



Philanthropist MacKenzie Scott Donates \$2 Million to Girl Scouts of West Central Florida

Gift will accelerate organization's plan to deepen relationships in communities, strengthen volunteer support and amplify stories of Girl Scouts making a positive impact in their communities.

TAMPA, FLORIDA, October 18, 2022 - Today, Girl Scouts of West Central Florida (GSWCF) announced a \$2 million donation from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott. This generous gift is part of an \$84.5 million donation awarded to Girl Scouts USA (GSUSA) and 29 local Girl Scout Councils selected by MacKenzie Scott, making this unprecedented investment the largest donation from a single individual in the national organization's history. Locally, this gift will accelerate GSWCF's equity initiative to deliver a high-quality Girl Scout leadership experience to more girls across the council's eight-county footprint.

"In April 2022, we launched our goal of 30,000 members by 2030 with an objective to eliminate barriers to accessing our research-proven Girl Scout Leadership Experience. We are so grateful for MacKenzie Scott's gift as it accelerates our efforts to deepen our relationships with volunteers, families, schools, places of worship and other community partners," **said GSWCF's CEO, Mary Pat King.** "This donation bolsters our ability to embed Girl Scouting in the cultural fabric of our region's schools, neighborhoods and communities. Girl Scouts grows the next generation of women with the courage, confidence and character it takes to be effective leaders making the world a better place, and this investment gives us the jet fuel we need to impact more girls."

Prior to Ms. Scott's generous giving, less than 2% of annual giving benefitted girl and women-focused organizations nationwide. In the past year, GSWCF has generated nearly \$1 million to fund Girl Scout programming and seeks to raise another \$1.2 million in this fiscal year to support this equity initiative. Currently, major funders include Juvenile Welfare Board, Children's Board of Hillsborough County, United Way of Central Florida, Publix Super Market Charities, Simply Healthcare, United Way Suncoast and United Way Pasco.

"This incredible donation and all of the support we have received locally are critical for the future. We know from the [Girl Scout Research Institute's 2021 impact study](#) that Girl Scouts grow up to be industry and community leaders," **said GSWCF Board President, Laura Webb.** "Truly, support for girls is an investment in the future pipeline of women leaders. We hope that after today's announcement, more businesses in our community will help us to build the courage, confidence and character of the leaders of tomorrow."

Girl Scouts is thriving as the premier scouting and leadership development organization for girls and this donation, as well as support from other funders, will help GSWCF to break down accessibility barriers and partner with families and communities to holistically support the development of all girls. During the next three years, GSWCF will dedicate its resources to:

- Strengthen volunteer training, support and connections
- Pilot test new program delivery models in communities with greatest resource needs
- Amplify the stories of Girl Scouts and volunteers making an impact in their schools and communities across the eight counties we serve

"We are so appreciative of MacKenzie Scott's gift to Girl Scouts. This is a great accelerator for our ongoing efforts to help girls cultivate the skills and connections to lead in their own communities and globally," **said GSUSA's CEO, Sofia Chang.** "The support from all our

donors, including this generous support from Ms. Scott is critical in delivering on our work of reimagination and transformation. We're excited to prove how MacKenzie Scott's investment in girls will change the world—because when one girl succeeds, we all succeed.”

Nationally, this generous donation will accelerate GSUSA's initiatives that give girls the tools to become the next generation of powerful female leaders.

The Girl Scouts Difference – Developing the Leaders of Tomorrow

Today's challenges are complex, interconnected and more than ever, global. Solving them will demand collaborative leadership and innovative perspectives. Girls represent humanity's greatest untapped talent pool and investing in them will produce the greatest return in economic development, social progress and public health, not only improving individual lives but the fabric of society overall.

ABOUT GIRL SCOUTS OF WEST CENTRAL FLORIDA

Founded in 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls with nearly 2.5 million girl and adult members worldwide. Girl Scouts is the leading authority on girls' healthy development and building courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place. Girl Scouts of West Central Florida (GSWCF) serves thousands of members across eight counties, Citrus, Hernando, Hillsborough, Marion, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, and Sumter. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, or join, visit www.gswcf.org

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