



What's Happening

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

October 2025



THANK YOU, ONE AND ALL

As we close out Fiscal Year 2025 we want to express our sincerest gratitude to all the donors, Friends, and supporters of all kinds who helped us in our Mission this year. Together we raised over two million dollars to support projects and programs for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts around the world. The generosity and passion behind this are inspiring.

Memorial gifts and legacy giving made a significant impact on our overall funds this year, including an exceptional \$1.28 million dollar bequest from the estate of Marcy Keeler. We are honored to be stewards of our supporters' legacies. If you are considering planned giving, treasurer Ellen Petrino would be happy to work with you on setting that up and learning about the process. Email epetrino@girlscouts.org with any questions.



WAGGGS Giving Day Update

Our last newsletter was released just ahead of WAGGGS Giving Day. That event allowed our Board to grant \$117,466 to the four WAGGGS priorities - Meaningful Youth Participation, World Centres, Empowering through Growing and Learning, and the Greatest Need. WAGGGS proposals were received in September and approved in an October 7 special Board Meeting.

Two special projects were also approved for funding at that meeting and will bring an AED and training to Nuestra Cabaña, as well as connecting their dorms to wifi.

New Frontiers in Global Citizenship

A first ever collaboration brought together GSUSA girls from several councils, sisters from Guías de Mexico, staff, and volunteers to Nuestra Cabana in July. The World Foundation is proud to have provided support for this event, which overlapped with USAGSO camp, amplifying the international experience for all. Read more on page 8.





Friends of WAGGGS USA



"Celebrate good times, c'mon!"

Friends of WAGGGS USA have 75,007 reasons to celebrate.

What a year FoWAGGGS USA has had! We welcomed seven new members, Marty Davis, Robbiezell Price-Marshall, Karin Rose, Critchett Hodufavich, Diane Rotwitt, Amanda Miscisin, and Tina Cheplick. Making the year even better, we achieved our financial goal of \$75,000. Additionally, some of you have made donations already to the next fiscal year.

We look forward to celebrating at the Gathering at the end of the month where we will set new goals, hear reports on grants funded and make plans for Girl Scouts Unite next Summer in Washington, DC. For those unable to attend in person, a Zoom link will be sent out for our committee meeting being held on Saturday, November 1 in the morning, Eastern time zone.

Congratulations and job well done Friends of WAGGGS USA!

*Kandi Lancaster, Chair
Gail Lamotte, Vice Chair*



Friends of Our Chalet

Stories from high up, high on the mountain -

Celebrating joy despite great loss

This story comes from Leilani Jones Wilmore

It had been 12 years since my last trip to Our Chalet with my daughter,



Lauren, and Aunt Beulah. This year, I tagged along with a group of scouts from my town, Altadena, California. Many of the 40 adults and girls on the trip had lost their homes and were displaced because of the Altadena fires that started on January 7, 2025. They had been fundraising for 2 years and made the trip despite the upheaval in our community.



We traveled to Germany, Austria, Italy, Switzerland and France and I made many new friends (as it says in the song). One of the highlights for me was songleading on the bus. Our tour guide and bus driver had never traveled with scouts before and they were laughing hysterically at our everyday camp

songs! The tour guide shared with me how much she enjoyed traveling with these amazing girls and

complemented them on their ability to go with the flow and be kind to one another. That was the best complement of all for traveling scouts!

Our Chalet hosted the International Friendship Week in September.

This story is shared by Judith Mahnke

In the true spirit of Scouting and International Friendship Week, Scouts and Guides gathered from around the globe “high up, high on the mountain.”



From left: Sophy (Greece), Grace (UK), Scarlet (UK), Ranveig (Norway), Isabel (Spain)

Grace and Scarlet were part of the English Guide group. They had never met before the trip but became quick companions. Sophy, Ranveig and Isabel first met at Our Chalet in 1989 for a Juliet Low Conference. They have stayed in touch over the years and decided it was time to revisit Our Chalet together. It was a wonderful photograph to have Grace and Scarlet at the beginning of their Our Chalet friendship along with the other women who met just like them 36 years ago.

The joy for all to know is that our Chalet friendships can last through our lives. The younger two already have their next trip together planned to Pax Lodge for the Christmas Fairs.

The week started as a gathering of mostly strangers. Through the activities, meals, programs, bus rides,

hikes and Tea Bar socializing we became the 2025 IFW group. It was a breath of fresh air to be with people who cared for one another, looked out for each other, and took pleasure in each other's company.

Thank you to all the staff and volunteers that keep Our Chalet the place where Scouts and Guides come to continue their Scouting lives.



Ranveig, Sophy, Isabel, and the entire group for the 1989 Juliette Low Seminar



Friends of Pax Lodge

This summer was a great one and one to remember at Pax Lodge. It all started with JamBrownee in May. The Brownies from the UK, Kansas, Kuwait and Germany were not disappointed when it came to having fun and making everyone around them laugh and smile.

June, July and August saw six weeks of Journey Through London filled with a lot of excitement, London exploration and a walking tour of Westminster guided by our Honorary committee member, Catherine Gritz. A total of 219 participants from GSUSA, Girl Guides Canada, Girl Guides New Zealand and Girl Scouts Japan attended JTL. Pax Lodge also hosted a group of 16 Scouts

from Tunisia who spent a week with us and took part in some similar activities to Journey Through London.

Pax Lodge hosted a great number of other Guides and Scouts. Our bed nights for June, July and August were 5,133. Pax also welcomed approximately 2100-day visitors (945 were part of EF Tour groups). The EF groups had fun filled 2-hour sessions with the volunteers, including a guided tour of the ground floor, activities from WAGGS programs and other countries plus the very special pinning ceremony.

Also, a big shout out to our Summer Volunteers: Rebecca, Lauren and Katie (UK); Miriam (Malawi); Emily and Sarah (USA); Jahan (Trinidad and Tobago); Naphatiti (Nigeria); Andrea (Mexico); Nimra (Pakistan); Ulrika (Sweden); Jasmin, our Marketing and Communications volunteer from South Africa and Ophelia, Guest Services, from Ghana.



Volunteer Jahan leads the morning flag ceremony

In addition, Pax Lodge has partnered with a local charity called "Little Hands". They use textiles and design to support Reduce, Reuse & Recycle as well as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Between stays, three bathrooms were renovated and the flags on the front were updated. This link should take you to a google drive folder with some photos from the summer:

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QVeV50CjhlRd7Eeu5D6aYjGqj6WIdwGj?usp=drive link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QVeV50CjhlRd7Eeu5D6aYjGqj6WIdwGj?usp=drive_link)

Friends of Pax Lodge USA held a General Committee Meeting on August 9, 2025, to discuss our various committees that have been meeting since the last Macy Gathering. Barbara reported on Convention updates: Mon. July 20-Sat. July 25 – The National Council Session starts 20th to 22nd and Girl Experience evening 22nd through 25th. For an overview of the convention center: <https://washington.org/meetings/walter-ewashington-convention-center>

Maureen reported that FoPL USA looks forward to welcoming 2 new members at this year's Gathering. We continue to recruit new members and are reaching out to Pax Lodge volunteers from the USA to inquire about their joining our Friends group.

Marlene reported on Pax Lodge Anniversary plans for the 35th anniversary in March of 2026. A week of activities has been planned to start on Sunday, March 15th, our birthday! She has a tentative schedule available to all interested. Marlene also inquired about the 40th anniversary in 2031 and if we want to celebrate like the 25th Anniversary.

Karen led our committee interested in creating a survey to facilitate Global Girl Scouting. Our working group has sent the draft survey to Linda Foreman for her input. She will weigh in on this at Macy.

Sarah reports that her committee continues efforts to brainstorm new avenues for fundraising projects.

To that end, Lisa hosted the Murder Mystery Zoom event with an online auction on August 23rd. Participants had a lot of fun guessing who the murderer was. We are looking to host quite a few more fundraisers and auctions in the future. Lisa demonstrated the social media platform called the Band Channel. It is more secure than Facebook, gaining in popularity and it is free. We will be exploring this at our Macy meeting. We all look forward to being together at Macy in October!

Special Update!

Angela, daughter of World Foundation Program Coordinator Valerie Pierpoint, attended her very first flag ceremony in September (previous page) and received her Pax Lodge pin. Staff believe she's the youngest ever to receive it - teddy bears excluded. Angie is also proud to have completed the Pax Lodge Challenge, earning her patch.



Respectfully submitted by Liz Tranter, Barbara Johnson, and Maureen Lienau



Friends of Nuestra Cabaña

Exciting events are happening at Nuestra Cabaña. Upcoming fall sessions include:

A Taste of Mexico, Real Mexico: Day of the Dead, and Natural Mexico: Monarch Butterflies.

You are invited to join the Friends for our Annual Meeting, February 4-8, 2026, in Cuernavaca. Our pre-meeting trip will explore Mexico's Wine and Cheese Route as well as checking in on the Monarch Butterfly migration in Valle de



Bravo. As part of the meeting, you will have an opportunity to visit Taxco and Xochicalco, UNESCO World Heritage Site. Onsite, plan to roll up your sleeves and dig in Cabaña's new garden. It's going to be a celebration of culture, nature, and friendship you won't want to miss. Please contact Patty Cook at cookrb@aol.com for more information.

Her Roots, Her Future from Veronica Arjona - Program Manager at Nuestra Cabaña

In April, Nuestra Cabaña launched an innovative and important program called "Her Roots, Her Future." Through a series of activities, this program opens a conversation about how we can empower girls to chase their dreams, forget stereotypes, and see STEAM areas as something for them. At the same time, participants learn how climate change affects girls and women differently and what sustainable solutions they can pursue as a community.

Thanks to this program, Nuestra Cabaña has started transforming some areas onsite into community

gardens. Each program

participant gets to help with three areas:

vegetable garden, medicinal garden, or

compost and recovery area. These gardening

sessions complement the initial activities,

providing participants with hands-on

experience and reinforcing teamwork,

collaboration,



networking, and connection with nature. The program is open to all Guides and Girl Scouts who come to the Centre as participants in an event, as well as the Centre's community partners, such as other NGOs, groups, schools, and institutions in Morelos.



Friends of Sangam

Friendship can inspire peace efforts and build bridges between communities, as well as bringing individuals together.



As an international World Centre, Sangam is always thrilled to provide spaces where Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, as well as everyone else, can come together and forge lifelong global friendships. Many friendships are formed in the dorms, while sharing meals, sharing a rickshaw ride, in the market or even just by supporting each other in overcoming personal challenges.

Recent news

Recently, a significant environmental initiative took place at Sangam, where 60 trees were planted in partnership with the Pune Corporation. This highlights the collective commitment to saving trees from being cut down due to construction work. A variety of mango trees were also introduced, enriching the area's biodiversity. For Sangam, such initiatives are crucial in promoting sustainability and raising awareness of the importance of trees in our environment. In June, a women's group from the community helped to plant more trees in celebration of World Environment Day and Vata Pournima, a Hindu Festival.

In line with our commitment to environmental sustainability, Sangam's composting area has undergone a complete renovation through a valuable collaboration with SWaCH, one of Sangam's Community partners, and with the generous support of PREMIER FOODS. This renovation has not only enhanced the composting area's functionality, but it has also ensured that it operates at optimal efficiency.



The Tare Program

Tare, Sangam's Community Program, celebrated its 20-years in 2024. The program continues to change the lives of participants and the community. This year, we will celebrate 21 years of impact and over 200 Tares who continue to shine around the world.

The community program offers participants a unique, hands-on experience within the local community. Participants spend between 4 and 10 weeks at Sangam. During their placement at a site, they work 4 days a week with Sangam's community partners which include NGOs and schools. On the other days, they are fully immersed in the culture and Girl Guiding/Girl Scouting through the various activities organized by Sangam. Sangam's partners include: SWaCH, Anand Gram Society, Deep Griha, Maher, Bal Kalyan Sanstha, Green Tara Foundation, Door Step School, Tara Mobile Creche, Bharat Scouts and Guides. Each program site offers a special opportunity to develop leadership skills. Laura, from Denmark says --

"It is incredible being a Tare. I feel like the community program is such a sweet spot of being guided and being offered so many opportunities to experience culture, but then at the same time, also being able to give something back to the local community that we are experiencing. And it's such a learning, learning experience as well. Getting to try your hand at planning and teaching kids when we are able to communicate in the same language has really forced some creative thinking, and I definitely feel like I've improved my leadership skills while being here. It's been really great."

Sangam's 60th anniversary celebrations is SPARK, SHINE & SHARE!

Come Together for a dynamic celebration, where Sangam will spark its passions, celebrate 60 years of



impact, and share experiences. This theme embodies the values of Sangam, the spirit of Guiding and Scouting, and the essence of our community, encouraging each of us to shine in our unique ways and build connections. Join the festivities and start telling your Spark, Shine & Share story!

Did you know??

In the inner courtyard at Sangam there is an area where each World Centre is represented by a Palm tree, a living symbol of our unity across borders. The latest addition was for Kusafiri. Since being planted Kusafiri’s palm tree which is surrounded by the other World Center trees has grown tall and strong, just like the sisterhood of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts it represents.



become leaders. To learn more and watch the Get Ready for Governance video, presented by the young women who participated in the pre-conference event in 2023, click on this link:

<https://campfire.waggs.org/dashboard/light-future>

Right on the heels of Cyprus, many of us will be heading to Macy for The Gathering. We so appreciate the World Foundation for providing this opportunity to get together once a year to renew old friendships, make new ones, and catch up on all of the great things WAGGGS and GSUSA have been doing. There will be an OB-PS information session on Thursday afternoon – please join us for a recognition ceremony and to find out what we’ve been up to this year.

On November 8th we will be hosting an OB-PS USA virtual meeting, focusing on the impact of our donations – then and now. Our guest will be Julie Dawson, who participated in a JLS session in Nuestra Cabaña 60 years ago. The group of women from that seminar still get together for reunions somewhere in the world! Their collective accomplishments have changed the world in many arenas in many countries! Everyone is welcome; please get in touch with either one of us if you’re interested, and we’ll make sure you receive the link.

We cherish our relationships with all of you, and hope to see you soon.

*Karen Saenz, karensaenz.obps@gmail.com
Sue Goldsmith, suegoldsmith.obps@gmail.com*



USA OB-PS

Dear Friends,

We have been very busy getting ready for our annual meeting to be held in Cyprus next month. Cyprus is a beautiful country, and we’re looking forward to learning more about the country and our Cypriot Guide friends. Our fundraising effort this year, “Light the Future,” will allow young women to participate in Get Ready for World Conference 2026 in Cambodia. They will find their voices and develop the confidence it takes to



Girl Scout Troop in Japan Earns Award

Girl Scouts in Iwakuni, Japan recently earned their Lady Baden-Powell Award! The girls partnered with Girl Scouts of Japan, participating in several events together

and learning about the differences in cultures and traditions. From a traditional tea ceremony and basket paper crafting to World Thinking Day programs and a trash clean up community project, it was an amazing experience for everyone!



The award is in honor of Lady Baden-Powell, who helped her husband build the Scouting movement around the world, and who conceived the original idea for an International Friendship Award based upon the 5 "C's" - Communication, Community, Camping, Crafts, and Culture.

Girl Scouts Announce New Cookie Flavor for the 2026 Girl Scout Cookie Program



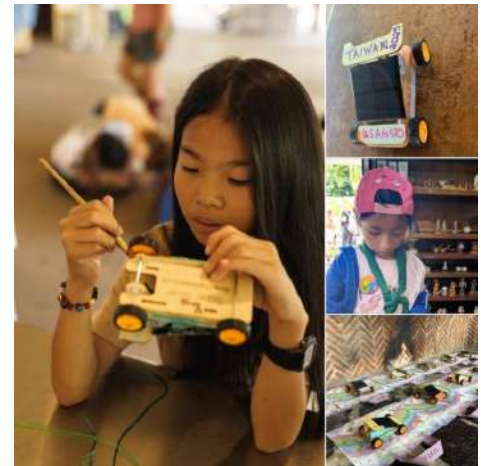
On September 9, Girl Scouts of the USA announced the newest cookie in the cookie lineup- Exploremore™. These Rocky Road ice cream inspired sandwich cookies celebrate the spirit of exploration while

supporting Girl Scouts' journeys in STEM, entrepreneurship, leadership and more. They will be available for purchase starting with the upcoming Girl Scout Cookie Program.

STEM Opportunities Incorporated into Summer Camp Sessions

During our summer camp programs, nearly 100 Girl Scouts on opposite sides of the globe- in Taiwan and Mexico- came together for an unforgettable STEMinist@Camp experience.

STEMinist@Camp programs give girls the chance to dive into hands-on STEM activities, with each camper completing a "make-and-take" project they bring home. This year's challenge included building and racing solar-powered cars.



You can read all about it on our website here: [Sun-Power](#)

Girl Scout Receives National Girl Scout Gold Award Scholarship

Sarasa I., a member of Girl Scout Troop 77701 in Kyoto, Japan, was named USA Girl Scouts Overseas' GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship Girl Scout for 2025.

One Girl Scout from every Girl Scout council is chosen for this honor every year and is based on their Girl Scout Gold Award project. Sarasa's project is helping to create sustainable and culturally respectful travel for her community and beyond.

You can read more about the Gold Award Scholarship and Sarasa's project and Girl Scout journey on our website here: [Gold Award](#)

Sarasa's vision, heart and ambition will leave a lasting impact!



Girls Take on Global Adventures at Camp!

This summer, Girl Scouts overseas embraced new challenges, built lifelong friendships, and experienced the magic of camp through two incredible programs: Mini Camp Nuestra Cabaña in Mexico and Germany Mini-Camp. Thanks to generous support, girls from around the world discovered courage, confidence, and connection while exploring new cultures and skills.

Together, these camps empowered 138 girls and 35 adults from across the globe. Beyond fun and adventure, campers gained independence, problem-solving skills, and the confidence to lead—while forming friendships that stretch across borders.

From racing solar- powered cars and exploring ancient pyramids in Mexico to conquering high ropes and



archery in Germany, girls gained independence, resilience, and teamwork skills—all while connecting across borders.

Mini Camp Nuestra Cabaña – Mexico

- **Participants:** 45 girls, 12 camp counselors
- **Communities Represented:** USAGSO–Mexico City, Guadalajara, Wiesbaden, SHAPE, U.S. Councils, Guias de México, and Girl Guides of Canada
- **Highlights:** Girls learned traditional Mexican crafts, cooked tortillas and salsa, raced solar-powered cars, and visited the UNESCO World Heritage site of Xochicalco Pyramids.
- **Impact:** Beyond new skills, girls engaged in powerful cross-cultural exchange with Guias de México, strengthening global friendships and building independence away from home.

Germany Mini-Camp

- **Participants:** 93 girls, 23 adults
- **Age Levels:** Daisies (11), Brownies (29), Juniors (29), Cadettes (18), Seniors/Ambassadors (6)
- **Highlights:** Archery, high ropes, soccer, flag football, arts and crafts, outdoor cooking, breakdancing, and even creating their own games.
- **Impact:** Campers built resilience and teamwork while pushing past fears on the ropes course, discovering sportsmanship, and making new friends in a diverse camp community. Many also earned or worked toward badges like *Archery*, *Staying Fit*, *Fair Play*, and *Good Sportsmanship*.

One camper summed it up best: *“I had an amazing time at camp. The activities were fun. I really liked archery, the rope course, and the party at the end.”*

Thanks to your support, Girl Scouts overseas are growing into leaders who are confident, adventurous, and ready to make the world a better place.



GSUSA and USAGSO worked closely together to leverage a unique opportunity at a mini-camp at



[Nuestra Cabaña](#) in July. GSUSA recognized the wonderful opportunity to workshop early Girl Scout Global Citizen content with girls and adults from WAGGGS, USAGSO, and Guias de Mexico. The GSUSA & USAGSO teams delivered a 4-day program that workshopped Global Citizenship activities with both trainers and girls. The



program also included a session with Girl Scout and Girl Guide volunteers to discuss the vision of the Girl Scout Global Citizen.

Ten young women alums from GSUSA and Guias de Mexico were trained to facilitate the activities, which focused on the ideas of Global Citizenship and Cross-Cultural Communication. The GSUSA alums included Laura Robert-Rivera, who serves on the World Foundation board, and Ale Delgado, who was recently elected to the WAGGGS Western Hemisphere Committee and selected as vice chair. Dynamic feedback, including



real-time comments, detailed debrief, and post-event surveys were collected and incorporated into the draft activities, and will further inform the GSUSA Comprehensive Global Strategy, which was passed by the National Board in 2024.



WAGGGS

WAGGGS Strategic Partnerships

#FreeBeingMe Reaches New Horizons

We are thrilled to share that our Free Being Me programme is continuing to make a difference! Recently, it reached young people in Estonia as part of research on adolescent body image led by Mehruba H. at the Estonian Business School.

Developed by the WAGGGS in partnership with the Dove Self-Esteem Project and supported by research from the Centre for Appearance Research (CAR) at the University of the West of England, Free Being Me has empowered millions of young people across 120+ countries and territories since 2013. Collaborating with the Estonian Business School has enabled the programme to connect with a new audience, demonstrating its value and potential beyond the Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Movement.

Adding to this exciting news, the programme was recently recognised at the Corporate Engagement Awards in the Best Educational Programme category, celebrating its outstanding global impact. Read more here:

<https://www.ebs.ee/en/uudised/free-being-me-ebs-joinns-international-movement-body-confidence>

A season of impact through the Global Youth Mobilization Programme

Over the past few months, the Global Youth Mobilization (GYM) programme has continued to amplify the power



and agency of young people across the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Movement.

Implemented through a partnership between the European Union and the Big Six Youth Organisations, the GYM Youth

Empowerment Fund supports young people to lead projects that drive sustainable development in their communities. Thanks to this support, 21 youth-led initiatives are now making a tangible difference across Africa, Asia Pacific, and the Western Hemisphere. From climate action to advocacy for vulnerable communities, these projects respond to urgent local needs while demonstrating how youth leadership can deliver meaningful, measurable change.



Each project is a story of advocacy turned into action—mobilising young people, building their skills, and advancing progress on the Sustainable Development Goals. In August, we celebrated GYM Action Week, showcasing inspiring youth-led projects, powerful stories of change, skill-building tips, global conversations, and concrete actions anyone can take to make a difference.

Read the blog to discover these inspiring stories in action and see how young people are transforming their communities: <https://campfire.waggs.org/topic/young-people-driving-change-and-delivering-sdgs>

WAGGGS Global Programmes

Giving Day 2025

For the past five years, WAGGGS Giving Day has brought together the global Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting community to fundraise for girls and young women. This year, £145,193 was raised from 490 donors and supporters. These donations will help transform the lives of girls and young women worldwide. Through WAGGGS programmes, events, and opportunities, they will develop confidence, leadership, and skills to make a lasting, positive impact in their communities. This collective support is sparking real and meaningful change in their lives. We thank all our amazing USA supporters for their generosity and appreciate your participation.

Empowering the Next Generation of STEM Leaders

This quarter, national STEM Changemakers trainings have taken place in India, Nepal, [Malaysia](#), Sri Lanka, Singapore and Taiwan bringing together incredible participants from across each country. Attendees



learned, shared, and trained to lead the STEM Changemakers curriculum nationwide. These Master Trainers are now set to train the next wave of leader

facilitators, creating a ripple effect that will reach thousands of girls and young women.

These trainings are more than just skill-building, they form the foundation of a nationwide movement to empower girls and young women to see themselves as innovators, problem-solvers, and future leaders.



In addition, this quarter marked the official rollout of Girls for Green Energy (G4GE), our flagship STEM initiative. G4GE equips girls with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to lead the transition to a greener, more sustainable world. This milestone celebrates programme delivery, enabling thousands of girls and young women to discover their potential to drive real change, share their stories, and learn from one another. Read more here:

<https://campfire.waggs.org/topic/girls-green-energy-empowering-girls-greener-future>

Surf Smart 2.0: Empowering Young People and Winning Big Impact

In 2023–24, over 250,000 young people were empowered through Surf Smart 2.0, gaining essential digital safety skills with the guidance of more than 11,500 trained leaders worldwide. This phase further advanced WAGGGS' mission to create safer, more equitable online spaces for girls and young women.

This autumn, we are excited to be launching an update to the curriculum, which will include content around Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how to navigate it safely and confidently. We are also developing a new advocacy toolkit, set to launch later this year, which will provide girls and young women with practical guidance and

resources to lead campaigns, raise awareness and influence positive change in their communities.

We are also thrilled to announce that the Surf Smart programme, delivered in partnership with Norton, one of Gen's trusted Cyber Safety brands and long-term strategic partners, won the Big Impact Award at the [Third Sector Awards 2025!](#)



Read more about the full impact and discover how Surf Smart 2.0 is changing lives across the globe:

<https://campfire.waggs.org/topic/phase-end-report-surf-smart-2022-2024>

Launching the Olave Award 2024–2026

At the 39th World Conference, we will proudly present the Olave Award 2024–2026, to honour the memory of Lady Olave Baden-Powell and the spirit of service she championed. This award is presented by WAGGGS at every World Conference to Girl Guide and Girl Scout groups that have created positive change in their communities, with a different theme chosen for each triennium.

The theme for this triennium is: "Intergenerational Leadership – From Youth Participation to Youth Leadership." Aligned with Compass 2032, the theme encourages youth leadership through shared mentorship, collaboration, and youth-led decision making.

Girl Guide and Girl Scout groups, units, or troops with projects aligned to the theme that were active between 1st July 2023 and 30th November 2025 can participate. A formal call for nominations will be shared in November 2025. For questions, contact us at awards@waggs.org. More information can be found here:

<https://www.waggs.org/en/about-us/our-awards/>

Girl-Led Action on Climate Change shortlisted at the Global Good Awards 2025

We are thrilled to share that our Girl-Led Action on Climate Change (GLACC) programme has been shortlisted in the Education Excellence category of the 2025 Global Good Awards!

The climate crisis does not affect everyone equally. Girls and women often face disproportionate impacts on their health, livelihoods, safety, and security—yet their voices remain underrepresented in climate discussions.

Through GLACC, tens of thousands of girls and young women are learning about climate change and its gendered dimensions, building their resilience, and gaining the skills and confidence to take meaningful action. The programme empowers them to influence decisions and policies at local, national, and global levels, ensuring that girls' and women's voices are included in shaping climate solutions.

This recognition highlights the power of girl-led action in creating a more just and sustainable future.

Events & Conferences

WAGGGS' New Regional Committees

During the five Regional Conferences between July-August, 30 Regional Committee members were elected to serve for the 2025-2028 triennium, 10 of whom (one third) are under the age of 30. Thanks to the co-funding from the World Foundation and generous donations during the WAGGGS Giving day 2025 and an induction programme for all Regional Committee

members will take place at Pax Lodge in early November to enable successful collaboration for their tenures.

WAGGGS Global Forum 2026 will be held at Kusafiri!

We are thrilled to share that the WAGGGS Global Forum 2026 will take place at Kusafiri - our World Centre in Ghana. The event will begin with arrivals and an opening ceremony on 28 October 2026, followed by three days of Forum sessions from 29–31 October 2026, and will conclude with a closing ceremony and departures on 1 November 2026.

The Forum will bring together 160 national leaders from across the Movement who are driving youth and adult learning, and other areas within the Growing and Learning (GAL) space, in their Member Organisations. It will be a unique opportunity to share best practices, demonstrate impact in non-formal education, and contribute to powerful learning sessions. Participants will collaborate on real-world challenges, strengthen connections across the global Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting community, and exchange ideas to amplify both local and global impact.

More information available here:

<https://campfire.waggs.org/event/waggs-global-forum-2026-kusafiri-ghana>

Safeguarding Webinar: Getting Started or Growing Stronger

We are launching a new series of safeguarding webinars to strengthen how organisations across our Movement keep girls and young women safe. These sessions are designed to provide practical, accessible guidance on building effective safeguarding policies and practices that not only meet membership expectations but also respond to the real needs of girls and young women today. In these webinars, participants will connect with WAGGGS safeguarding specialists and external experts to learn, share, and explore how to create safe environments where every girl can thrive.

This webinar is the first in a series designed to complement our safeguarding capacity-building support and workshops for Members. Here's what our Safeguarding expert has to say: *Safeguarding is at the heart of making our Movement a safe place for every girl to grow and learn. We're proud of the work our Specialist Team is doing to support Members on their safeguarding journey, and we have great plans ahead to help our Movement grow stronger and safer—so that girls always [Grow and Learn] and feel safe, empowered, and included.*

WAGGGS News

2025 Census Report – Capturing the growth of our Movement

We are excited to share some fantastic news with you – WAGGGS has reached a historic milestone of 11.2 million members! This is the highest membership figure ever recorded in our Movement and marks the third year in a row of growth. The 2025 Census Report offers in-depth analysis into global and regional membership trends. We encourage everyone to read it in detail; it provides valuable and interesting insights into both the growth across the Movement and the challenges some Member Organisations are navigating. Census report can be found here:

<https://campfire.wagggs.org/topic/census-report-2025>

Understanding our Movement - Youth Consultation 2025

Over the coming months, WAGGGS is developing a Theory of Change to clearly illustrate how Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting contributes to our Compass 2032 vision: “An equal world where all girls can thrive.”

To ensure that young voices are central to this process, WAGGGS has launched a Youth Consultation for members aged 5–30. This consultation will directly inform WAGGGS' strategic direction, helping to strengthen programmes, advocacy, and opportunities that empower girls and young women worldwide.

Honouring Mel Ford's Legacy

It is with deep sadness that we share the passing of Mel Ford, a dear friend, mentor, and dedicated leader in the Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting movement. Mel's passion for leadership and learning development has left a lasting impact on thousands of girls, young women, and volunteers worldwide.



To celebrate her remarkable legacy, the Mel Ford Leadership Fund has been established. This fund provides grants for young women to participate in leadership development opportunities, helping them discover their potential and make a difference in their communities—just as Mel inspired others to do throughout her life. We want to thank all our USA supporters who have given generously to honour Mel, we have been overwhelmed by the outpour of love and care for Mel and her legacy.

Here is a link to support the Mel Ford Leadership Fund and help more young women walk through the doors of transformative leadership experiences:

<https://campfire.wagggs.org/page/mel-ford-leadership-fund>

Governance Review and Consultations

WAGGGS is conducting a governance review to strengthen its structures, align with best practices, and support long-term sustainability. The review addresses

items from Motion 7 of the 38th World Conference, as well as other motions from recent World Conferences. Between April and May 2025, WAGGGS undertook a broad and inclusive consultation process, engaging a wide range of stakeholders. In September, we shared a [written summary](#) outlining the main themes, discussions, and insights that emerged from these consultations, along with initial draft proposals for next steps. In late September, Member Organisations came together again in follow-up consultation sessions to discuss these draft proposals. We are now reviewing the feedback received to develop the final proposals, which will be presented for consideration at the next World Conference in 2026.

Nominations for the new World Board

In November 2025, we will launch the call for nominations for the World Board for the 2026–2032 term. At the 2026 World Conference, six current World Board members will complete their term of office, and six new members will be elected. To support this process, we are conducting a skills audit of the current World Board to identify the key competencies and areas of expertise needed among the incoming members.

World Centres Update

The 2025 World Centres Joint Development Programme Report is now available!

View it here: [Report](#)

Kusafiri testimonies

“Currently part of the Kusafiri World Centre volunteer, I am so pleased to share that through this volunteering journey, I have gained a lot of new skills. Especially when

we were on site. The last event I attended onsite was the Huduma Kwa Utamaduni. We planned for it for weeks. I learned how to plan an event with different time zones. It was not easy but worth-it. After weeks of preparation, when we arrived onsite, the outcome of the event was impacting. The participants were satisfied from all the sessions that we facilitated but also, we created a long-life friendship. It wasn't only to create a new friendship but personally, I met old friends that I met years ago. I didn't feel the time spent preparing the event, I felt the joy shared during the event. I felt like restarting again the whole process. All to say that being a volunteer gives me a lot of opportunities, helped me to catch with old friends but also to create new memories”

Onja- Madagascar



“My Kusafiri volunteer journey has far surpassed all my initial expectations, and the highlight has been attending the Huduma kwa Utamaduni event at the World Centre in Ghana. It was a platform for personal growth where I had the chance to lead, share ideas, and learn from my colleagues about effective communication, planning, and adaptability. The cultural experience was incredible, from enjoying delicious Ghanaian cuisine to learning about the country's rich history and traditions. This

opportunity has truly opened my eyes to a world of possibilities, and I am so grateful for the experience.”

Mufaro - Zimbabwe

Impactful Stories: Coming Together



Opening ceremony (above); Camp Staff matching in orange (below)



I feel fortunate to have worked with GSUSA, USAGSO, and Nuestra Cabaña to shape the **three exciting and concurrent events** in July 2025 held at our World Centre in the Western Hemisphere. I served as a facilitator for the adult volunteer retreat, Lifeguarded pool parties, led a Counselor Hunt with campers, and listened in on the global young women's group as they planned their pilot activities for Daisies (Girasoles), Brownies (Haditas), and Juniors (Guías).

Our 30-person adult volunteer retreat group was about half GSUSA members and half

members of Guías de México, plus two participants from Girl Guides of Canada. The composition of our group really allowed for sharing of diverse programs, stories, and successes from across North America. We had members from all three countries receive their first Nuestra Cabaña pins (I was surprised and delighted that so many Mexican women got to celebrate their first World Centre event!).

Several participants left especially enthusiastic about pursuing new collaborations between USAGSO communities and local Girl Guide/Girl Scout groups, whether with Guías de México or another WAGGGS Member Organization. Perhaps the most special part of the experience for me were the unplanned, smaller moments: Sharing games in English and Spanish, chatting while painting pottery or making a piñata, learning-by-doing-style fun, and more. When 100+ Girl Guides & Girl Scouts gather around a campfire, you can feel the power and magic of our Movement. On our last night together, there was an impromptu adult dance party to Latin music in the comedor (dining room). We laughed like kids, embracing the sweat and silliness of it all, and probably were a little too loud while campers tried to go to sleep....



– Stefanie Argus



Stefanie (right) just completed her second term on the Western Hemisphere Regional Committee, serving as Chair for three years. Ale (left) was elected to the Committee this summer and is now serving as Vice Chair.



Do you know someone with an Impactful Story to share, or do you have one of your own?

We are excited to highlight your stories and share them with our community. If you have been impacted by projects or programs through WAGGGS, GSUSA, or USAGSO, we want to hear them! Giving these experiences and opportunities to Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world is the joy of what we do. Let us celebrate with you!

If you'd like to submit a story for publication in a future What's Happening Newsletter, please send it and any photographs you'd like to include to vpierpoint@girlscouts.org with the subject line "Impactful Stories." You are welcome to send your story at any time for consideration for future newsletters. Please encourage your friends to share their stories, too!

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