of the Center for Leadership at the University of Tampa. Deirdre earned her engineering degree from West Point, her MBA from Duke University, and her management PhD from Case Western Reserve University. Her area of research interest is *in extremis* leadership, when the leader's life is in danger, looking at resilience and military, police, and firefighters. She is a graduate of Leadership Tampa, Class of 2005, and she is excited to begin serving as the President of the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida. Deirdre earned her Gold Award as a Girl Scout, and she has two daughters who were Girl Scouts, one of whom also earned her Gold Award.



President-Elect

Michelene Everett, CMP DES is a senior meeting manager for American Express Global Business Travel. She is the Founder and Creative Director of Hyde Park Event Design, an event management company based in Tampa Bay. Her events are designed to ensure that attendees will bring their experiences home with them through interaction and immersion.

As a Corporate Event Professional, Michelene has extensive meeting planning experience from large trade shows and conferences to executive committee meetings. Her industry experience spans pharmaceutical, medical device, software technology, and non-profit sectors. She is a graduate of the International School of Hospitality & Tourism Management at Fairleigh Dickinson University. As an event expert, she currently serves on the Board of Meeting Professionals International (MPI), which is the largest meeting and event industry association worldwide. As the director of strategic alliance, she works with suppliers and event planners throughout Tampa Bay to help them achieve their



business goals by sharing strengths and resources. She also serves as the newest board member for Tampa Bay Business for Culture and the Arts (TBBCA).

Michelene has served and will continue to serve her community through action. In addition to serving on the Board of Directors for Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, she has led the Fund Development Committee to a highly successful Women of Distinction event in 2023. She has served as President of The Historic Kenwood Neighborhood Association and is currently an active committee member for the St. Pete Arts Alliance Shine Mural Festival, HK Partnership, and Academy Prep (EOD) committees.

Michelene is a native New Yorker but is proud to call St. Petersburg her home where she resides with her husband, Dr. Farhan Malik.

Vice President of Governance

Marion Rich has been a resident of Pinellas County, Florida for 37 years. She grew up in Massillon, Ohio and graduated from the University of Cincinnati with undergraduate and graduate degrees in Communication Arts and Film Studies.

She began her community volunteer work in 1990 with the Junior League of Clearwater Dunedin. Her training through the Junior League led her into the next 30 years of volunteer leadership in the Tampa Bay region. Marion has served/is serving in leadership positions on several nonprofit boards including: First Contact (20 years/past board chairman), Morton Plant Mease Health Care Foundation (immediate past Board chair), Morton Plant Mease Health Care, Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, Pinellas Community Foundation, the Junior League of Clearwater Dunedin (past president), Film Foundation of Tampa Bay (founder and past chair), Big Brothers Big Sisters of Tampa Bay, and Ruth Eckerd Performing Arts Center. She is the current president of the Guild at the Dali Museum.



Outside of the Tampa Bay region, Marion currently serves on the Board of Trustees for Lincoln Center Film in New York City,

Marion was the leader of her daughter's Girl Scout troop for 12 years. The troop spent five years producing a documentary about famous women who were Girl Scouts across the country. Marion continued her involvement with GSWCF by serving on the Board Development Committee, chairing the council's 100th Anniversary Celebration, chairing Women of Distinction for three years, and serving as Second Vice President on the Board of Directors and Chair of the Fund Development Committee. In 2002, the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida recognized Marion as a Woman of Distinction; the same year she received the Greater Clearwater Chamber of Commerce Ms. Clearwater Award. In 2017, she was inducted into the GSWCF Women of Distinction Hall of Fame, and in 2018, she was the Women of Distinction Presenting Sponsor.

Treasurer

Dr. Sue Ryan Goodman, DBA, CFA, CPA, is a lifetime Girl Scout and seasoned financial professional with over 30 years of finance, investment, and accounting experience. After retiring from her New York City investment job in 2013, Dr. Goodman began working with nonprofits and was an interim executive director of one for nearly a year in 2016/17. This led her to write her dissertation on nonprofit governance and she currently advises nonprofits on governance matters; however, finance and accounting are her passions.



Dr. Goodman earned her DBA from the Muma College of Business at the University of South Florida. Additionally, she has an MBA from Rutgers University and a BS in Accounting from Marquette University and is a Chartered Financial Analyst and a Certified Public Accountant. She is a Lifetime Girl Scouts and currently serves on the board of directors of the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, where she also sits on the Finance Committee. Dr. Goodman is also on the board of the CFA Society of Tampa Bay. She and her husband moved to St Petersburg from New Jersey seven years ago and has two adult children who live in the Philadelphia, PA area and Billings, MT, respectively.

Why Girl Scouts? Growing up, my dad was self-employed, so there was little disposable income for travel or adventure. Girl Scouts was my ticket to spend time outdoors and experience other opportunities I otherwise would have missed. I want to open girls' eyes up to the world around them and I believe Girl Scouts is one of the best ways to accomplish that! I became a leader out of college and was excited to sign up my daughter once she was old enough. In 2008, we were both National Delegates and she went on to earn her Gold Award in 2009.

Secretary

Stephen Ponzillo is a Vice President & Community Relations Officer with Regions Financial Corporation. Anchored by Regions' mission to make life better, Stephen is privileged to build partnerships with nonprofit organizations across West, Central and North Florida – which allow the bank and its associates to focus their time, talents and financial resources toward causes that empower people through education, financial wellness and inclusive economic growth.



Prior to joining Regions, Stephen served for 17 years as a leader within high-performing nonprofit organizations in Tampa Bay, as well as in Northern Indiana and Washington, D.C. This included two years of post-graduate service as an AmeriCorps member in both south St. Petersburg and the nation's capital. He holds a Bachelor of

Arts, as well as a Master of Nonprofit Administration (MNA) from the University of Notre Dame.

A passionate advocate committed to helping children and families overcome obstacles to success, Stephen is honored to champion the next generation of change-makers as a member of our Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Board and he recently chaired the Membership Sustainability Committee. He lives in Hillsborough County with his amazing daughter Caroline, a proud member of Daisy Troop 1843.

Member at Large, 2025-2027

Courtney Paat is an insurance professional with 33 years industry experience. An entrepreneur and sales professional who is passionate about team building and leadership development. Courtney is a community organizer, leader and volunteer with numerous local organizations with a focus on empowering women leaders.



“Capitalizing on my two core strengths of integrity and responsibility, I have built a career and business based on work ethic, building relationships and serving others. One of my greatest joys is empowering others to improve their lives through education, skill sets, competencies and confidence.”

As a mother of a local Girl Scout and troop leader, I personally have seen the impact Girl Scouts has on our youth, especially girls. As my time as a troop leader and involvement with our local Service Unit has ended, I would like to continue my engagement at the Board level. I have lived and operated a small business in East Hillsborough County for the past 25 years and feel there is incredible opportunity to expand the Girl Scout footprint not only in this area, but also Polk County. Spreading the great news about Girl Scouts to not only local families, but also community leaders and potential donors is critical to our future success. I saw firsthand the impact Girl Scouts had on my own child and want to ensure all girls have the opportunity to have their own Girl Scout experience.

LaKendria Robinson *Why Girl Scouts?* "I love serving and supporting the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida because I've seen firsthand its impact as a leader and a Girl Scout mom. Over the past two years, I've watched my daughter grow in confidence, leadership, and independence through the experiences and opportunities that Girl Scouts provides. It's an honor to use my platform to elevate GSWCF's



mission, ensuring that more girls, like my daughter, have the support and resources they need to strengthen their future through this incredible organization.”

India Witte

India Witte believes in the transformational impact of education, philanthropy, and volunteerism, and has dedicated her personal and professional life to affecting change in our communities through these channels. A graduate of the Florida State University with a degree in English Literature, India is a seasoned advancement professional with over twenty-five years’ experience in fundraising, management, and program development, primarily in a university setting. India currently serves on the Executive Leadership Team for the USF Foundation and leads the organizations’ Principal Gifts enterprise.



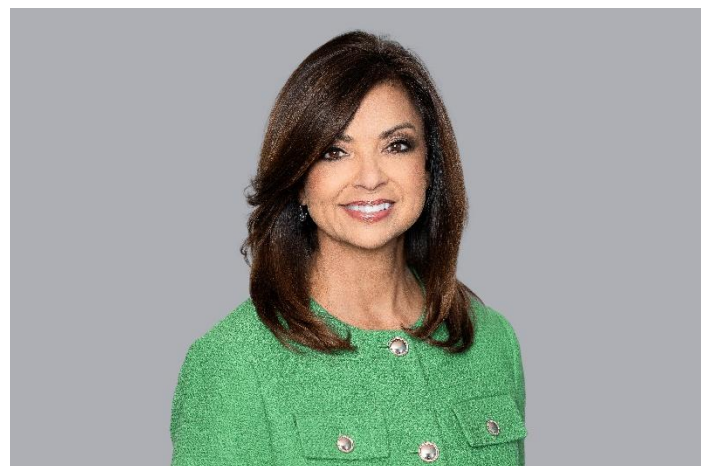
A proud 5th generation Floridian, India grew up in Washington County and has lived in Tampa for the past 24 years. In addition to her professional achievements, she is an engaged civic leader, serving on boards of a number of organizations that require substantive commitment from members, including the Glazer Children’s Museum, St. John’s Episcopal Parish Day School, the Hillsborough County Commission on the Status of Women (past Chair), the Hillsborough County Charter Review Board, the Florida Commission on the Status of Women Foundation, and the Vestry of St. John’s Episcopal Parish Church.

A 2012 graduate of Leadership Tampa, India is a member of the Athena Society, USF Women in Leadership & Philanthropy (Lifetime), the Junior League of Tampa (Sustainer), and the Alpha Delta Pi Alumnae Association. In 2022, India was named a “Woman of Distinction” by the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, recognizing her outstanding leadership & service to the community.

Nancy Millan made history as Hillsborough County's first female and Hispanic Tax Collector when elected in 2020, and voters affirmed her leadership by re-electing her in 2024 for her second term.

Throughout her distinguished 35-year career, she has been instrumental in enhancing customer service, accessibility, and innovation. As Tax Collector, she oversees a team of over 400 employees across nine locations,

serving 1.5 million residents with essential services like the issuance of driver licenses, vehicle registrations and property tax collection.



Millan’s leadership extends beyond her office; she was recently elected Secretary of the Florida Tax Collector Association’s Executive Committee. Her community involvement

is notable, having been recognized as Hillsborough County's Hispanic Women of the Year in 2001 and receiving multiple awards for her public service and leadership. A dedicated mother and proud Marine mom to her son Vinny, Nancy remains deeply connected to her Hillsborough County roots and is passionately committed to serving the community.

Why Girl Scouts?

As a former board member for Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, I, Nancy Millan, am eager to return to this meaningful role. My previous service allowed me to connect with young women and inspire confidence as they reached for their dreams, an experience I found deeply fulfilling. As a Hispanic woman, I believe representation matters profoundly—seeing young girls recognize possibilities in themselves when they see someone who looks like them in a leadership position drives my passion to serve. I want to continue empowering the next generation of diverse leaders by sharing my perspective and experiences, helping all girls understand that their heritage is a strength and that opportunities are boundless regardless of their background. The Girl Scouts' mission of building courage, confidence, and character aligns perfectly with my personal commitment to mentoring young women as they discover their unique potential.

Dr. Deborah Kish Stephan Dr. Deborah Kish Stephan is the Brandon Campus President of Hillsborough Community College. Deborah, a seasoned higher education administrator and strategist, is a strong supporter of teaching and learning excellence, innovation, calculated growth, and fiscal sustainability. Her work is grounded in the principles of access and success for all students, investing in people, providing rigorous and relevant programming, and engaging in continuous quality improvement. Deborah earned her undergraduate degree from Florida State University and her Master of Business Administration and Juris Doctor from the University of Florida. In 2016, she earned her Doctor of Education from The Roueche Graduate Center.



Deborah has spent her career in higher education administration by taking on progressive responsibilities, growing campuses, managing multi-million-dollar budgets, and engaging in complex projects. Deborah's creativity and unique ability to innovate have been paramount in designing systems, processes, and facilities to advance a learning-centered institution, a culture of excellence, advocating for modernization of operations and programs, and meeting the community's needs. Previously, she served as a Vice President and Chief Academic Officer at two colleges developing multiple new programs and as Vice President and Chief Operating Officer tasked with launching "America's Online Community College" at another. At Hillsborough, Deborah has co-launched the Tampa Electric Line Workers Program, a Massage Therapy Program, and is in the process of launching a new FinTech program.

Deborah's passion for Girl Scouts is rooted in the power of Girl Scouts to shape the future of our communities and empower our girls to create impact in their

communities. Her experience as a Girl Scout instilled the values of leadership, resilience, and teamwork, all of which propel her today. Deborah also served as a Girl Scout leader for her daughter's troop where she created experiences for the Girl Scouts to learn those same values. Working with the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida, Deborah would be honored to cultivate similar meaningful experiences rooted in growth, opportunity, and empowerment for girls in our community.

Finally, Deborah serves as a Board Member and Executive Committee member of the Tampa Bay Chamber of Commerce and a Board Member for The Greater Brandon Chamber of Commerce the Brandon Community Advantage Center. She is also the Chair of HCA Florida Brandon Hospital's Board. Previously, she served as a Board member on the Angel Foundation and the HCC Foundation. She is noted as an innovator and an empathetic leader who inspires her team with a tremendous passion for the success for all students.

Sharon Docherty Danco has been a trusted legal advisor to business executives and boards of directors for 35 years. She has extensive experience structuring, negotiating, and closing sophisticated commercial, technology, and M&A transactions. Sharon spent 27 years in private practice with a highly respected boutique, commercial law firm, where she served as Co-Practice Leader for the firm's Corporate Finance Group. In 2018, Sharon launched her own private practice with the goal of helping a select group of businesses, entrepreneurs, and executives in a traditional practice and as retained general counsel.



She has served on the Board of Children's Home Network for 15 years and served as Chair of that Board for two years. She has served on The Children's Home Foundation, Inc. Board since 2011, where she served as Board Chair for three years. She spearheaded the organizations' 2022 strategic planning, 2021 senior management succession planning, and 2016 corporate governance restructuring, and helped to drive the doubling of the organizations' endowment. She also served a seven-year term on the Board of Directors of the Association for Corporate Growth, Tampa Bay. She previously served on the Board of Directors of Morning Star School and the Executive Board of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Tampa Bay.

Sharon served on the Board of Directors of First Citrus Bank and First Citrus Bancorporation (OTCMKTS: FCIT) for five years. She chaired the Finance & Capital Planning Committee, which steered the Bank's successful 2022 sale and was responsible for the bank's subordinated debt offerings, acquisition evaluations, and revision of the Bank's capital and strategic plans. She also served on the Bank's Enterprise Risk Management and Corporate Governance & Nominating Committees.

Sharon sought an opportunity to volunteer with the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida to continue her mission of serving children in our community. A former Brownie and

Girl Scout, she missed scouting when her family moved to a rural area that did not provide scouting opportunities. Her early Girl Scout experience helped build her confidence and character. While she remains committed to supporting young women by mentoring and advocacy through organizations such as Women Corporate Directors, Women Executive Leadership, Women on Their Way, and 50/50 Women on Boards, Sharon is excited to support an organization that empowers our future women leaders and citizens as they navigate an increasingly difficult landscape for young people.

Ashley Nessler is the Business Strategy and Intelligence Manager for Preferred Banking Controls, Operations, and Supervision team at Bank of America. Ashley is responsible for leading strategy development, client experience, partner integration, process simplification, and risk reduction for ~3.7K financial centers. In her role, Ashley is focused on improving the end-to-end process for complex account services and requests.

Ashley joined Bank of America in 2003 as a professional teller during her second year of college. She continued her trajectory through the Consumer and Small Business Banking, leading Sales associates, managing large scale transformation initiatives, and driving performance goals.

In 2020, Ashley led an organization of 400+ campus hires, with Enterprise Independent Testing efforts for the Paycheck Protection Program. Prior to that, she developed and improved credit enablement programming through new program strategies for Small Business sales teammates and the Small Business Administration (SBA) team. In 2021, Ashley took a role as Customer Segment Manager in the same group. In this role, she led high-impact strategic initiatives in process design, performance, and delivery of business outcomes.

Ashley is passionate about diversity and inclusion and led the creation of LEAD for Women in Greater Tampa Bay. Ashley serves as the Enterprise LEAD for Women Co-Leader, an employee network at Company Name. LEAD for Women is comprised of over 67 chapters and 60K+ members worldwide. Ashley serves on the Investing in Women Council for Bank of America to support women. She is active in the Tampa Bay community, serving as a board member for the Centre for Women and the Girls Scouts of West Central Florida committing 75+ hours each year. Ashley was the Bank of America Diversity & Inclusion Award winner in 2017.

Ashley has a Master's degree in Business Administration from Saint Leo University. In her spare time, she enjoys yoga, photography and traveling. Ashley resides in Tampa, Florida with her husband, Christiaan, and her first daughter, Palmer. I am passionate about empowering young girls to develop confidence, leadership skills, and a strong sense of community. My experience in mentoring, professional development and driving engagement aligns with the mission of Girl Scouts. I look



forward to contributing my skills and supports to support the board. I am eager to help create meaningful opportunities that inspire the next generation of leaders.

Girl Board Members, 2025-2026



Juliette Selman I am a 17-year-old student at H.B. Plant High School in Tampa, Florida, dedicated to community service, leadership, and civic engagement. With nearly 500 volunteer hours, I have worked with organizations like the Humane Society of Tampa Bay, Metropolitan Ministries, and Voices for Children. As a Girl Scout Gold Award recipient, I created a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at the Humane Society, saving nearly 700 orphaned kittens and puppies. Beyond volunteering, I am a leader in Air Force Junior ROTC and Civil Air Patrol at MacDill AFB, honing leadership skills and teamwork. I am also part of the Ryan Nece Foundation Student Service Leadership Program and active in my school's Speak Up Club and Origami Club. As an athlete, I have participated in rowing, flag football, swimming, and charity 5Ks. Inspired by six generations of military leaders in my family, I plan to become a military officer after college in

2030.

Why Girl Scouts? Being a Girl Scout has instilled in me leadership and collaboration skills that have been essential in guiding teams and making strategic decisions. Through community service projects, team-based problem-solving, and mentorship, I have learned how to effectively communicate, delegate tasks, and inspire others toward a common goal. Earning my Gold Award required leading a team to develop a Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) for orphaned animals, reinforcing my ability to organize, adapt, and execute complex initiatives. These experiences have prepared me to lead in Air Force Junior ROTC and Civil Air Patrol, where I have applied the same teamwork and leadership principles to high-pressure situations. The discipline, responsibility, and collaboration I have cultivated through Girl Scouts will be instrumental in ensuring my success as a future Air Force Military Officer.



Chloe Waite My name is Chloe Waite, and I have been a Girl Scout for 11 years. As a Girl Scout for this long, I have had the opportunity to serve in multiple leadership positions, such as being CIT at camp Wai Lani and an Area E Delegate. I am currently a junior at Plant High School in Tampa, Florida. I enjoy learning languages, I have studied French and ASL and am currently in Spanish and Latin. I also enjoy reading and acting.

The only thing that comes to mind when I think about the question “Why Girl Scouts” is that there’s no other way for me to be. Who I am, what I have accomplished, and all of the amazing opportunities I have been afforded have been because of Girl Scouts. I have been able to see how the world is changed in the smallest and biggest of ways, whether it be from a speaker in the government or outreached hand on the playground. I have been able to fly through the air at challenge course and see a shark swimming silently underneath me at waterfront, and I have been able to form genuine connections with the people I know will be the leaders of tomorrow. I have been able to witness the way the world truly is and the way it can be, all because of Girl Scouts.

BOARD DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Member at Large, 2025-2028

Lynn S. Jackson Dorman, M.Ed., M.S., LMHC

Colonel (Retired) US Army (2015)

My Girl Scout why: “I have been devoted to the Girl Scouts movement since childhood, beginning as a Junior Girl Scout in Baltimore, Maryland. If you ask me how I found my way here, I’ll tell you it’s because this movement has been the bedrock of lifelong friendships with extraordinary women. If you ask me why it matters so deeply, I’ll tell you it’s because the lessons I learned in Girl Scouts—the skills I honed, the experiences I cherished—became the foundation of my professional journey.

My why is rooted in confidence. Girl Scouts showed me a world far wider than I had imagined—a world of camps beneath star-lit skies, friendships that felt like home, and experiences that shaped the woman I would become. My why is woven into the unbreakable bond I still feel with the movement, with my first troop, and with the remarkable women who led us with wisdom and warmth. My why is for every girl—past, present, and future—who finds in Girl Scouts a haven, a launching pad, and a place where she is seen, nurtured, and empowered.”



Lynn Dorman graduated of the College of Notre Dame of Maryland and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant through Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Loyola University, Maryland. She received her Master of Education, Administration and Supervision in Higher Education, from Loyola University and her Master of Science in Counseling Psychology from Chaminade University of Honolulu in Hawaii. She is a Baltimore, Maryland native.

Professionally, Lynn served for 27 years in the US Army until her retirement as a Human Resources Officer from the US Army Pacific Command at FT Shafter Hawaii. Professionally, Lynn has served as Executive Officer to the Director for Human Relations Policy for the US Army; Senior Director of Personnel; Senior Director of Diversity; Senior Director of Compliance for the Commonwealth of Virginia National Guard and the Army Cyber Command; and Chief Administrative Officer for US Army Pacific Command.

Lynn is currently the Clinic Director of Family Care Center in Tampa, having recently closed her practice, Transformative Therapies. She is certified as a Gottman Level II marriage counselor, a Certified Clinical Trauma Professional (CCTP) Certification through the Evergreen Certifications and a Certified Forensic Mental Health Evaluator (CFMHE). Her counseling experiences include working with federal and state ex-offenders, veterans with addiction in inpatient hospitals, clients with substance abuse in both inpatient and outpatient settings, and family members with loved ones in hospice.

Lynn has a passion for and extensive experience in leading and serving in both women's service and charitable organizations. She currently serves as the Vice President of Governance of the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida. Additionally, she serves as the Financial Secretary of the Pierians, Inc. having recently served as the President of the Pierians Foundation, Inc., the club's philanthropic arm that awards grants to young artists and community arts projects on behalf of members of the Pierians Inc. a national club for women who celebrate the arts. Her past nonprofit leadership includes President of The ROCKs, All American Chapter, (2003-2004); Treasurer of the Pierians, Inc., (2016-2018); Clerk and member of the Vestry of St Andrews Episcopal Church having led the financial audit team. She is a Silver Star member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority.

Christie Bruner In her role as Vice President of Advocacy for the St. Petersburg Area Chamber of Commerce, Christie Bruner works with members, stakeholders, and elected officials at the local, state and federal levels to communicate Chamber goals and objectives. Christie has spent the last two years developing key policy stances, meeting with local leaders, communicating with stakeholders, and serving as staff lead on a variety of Chamber advocacy committees. Christie leads the Chamber's Workforce & Talent Committee, which recently launched a new public/private partnership called HIRE: The St. Pete Way.



With an eye for collaborative improvement, Christie uses the experience she gained with the City of St. Petersburg's wellness initiative, Healthy St. Pete, to bring impactful solutions to the business community. Under her direction, Healthy St. Pete launched programming to reduce the incidence of chronic disease in the local community. During her tenure, she collaborated with local businesses to offer certification for robust corporate wellness practices. Additionally, Bruner's background as a 10-year business owner in St. Petersburg helps her relate to and communicate with Chamber members and partners.

Christie is passionate about empowering young girls to become confident leaders and changemakers in their communities. She is a former Girl Scout and is the mom to three daughters who have all participated in Girls Scouts. With a strong background in advocacy, public policy, and community engagement, she has dedicated her career to creating opportunities for youth to thrive. Her experience leading wellness initiatives, organizing grassroots advocacy efforts, and fostering strategic partnerships aligns with the Girl Scouts' mission of building courage, confidence, and character. As a longtime advocate for youth development and a dedicated mentor through programs like Girls on the Run of Tampa Bay, Christie is eager to bring her expertise to the Girl Scouts of West Central Florida board to help shape programs that inspire and equip the next generation of female leaders.

NATIONAL COUNCIL DELEGATES

National Council Delegates, 2025-2028

Kelly Sobotzak is a Lifetime Member and 15-year volunteer. I have held many positions over the years, having started as a Cookie Mom for my oldest daughter's Daisy troop. Since then, I have served as the Service Unit Product Manager, a Troop Leader, a Council Facilitator, the Area Chair for Area I, and a Gold Award Advisor on the Council High Awards Committee. I am currently preparing to be Service Unit Manager for Spring Mermaids.



Why Girl Scouts? I love watching girls grow through the program. Serving on the high awards committee has become one of my favorite things as a volunteer as I get to witness first-hand as girls stretch beyond their comfort zones to do more than they thought they could. I also value the strong community of women I have found in Girl Scouts, which has helped me grow personally. I never would have raised my hand for something like this when I first got started.

Most importantly, I believe our girls have a voice that deserves to be heard. If chosen as a national delegate, I want to make sure that I represent our girls and their unique perspectives, at both the Council and National levels.

Marcia Greensfelder I was born in 1956 in Garfield Heights, Ohio. I was active in church and Girl Scouts, continuing through Seniors and earning First Class (the equivalent of the Gold Award). I loved resident camp and became a Counselors' Apprentice (like our CIT program) and then worked as a counselor for several summers. I attended Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where I joined Campus Gold (a GS organization), met my husband and graduated with a degree in education, with a minor in special needs.

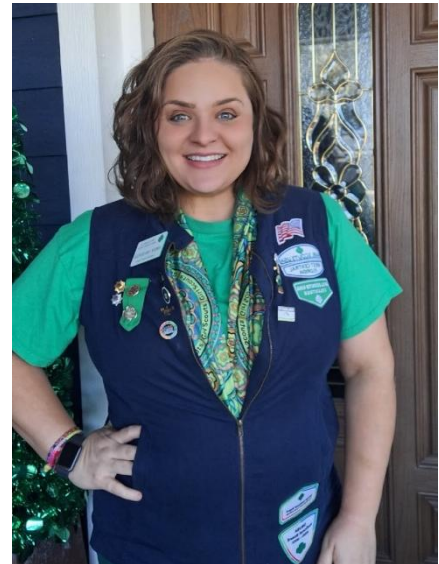


My husband joined the Marine Corps; we traveled and I had GS troops in both North Carolina and Okinawa. We had a son and a daughter; both were in Scouts and both earned the highest awards. (I was active in my daughter's troops, either as an assistant or as the leader).

I retired during COVID after teaching for thirty years. Currently I am Music Director at my church, work part time as a caregiver for a man with dementia, and serve Girl Scouts as the Gold Award committee chair, plan encampments for Toppercrest Service Unit, facilitate adult trainings, teach girls water sports, and facilitate the Homestead program at Camp Wildwood.

In answer to the question “Why Girl Scouts?” my answer is, it’s fun! It’s important for girls to have a safe space where they can develop their own voices and grow to be independent. They learn leadership skills, learn to survive outdoors, learn to work together with others, and learn how to set goals (and how to handle it when you do NOT make your goals). Friendship and fun – courage, confidence, character – camaraderie – traditions – making the world a better place – I know how important Girl Scouting was (and continues to be) for this previously shy, introverted girl; what it did for my own daughter (helped her to find her career path through her Gold Award), and how much my granddaughters are benefiting from the program.

Amber Van Denzen Suarez is a dedicated Girl Scout and passionate animal care professional with a career path that beautifully intertwines her love for animals and commitment to youth development. Having been a Girl Scout since 5th grade, Amber’s journey is marked by earning her Silver and Gold Awards and holding various leadership roles, including Camp Counselor (Camp Name : Breeze) Encampment Director+ Events Coordinator, and paid staff positions for high award programs. Currently, she serves as a Troop Leader, Area J Chair Delegate, and on the High Awards Council, guiding young Scouts toward their full potential. When not Girl Scoutings- she is the founder of Atta Boy! Animal Care, with over 18 years of experience in the animal care industry. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Animal Science from the University of Florida, specializing in Small Animal and Equine Management. Why Girl Scouts? *"The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers."* Juliette Gordon Low’s words have always resonated with me, as Girl Scouts helped shape the history of my own journey. From my early years as a Scout to earning my Gold Award, I learned the importance of leadership, perseverance + service. Those values have guided me every step of the way, whether I was leading my Troop, advocating for a community issue or when I started my own businesses + 501c3 non profit. Girl Scouts gave me the confidence to face challenges head-on and create a future I’m proud of today- the same I hope for every Girl and future Women.



Manar Sarsour I am an Arab-American Muslim that was born and raised in the United States. As a child of 1st generation immigrants from Palestine, my parents taught us to work hard for what we value, learn and try to understand the world around us, and speak up when we see or feel something is not right and to advocate for those that cannot. I have 3 daughters in Girl Scouts (one graduated last year with her Gold) and 3 sons in Scouting America. I am in my 17th year working with a Telecommunications company as an Instructional Designer and Curriculum Developer. One of my biggest initiatives is to understand our stakeholders and our customers to be able to



develop and deliver the best content in an engaging and interactive way. I can take a very complex issue or process and simplify it in a way that is easy to comprehend. Sometimes I have to ask difficult questions to dig deep into the process and uncover different solutions, then engage with the stakeholders to discuss the best possible outcomes.

"Why Girl Scouts?" I feel very strongly about supporting an organization that supports girls to become the future leaders of our community. There is no other organization that has an initiative to help build girls' courage and confidence, provides them with a "curriculum" of skills by earning badges, allows them to "design" plans and organize meetings/events, and encourages the girls to become leaders. I see it all the time, whether in the workplace or with other girls in the community, that many girls/young women shy away from speaking their minds and wait until someone else takes the lead. I am a lifetime member and volunteer for 14 years and have led girls since Daisies via the Girl Scout Program through their High School Graduation, earning Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards, and am confident that these girls will be very successful in their future endeavors because of all the skills and opportunities they received from the Girl Scout Program. For me, personally, it has helped me grow and pushed me out of my comfort zone when it comes to public speaking and outdoor adventures. It was difficult for me, at first, to "let go of the reins", but when we listen to the girls (our "stakeholders and customers") and give them choices and options, it's amazing what they can come up with. As a NCS Delegate, I promise to continue to do just that, to listen to what our Girl Scout Community wants, to simplify any clauses or terms that are proposed, and to share it with both the GS community and my fellow team of NCS Delegates.

Chloe Waite My name is Chloe Waite, and I have been a Girl Scout for 11 years. As a Girl Scout for this long, I have had the opportunity to serve in multiple leadership positions, such as being CIT at camp Wai Lani and an Area E Delegate. I am currently a junior at Plant High School in Tampa, Florida. I enjoy learning languages, I have studied French and ASL and am currently in Spanish and Latin. I also enjoy reading and acting.



The only thing that comes to mind when I think about the question "Why Girl Scouts" is that there's no other way for me to be. Who I am, what I have accomplished, and all of the amazing opportunities I have been afforded have been because of Girl Scouts. I have been able to see how the world is changed in the smallest and biggest of ways, whether it be from a speaker in the government or outreached hand on the playground. I have been able to fly through the air at challenge course and see a shark swimming silently underneath me at waterfront, and I have been able to form genuine connections with the people I know will be the leaders of tomorrow. I have been able to witness the way the world truly is and the way it can be, all because of Girl Scouts.

Hope Brillhart

I have been a Girl Scout for a decade, and I have been benefited from the many programs that GSWCF provides. I had my first camping experience with my troop at Dorothy Thomas, and my first overnight summer camp was at Camp Wai Lani. I have earned by Bronze and Silver Awards, and will be finishing my Gold Award this year. Girl Scouts has allowed me to pursue my passions and given me an outlet to express my gratitude for the Tampa Bay community. All this said, I want to give back to GSWCF. My years of experience in Girl Scouts and my knowledge of the organization have prepared me to be a National Delegate, and I know that my appreciation for the organization will allow me to be an effective communicator. If chosen, I will be attending the 2026 gathering directly after my senior year, and I believe that this will be a fitting culmination of 11 wonderful years in Girl Scouts.

Olivia Bjarnason Girl Scouts is where I find my safety, my confidence and find my voice. Girl Scouts has given me so many new opportunities, with Volunteering and making new friends and learning so many new things in my time as a girl scout. My hope and my goal is to share the opportunities and experiences that I have been able to enjoy with many other girls that are younger and just starting out in their girl scout Journey.

Shea Polley Hi, I'm Shea Polley, and I've been a Girl Scout for 11 years—and counting! I'm a third-generation Girl Scout, following in the footsteps of my mom and grandmother. Girl Scouts has always been a big part of my family's story. My grandmother was in the flag ceremony for the opening of Juliette Gordon Low's Birthplace as a Brownie, and my mom was a delegate for the 75th anniversary in Washington, D.C., representing her council and I would like to be a delegate for Girl Scouts of West Central Florida too. My mom also earned her Gold Award, and I am working to earn mine as well. I will be the first in my family to earn the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards, since the Bronze Award didn't exist when my mom was a Girl Scout.



Throughout my Girl Scout journey, I've loved earning badges, learning new skills, and challenging myself to take on leadership roles. I'm a Girl Scouts of West Central Florida Media Girl and Press Pass member, representing Girl Scouts in interviews and public events. I've earned my Bronze and Silver Awards—projects that allowed me to support my community in meaningful ways—and now, I'm working on my Gold Award with the Florida Aquarium, focusing on sea turtle conservation and supporting children facing serious illnesses. Beyond Girl Scouts, I'm a sophomore at Bloomingdale High School, where I'm on the swim and lacrosse teams. I also love advocating for marine conservation, serving as a Page and Messenger in the Florida House of Representatives, and, of course, selling cookies—my goal is to sell 10,000 boxes before I graduate, and I only have 1,335 boxes to go!

Why Girl Scouts? Girl Scouts is more than just an organization—it's a sisterhood, a leadership experience, and a way to create lasting change. I've grown up in Girl Scouts, and it has shaped who I am today. From earning badges to tackling big projects for my

community, I've learned the value of perseverance, teamwork, and making a difference. One of my favorite parts of Girl Scouts is the cookie program—I love learning new business skills every year, trying new sales strategies, and challenging myself to improve. Selling cookies has taught me how to set goals, market a product, and connect with customers, all while working toward my lifetime goal of selling 10,000 boxes. Girl Scouts has also connected me to an incredible network of inspiring women, from my family's legacy to the girls I work alongside today. Whether I'm camping under the stars, leading a project, or advocating for causes I believe in, Girl Scouts has given me the confidence and skills to take on anything.

National Council Alternate Delegate, 2025-2028

Shannon Boyer is a Florida native who joined Girl Scouts as a Daisy in 1996 and has been a member for a total of 21 years. She is currently pursuing her Doctorate in Business Administration with a specialization in Non-Profit Management. In 2018, she graduated from Saint Leo University with her MBA and she is also an alumni of the University of Central Florida (she obtained a BA in Hospitality/Event Management). She now works for UFHealth Shands as a Business Operations Manager for the Cardiopulmonary Department. Shannon is currently the Service Unit Manager for Joining Rivers and assists with the planning of events for Marion County. She is passionate about creating ways to engage the older level of Girl Scouts and helping shape the future of the Girl Scout Mission. She is a member of the Juliette Gordon Low Society and a Lifetime Member of Girl Scouts.



Laura Sokalski has lived in many parts of Tampa Bay and now resides in Eastern Hillsborough County. She graduated from The University of Tampa's John H. Sykes College of Business with a degree in Marketing and a passion for women's leadership development. While a student at UT, Laura was a leader in multiple student organizations including Alpha Gamma Delta, serving as President, Vice President Finance, and Vice President Campus Relations, and Scouting's National Service Fraternity Alpha Phi Omega.

Laura began a management career at GEICO but pivoted when it was clear that she would become a full-time advocate for her special needs daughter. She pursued many opportunities to provide first-hand examples to decision makers in many arenas, and even co-presented at the Family Café (one of the



largest disability advocacy conferences in the country). Eventually, the Commissioner of Education appointed her to the State Advisory Committee for the Education of Exceptional Students. As a member of the committee, Laura represented Hillsborough County in protecting the rights of students with IEPs and Accommodations. Recently, she partnered with local voters and legislators to support and pass a bill to update Florida's NICA law for birth-related brain injured infants. She considers this one of her greatest achievements.

Laura presently serves as the International Chair for the Member Retention Committee of Alpha Gamma Delta. As an alumna member of her women's fraternity, she continues to promote the vision of "Inspire the Woman, Impact the World". She volunteers locally as Vice President of the Tampa Bay Alumnae Chapter of Alpha Gamma Delta. Serving both locally and internationally, is something she is honored to do. She credits the Girl Scouts with instilling the values of volunteerism from the time she was a Brownie. She humbly serves as a Troop Leader for her daughter's Daisy troop. The loves of her life are her husband Matt, daughters Sabrina and Olivia, and Golden doodle, Coco. Girl Scouts was the first organization that allowed me to find my voice to lead.

My time as a Girl Scout taught me the value of friendships, the meaningfulness of support, and the importance of empathy. As a Girl Scout leader, I am able to facilitate the same discoveries for the young women of tomorrow.