



WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Quarterly Newsletter from the World Foundation for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Inc.
February 2023

HAPPY WORLD THINKING DAY 2023!!!



On the International Day of the Girl 2020, WAGGGS asked Girl Guides and Girl Scouts under 18 from 100 countries what issues they were most concerned about and what they wanted to change about the world. From this data, they learned that the number one worry is the environment; therefore, the World Thinking Day theme from 2022-2024 will be Our World, Our Future.

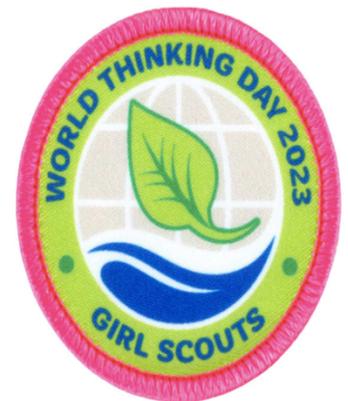


The World Thinking Day 2023 Theme, shared by both WAGGGS and GSUSA is “Our World, Our Peaceful Future: The environment, peace and security.” In this year’s activities, we’ll explore what we can learn through the environment and how we

can work with nature to create a more peaceful and secure future for girls everywhere. We will explore topics of stewardship, harmony and the role the environment plays in peace and security.



Regardless of the theme, this is the time of year that we remember our roots and renew our Promise and dedication to the movement. This is an opportunity to support our movement financially. A donation to the “World Thinking Day Fund” on the website,



<http://www.worldfoundationgggs.org/donate> is a nice remembrance of the importance of Girl Scouting in your life.

The World Foundation’s Mission is to support projects and programs undertaken by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and Girl Scouts of the USA, “to enable girls and young women to develop their fullest potential as responsible citizens of the world.”

Valerie Gaia Pierpoint contracts with the World Foundation as Program Coordinator as of 15 January 2023



I am very grateful for this opportunity to work with a network of such passionate individuals in service of causes near and dear to my heart. Since becoming a Girl Scout at age six, I have had a lifetime of amazing experiences in this movement. As an adult I am driven to help

ensure those same experiences and so many more continue to be accessible to the next generations of Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the globe.

It feels serendipitous to be stepping into this role at this time because it is just one of many major transitions in my present life. I am in the process of a cross-country move from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania to Monterey, California, and on New Year’s Day I married my best friend (who has also recently embarked on a new career)! Being able to build a new home in tandem with establishing myself in a new professional endeavor is exciting and refreshing.

I look forward to working with each of you and supporting the mission of the World Foundation in all the ways I can. My new home office will be custom designed just for the task!

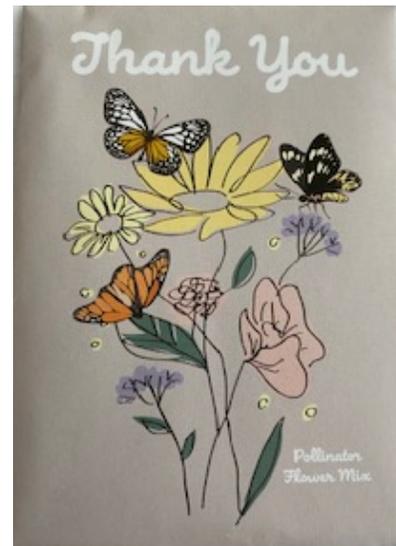
Friends’ Committees Fund Raising and Membership Goals:

Friends’ committees met during the September 2022 Gathering and set their fund raising and membership goals for fye 30 September 2023 as follows:

Friends Committee	Fund Raising Goal	New Members Goal
Our Cabaña USA	\$ 80,000	maintain
Our Chalet	\$ 92,000	4
Pax Lodge USA	\$ 40,000	3
Sangam	\$ 51,000	2
WAGGGS USA	\$ 75,000	4
Total	\$338,000	13

Fund Raising results the first 4 months of the 2023 fiscal year and same time comparison fye 2021:

Friends Committee	FY 2023	% Fiscal Goal to date	FY 2022
Our Cabaña USA	\$ 20,000	25%	\$ 30,230
Our Chalet	\$ 18,538	20%	\$ 17,190
Pax Lodge USA	\$ 10,025	25%	\$ 6,877
Sangam	\$ 8,540	17%	\$ 18,267
WAGGGS USA	\$ 9,187	12%	\$ 21,445
Total	\$ 66,253	20%	\$ 94,000



The committees are commended on their continued dedication to raise funds to support international opportunities for the future leadership of our global movement.

This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the World Foundation for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Inc. an independent not-for-profit organization whose purpose is “to promote in all lawful ways for charitable and educational purposes, the success of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting in all countries of the world.”

News from the Friends' Committees:



The Friends of Our Cabaña held our annual meeting on February 9 – 10, 2023. Fifty-six members from eight countries joined by zoom.

Heidi Jokinen, chair of the World Board, Anna Segall, CEO of WAGGGS, Magdalene Thomas, WAGGGS Head of International Operations, Candela Gonzalez, VP of WAGGGS World Board, Stefanie Argus, Chair of the Western Hemisphere Regional Committee and WAGGGS World Board member, and GSUSA Staff Adowa Aidoo and Emily Henehan joined us.

We celebrated the decision taken by the World Board to Reopen Our Cabaña under WAGGGS management and understand that our work is just beginning. We have been asked to be patient while WAGGGS develops a plan for a successful and sustainable plan. At this time, WAGGGS requests the FOC to complete the pledge process, promote future visits, promote additional donations, and provide knowledge and insight about Our Cabaña.

Snaps shots of attendees:



Once again, we will be sponsoring Western Hemisphere MOs having difficulty paying their WAGGGS membership fees. The 'Support a Friend' program continues for FOC who have difficulty paying their country quota.

I am reaching out individually to our nearly 500 pledgers asking them to honor their pledges. Pledges may be submitted to the World Foundation with the following link [Here](#). Thanks to all who made and completed a pledge to support the Reopening of Our Cabaña.

Thank you to the World Foundation for your support through this challenging time. We could have done it without you!

We hope to be meeting in person at Our Cabaña in February 2024 and invite you to join us.

Patty Cook
President

The Friends of Pax Lodge

The Friends of Pax Lodge USA committee had an amazing 2022 and are off to an exciting start this year. We met last fall at the Edith Macy Center—those who couldn't join us in person stayed glued to their computers while we conducted business. Those who managed to attend in person enjoyed the comradery and the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the World Foundation. Our kaleidoscope print, done by Julie Dawson, was auctioned during the Not-So-Silent Auction and raised funds for the World Foundation.



Late September saw us all online for our annual fundraising event. This year we had a Royal Tea where we celebrated the life of Queen Elizabeth II, shared favorite songs, played games, got an update from Pax Lodge and held an auction where we raised over \$5000! A recipe booklet was also created so we were ready for our tea party. It truly was a team effort.



Our other major fundraiser has been the prints and patches with the Julie Dawson Pax Lodge Kaleidoscope. The committee is working on how we can effectively use the kaleidoscope to promote and raise funds for Pax Lodge.

The Friends are also supporting an effort to get a green plaque on the location of Juliette Low's London Home. FoPL member, Catherine Gritz, has created a patch challenge to raise funds for the plaque. Interested? More information about our effort can be found at igplaquecampaign@gmail.com.

We are so excited to have our flags back at Pax Lodge. This was taken during the fall Global Friendship Week. The 2024 Global Friendship Week will have a *Christmas in London* theme and will take place November 26th to December 1st.

In October, the Olave Baden-Powell Society met in Cincinnati where FoPL USA members got to meet Linda Chartrand's (our "bird lady") daughter, Frances. Linda was recognized with the President's Award for raising funds for Pax Lodge with her thousands of friendship birds.



Marlene Logan, Chair

Other news:



Thanks to the generosity of our amazing members and the support of the World Foundation, grants to WAGGGS have provided much-needed support for some exciting opportunities for girls this year. Two examples are the Young Women's event at the World

Conference in Cypress and the relief fund for Ukrainian refugees that allowed Girl Guides/Girl Scouts in neighboring countries to offer assistance in a myriad of ways.

This year is an exciting and busy year! We look forward to working in collaboration with the World Foundation, GSUSA, and the World Centers Friends committees to design a space in the Exhibit Hall at the GSUSA national council session/girl event in Orlando in July. Together, we can make a strong statement about international opportunities available to Girl Scouts.

We are also gearing up for our annual meeting in Malaysia in October. The planning team is working hard to design an amazing experience. Her Royal Highness Queen Aziza has been a long-time patron OB-PS and supporter of WAGGGS – there will be a Royal Welcome for sure! You can find more information on the WAGGGS website, click “Support Us,” scroll down to the list at the right hand side of the page, click “Olave Baden-Powell Society,” click “OB-PS Events.” And feel free to contact Karen Saenz or Sue Goldsmith with questions.

Sincerely,

Karen Saenz and Sue Goldsmith, USA OB-PS Co-
Coordinators



USA Girl Scouts Overseas started our membership year with a BANG!

Because of the generosity of the World Foundation and its supporters, USA Girl Scouts Overseas is poised, once again, to make great strides as we work to serve girls around the world.

Our virtual programming continues to draw girls from every quarter, including many stateside. So far this year we have held 24 different programs including exciting collaborations with Sangam and Our Chalet, since widely sharing the possibilities held at the World Centers is always of interest to USA Girl Scouts Overseas. Alongside those programs, our members still enjoy our Taste the World Series, Black Girls Matter Activism workshops, and our wildly popular STEMinist series. Almost 3,000 members have registered for a virtual program, so far this membership year!

The Community Camp Grant Program, exclusively funded by the World Foundation, is still making huge impacts for recipient communities. Since September, we have been able to issue 11 one-time micro-grants for communities looking to hold small scale camps – with a special focus on communities which could invite and include girls from the host nation's WAGGGS Member Organization. Additionally, we have learned that these grants serve as a bridge for/to areas which have struggled to fit into the larger structure of USAGSO and recipients are always eager to share their stories:

“We spent 2 nights at the Embassy run campground on Langano Lake. The Scouts 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.” - Addis Ababa



"[We held a] Zombie Emergency Preparedness Event! This 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." – Wiesbaden

"This was an island wide camporee ... attended by Camp Courtney, Camp Kinser, Camp Foster and Kadena Girl Scouts. Japanese Girl Scouts were also in attendance." – Okinawa

Oh – did someone say Camp? USAGSO is thrilled to share that we are partnering with Our Chalet to host USAGSO Girl Scouts for a week, this summer! Collaboration with Magdelene Thomas of the World Centers has formed a program that will see approximately 70 girls enjoying the Swiss Alps and absorbing all the sisterhood and learning that we have come to expect. We are hopeful that this program will serve as a model for camp experiences at other World Centers, in the future. Finally, it is our pleasure to share that, due to dedicated work by staff, as well as the stalwart support of partners like the World Foundation, USA Girl Scouts Overseas is 98% to our annual membership goal of almost 10,000 members, and at this moment we find ourselves 6% above where we were this time last year. Membership decline has been a challenge felt by all youth organizations in recent memory, and it is exciting to share that we are meeting our goals – serving more girls, so that they can be the leaders we'll all need in the future.



World Thinking Day 2023

World Thinking Day is a day of international friendship. It is an opportunity to speak out on issues that affect young women and fundraise for 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts in 152 countries.

The theme for World Thinking Day 2023 is Our World, Our Peaceful Future. The theme explores what we can learn from the environment and how we can work with nature to create a more peaceful and secure future for girls everywhere. We explore topics of stewardship, harmony, and the role the environment plays in peace and security.

We are thrilled to publish the World Thinking Day 2023 Activity Pack, Our World Our Peaceful Future, The Environment & Peace. This year's activity pack features the story of Miku, a young girl who embarks on a quest to find peace and balance within her world. The pack is inspired by folktales from all five regions and we have created a series of short stories and activities to complete to earn the World Thinking Day Badge.

We will also unite the Movement in a virtual global 'walk the world' challenge to raise awareness and essential funds for the Girl Guide and Girl Scout Movement. Are you up for the challenge?

You can get your friends, family and people in your life to donate money for the steps you take, raising money as you walk for the World Thinking Day Fund. If you are involved with a troop or unit, why not organise a walk where you can get creative thinking about ways to bring peace to the

environment. This challenge will start on World Thinking Day, February 22, 2023, and will conclude on Earth Day, April 22, 2023. That's exactly 2 months to reach your goal. With 10 million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts working together, let's see how many times we can circle the globe! Each step we take together is a step towards protecting our planet and a peaceful future.

WAGGGS World Conference 2023



The first World Conference was held in 1920, in Oxford, UK, under the auspices of the International Council, which in 1928 became WAGGGS. World Conference takes place every three years.

We are delighted to share further details about the 38th WAGGGS World Conference which will run from the 26th – 31st July 2023 in Nicosia, Cyprus. During World Conference, Members will elect new World Board Members, decide the host of the 39th World Conference in 2026, and consider motions.

The Girl Guide Association of Cyprus are preparing to put on an unparalleled and unforgettable World Conference. WAGGGS 38th World Conference will be the first sustainable World Conference in the history of the event. 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.

Juliette Low Seminar 2022

The Juliette Low Seminar (JLS) is the flagship leadership event hosted by the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), it began in 1932 as a way of promoting international friendship between Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the globe. Thanks to the support of the World Foundation, WAGGGS has been able to continue this leadership programme for Girls and Young Women.



JLS

Participants and Staff at Sangam

The JLS now focuses on leadership by giving young women an opportunity to practise leadership using the WAGGGS Leadership Model and encouraging them to develop a project in their community that will empower at least 100 Girls. The JLS 2022 was a step towards innovation and accessibility by being delivered 100% online. This new delivery method broke down economic, logistic and language barriers to allow participants from 87 different countries to meet online and still get great international experiences.

Much like a meteor, the JLS 2022 Programme Is Divided into Three Parts. Two of these three stages have been completed while the final stage is currently ongoing.

Phase One of the JLS 2022 was launched on the International Day of the Girl and continued until November. This part of the JLS was all about gathering momentum by self-guided learning on Campfire, meetings with patrols under the guidance of mentors and optional fun sessions to get to know everyone on the JLS journey. During this phase participants also wrote the JLS 2022

song “We Are Movement” and made a choreography to go along with it.

During phase two of the JLS 2022 over 400 participants and 83 volunteers came together for a 10-day online event filled with sessions aimed to give participants the tools they needed to understand the WAGGGS Leadership model and develop their 100 Girls Projects. At the end of phase two, over 300 projects were presented by JLS participants.

In 2023 the Juliette Low Seminar moved into its third phase as participants get ready to #Lead4Impact in their own communities supported by their mentors and the JLS team. Over 300 young people are now implementing their 100 Girls Projects impacting at least 100 girls aged 12+ in their communities.

Quotes & Photo:

“I’m really enjoying the JLS journey. It’s positively impacting me to better my leadership skills. I’m growing as an individual and also impacting the ones close to me to become better in decision making. Thanks for letting me be part of this.”

Rachael Okoya, Kenya

“I feel that I learnt a lot from the online courses and training hubs. I was even able to make online notes from the courses. All thanks to campfire and WAGGGS for this wonderful opportunity. I’m really grateful.”

**Chinyelugo Chioma
Jessica, Nigeria**

“Inside every barrier there lies an opportunity waiting if you look at it in a different way. All you need is persistence and commitment to achieve it.”

Youstina Malak – Egypt



Youstina Malak, Egypt

World Centres



Website - The World Centres now have a new online home; they have website solely dedicated to everything you need to know about them. All five of the World Centre locations have their own page on the site, this allows users to view upcoming events and programmes at each of the World Centre locations. One of big features of the new website is a brand-new booking system, enabling visitors to make a booking directly through the website. This will hugely increase the ease of the booking experience for both visitors and staff at the World Centres.

To get an amazing insight into what the WAGGGS World Centres offer to The Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Movement and take a look at upcoming events and programmes, follow this link.

<https://worldcentres.waggs.org/? ga=2.49571750.144457305.1659622948-81034302.1652183287#>



Our Chalet re-opened after the annual November closure period by welcoming a new cohort of young women taking part in the Volunteer Leadership Programme.

The Winter season included volunteers from Australia, Argentina, Malawi, Nigeria, Finland, Greece, Sri Lanka, Germany, Aruba, and Wales



and ranged in age from 19 to 32. The team have worked hard throughout the winter from putting on a Christmas celebration for local

neighbours to welcoming a full house of guests for the FIS Ski World Cup to completing dynamic risk assessment training at the sled park. Limited

snow cover impacted guest programmes in early January and reduced last-minute ski bookings, however, guest feedback on the alternative programme delivered was very positive.

After six years at Our Chalet, the Guest Services Coordinator, Rosie, decided it was time to move onto new adventures and we said goodbye at the end of January. We used this opportunity to re-evaluate the role and have successfully recruited a new Office Coordinator, who will be joining us from Malta in mid-March.

While we have had fewer guests in the winter season than we would have liked, we have taken advantage of the quieter time to offer more enrichment training through the Volunteer Leadership Programme. This has included opportunities for volunteers to deliver programmes for each other. Curriculums delivered included YUNGA Ending Hunger, WAGGGS Free Being Me, WAGGGS Surf Smart, and a first aid course from an external provider. We are now looking forward to welcoming our Spring cohort on the Volunteer Leadership Programme, with volunteers joining us from Germany, Mexico, Canada, Ghana, Nigeria, UK, USA, Bangladesh, and Denmark.



We begin this year with great hope for prosperity and sustainable development to maintain the centre. Although the closure due to Covid affected us badly in terms of number of bookings in our

international events, during this time, we started connecting with our local Community Partners and building relationships. Our Community Partners have been booking our campground and Hall for their activities, which also brings small financial help to Sangam. This time has given us an opportunity to be more recognized by the local communities. Providing an International experience for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from all over the world remains our main mission. We are

so delighted that we are starting to receive more international participants for our events, yet we are also working on improving every aspect of Sangam in order to offer the best experiences to everyone.

In January, we attended the National Bharat Scouts and Guides Jamboree in Pali, Rajasthan. At the same time, we welcomed 3 new Tares; Aida from USA, Paula from Mexico and Chieri from Japan and 2 new volunteers; Narindra from Madagascar and Putri from Singapore. We've also held our first event of the year, Discover Incredible India with 9 participants from the Netherlands, UK, and South Africa! We are looking forward to our next event, the World Thinking Day event starting next Friday on 17th February with 16 participants and some Independent Guests. We will be celebrating the 22nd of February with Local Bharat Scouts and Guides.

The exciting news is that there will be a Kusafiri event in 2023 hosted by our friends at Ghana Girl Guides. Young people who completed all three stages of their Juliette Low Seminar 2022/23 will be eligible to attend and there will also be places available for other Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to attend. More information will be available at the beginning of March. If you are interested in staying connected, please follow Kusafiri on Facebook. You can also express interest in coming to Ghana or joining Friends of Kusafiri by contacting jen.barron@waggs.org.



December started with our participation in the Juliette Low Seminar opening ceremony and whole JLS event, bringing our international community together. With support from a

Friend of Pax Lodge UK we ran a virtual scone making session, and Liz (programme manager) and volunteers led an online wide game for all JLS participants to find out more about the World

Centres and being a Pax Lodge volunteer. The volunteers attempted to learn the dance moves for the JLS song with varying levels of accomplishment, but we tried our best!

We said goodbye to two of our volunteers, Andy (Mexico) and Anna (UK), but we look forward to hearing from them during WTD. We had a blast playing around in the snow, for some of our volunteers this was the very first time they had seen snow. We had a lovely Christmas here at Pax, getting a lot of work done in the building during the closure.

In January we gave a warm welcome to a returning volunteer, Grace (UK)! We have had many international guiding groups visiting, giving us the opportunity to talk and exchange stories about the movement. We jumped into the new year starting our planning for World Thinking Day, going through the activity pack and brainstorming program ideas and fun activities. February has seen us welcoming a new volunteer to Pax, Siri from Sweden. With her help, we are working on our World Thinking Day preparations, solidifying all of our program plans and activities. We expect to be welcoming hundreds of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from all over the world, celebrating the movement and using this day as an opportunity to make new friends across the globe.

Advocacy

67th UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW)

We are proud to bring you a new, exciting network of Global Advocacy Champions who will be participating in the 67th UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) from 6 - 17 March 2023. This is a unique opportunity for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to advocate for the rights of girls and young women at an global level, and champion gender equality through the principal global intergovernmental body shaping global policy standards on women's rights. By becoming Global Advocacy Champions, they will represent the concerns of girls and young women from their national Girl Guiding or Scouting association, and

the diverse range of countries where they are from.

United Nations COP27

A delegation of six WAGGGS Advocacy Champions attended COP27 in Egypt from the 6th-18th of November. COP represents the largest climate change event in the World. We are delighted that the WAGGGS delegation was present to represent the voices of girls and young women around the world, who we know suffer the worst impacts of climate change. It is essential to #BringInTheGirls to tackle climate change with young women and girls' voices at the centre of climate action.

The WAGGGS delegation attended COP27 with six key demands:

- Fulfil commitments in the Paris Agreement
- Invest in resilient, gender-transformative, climate justice education
- Recognize and invest in girls' agency and voice
- Advance a Gender Action Plan (GAP) that prioritizes needs of girls and young women
- Deliver on finance and prioritize adequate adaptation measure
- Ensure rights to land, water and sanitation in all climate action

We encourage you to follow the link below and read more about WAGGGS' demands. <https://duz92c7gaoni3.cloudfront.net/document/s/COP27-WAGGGS-Key-Demands-EN-FINAL.pdf>

WAGGGS also co-hosted an event at the conference. The event, titled 'Transforming Education for sustainable development through youth climate action.' You can watch the recording of the event in full by following the link below

https://www.youtube.com/watch?app=desktop&v=Y1v4_qhrnPc&fbclid=IwAR14P0SsWEgc1aFPnYBNVMxTpoNRhXUBSwJQ0cMJKjIQud-8uNeBzo8izZ4&ab_channel=UNClimateChange-Events

WAGGGS Regional Conferences 2023

In the second half of 2022 Member Organisations from across WAGGGS five regions gathered together for the triennial Regional Conferences. Nearly 750 participants from Member Organisations and guests joined a Regional Conference, with approximately 230 (30%) being young women under the age of 30. These were a great opportunity for Regional Committees to celebrate achievements and discuss strategies for the future development of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting.

For the first time, two regions decided to hold their conferences online (Western Hemisphere and Asia Pacific) and the other conferences took place in-person (Europe – Netherlands, Africa – Tanzania, Arab – United Arab Emirates). The Regional Conferences provided an opportunity for Regional Committees to present their report for the last triennium and their plans for the next three years, which had been developed through a series of consultation opportunities with Member Organisations. Participants have also had the opportunity to explore resources relating to Compass 2032, part of WAGGGS commitment to supporting Member Organisations to respond to Compass 2032 in their own strategies.

SurfSmart 2.0

WAGGGS is delighted to share that our online safety programme Surf Smart 2.0 has won Gold for the Best Educational Programme at the Corporate Engagement awards.

Surf Smart 2.0 Generation Digital is a non-formal education curriculum designed to support young people to connect safely and positively online. It is a unique resource which will ensure a generation of girls and young women have the knowledge and skills to protect themselves and others online.

Norton, one of the most trusted consumer brands in cyber security, provided professional support and partnership in developing the programme. With over 550,000 participants taking part in the programme to date, it has been a great success in delivering online safety and security focused non formal education to girls and young women

around the world. To read more about Surf Smart 2.0, view the curriculum and understand why it has been so successful, please click the link below.

**Submitted by Inga Pikse
Head of Individual Giving and Philanthropy**

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

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