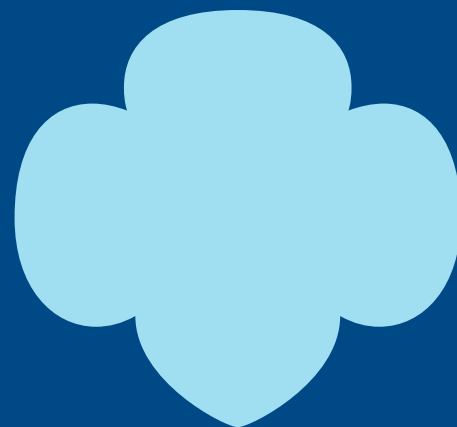


# Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons 2022 Annual Report



## Message from our Board Chair and CEO

In our ever-changing world, Girl Scouts continue to show us they are ready to step-up, take action, and make the world a better place. With their resilient spirit and can-do attitude, they aren't just the leaders of tomorrow, they are girl leaders – today. At Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons, we never lose sight of providing a girl-led, inclusive environment for girls to flourish and excel.

Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons was proud to offer more programs, in more locations, and create MORE Girl Scout experiences than previous years. We continued to embrace a hybrid program schedule, including in-person and virtual events. While virtual events remained popular, it was evident our girls were ready to get back in-person and our program numbers reflected that.

With a continued focus on STEM, we were proud to offer hands-on STEM programs through our Mobile STEM Center. By connecting with girls in their communities, Girl Scouts were able to hone their skills in areas such as robotics, programming, and engineering while having fun and gaining confidence. Access to STEM experiences is critical for girls and the future workforce. That's why Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons is committed to delivering hands-on, minds-on STEM programming to all Girl Scouts throughout our 164,000 square mile council.

We celebrated the introduction of our Mobile STEM Center with community members and program partners around council. From Bismarck to Sioux Falls, hundreds came out to learn about how this innovative opportunity brings state-of-the-art equipment and Girl Scout STEM programs to girls in their communities.

While the majority of our programs took place inside our council borders, for some, their Girl Scout adventure took them outside the area and even out of the country. Girl Scouts spent time in the Dominican Republic working to impact issues ranging from gender equality to generational poverty to eco-tourism. The group had an unforgettable experience while exploring island life and making a meaningful difference in the community.

Another travel opportunity took girls to the birthplace of Girl Scouts – Savannah, Georgia. While taking in exquisite architecture and southern charm, girls toured the First Girl Scout Headquarters and founder Juliette Gordon Low's home. This history lesson gave girls a unique insight into the background of the Girl Scout mission. A mission we still have today, 110 years later.

As we reflect on an exceptional year, we are truly humbled to be your leaders at Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons. We head into the upcoming year full of excitement for the future while eagerly awaiting what life changing things our Girl Scouts will do next.

**Jennifer Baloun**  
Board Chair

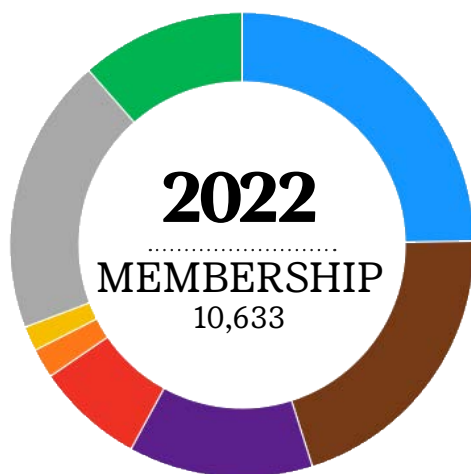
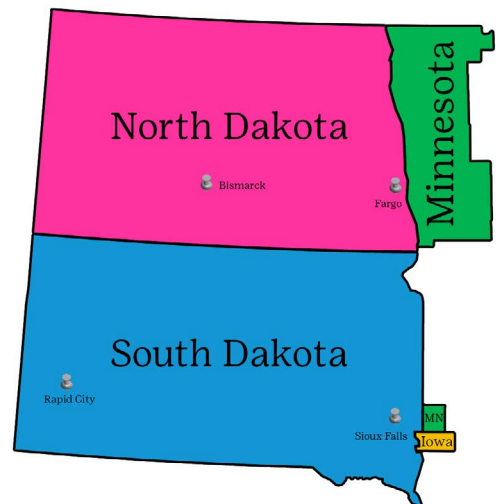


**Marla Meyer**  
Chief Executive Officer

# Our Council

Behind every Girl Scout and volunteer is a team of local staff ready to help them earn that next badge, embark on a camping adventure, or organize an impactful service project. That's what a Girl Scout council is.

Serving communities in North Dakota, South Dakota and contiguous communities in Minnesota and Iowa, we have girls reaching their fullest potential in cities, towns and communities that cover more than 164,000 square miles including 3 Air Force Bases and 13 Native American Reservations!



25%	DAISY   2,631	2%	SENIOR   220
20%	BROWNIE   2,166	2%	AMBASSADOR   183
13%	JUNIOR   1,365	19%	VOLUNTEERS   2,049
8%	CADETTE   798	11%	LIFETIME MEMBERS   1,221

## Board of Directors

**Jennifer Baloun**  
President

**David Rasmussen**  
Treasurer

**Valerie Loudonback**  
Vice President

**Marla Meyer**  
Chief Executive Officer

**Laura Lueder**  
Secretary

### Board Members

Lori Clausen  
Cindy Graffeo  
Ashley Hall  
Erica Johnsrud  
Sue Klose  
Lisa Kunza

Lori Leingang  
Karen Pearson  
Marie Ruettgers  
Linda Salmonson  
Casey Sanders-Berglund  
Leslie Weigel





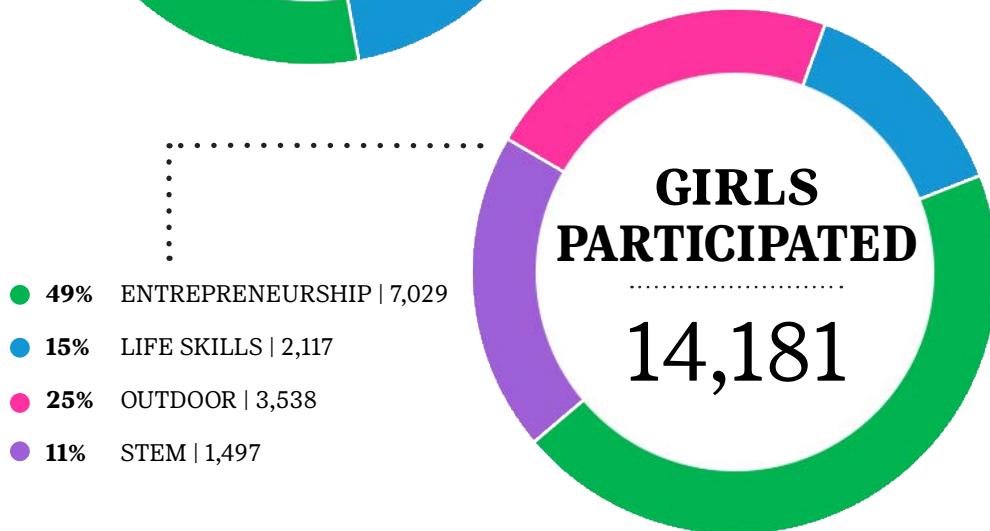
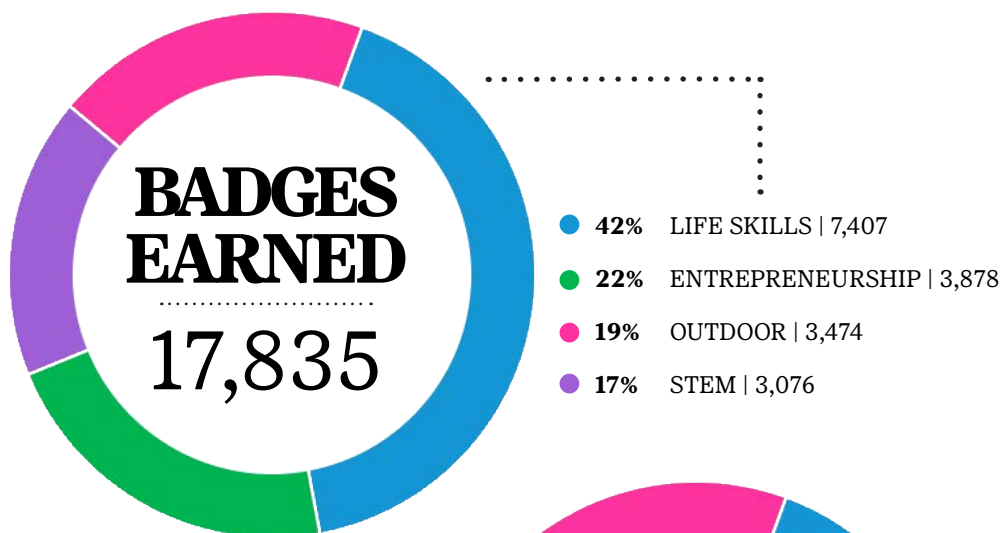
# Programming



As the premier leadership organization for girls, we provide fun and challenging program opportunities in the four Girl Scout pillars of outdoors, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), life skills, and entrepreneurship. Over the last membership year, we continued to prioritize meeting girls where they are by offering programs in a variety of ways, including virtual and in-person events.

This was our first full year with the Mobile STEM Center and Girl Scouts from every corner of council had the opportunity to get hands-on with STEM. From coding robots to building and racing model cars, hundreds of girls explored their interest in STEM.

Regardless of how they participated this year, our Girl Scouts learned new skills, overcame obstacles, met their goals, and worked to make the world a better place!

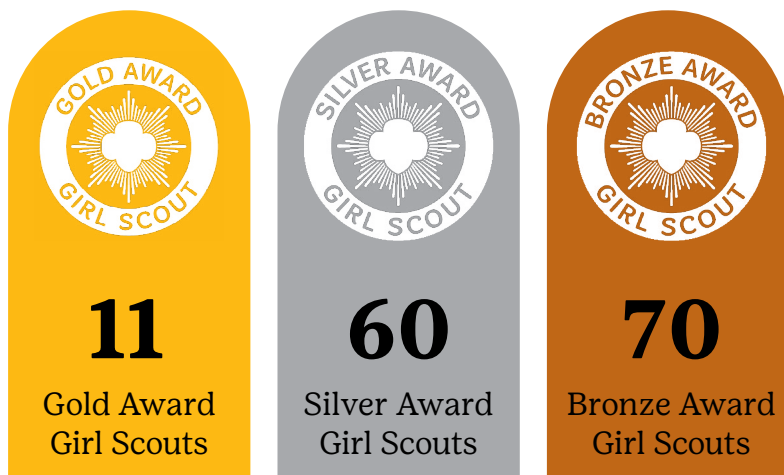






# Highest Awards

More than just pins on a vest, Girl Scout higher awards set the foundation for a lifetime of leadership. Starting in fourth grade, girls have the opportunity to develop and execute “take action” projects that positively impact their communities. The Bronze and Silver awards recognize troop efforts that teach key skills such as communication, teamwork, critical thinking and problem solving. The Gold Award is the highest individual achievement in Girl Scouting, a shining example of what a girl can achieve while working toward her high school graduation.



Eleven extraordinary Girl Scouts made sustainable change in their communities and earned their Gold Award this past year. Their projects focused on issues they cared about, including building a city dog park, sewing clothes and blankets for those in need, creating enrichment for zoo animals, teaching young girls about mental health, building a sensory room at a preschool, and hosting an activity drive for a homeless shelter.

## Gold Award Girl Scouts

**Cosette Clement | Grand Forks, ND**  
*Sewing an Impact*

**Caitlynn Ellison | Thief River Falls, MN**  
*Pioneer Village Activity Booklet*

**Erin Fitzgerald | Lisbon, ND**  
*City Dog Park*

**Kayleen Hermans | Aberdeen, SD**  
*Lighthouse Preschool Sensory Room*

**Jazmin Hill | Yankton, SD**  
*Soldier's Dog Mats*

**Isabele Johnson | Canistota, SD**  
*From Hider to Handler: Training a Search and Rescue Dog*

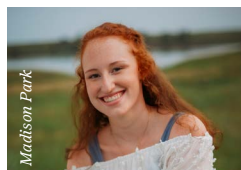
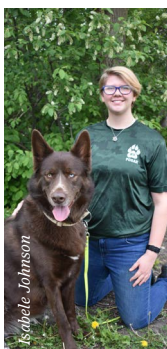
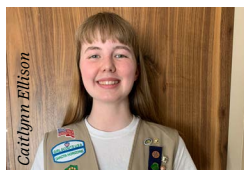
**Kylie Kruiz | Fargo, ND**  
*Activity Supply Drive*

**Madison Park | Watertown, SD**  
*Enrichment for Bramble Park Zoo*

**Grace Payton | Rapid City, SD**  
*We Are All In This Together*

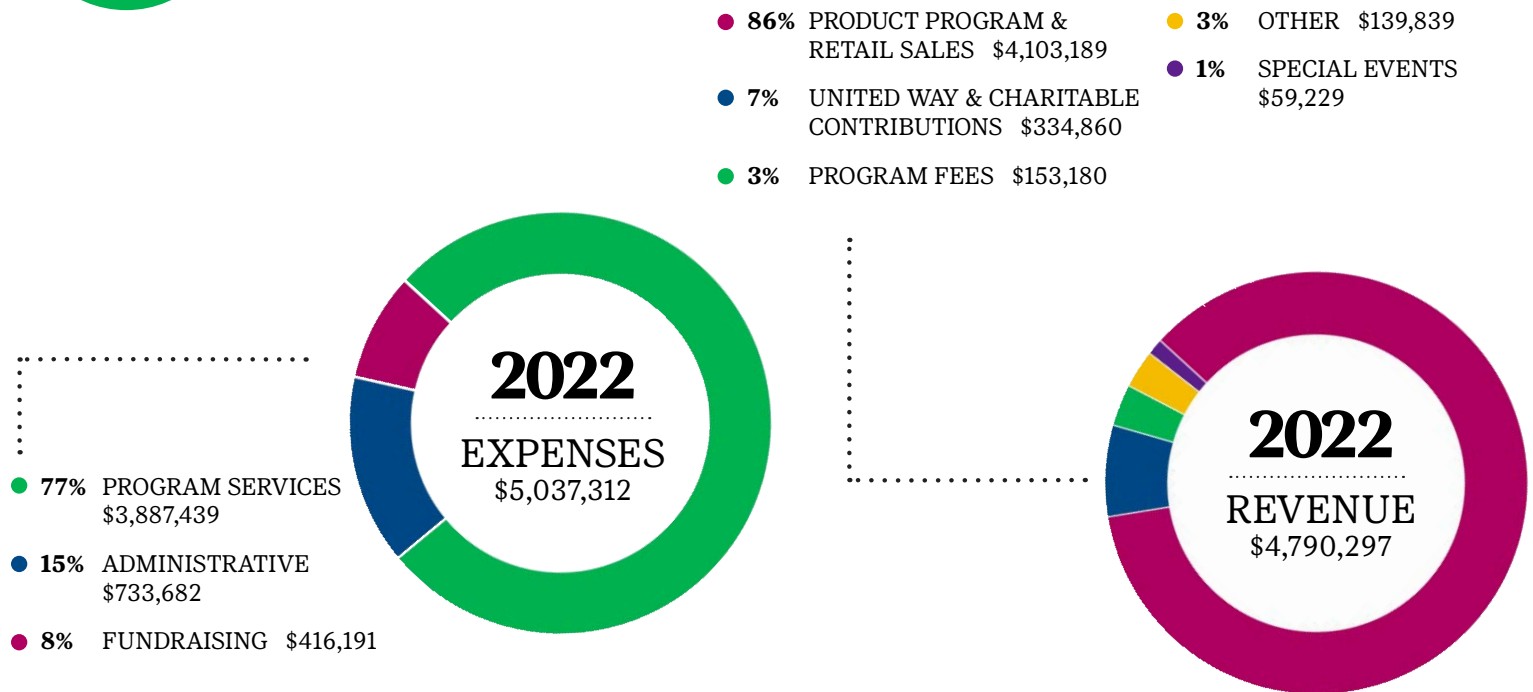
**Lauren Peterka | Jamestown, ND**  
*Sewing and Cooking Basics*

**Kaitlyn Twedell | Grand Forks, ND**  
*Blankets Made with Love*





# Financial Report



The condensed statements of financial position and activities have been summarized from the audited financial statements. The audited financial statements are available for inspection upon request.

## Thank you to all of our 2022 supporters.

The complete list of donors, sponsors and supporters is available to [download](#).

Thank You to those who contributed to Girl Scouts Dakota Horizons in the 2021-2022 Fiscal Year. Your gifts made the difference in countless Girl Scouts' lives as they lived out the Girl Scout mission: Building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

The Juliette Gordon Low Society was established to thank and honor friends of Girl Scouts who choose to make Girl Scouts part of their legacies and a beneficiary of their estate plans. We are grateful for their decisions to provide a legacy gift to the girls, ensuring that the Girl Scout Leadership Experience will live on for generations to come.

- Erik and Eva Andersen Girl Scout Movement-wide Challenge Planned Gift
- Tonya Andersen
- Jennifer and Bryan Baloun
- Dianne Belk and Lawrence Calder Girl Scout Movement-wide Challenge Planned Gift
- Kurt and Valerie Loudanback
- Marla Meyer
- Stephen and MaryLynn Meyers
- Jeff and Tracy Munce
- Lorna Olson-Cooper
- Donnie Riedel
- Marie Ruettgers
- Jane VanHatten
- Susan and Bob Wefald