



About Girls Scouts of the USA

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.

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.
I will
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.

Who We Are

Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) is the largest organization for girls in the world. Our mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Through activities in science and technology, business and economic literacy, and outdoor and environmental awareness, Girl Scouting provides girls with opportunities for fun and friendship, while fostering the development of leadership skills and self-esteem.

Founded by Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, Girl Scouts of the USA was chartered by the United States Congress on March 16, 1950. Today, there are 3.2 million Girl Scouts: 2.3 million girl members and 890,000 adult members working primarily as volunteers.

What We Do

Girls develop their leadership potential through activities that enable them to discover their values and skills, and the world around them; connect with others in a multicultural environment; and take action to make a difference in the world.

Our Structure

Headquartered in New York City, Girl Scouts has 112 chartered councils nationwide. These councils provide direct services to girls and the volunteers who work with them, and to the communities they serve. Girl Scouting is open to all girls from kindergarten through high school.

National Leadership

National Honorary President: Michelle Obama

Chair, National Board of Directors: Connie L. Lindsey

Chief Executive Officer: Anna Maria Chávez

Key Alumnae Stats

- Ten of seventeen women (59 percent) in the United States Senate are former Girl Scouts.
- Forty-five of seventy-five women (60 percent) in the House of Representatives are former Girl Scouts.
- Fifty-three percent of all women business owners are former Girl Scouts.
- Seventy-six percent of all Girl Scout alumnae report that Girl Scouts had a positive impact in their lives.

For More Information

If you are interested in joining, volunteering with, or donating to Girl Scouts in your community, please call 800-GSUSA-4-U (800-478-7248) or visit www.girlscouts.org.


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See our [Fact Sheet](#) (PDF)

Girl Scout Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

100 Years

Founder [Juliette Gordon Low](#) organized the first Girl Scout Troop on **March 12, 1912**, in Savannah, Ga.

An American Institution

Girl Scouts of the USA was chartered by the U.S. Congress on **March 16, 1950**.

Still Growing Strong

Today, there are **3.2 million Girl Scouts**—2.3 million girl members and 880,000 adult members working primarily as volunteers.

Empowering Girls

In Girl Scouts, girls discover the fun, friendship, and power of girls together. Through a myriad of enriching experiences, such as extraordinary field trips, sports skill-building clinics, community service projects, cultural exchanges, and environmental stewardships, girls grow courageous and strong. Girl Scouting helps girls develop their full individual potential; relate to others with increasing understanding, skill, and respect; develop values to guide their actions and provide the foundation for sound decision-making; and contribute to the improvement of society through their abilities, leadership skills, and cooperation with others.

At Home and Abroad

Girls at home and abroad participate in **troops and groups in more than 92 countries** through [USA Girl Scouts Overseas](#), and over [100 local Girl Scout councils](#) offer girls the opportunity for membership across the United States.

An International Family

Through its membership in the [World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts \(WAGGGS\)](#), Girl Scouts of the USA is part of a worldwide family of **10 million girls and adults in 145 countries**.

A Pivotal Part of Women's History

More than **50 million American women** enjoyed Girl Scouting during their childhood—and that number continues to grow as Girl Scouts of the USA continues to inspire, challenge, and empower girls everywhere.

Annual Report

We are acutely aware of girls' changing needs. That's why in 2010 we embarked on a journey to develop strategies which will ensure that the Girl Scout Movement is perfectly situated to honor the legacy and promise of the *next* 50 million Girl Scouts. Learn more about these crucial objectives and goals in our [Annual Report](#).

[Tweet](#) 4

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Also See:

[Fact Sheet \(PDF\)](#)
[Who We Are: Girl Scout History](#)
[Girl Scout Program](#)
[GS Central: Girl Scout Promise and Law](#)
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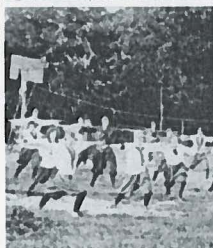
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[Search](#)**Facts****Leadership****History**[Juliette Gordon Low](#)[The Birthplace](#)[Girl Scouts Timeline](#)[Museum](#)[Featured Exhibit](#)[Edith Macy Conference Center](#)[This Month in Girl Scout History](#)[History Volunteers](#)**Advocacy****Our Partners****Global Girl Scouting****USA Girl Scouts Overseas****Careers****Diversity****Girl Scout History**

Juliette "Daisy" Gordon Low assembled 18 girls from Savannah, Georgia, on March 12, 1912, for a local Girl Scout meeting. She believed that all girls should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually. With the goal of bringing girls out of isolated home environments and into community service and the open air, Girl Scouts hiked, played basketball, went on camping trips, learned how to tell time by the stars, and studied first aid.

Within a few years, Daisy's dream for a girl-centered organization was realized. Today, Girl Scouts of the USA has a membership of over 3.2 million girls and adults, a significant growth from its modest beginnings nearly a century ago. In fact, more than 50 million women in the U.S. today are Girl Scout [alumnae](#). We invite you to learn about our robust organization and its rich history. From our willingness to tackle important societal issues, to our commitment to [diversity](#) and [inclusiveness](#)—Girl Scouts is dedicated to every girl, everywhere.

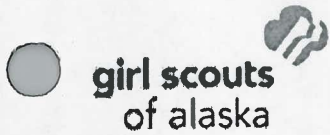
- Read Girl Scout founder [Juliette Gordon Low's Biography](#) and see how one visionary affected so many lives. See the new Juliette Gordon Low Interactive Timeline.
- Track the incredible journey of the Girl Scout Movement on our [Girl Scouts Timeline: Decade by Decade](#).
- Visit our online [Museum](#) for an in-depth look at the objects and ephemera that tell the story of the organization from its inception.
- Don't miss the Museum's [Featured Exhibit](#), which highlights Girl Scout uniforms over the years.
- Learn about the beautiful facilities and history of the [Edith Macy Conference Center](#), Girl Scouts of the USA's unique location for workshops and trainings.
- Find out what happened [This Month in Girl Scout History](#) to put it all into context.
- [Historical Highlights \(PDF\)](#): The turn of the century brought Girl Scouting to a threshold of change. In a nutshell, here's what has happened to transform the organization from 2002 to 2008.

Also See:
[Who We Are: Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace](#)
[GS Central: Girl Scout Days](#)
Girl Scout Memories Last a Lifetime!

You won't be able to resist this unique collection of vintage-inspired gifts and collectables

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About us

Girl Scouts of Alaska is the proven leadership development program for girls from 5-17 in Alaska.

Girl Scouts is a safe, inclusive environment for Alaska's diverse population of girls.

Girl Scouting develops strength of character and confidence allowing girls to become leaders in their communities and to make a difference in the world.

Building on the traditional values of the Girl Scout movement, we meet the needs of girls in Alaska today.



Girl Scouts of Alaska. Inspiring Girls to Lead.

From Bethel to Ketchikan, Girl Scouts of Alaska serves over 6,000 girls and 1,500 volunteers



Girl Scout Mission

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Girl Scouts 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.

*The flexible wording of the Girl Scout Promise means that a member may substitute another word that more closely represents that member's spiritual belief for the word God.

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.*



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December Newsletter

My Promise, My Faith

December is a month of religious, spiritual, and cultural holidays for all of the world's major religions. It is therefore an opportune time to update you on how Girl Scouts can interface with any faith.

Although Girl Scouts is a secular organization, and Girl Scouts recognizes that religious instruction comes from the home and one's faith community, we are values based and encourage faith in God – as defined by each member and her family. Indeed, the Girl Scout Promise and Law are in alignment with many faith organizations' teachings.

For girls who are interested in finding out what their faith and Girl Scouting have in common, Girl Scouts has its own national faith recognition award called My Promise, My Faith. The requirements and guidelines for earning a My Promise, My Faith award are included in [The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting](#). Girls can earn this pin once a year at each grade level. You can read my [full blog post](#) for more on this topic.

Happy December from Girl Scouts of Alaska!

Yours in Girl Scouting,
Merge Stoneking, CEO

Girl Scouts Declares 2012 Year of the Girl

We all know that 2012 is Girl Scouts 100th Anniversary! Now, Girl Scouts of the USA is also [declaring 2012 the Year of the Girl](#).

As Anna Maria Chavez, CEO of Girl Scouts of the USA explained, "We want to make sure that a baby girl born in 2012 will grow up in a new and vastly differently world." She's referring to the fact that, despite so much progress on behalf of women and girls in the last century, men still outnumber women in most leadership positions as well as science and technology jobs. It's not just a matter of equity. The fact that girls are interested and capable, yet opting out of these choices, has significant implications for our country.



By declaring 2012 the Year of the Girl, we hope to rally the nation around the cause of girls' leadership. Breaking down societal barriers that hinder girls from leading will take a nationwide effort, and the involvement of individuals and groups beyond the family of Girl Scouts. Do you want to be a part of the movement? [Sign up here](#) to get updates directly from the campaign.

Women of Science

We are getting excited for our 20th annual [Women of Science events](#) around the state! The theme this year aviation.

We still need more presenters to help us bring science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) to life for girls.

If you know someone who uses STEM in any aspect of their work, please encourage them to share their expertise with girls! Past presenters have included female pilots, photographers, civil engineers, architects, and medical professionals. Do you know someone who can help us show girls how STEM skills are being used in real jobs in the real world?



Call Kay Shoemaker in Anchorage (907-273-0393) or Julie Alexander in Mat-Su (907-376-3822) with your suggestions. Thank you!



National Council Results

At the 2011 National Council session in Houston, Texas, members voted on important policy matters affecting the future of Girl Scouting. In addition to voting on officers to serve for the 2011-2014 term, the following issues were decided:

1. A general program fee for girls was approved, to help with the additional costs involved in executing the Girl Scout program. The fee will be reflected as an annual council fee not to exceed \$12.
2. A proposal to change the timing of the election of national delegates was voted down.
3. The question of whether to offer the Girl Scout membership year on a rolling cycle, instead of our current October 1 - September 30 year, was deferred to a committee. Councils using e-Council may have difficulty handling a rolling enrollment system, so the committee will address these and other concerns before bringing the issue to a vote again.

To review the full slate of proposals considered and the outcome of the voting, [click here](#)

Count Down to 100th Anniversary!

Here at the council office we are counting down the days until 2012 when a year-long celebration of 100 years of Girl Scouting will finally begin! We are excited about all the girls who have taken our [Centennial Celebration Challenge](#) and are sending us photos and descriptions of their projects. We hope you are also thinking about parades and other events in your area that you can participate in to share with your community the legacy of Girl Scouting in Alaska.

Here are some of the 100th anniversary events to watch for.

- [Girl Scouts Forever Green](#) (February - April)
- Southeast Camp-In (March 10)
- Statewide Campfires (March 12)
- Troop 2012 (March 12)
- Juneau Auction (March 17)
- Young Women of Distinction Luncheon (March 29, Anchorage)
- [Centennial Celebration Challenge](#) (through May 7)
- 100 Geocaches (Year-Long and Ongoing)
- Year of the Girl (Year-Long and Ongoing) [create anchor back to earlier text]

If you are planning something, please share it with us so we can help spread the word.

Do you have any questions about our 100th Anniversary — what's happening and what you can do? Please call or email Anne Gore at 273-0315 or agore@girlscoutsalaska.org.



Girl Scouts Forever Green

Girl Scouts Forever Green is the Girl Scouts 100th Anniversary national Take Action project. The project asks everyone — both Girl Scouts and the public at large — to commit to changing some aspects of their daily lives to help protect the environment and conserve natural resources. The project suggests specific actions in three categories: reduce plastics, save energy, and save water.

Each action pledged, such as planting a tree, or turning off lights when not in use, has a measurable environmental impact associated with it. And, Girl Scouts' goal is to engage 800,000 Girl Scouts (25 percent of each council's membership) by the end of December 2012. Because the projects are aligned with the It's Your Planet, Love It! leadership journey, girls can earn awards as they work to create positive change for the environment.

Anyone who participates in Girl Scouts Forever Green is eligible to receive the patch shown here. We also have stickers, pledge cards, brochures and posters available for you to print out and use to motivate others to take action, too. The more participation, the greater the environmental impact!

Be sure to [visit the Girl Scouts Forever Green website](#) to learn about the three projects, [take the pledge](#), and get more tips, tools, and resources. Also, check out our Girl Scouts Forever Green program offerings at Spring Creek Farm [link to anchor GSFG 67] on the first Saturday of February, March, and April 2012.

Questions? Email Kay Shoemaker kshoemaker@girlscoutsalaska.org or Anne Gore agore@girlscoutsalaska.org.



United Way Holiday Guide



Holidays are a time of year when we come together as a community. We make the extra effort to look for the things that bring us together and unite us, as families, as faith communities, as neighbors, as people.



United Way board member Rick Fox recently put it perfectly when he said that he gives to give back. We've all had those moments in our lives where someone did something a little extra to help us in some way. This holiday, United Way of Anchorage asks you to consider making plans to give back.

To help you find the opportunity that is right for you, they offer this guide to giving. It includes a Quick Finder to easily match your gift with your favorite organization, a directory of local organizations, and special sections with ways you can Give, Advocate, and Volunteer. Click on the image above to see United Way's full Holiday Guide.

Letters to Soldiers

Some of our United States soldiers serving overseas do not have wives or children to send them letters and keep their spirits up. If you want to let them know that someone is thinking of them and they are not alone, send your letters to the Single Soldier program care of:

CSM Kirk Johnson

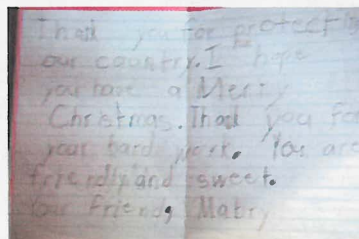
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Please do not use last names in your letters, and write about general interest issues.



News from Southeast

Juneau Auction, March 17

Come to the Girl Scouts Annual Southeast Benefit Auction March 17th at the Juneau Arts and Humanities Council from 6 to 10pm! Traditionally an autumn event, this year's auction moves to March to coincide with the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting. We're planning a big party in keeping with this benchmark year!

We'll have a vast array of items to bid on, both in an outcry and silent auction format. Guests will enjoy hors d'oeuvres and a no-host bar.

The Auction Committee is busy securing donations from regional and statewide donors and businesses. There are a variety of volunteer positions needing to be filled to help make this event something truly spectacular. To contribute with donations or to volunteer, please contact Mary Siroky at 789-7616.

Proceeds raised at the Auction assist Southeast Girl Scouts with memberships, camperships, and travel assistance.

Juneau Cookie Kick-Off

Join the Juneau Girl Scouts as we kick off the Girl Scout Cookie Season at this fun festival of training, crafts, and games! Juneau Girl Scouts will gather in the gym at DZ Friday on January 6th from 6 to 8pm to learn by participating in cool activities! Learn about the cookies, about selling and goal-setting, and about marketing the fun way!

New this year for parents of Girl Scouts is an orientation of their own called "the Cookie Rookie" where moms and dads learn practical ways to be supportive of their girls.

The cost of the event is \$5 per girl, including a patch and supplies!

Robotics Rocks!

As of publication, eight of Girl Scouts of Alaska's nine robotics teams have competed in qualifying tournaments. They have all done well and are eligible to compete in the Championship Tournament on January 28th at South High School in Anchorage.

- Rockin' Wolves (Soldotna) received the Robot Design award
- Lego Experts (Anchorage) received the Judge's Choice award: Rising Stars
- Robotchicks (Anchorage) received the Project award
- Mat-Su Macaroi (Mat-Su) received the Core Values award
- Blight Busters (Anchorage) were the 2nd place Champions in their qualifier tournament
- Killer Cantaloupes (Juneau) were the 1st place Champions in their qualifier tournament
- Nine Northern Computer Cookies, or N2C2 (Juneau) were the 2nd place Champions in their qualifier tournament



Girlz vs. Food are scheduled to compete in their qualifier tournament on Saturday, December 17th at South High School.

Opportunities for Adult Volunteers

Conference Call Classes

Girl Scouts of Alaska strives to provide our adult volunteers with the support and information you need to succeed. Conference calls are a great way to share your experience and questions with other volunteers, parents and staff from across our council without having to leave the comfort of your home. Check out these upcoming opportunities:

January 12, 2012, 7-8pm

- 100th Anniversary and the Centennial Challenge - Learn 100 creative ways you and your girls can celebrate Girl Scout's 100th Anniversary

February 9, 2012, 7-8pm

- Service Unit Team Talk - Service Unit Teams will talk with our CEO about how to make our organization stronger.

March 8, 2012, 7-8pm

• Opportunities for Adults – BREAK UP your routine and learn about new opportunities to volunteer with Girl Scouts, and recognize others for their efforts. In this conference call we'll address:

- Pathways
- Chaperones
- Host Families
- Journey in a Weekend
- Series
- Events
- Indirect Opportunities
- Adult Learning
- Adult Awards

April 12, 2012, 7-8pm

• Re-engaging Girls – Learn how Bridging, Pathways, the New Girl's Guide to Girl Scouts, Awards and more can re-engage girls in Scouting. In this conference call we'll address:

- Bridging
- Pathways
- Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting
- Awards
- Girl Adult Partnership
- Spring Break Ideas

May 10, 2012, 7-8pm

• Wrapping Up for Next Year – Take time to celebrate what you've accomplished, make plans for the summer and prepare yourself, the girls and their parents for next year. We'll cover:

- Ceremonies
- Early Bird Registration
- Reports and other Paperwork
- Plans for Summer - Hiking, Camping, Parades
- Returning Next Year or Disbanding?
- Bank Account
- What to Tell Parents

Opportunities for Girls

Apply for Girls' World Forum



Girl Scouts of Alaska (GSAK) is seeking letters of interest from teenage Girl Scouts to attend the 2012 Girls' World Forum, hosted by Girl Scouts of the USA and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) July 12-16, 2012 in Chicago.

Two GSAK girls (ages 14-18 on July 12) will be selected to represent Girl Scouts of Alaska as delegates to the Girls' World Forum. This is the third and final event in a series of forums celebrating WAGGGS's centennial, and the first in the United States.

The WAGGGS Global Action Theme, which is the focus of the three forums is "Together We can Change Our World." The theme addresses the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. During the WAGGGS Girls' World Forum, girls from around the world will focus on three millennium goals including: goal 1- to end poverty and hunger, goal 3 - to promote gender equality and empower women, and goal 7 - to achieve global environmental sustainability. Girls' World Forum attendees will work together to learn more about, to plan, and to engage in taking action to help achieve these three worldwide goals by 2015.

Are you interested in expanding your Girl Scout impact and network to partner with WAGGGS on global issues affecting girls? Are you committed to taking action to truly make the world a better place? If you said yes, then you are who Alaska is looking for to represent us at the Girls' World Forum. Please write a letter of interest to:

Marge Stoneking, CEO

Girl Scouts of Alaska

3911 Turnagain Blvd East

Anchorage, AK 99517

In your letter of interest, please address the following questions:

1. Why do you think it's important to address the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)?
2. How have you, your community, and/or your GS Council worked to achieve one or more of the MDGs?
3. What interest/experience do you have in international events?
4. Whether you speak any international languages other than English, and what is your level of fluency?

FYI: Registration costs will be covered by Girl Scouts of Alaska for the two selected delegates, and girls may earn \$1.00/box cookie credits in the 2012 GSAK Cookie Program to offset travel fees. Travel fees will be in the neighborhood of \$2,000, to be determined early in 2012. Girl delegates will be accompanied by young women (18-30) volunteer chaperones.

Spirit of Youth Nominations being accepted now!

December 31, 2011 is the last day to submit a nomination to be eligible for the 2012 Spirit of Youth Award! The application is simple and can be completed on the [Spirit of Youth website](http://www.spiritofyouth.org). Nominations in any of the 11 categories can be submitted for teens (or teen groups) ages 12-19.

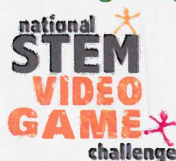
Nomination Categories:

- Cultural Activities
- Participation in Government or Business
- Life saver (crisis response) & Prevention
- Service (to children, peers or community)
- Fine Arts (dance, theater, music, art)
- Overcoming Challenges
- Technology & Media
- Faith-based Service
- Science and Environmental efforts

Research demonstrates that youth who are recognized for their accomplishments by those around them are better able to build confidence in their future! Submit your nomination today.

To learn more about Spirit of Youth or listen to past winners and their radio stories, visit www.spiritofyouth.org

STEM Program Opportunity



Girl Scouts of the USA is proud to be an outreach partner with the Joan Ganz Cooney Center at Sesame Workshop and E-Line Media to introduce the second annual National STEM Video Game Challenge open to all Girl Scouts! This challenge invites game makers to show their passion for playing and making video games and aims to motivate children's interests in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM).

Up for grabs is almost \$200,000 in cash and prizes, with multiple ways to win! The entry period is open through March 12th, 2012. Finalists will be selected by a distinguished panel of judges and winners will be announced in the spring of 2012 at a major public event.

For more information on how Girl Scouts can enter the Youth Prize competition (middle school & high school) go to www.STEMChallenge.org.

This challenge also compliments the Entertainment Technology Badge, where girls can dig into video game development! If you have girls interested in earning this badge, encourage them to enter the STEM Video Challenge as well!

Art Contest

The [Anchorage Youth Development Coalition](http://www.anchorageyouthdevelopmentcoalition.org) (AYDC) and Alaska Youth & Parent Foundation are developing an online directory for Anchorage youth services, programs and opportunities. A diverse group of Anchorage youth has named this directory Anchorage Youth Central.

AYDC is sponsoring a contest to develop a logo or icon for this new online directory. Youth ages 24 and under are eligible to submit drawings, graphic designs, pictures or paintings depicting an appropriate image to use as the logo/icon for this new web-based directory.

A diverse group of youth will judge the submissions and the winner will be awarded a \$100 Fred Meyer gift card. Please submit any entries to nicole@aydc.org or bring them by our office at 3350 Commercial Dr. #103 NO LATER THAN 5pm on December 30.

Girl Helpers Needed

The Alaska State Employees Association/Union annual Winter Festival needs 3-4 girls ages 11 or older to assist with kids activities for this family friendly event. Activities may include face painting, ring toss, bowling, and other games. The Winter Festival is January 14 from 11am - 5pm. If your Girl Scout or Troop is interested in helping, please contact Rose Scogin at wildakrose@aol.com or 344-7735.

Pen Pal Requests

Desiree West, a fifth grader from Avon, Indiana is interested in finding a pen pal in Alaska.

If you want to be her pen pal, please write to:

Desiree West

Troop 178

6962 Woodridge

Avon, Indiana 46123

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Sen. Bettye Davis

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JAN 22 2011

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From: Debra Henderson [alaskagirlsstatedirector@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, January 22, 2011 2:07 PM
To: Sen. Con Bunde; senator_John_coghill@legis.state.sk.us; Sen. Bettye Davis; Sen. Fred Dyson; Sen. Johnny Ellis; Sen. Dennis Egan; Sen. Hollis French; Sen. Lyman Hoffman; Sen. Charlie Huggins; Sen. Albert Kookesh; Sen. Lesil McGuire; Sen. Linda Menard; Sen. Kevin Meyer; Sen. Donny Olson; Sen. Joe Paskvan; Sen. Bert Stedman; senator_gary_steven@legis.state.ak.us; Sen. Joe Thomas; Sen. Tom Wagoner; Sen. Bill Wielechowski
Subject: American Legion Auxiliary Alaska Girls State

First I want to welcome the newly elected Senators to the 27th Legislative First Session 2011.

Next I want to personally thank each and every one of the Senators, Representatives and their staff that helped the Alaska Girls State program for 2010. You were awesome. It amazes the young ladies each time that a real legislative person takes the time to help out at Girls State or come talk to them at a general assembly. Thank you so much from the bottom of my heart. We are here to educate the young citizens (who will be voting age in the next year) and what better way to do that then have the actual legislative personel there helping us. It is amazing how many of them are knowagable about current and world affairs.

Now for who I am: My name is Debra Henderson and I am in my third year of being the American Legion Auxiliary Alaska Girls State Director. I live in Ninilchik, Alaska and work for the Ninilchik Village Tribe as the Procurement Officer (12 years). I am on the Kenai Peninsula Fair Board, the Ninilchik Community Library Board and the American Legion Auxiliary Department of Alaska Girls State Director. I have three grown children and 6 grand children.

I have contacted the Senators and Representatives each year about helping out with the session. American Legion Auxiliary Girls State is a nonpartisan program that teaches young women responsible citizenship and love for God and Country. Since the inception of the Girls State program in 1937, nearly 1 million young people have had the opportunity to learn firsthand how their state and local government works.

High school girls who have completed their junior year spend an intensive week of study, working together as self-governing citizens at Auxiliary-sponsored Girls State programs in every state (with the exception of Hawaii).

Participants learn how to participate in the functioning of their state's government in preparation for their future roles as responsible adult citizens. Two girls are selected from each Girls State program to attend Girls Nation, a national government training program. Girls Nation "senators" meet for a week in Washington, D.C. in July (fully expense paid trip), where they run for political office, campaign for the passage of legislation and possibly meet with their state representatives and senators. Capping off the week of Girls Nation is often times a meeting with the President of the United States at the White House.

Programs/Activities:

At Alaska Girls State, the "citizens" study local and state government processes for one week in June. The 2011 Alaska Girls State Session is June 12th-18th at the Meier Lake Conference Center in Wasilla Alaska. At the beginning of the session, each citizen is given a party affiliation (Nationalist or Federalist). They set up their own city and hold city elefctions. They set up state governments with Speaker of the House and President of the Senate and administer them according to the laws of Alaska. The young ladies

run for a legislative office (this is mandatory), run a campaign and we hold a primary and general election. Each citizen is required to write at least one bill to be presented. It is amazing to watch these ladies grow through the week. It is a once in a lifetime opportunity.

Alaska Girls State is ran by volunteers, who for one week give up their lives for these girls, the program and what we believe in. There is about 20 staff. The citizens write daily articles and a daily newsletter is published.

Now you are probably wondering why I am emailing each of you:

We would like to invite each of you to attend part of our program, help out by being a guest speaker or just to stop by and enjoy a meal with the citizens and staff. If you are interested please let me know. For 2009 there was 40 delegates and 2010 there was 41. My goal is to increase it by one each year until we get the program back where it was in the 90's (60-70). It is getting harder and harder for us to get our information into the public schools since 911. Then if we get it into the schools, to find someone that is passionate about government or knows the American Legion and what we stand for. Usually the information gets put on someone's desk and covered up. Our hands are tied from the point of putting the application packets into the schools. If you are interested in any of these opportunities, please let me know.

Also if you know of any juniors in high school that would be interested in our session, please give them this email address. We are also on the web at www.alaskagirlsstate.org.

Good Luck in your legislative endeavors and God Bless.

For God and Country,
Debra Henderson, Girls State Director
American Legion Auxiliary Dept. of Alaska



Senator Bettye Davis with Connie Lindsay, President of the National Board of Directors for the Girl Scouts of the United States of America