



What's Happening

A Quarterly Newsletter From the World Foundation
for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Inc.

June 2023

Convention 2023

Things are gearing up for GSUSA's National Convention taking place next month in Orlando, Florida. The World Foundation will have a booth in the Hall of Experiences with exciting activities presented by each of our Friends Committees. This is always a wonderful opportunity to interact with the girls we work so hard to support as well as our invaluable supporters.

Due to limited capacity, time constraints, and wanting to ensure the best use of resources, it was decided that there will not be a World Foundation Breakfast this year. This decision was made with everyone's best interests at heart, and the Board is working on some other special ideas to allow us to acknowledge our Friends and supporters at this event.

We can't wait to see you there!

News from the Friends Committees:



Friends of WAGGGS USA

Friends of WAGGGS USA has proudly supported the WAGGGS Initiative "Stop the Violence," the world's only global campaign to stop all violence against girls and women.

SPEAKING OUT AND TAKING ACTION is a critical Stop the Violence campaign component. Since its launch in

2011, Girl Guides and Girl Scouts have advocated for ending violence against girls and women in their communities, counties, and worldwide. During 16 Days of Activism, WAGGGS has mobilized thousands of young women worldwide as part of campaigns like #OurStreetsToo, #GirlsAreUnsafe, and #OurStreetToo.

STV is now active in 70 COUNTRIES, with 35 countries delivering the VAV (Voices Against Violence) curriculum in four different languages – English, French, Spanish, and Arabic.

WAGGGS has directly trained more than 200 National Trainers, who then went on to train more than 7,000 leaders in their own countries.

80,000 young people have completed the VAV curriculum so far, and donations have been critical to the success of the "Stop the Violence" campaign!

FoWAGGGS USA welcomes our newest members, Joanne Fischer from Pennsylvania and Nayeli Zayas from Cuernavaca, Mexico, approved at the WF Board meeting on March 4, 2023.



JoAnne Fischer is retired after 30 years of heading a maternal child health NGO. She is a lifetime member of GSUSA, was a girl participant at Our Cabana, attended the 1965 GS Roundup, and organized the 2012 OB PS meeting in Philadelphia. She has been on several GSUSA board committees. She has attended all UN International Women's meetings as a World Federation of Public Health Organizations representative.

Nayeli Zayas has 20+ years of Risk Management experience In Mexico. She has participated in many community projects – food banks, child development and mentoring, and promoting financial independence with the Guías de México. Nayeli looks forward to supporting WAGGGS using her cultural background and financial experience with FoWAGGGS USA



information at jglplaquecampaign@gmail.com). Patches are mailed from the US and England.

Another note on Juliette Low: her home in Wellsbourne House had received a blue plaque. At our last FoPL USA meeting, Julia Routlege reported on the unveiling of the plaque, as she was able to attend.

We definitely would love to have you join us at Pax Lodge for Global Friendship Week 2023. It will be held November 26th-December 1st. This year's theme will be Christmas in London so we will see London lit up in all its glory.



Friends of Pax Lodge

Pax Lodge is back in full swing. The summer events began with JamBrownee (after a 3-year hiatus). JamBrownee is always a fun filled weekend for younger girls. *Journey Through London* sessions for the older girls have been fully booked.



The Friends of Pax Lodge USA have been busy getting ready for convention. Our convention team has worked hard and creatively to get ready for the World Foundation booth.

As England was the second home of Juliette Low, our committee has also kept up with the plaques celebrating her life in England. We are still supporting the Juliette Gordon Low Challenge campaign to place a green plaque at the location of Juliette's home in London (more

Upcoming Events:



Friends of Pax Lodge USA will be hosting a Royal Tea event via Zoom on September 16, 2023 at 2:00pm EST. The event will help to raise funds to promote Pax Lodge programs with hopes of continuing to bring girls together from different backgrounds and fostering new friendships. The Royal Tea will engage its participants in games and activities as well as in song and a live auction. Please be sure to check our website for additional details on how to register for this fun event.



Friends of Sangam



Our committee welcomes our new member **Karen Vis** – from the Atlanta area. She has already been busy getting involved with the other committee members in the area to raise funds for Sangam. Welcome Karen!

Sangam has been active and busy.

The year started with some repairs and maintenance:

1. The Campfire area needed some repairs and cleaning. We've installed some new campfire benches, which looks beautiful and are looking forward to have more campfire evenings with our guests.



2. The compound wall was broken many places and we fixed it last month.

3. Maintenance team used leftover cement and sand to fix some broken floors in the kitchen shelter.

World Thinking Day -

Sangam celebrated World Thinking Day with our International Guests and Bharat Scouts and Guides who brought great energy in the Sangam team.



Upcoming events (check out the website and sign up):

1. Cooking Tips from Sangam's Kitchen Ladies! (Online)
2. Diamond Countdown Three
3. Diamond Countdown Three - Khajuraho Add on Tour
4. Brave Space 2023
5. Discover Incredible India 2024
6. Celebrating World Thinking Day 2024



Friends of Our Cabaña

The Friends of Our Cabaña continue to celebrate the announcement of Our Cabaña's reopening while working hard to ensure sustainable funding. WAGGGS is

currently interviewing applicants and plan to introduce the new World Centre Manager by the end of June. The hiring of a Deputy WCM will follow along with seeking volunteers for multiple positions.

A program calendar will also be presented in late June allowing this information to be shared at the GSUSA National Convention. Magdalene Thomas, WAGGGS Head of International Operations, is seeking input from the Friends of Our Cabaña and others about the program and event offerings. The Western Hemisphere Regional Committee is starting to schedule events at Our Cabaña helping to ensure the centre is mainstreamed into WAGGGS programming. If you are considering a trip to Cabaña, please complete a Booking Enquiry Form: <https://forms.office.com/e/pzWBV7BhLU>

Thanks to everyone who donated to support Our Cabaña's reopening. We could not have done it without you.



We are thrilled to announce our annual meeting will be held in February 2024 on the grounds of Our Cabaña. Consider yourselves invited – we would love you to join us for the fiesta.

News from the Members:



World Foundation + USA Girl Scouts Overseas: Connecting girls, the world over!

Through the generosity of the World Foundation and its supporters, USAGSO is doing remarkable things in 2023, giving structure and opportunity to our members.

Virtual programming continues to engage and challenge; and this year we are proud to bring back residential camp, in partnership with [Our Chalet World Centre!](#) Because of the World Foundation's connections and support, USAGSO will host over 75 youth and 16 adult members at Our Chalet in early June.

Finally, as in years past, Community Camp Grants provided by the World Foundation have been invaluable in reinvigorating and rebuilding USAGSO communities. Here are some examples of the camps supported by the World Foundation:

In Addis Ababa, Ethiopia –

“We spent 2 nights at the Embassy run campground on Langan Lake. The [Girl] Scout patrols (5 different patrols) were each responsible for one meal (planning and preparing) and one cleaning up after a meal. The Brownies and Juniors practiced their campfire skills. All Scouts learned about the Leave No Trace principles and actively employed them for future campers at the campground. The Patrols performed skits, and all had S'Mores.”



In Wiesbaden, Germany –

“This [Zombie preparedness] event was hosted by Cadette Troop 102. Cadette Troop 102 developed the outline and station plans for the event, created the decor, and led some of the stations. Cadettes from Troop 102 as well as 2 Cadette Juliettes led the remaining stations. (All under adult supervision, of course.) The objective of the event was to teach emergency preparedness skills to the younger (Daisy-Junior) Girl Scouts.”



In Shanghai, China –

“World Thinking Day event, attended by troops from Concordia, YCIS, Xuhui Mix Troops and French Girl Guides. The flag ceremony was the first time for some troops, it was beautiful to see all the flags from different troop levels. It was great to see other troops from different schools as well, makes it feel like part of a big community. It was also inspiring to see older girls lead a workshop. The Xuhui Mix Troop performed a short skit/play. The friendship circle and singing the "Make new friends song" were a crowd favorite. Of course, the SWAPS was something our girls always look forward to. It was nice to see younger kids interact with the older girls.”



In Japan –

“This was an island wide camporee that was attended by Camp Courtney, Camp Kinser, Camp Foster and Kadena Girl Scouts. Japanese Girl Scouts were also in attendance.”



In Paris, France –

“Archery tag was a great success at camp in! We had two sessions. One for Cadettes and above and one for Juniors. We had completed Think Like a Citizen Scientist on Saturday and the girls had a karaoke dance that evening and after breakfast they were ready for archery. It was a

fantastic workshop where they learned how to shoot modified arrows and then got to play tag and shoot 'arrows' at each other. The kids and adults really enjoyed it."

The trust of the World Foundation has given USAGSO the agility and guidance to keep members of the Movement at the center of all that we do. With your support and leadership, USAGSO can be wherever our members are, when they need us most.



WAGGGS

38th WAGGGS World Conference

The 38th WAGGGS World Conference is fast approaching. All involved are extremely excited to welcome attendees to Cyprus from the 26th - 30th July for what will be an incredibly special and important event for the Global Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Movement. Inspired by the conference theme Dream, Act, Lead: The future is ours; we will dream of what an equal world where all girls can thrive looks like; acting and leading the way to make our vision a reality by 2032.

The 38th WAGGGS World Conference now has a website. Recently launched, the website has been developed by the Girl Guides of Cyprus. The website will provide a single online destination for all things World Conference. Link to 38th WAGGGS World Conference website - <https://www.cywaggggs2023.com/>

Thanks to funds raised by Olave Baden-Powell Society members, the 38th WAGGGS World Conference will be preceded by the Get Ready for Governance Programme. The Get Ready for Governance Programme will support participants under 30 in their World Conference experience. It is made up of four parts:

- **Dream:** through online webinars and a dedicated space on WAGGGS' online platform, Campfire, build your WAGGGS governance and World Conference knowledge.
- **Act:** come together face-to-face in Cyprus on the 25th of July to connect, network and prepare for the next five days.
- **Lead:** actively participate in World Conference and represent the voices of girls and young women across the Girl Guide and Girl Scout Movement!
- **The Future Is Ours:** connect with each other again online post World Conference to reflect and share the next steps to apply your learnings.

The WAGGGS World Board elections will be held during the 38th World Conference. An election booklet has been put together to enable the Movement to find out more about the sixteen candidates standing for election to the World Board at the 38th World Conference.

Link to election booklet - [Election Booklet 2023 ENGLISH \(final\).pdf \(waggggs.org\)](#)

Prior to the World Conference, the WAGGGS Triennial Report has been published. This report will present the achievements and financial updates of the Movement over the last three years.

WAGGGS Triennial Report link -

<https://az659834.vo.msecnd.net/eventsairwesteuprod/production-wagggsevents-public/fe44815891764721b17fb7cd203c46e1>



38th WAGGGS World Conference Logo

WAGGGS Giving Day 2023

It is that time of the year again! We are delighted to have launched WAGGGS Giving Day 2023. The theme is You Give, for Her World. On the 14th & 15th of June, we brought the Global Movement together for a day of celebration and donation, with the joint mission of creating a world where she can thrive.

Supporters in the United States are able to support WAGGGS Giving Day 2023 via the World Foundation.

Link to support Giving Day 2023 in the USA -

<https://worldfoundationgggs.salsalabs.org/wagggsgivingday2023/index.html>

WAGGGS STEM Consultation

More girls are in school today than ever before, but they do not always have the same opportunities as boys to complete and benefit from

an education of their choice. Too many girls and women are held back by biases, social norms and expectations influencing the quality of the education they receive and the subjects they study. They are particularly under-represented in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education, and consequently in STEM careers.



WAGGGS STEM consultation engaged over 8,500 young participants from over 50 countries around the world. The survey provided

insight into barriers to girls and young women and STEM careers.

60% of respondents felt more males opted to pursue STEM at school, university or tertiary level in their country. These barriers include culture-related bias and a lack of confidence, among others, preventing girls and young women from careers in STEM.

69% told us girls lack confidence in taking up STEM subjects, and 72% feel they don't get the support and encouragement they need from adults.

65% of our national Member Organisations said that in their countries, girls are simply not being told about the career choices they can make after studying STEM subjects.

World Thinking Day 2023

Over 168 million steps were taken, more than doubling the target, and £21,000 raised so far. These are the fantastic results of the Global Movement coming together to participate in the WAGGGS Walk the World Challenge 2023.

The challenge which ran for two months, starting on World Thinking Day 2023 and finishing on Earth Day 2023 has been a great success in re-invigorating the WAGGGS World Thinking Day fund which will support WAGGGS vital work to empower over 8 million girls and young women in 152 countries to grow in confidence, develop skills and build a better world!

A huge thank you to everybody who got involved and made the challenge such a success by walking, fundraising, and donating.



Participants in the Walk the World Challenge

Global Youth Mobilization (GYM)

An estimated 1.2 billion young people have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic response measures. Disruptions to education, employment, health services and social support have changed the future of an entire generation.

To address these challenges, the world's largest Big Six youth organizations (Including WAGGGS) initiated the GYM to harness the surge of youth-led activism and action, creative solutions, passion, and commitment, by investing much needed funds at a grassroots level and advocating for the role of young people in COVID-19 recovery and response efforts.

On the 27th March, the Global Youth Mobilization (GYM) launched its final impact report. Titled ***"Unstoppable Together: Celebrating 2 Years of Youth-led Global Action"*** the report highlights the reach and impact of the investment in young people globally to date.

To address challenges faced by an estimated 1.2 billion young people around the world as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the world's largest Big Six youth organizations initiated the GYM to harness the surge of youth-led activism and action, creative solutions, passion, and commitment, by investing much needed funds at a grassroots level and advocating for the role of young people in COVID-19 recovery and response efforts.

To date the GYM has invested \$5 million in supporting 471 youth-led projects in 72 countries. The final report represents the success of the Big Six's collaboration and partnership on a global scale and the importance of implementing new and accessible funding opportunities for young people. The report includes case studies of global youth-led projects and makes a series of recommendations to multinational institutions, governments, policymakers, and corporations to ensure that the needs of young people are prioritised in future decisions.

Link to GYM final impact report -

<https://globalyouthmobilization.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GYM-Final-Report-2023.pdf>

Link to GYM executive summary -

<https://globalyouthmobilization.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/GYM-Executive-Summary-2023.pdf>



Free Being Me Programme Receives Recognition

The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and Unilever's Dove Self-Esteem Project (DESP) have been recognised for their unique ten-year global programme Free Being Me at this year's Better Society Awards.

The Better Society Awards recognizes organisations that are helping to create a better, more equal, world for all and this year The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) and Unilever's Dove Self-Esteem Project (DESP) received the Highly Commended Award for a 'Partnership with an International Charity'. The award celebrates a transformational global programme empowering millions of young people through improving body-confidence and self-esteem.

This year is an incredible milestone for the Free Being Me programme which has for 10 years empowered young people through improving body-confidence and self-esteem. In 2020, we successfully completed the second phase of the programme and following its completion, 85% of girls reported feeling better about themselves and their bodies.

WAGGGS CEO, Anna Segall, has said this about the partnership with Unilever and the recent recognition -

"Dove has been an incredible long-term partner and it is testament to their work and that of



WAGGGS Team pictured with award.

the WAGGGS Free Being Me team that we have received this award. It is incredible to witness how the programme has transformed the lives of millions of girls and young women across the globe, empowering them to build their body confidence and self-esteem to reach their full potential”.

WAGGGS World Centres

Greetings from the World Centres. We hope you; your families and your friends are well.

All the centres are bustling with activity as we gear up for our busiest time of year and to welcome wonderful guests from all over the world. However, before we welcome all our wonderful summer guests, we wanted to take a moment to share some exciting updates with you.

Join us for Giving Day on 14th and 15th June! You can show your support to the World Centres by donating to the project “Creating Global Connections in the World Centres” or by sharing your World Centre Impact Story on social media and directing your contacts to here to make their impact on Her World!

What is happening at Sangam?

At Sangam, the team are all well, and there are several ongoing activities and events. The Volunteer Leadership Programme is set to begin in July, with two volunteers for the first season. Applications are being accepted for the Leaders Today II event in August, with scholarships available due to the World Foundation's generous donations, resulting in a diverse applicant pool. Counting Down to our 60th Birthday has started, and there are spots available for pre-birthday events each year until 2026. Book your space today!

What is happening at Our Chalet?

There are several updates from Our Chalet. The Helen Storrow Seminar will take place in March 2024, allowing more time for us to update the content and visa applications and appeals. September events such as International Friendship Week, Walking Week, and Hiking Week still have available spots, and it's not too

late to register. Thanks to support from organizations like the World Foundation, Our Chalet has been able to offer the Volunteer Leadership Programme to a diverse group of participants. This summer's team includes volunteers from various countries, including Ireland, Malaysia, Canada, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Kenya, Costa Rica, Zimbabwe, Madagascar, Malawi, Tanzania, the Netherlands, and the UK, who are already learning and growing from the experience.

What is happening at Kusafiri?

We are very excited to host the first Kusafiri event since COVID, in Ghana from 17th to 23rd August 2023. This is a unique opportunity for 20 Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (aged 18+ and approved by their International Commissioner) to join 30 young women who have successfully completed Stage 3 of their Juliette Low Seminar. The event will be held in English and French. If anyone would like to make a last minute decision to join us in Ghana in August then they would be most welcome. We have several places still open for people who can self-fund their experience. We're really looking forward to delivering this leadership event for women of all ages. It's going to be a fantastic mix of WAGGGS connections, Ghanaian culture and growing our leadership. Contact jen.barron@waggs.org for more information.

What happening at Nuestra Cabaña?

Now that the World Board has officially approved the reopening plan and budget, we are busy making arrangements to welcome visitors to our wonderful centre. The recruitment process for the World Centre Manager is going well, and we will be announcing the new manager by the end of June. We will soon be recruiting for a Deputy World Centre Manager and long-term volunteers, and we would appreciate it if you could share this information with your networks once it is announced. Also, to help us plan for the coming years, we would like to gather some information from potential visitors about their plans. If you are planning to visit, please fill out our booking enquiry form at <https://forms.office.com/e/pzWBV7BhLU/>. We hope to start taking bookings in the coming months, and once

we have received your details, we will notify you as soon as bookings open. We would like to say a special thank you to all those that have donated to the 'Save Our Cabaña' fund. We can't express how much we appreciate your support.

We are so grateful for the continued support of the World Foundation. Without your generosity, we would not be able to provide these incredible opportunities to girls and young women from all over the world. Thank you for your ongoing support of WAGGGS and our World Centres. Together, we can continue to empower the next generation of female leaders and change-makers.

The next issue of "What's Happening" will be published in September 2023. If you have any articles or information you would like included, please send to vpierpoint@girlscouts.org by September 1st, 2023.

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