

# Connections

Fall 2015 Edition

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girl scouts  
building girls of courage  
confidence and character

## Council Contact Info & Hours

**Council Headquarters  
(Albuquerque):**  
p: 505.343.1040  
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**Business Hours (Headquarters):**  
Mon-Thurs: 8am-5pm  
Friday: 8am-12pm

**Office Closure Dates:** 11/26-27,  
12/24-1/3, 1/18, 2/15

**LaTienda**  
505.923.2522  
Shop Hours:  
Mon-Thurs: 10am-5pm  
Friday: 9am-12pm  
Select Saturdays from 9am-2pm:  
12/05

[NMGirlScouts.org](http://NMGirlScouts.org)



### Thank you all for your support.

In this season of thanks, I want to acknowledge and thank our parents, volunteers, and communities throughout New Mexico for the support provided so generously to our Girl Scouts. Girl Scouting is successful due to the enthusiasm of our girls, the dedication of parents, and the commitment of volunteers throughout the council. Without you, our Girls Scouts would not have the opportunity to participate in this premier leadership organization for girls.

We are 103 years old and need to continue to evolve in order to remain relevant to the girls of today and tomorrow. We live in a world very different from Girl Scouts of the past and it takes all of us to build a positive environment for today's girls. We have done this before or we wouldn't have survived 103 years! How many businesses have come and gone in your lifetime? And then consider Girl Scouts, an organization that has outlived and outperformed many of the businesses that no longer exist. We have done much right over our 103 years or we would have gone out of business. Now is the time to embrace change and partner in executing the necessary changes for our Council so that we can assure we are here another 103 years.

As we continue to work together, let us work in service to others, with humility and trust. Let's work together as volunteer leaders and staff leaders to demonstrate the highest level of respect and excellence as we journey together in making the changes for the betterment of the whole.

This past year has been met with challenges but from those challenges we have grown and become the artists of our future. Let's approach our challenges with curiosity, an eagerness to learn new things, and view our challenges as opportunities for growth. We thank each of you for working together to meet those challenges head on with a spirit of entrepreneurial spirit, courageous leadership and a spirit of "we can do this."

Happy Holidays and thank you, our community of supporters.

Peggy Sanchez Mills

# Product Program

## MagNut Product Program

Congratulations to our girls who participated in the fall product program sale!

The Fall 2015 magazine, chocolate, and nut program, also known as MagNut, had **780** girls in **122** troops sell **\$170,000** worth of MagNut products. The per girl average has continued to be high: **\$218** (2015), **\$222** (2014), **\$184** (2013), **\$171** (2012), **\$144** (2011).

### 2015 Top MagNut Seller:

Raine from Troop 10092 sold over \$1200 in product!

### The 2015 Top Selling Troop:

Troop 10338 from Santa Fe! The girls sold over \$6500 in nuts, chocolates and magazines. Great job girls!!!

## 2016 Cookie Sale

Are you ready for the 2016 Cookie Sale? We are! Here are some upcoming dates to get ready for:

January 2016: Troop Trainings  
February 15-March 27 Cookie Sale Dates



# Upcoming Program, Training, & Event Dates

<b>Battle of the Scouts</b>	Nov. 21	Girl Scouts & Families. UNM Lobo Football Stadium. \$12 per person
<b>CPR</b>	Nov. 21	Girls 12+ and Adults. Albuquerque Council Office. \$27 per person (GS members)
<b>Troop Essentials</b>	Dec. 2	Adults; Registered and background checked adult GS members. Albuquerque Council Office
<b>CPR</b>	Dec. 12	Girls 12+ and Adults. Albuquerque Council Office. \$27 per person (GS members)
<b>CPR</b>	Jan. 9	Girls 12+ and Adults. Albuquerque Council Office. \$27 per person (GS members)
<b>Polar Bear Plunge, Session 1</b>	Jan. 9-10	DBJ and Adults. Camp Elliott Barker. \$25 per person
<b>Polar Bear Plunge, Session 2</b>	Jan. 23-24	DBJ and Adults. Camp Elliott Barker. \$25 per person
<b>Winterfest 2016</b>	Jan. 30-31	CSA and Adults. Camp Elliott Barker. \$25 for registered Girl Scouts, \$30 for non-members
<b>Extreme Outdoor Fun</b>	Feb. 6-7	CSA and Adults. Camp Elliott Barker. \$55 per girl, \$25 per adult
<b>Doz-z-z-zing with the Dinos, Session 1</b>	Apr. 15-16	DBJCSA and Adults. NM Museum of Natural History Foundation. \$40 per girl, \$35 per adult
<b>Doz-z-z-zing with the Dinos, Session 2</b>	Apr. 22-23	DBJCSA and Adults. NM Museum of Natural History Foundation. \$40 per girl, \$35 per adult

D = Daisy, B = Brownie, J = Junior, C = Cadette, S = Senior, and A = Ambassador.  
For further information, visit our website: [nmgirlscouts.org](http://nmgirlscouts.org) -> Program

# Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails Board of Directors

## Officers

Becky Teague  
*Chair of the Board of Directors*

Maribeth Thornton  
*Vice Chair*

Marian Wrage  
*Secretary*

Peggy Sanchez Mills  
*CEO*

Building girls of  
courage, confidence,  
and character,  
who make the world  
a better place.

## Members at Large

Karen Bergren  
Marti Fournier-Revo  
Pamelya Herndon  
Mary Hockaday  
Mary Homan  
Casey Hoyt  
Jodi Maheras  
Tim Montoya  
Susan Patrick  
Marny Schantz  
Christy Tafoya  
Victoria Hughes

# 2015 Annual Meeting

**November 7, 2015**

## Indian Pueblo Cultural Center

Delegates, members, staff, and the Board of Directors came together on Saturday, November 7 at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center for the 2015 Annual Meeting. Girl Scouts from across the council started the meeting with a flag ceremony.

The business meeting began with the credentials report and adoption of the agenda. Peggy Sanchez Mills and Marti Fournier-Revo then presented the leadership report, sharing challenges the council faced during the 2014-2015 membership year. They shared successes the council had as well, including great strides with our STEM initiative and outreach to underserved girls throughout the state.

The 2015 Annual Report and other Annual Meeting resources are available on the website: [nmgirlscouts.org](http://nmgirlscouts.org)

Preceding the meeting, Peggy introduced a new forum for sharing information, roundtable discussions focused on what is guiding the council's strategic goals. The topics of the roundtables included:

**It's All About the Girl / It's All About the Story:** In this discussion, we will talk about how we keep the girl at the center of our mission, giving girls the program that they want, and then exploring how we can best share these successes.

**Show Me the Money:** Through this roundtable discussion, we will share our efforts in encouraging Girl Scout philanthropy back to the council, our focus on grants, and how corporate sponsorships can help our mission.

**EPIC Thinking:** EPIC thinking is a new approach that the council Leadership Team is using to approach decision making, problem solving, and goal setting. This approach encourages thinking to be made by keeping the following in mind: Empathy, Possibility Thinking, Innovation, and Courageous Leadership. Join us to learn more about this approach and to help us think outside of the box!

## Induction of our new Board and Committee Members at the 2015 Annual Meeting.

**Welcome to our new Board Officers, Directors, and Committee Members:**

**Chair:** Becky Teague

**Secretary:** Marian Wrage

**Members at Large:** Karen Bergren, Marti Fournier-Revo, Mary Homan, Tim Montoya, and Christy Tafoya

**Girl Board Member:** Victoria Hughes

**Board Development Committee:** Martha Benn, Casey Hoyt

## Meet the new GSNMT Board of Directors:

### Christy Tafoya, Santa Fe

Christy cites her experience in camping as a Girl Scout as being instrumental in formulating her love of the outdoors and in the selection of her career. She currently serves as the Director of the State Parks Division, New Mexico Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department. As the Director, Christy is responsible for the management and operation of 35 State Parks, 21 of which reside within the boundaries of GSNMT council. She has worked in State Parks in varying capacities since 1998. Additionally, Christy serves as the Vice Chair of the NM Rio Grande Trail Commission. Christy joined the GSNMT Board to help young women connect to the outdoors, become resource stewards and realize their potential as leaders.

### Tim Montoya, Aztec

Tim is the President and owner of Aztec Machine & Repair, Inc. and Cranes & Material Handling, Inc. in Bloomfield, NM. He is active in and dedicated to his community; he is the current Secretary for Rotary International, Farmington Rotary, and the past President of the San Juan Medical Foundation. Tim's daughter has been active in Girl Scouts since she was in elementary school, and he has assisted in troop activities ranging from meetings to planned events. He believes that Girl Scouts can play a pivotal role in developing young women become the leaders of tomorrow. He will bring to the Board the perspective of being from outside of the Albuquerque metropolitan to ensure that the decisions are balanced and represent all of the council.

### Victoria (Tory) Hughes, Los Alamos

Tory is a junior at Los Alamos High School and has been active in Girl Scouts since the second grade. She has been instrumental in the planning and execution of events sponsored by her troop for other troops such as a Brownie Daisy Tea Party and a Spa Day for Cadettes. Tory also has participated in many events such as Library Sleepovers, Twilight Camp, Roar and Snore, and troop camp at Rancho del Chaparral. She has earned both her Bronze and Silver Awards and is currently planning her Gold Award project. She has held two major leadership positions: one as a program aide (PA) for the Twilight Camp and the other was for a youth leader for Cafe Scientifique, a STEM activity with her school. Tory is passionate

*New Board Members: Christy Tafoya (left),  
Tim Montoya (middle), and Tory Hughes (right).*







Color guard for the Opening Flag Ceremony at the 2015 Annual Meeting: The troop doing the opening flag ceremony was Troop 285 from Albuquerque.

The caller for the flag ceremony was Naomi Starr Sandoval, a Girl Scout in Troop 10570 from Zuni. She is the Miss New Mexico Southern Agency Princess at Wingate Elementary/Middle School. She is in the 6th grade.

## Delanie Montoya, 2013-2015 GSNMT Board of Directors Girl Member

Hello. My name is Delanie Montoya. I was the girl board member for 2013-2015. I am an Ambassador Girl Scout from Service Unit 186 and Troop 1575. I would like to thank Girl Scouts for helping to shape me into the young woman I am today. I have been in Girl Scouts since kindergarten. I have experienced rock climbing, fencing, father-daughter dances and many other wonderful experiences. I have traveled to Houston, Texas and Salt Lake City, Utah for National Conventions, Washington D.C. for Rock the Mall, the Oregon Coast and to Disneyland all with my troop. I have earned countless volunteer hours while having fun with my sister Girl Scouts. I have slept at the zoo and many museums and I have learned to be a role model to younger Girl Scouts. I have earned my Bronze and Silver awards and am currently earning my Gold Award. When the girl board member position became available I wasn't interested, but at the last minute I applied and was selected. This was an amazing opportunity. I have met role models that have turned into friends. They have always made me feel welcome and valued my opinion. I have been able to learn how a board functions and how our council functions.

I would like to thank Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails Council staff and volunteers what you do does make a difference.

Thank you,  
Delanie Montoya



# Take Action & Community Service: Get Inspired

In this season of giving, many people get inspired to make a difference in their community, but aren't sure where to get started?

Giving back is a great way to fulfill your community service requirement for school or a club, spend time with your troop or family, build your resume, make a difference in your community, or simply to do something that makes you feel good. Sometimes it's difficult to find an exciting volunteer opportunity. Try some of these community service ideas and get inspired to volunteer. You might just find a project or cause that you can be passionate about; this project may even become a "take action" and/or award project!

**Defining "Take Action" Projects.** A take action project picks up where a short-term project leaves off, identifying the root cause and having *long-term* benefits and *sustainable* support.

*Donate old clothes or household goods.*

*Donate children's books, novels, and other reading materials to shelters, libraries, and schools.*

*For your next birthday, ask that people give donations to a charity of your choice instead of gifts.*

*Write a letter to your Congressman about an issue that you care about.*

*Offer to rake leaves, shovel the walk, or do housework for an elderly neighbor.*

**Take Action Projects.** Troop leaders provide details regarding Take Action Projects their troop accomplished at the end of the membership year. Such projects may include collecting food for needy families during the holiday season to cleaning schools and parks in their community.

**269** troops reported completing Take Action projects  
**1,755** girls and adults were involved in these projects  
**11,031** hours of service were donated to the community

The average Take Action project involved **6.5** people for a total of **41** hours, or **6.3** hours of service per person, per project.

The GSNMT staff were so inspired by all of the Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awardees that they came back to the office and decided to make a plan to give back to the community as well! Check out what our staff is doing this holiday season:

- Expressing our gratitude on our "grateful tree"
- Donations to Operation Hope
- Volunteering at the Storehouse
- Gift boxes put together and delivered to APD

**Thanks for the inspiration, girls!**

# Bronze, Silver, & Gold Awardees

November 7th, we were proud to gather at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center to recognize our young Girl Scouts who chose to accept the challenge to make their communities a better place.

With each and every award, we were impressed by the commitment and impact our Girl Scouts around the council have had on their communities around them.

*Troops 10471, 10473 receiving their Bronze Awards and Troop 10408 receiving their Silver Award. A very special thank to Delanie Montoya, Ambassador Troop 1575 and girl Board Member, for announcing these girls from San Juan County.*



## 2014-2015 Bronze Awardees

The Girl Scout Bronze Award is the highest honor that a Junior Girl Scout can earn. It requires her to learn the leadership and planning skills necessary to follow through on a project of her choice that makes a positive impact in the community. Working toward this award demonstrates her commitment to helping others, improving her community and the world, and becoming a strong and independent leader. The Bronze Award may be achieved as a group or individually.

**Troop 321** - Anakaela Trujillo, Margaret Tysee, Izabella Romero-Rainey, and Michelle Valerio

**Troop 10132** - Isabella Bailey, Elise Chavez, Kaitlyn Leffler, Elizabeth Massa, Christina Nisoli, and Sydney Jo Turner

**Troop 10157** - Natalie Garde, Madison Molloy, Kirsten Kuper, Erin Cassidy, Sophia Doyle, Lily Smothermon, Raven Dickens, and Zoe Fruland

**Troop 10185** - Rhianna Mansell, Bailey Flowers, Isabella Harrison, Charlotte Boyd, Faryn Long, Sara Morneau, Hannah Sanchez, Ashley Wilson, and Taylor Dishman-Benavidez

**Troop 10213** - Andrea Chapman, Aubrey Harms, Ezri Vigil, Kathryn Osburn, Madeline Tapia, Marina Naranjo, Mariah Stephens, and Sarah Wilt

**Troop 10229** - Mikayla Archuleta, Abigail Dodd, Elizabeth Fredrickson, Alex Roche, Anna Searcy, Kaylee Castro

**Troop 10230** - Madison Thomas, Abigail Lyman, and Samantha Foist

**Troop 10253** - Deja Mooney, Lilah Leslie, and Rhyann Chicharello

**Troop 10266** - Savannah McSween, Lily Mandell, Olivia Roybal, Emma Stamper, Alexa Lucero, Nina Aguilar, Alianna Otero, and Maya Howard

**Troop 10280** - Ryan Allison, Sabrina Stephenson, Alexis Kennerly, and Kiersten Magee

**Troop 10281** - Colbie Boyd, Riley Garay, Laurel Geoffrion, Clarissa Dixon, Abby Scott, and Madelynne Williams

**Troop 10292** - Alden Ray and Julianna Bandy

**Troop 10308** - Jenny Suleski, Ava Monroe, and Kaylee Baker

**Troop 10332** - Brianna Valdez and Isabella Romero

**Troop 10416** - Kaitlyn Galbadon, Fiona Wallace, Sara Mones, Nichole Calame, Cassie Chavez, Emilia Browne, and Rayna McCollough

**Troop 10443** - Miranda Blea, Chandra Pendley, and Kira Stevenson

**Troop 10479** - Meghan Lexa, Natalia Sawyer, and Mary McNally

**Troop 10473** - Hannah Deenihan, Danielle Kesterson, Nicole Currier, Zoe Albers, Serenidy Crouch, and Ariel Haybarker

**Troop 10509** - Fiona MacLivery

**Troop 10516** - Kyla Skinner

**Troop 10539** - Keely Falardeau



## 2014-2015 Silver Awardees.

The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest honor a Cadette Girl Scout can earn. This award highlights a girls' accomplishment in changing her community to improve her life and the lives of those around her. The Girl Scout Silver Award helps girls build important life and leadership skills while exploring possible career paths. This award can be earned individually or as a small group.

**Troop 23** - Brigit Johnson and Amanda Trujillo

**Troop 81** - Lyndee Smith, Hailey Christensen, Tara Smith, and Hana Milani

**Troop 116** - IsaBelle McAlpine, Emily Holmes, Maddie Ovaska, Ester Wermer, Ellie Oldham, Rebecca Brug, Eleanor Henderson, Kaity Burk, Kaity Herrman, Brooke Weatherbie, Moira Kuropatwinski, & Abril Romero

**Troop 716** - Jolie Archibeck, Paige Ahlen, & Isabelle Franchere

**Troop 3222** - Bailey Sahd, Nadia Hicks, Evelyn Espinoza Franco, Nastassja Martin, Elise Hicks, and Cecelia Tafoya

**Troop 5123** - Sedona Hart, Dua Hussain, and Natalie Enright

**Troop 10292** - Emily Rogers

**Troop 10308** - Natalie Kurtz, Cheyenne Bunnell, Kellie Hartman, Kiara Williams, Zoe Wallace, and Christine Suleski

**Troop 10408** - Aiyana Austin, Emilia Gallegos, Autumn Griffith, Kaylin McLiverty, & Andromeda Rose

**Troop 10488** - Stephanie Moore



## 2014-2015 New Mexico Trails Gold Awardees

The Girl Scout Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting. It recognizes girls who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through remarkable projects; these girls are taking action to change the world and have a sustainable impact on their communities and beyond.



### **Ashley Dusenbery**

**Celebrate Life!** Ashley's project addressed the issue of unplanned pregnancy. She saw girls in her community facing unplanned pregnancy and witnessed some of the results that can occur. Many girls facing unplanned pregnancy do not have resources needed to raise a child.

Utilizing a local, Christian led organization called Care Net, Ashley got the help and information needed to reach out to girls facing unplanned pregnancy. She organized a donation drive to provide diapers, wipes, clothes, pacifiers, toys, and more to Care Net clients. Those who seek assistance from Care Net will benefit from the donation drive and will be able to make a positive start to their child's life.



### **Jessica Santino**

#### **Sensory Trail**

Every day, millions of people with special needs aren't included in the most basic of activities because the people around them aren't patient enough to help them. They miss out on the fundamental experiences of life simply because it's a little bit harder for them. Jessica's project was to create a sensory trail at Loving Thunder Therapeutic Riding (LTTR). A sensory trail is a path that the horse and rider walk on to help the rider expand their senses, and through that, connect with the world around them. A good trail usually includes three out of the five main senses. Jessica was able to use found and donated items to construct this sensory trail.



### **Mahalia Hunt**

**KELP: Kid's Exploratory Learning Program.** Recognizing the lack of enrichment programs for underprivileged children, Mahalia created a project to fill this gap, exposing children at Saranam to monthly enrichment activities. To come up with monthly, age-appropriate activities, Mahalia would brainstorm with her peers, read blogs, and ask her teachers for ideas. The result was KELP: Kid's Exploratory Learning Program.

A mother of one of the participants expressed her appreciation for the program because it granted her children a place to learn and also because it created and strengthened the community of the children at Saranam. Before KELP the children knew each other only as the people who lived next door or those they would see in passing. Though their parents spent a sizable amount of time together, the children did not. KELP allowed the kids a place to come together, to laugh, and to explore. They now know each other not as people who are going through the same things as they are, but as friends. KELP strengthened not only the children's sense of discovery, but also their sense of community.

## **Gold Award Facts**

Gold Award recipients on average spend one to two years on their projects.

Since 1916, one million girls have earned the Gold Award or its equivalent.

Gold Award recipients who join the armed services enter at one rank higher than other recruits.

Since 2007, there have been 46 Girl Scouts in the New Mexico Trails council who have earned the Gold Award.

GSNMT provides scholarship opportunities for Gold Awardees.



### Maria Vianco

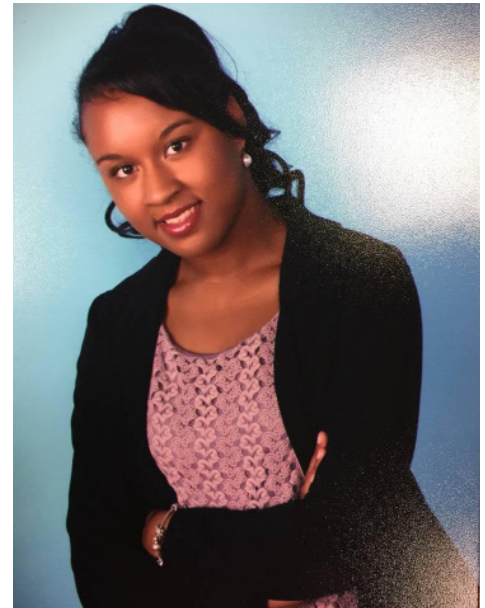
**Recycled Bags of Hope.** Maria’s project focused on creating bags for the homeless. Through her volunteer work with the homeless, she noticed that most homeless kept their belongings in plastic bags that would easily break. She set up her project with her school’s community service club, creating bags out of discarded t-shirts. After the 280 bags were created, Maria took them to the Albuquerque Rescue Mission to be distributed to the homeless.



### Rachel Washington Science Projects for Preschoolers

The idea for Rachel’s project came from two of her passions: teaching other people and science. She started by meeting with the principal of her old preschool, Kids Under Construction Preschool, asking about the current curriculum at the school. After the meeting, Rachel researched popular science experiments for preschoolers. Most of the experiments were either expensive, inaccessible, or designed for older children. She decided to use experiments designed for older children, but altered for younger children.

With guidance from the school’s curriculum coordinator, Rachel was able to determine the best way to present her science projects to the preschoolers. Preschoolers learn best through hands on experiments, so she created activities that were interactive. Rather than printing information, she designed hands on science kits. She tested the kits in classrooms at the school, fixing problems as needed. While teaching the students, she found that they were excited and ready to learn.



### CALLING EVERY GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENT

If you are a recipient of the Gold Award, the highest achievement in Girl Scouting (previously known as the Golden Eagle of Merit, Golden Eaglet, Curved Bar, and First Class), be a part of something BIG - the upcoming Girl Scout Gold Award Alliance Directory!

This historic publication will celebrate the thousands of inspiring Girl Scout alumnae who, over the last 100 years, have used their extraordinary courage, vision, and kindness to rally communities and take action to make the world a better place. Share your Girl Scout Gold Award story to inspire future generations of girls. Contact Vanessa W. to find out how to submit your story. [VWheeler@gsnmtrails.org](mailto:VWheeler@gsnmtrails.org)

### Celebrating 100 Years of Changing the World

According to the Girl Scout Research Institute’s (GSRI) report, The Power of the Girl Scout Gold Award, Girl Scout Gold Award recipients receive greater lifetime benefits than their peers with regard to positive sense of self, life satisfaction, leadership, life success, community service, and civic engagement thanks to their experience in Girl Scouting, including earning their Gold Award.

When compared to non-Girl Scout alumnae, Gold Award recipients soar when it comes to seeing themselves as a leader, providing service to others through volunteerism, and positive attitudes about themselves and the lives they lead. More generally, over ninety percent of Girl Scouts not only attributed their success in life to Girl Scouts, but they also said they could not have had access to the same experiences anywhere else.

Over the course of the last century, millions of Girl Scout alumnae have positively impacted their communities and the world with their creative, impactful, and sustainable Take Action projects. Now, with the Gold Award Centennial just around the corner in 2016, we invite you to join us in “Celebrating 100 Years of Changing the World.”

It’s not only Girl Scouts who understand the value of the Gold Award. Some universities and colleges offer scholarships unique to award recipients, and girls who enlist in the U.S. armed forces may receive advanced rank in recognition of their achievements. Earning the Gold Award is just one of the amazing things girls can do as part of Girl Scouts.





# Program

Six program initiatives have been identified as priorities that supplement the troop experience, address social and economic gaps, and give girls in New Mexico quality and well-rounded programming. Following are these program initiatives:

- **STEM** – To increase the awareness STEM careers and increase female representation in the future.
- **Health and Wellness** – To address New Mexico health statistics as they relate to obesity and physical activity.
- **Be a Friend First (BFF)** – To address the bullying factors that take place in schools.
- **Outdoor Programming** – To engage girls in outdoor experiences, camp, state park visits, and other such active lifestyle choices.
- **Older Girl Initiatives** – To reduce the number of girls that leave Girl Scouts as they grow older and provide engaging programs that are girl lead.
- **Mentoring** – To provide mentoring experiences that expand the possibilities for each girl as she explores what is available to her and has the support and guidance of mentors in the experience.

*As the premier leadership organization for girls, Girl Scouts is committed to ensuring that all girls develop to their full potential.*

## Trunk or Treat



Over 500 girls and families attended Trunk or Treat this October. Activities included cupcake decorating, a pumpkin walk, haunted house, photo booth, and ring toss. Winners of the costume contest included: disco girl, a (star) Trekkie, Baby Cookie Monster, and a ... bowl of pasta!

Left: Candy Land trunk or treat

## Jellies and Jammies



133 Daisy Girl Scouts and parents went to the aquarium to learn about jellies and other aquatic animals. Girls learned about sharks, got to touch sea urchins and stingray in the touch tank, made sit-upons, and made crafts.

Left: Troop 10549 had a great time in their jammie's with the jellies!

## Camp CEO

Camp CEO is an innovative approach to bringing high-school aged girls together with prominent women from the business community to share their life lessons and leadership skills. The objectives of the program are to have girls start and develop plans for school and career beyond high school, while creating a partnership with a mentor that will facilitate the process. The girls and their mentors spent several days at Camp Elliott Barker creating this vision for their success, and we surveyed the girls about their life-planning before and after the program:

- 100%** of girls began working on their school/career vision for the next 5 years.
- 95%** plan on communicating with their Camp CEO mentor after Camp CEO.
- 89%** shared that they know more about their strengths and opportunities for growth as a result.
- 87%** of Camp CEO mentors were inspired to volunteer more with GS as a result of Camp CEO participation.



## GSNMT CAMP CEO

In October, GSNMT held a Camp CEO program in Portales for 9 high school aged girls. The girls and their mentors spent a morning doing the following activities: higher education and career-planning, business strategizing, and learning to effectively deal with different personality types. The program also included activities where the girls designed their own "Coat of Arms" to symbolize their values and visualized what it would be like to have their own entrepreneurial enterprise through the "Business-in-a-Box" activity.

DISC Personality-Type Exercise: 100% of the girls agreed that they knew more about their individual strengths and opportunities for growth once they participated in the DISC personality-type exercise.

Confidence in Moving Forward: Girls participating in the Camp CEO session were asked to list key concepts that they learned from the presenters and activities. The more common themes among those responses were: the inherent strength of girls and women in effecting change in the world, the necessity for confidence in work and school, and the need for independence from others in important career and financial aspects of life.

Seven of the nine girls attending the session reported that they had begun working on their visions for the next five years of school and career.



# Outdoor Program & Camp

## Summer Resident Camp 2015: What the Girls Had to Say

During the summer of 2015 Rancho del Chaparral and Camp Elliott Barker hosted diverse programs for girls to enjoy: from learning how to ride a horse to taking on the challenging ropes course. Although each session of camp was unique, we asked the girls attending the same questions regarding their camp experiences to determine how camp was developing girls of courage, confidence, and character.

### Favorite activities at our camps:

Arts & Crafts	Archery
Games	Songs/Music

### Favorite aspects of our camps:

Relaxing and having a good time
Being outdoors



"I would recommend this Girl Scout camp to my friends."  
**92.9%** overall agree/strongly agree

**93%** of girls considered their camp experience *very good* or better.

The outcomes and processes of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience are just as important at camp as at any other Girl Scout program.

80.7% of girls surveyed agreed that they got to make decisions at camp that mattered to them, while 85.5% agreed they got to decide what activities they did. An overwhelming majority (90.6%) of girls agreed they developed a new activity or skill at camp, while 85.0% agreed they became better team members and worked better with others as a result of the camp experience. Overall, 85.1% of girls said they did a new thing they were afraid to do before. While at camp, 88.0% of campers said that their resident camp experience made them appreciate nature more.

### Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE), defined.

The GSLE encompasses everything we know about Girl Scouts – troops, camp, patches, cookies, etc. – and enhances these elements with critical leadership processes and outcomes.

All experiences in Girl Scouting incorporate the Discover, Connect, and Take Action keys to leadership. Girls Discover themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world. They Connect with other girls and adults. And, they Take Action to make the world a better place.

Outcomes are what girls gain from the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, the processes are how they gain them. The processes are: girl-led, learning by doing, and cooperative learning.

## Our Goal: Getting Girls Outdoors!

Outdoor activities provide valuable alternative avenues for achievement, often non-competitive, as well as opportunities to develop independence and self-reliance. Through successfully embracing changes which outdoor activities provide, overcoming fears and apprehensions along the way, young people make major strides in confidence, with positive implications for all aspects of their development.

### New for 2016 Camp Sessions

Each camp program will have badge requirements fulfilled.  
Kayaking available in Camp Elliott Barker sessions.  
Themed weeks at resident camps.  
Earn program & camp vouchers by selling cookies.  
Keep an eye out for the 2016 GSNMT Camp Book in January!



Troop 10471 showing off their camp shirts. Some of the girls are new, so they have not yet been to camp, they are holding signs "I can't wait to CAMP!"

# 2016 Cookie Sale Updates

We are geared up for the 2016 cookie season, what we hope to be our best cookie season ever! This coming year, we will have several changes that we want to share. Due to the new IRS guidelines and need for risk management, GSNMT has reviewed our current practices related to money earning, product sales, disbanded troops, girl rewards, and pathways to make sure that our policies and practices related to providing financial disbursement to girls is in line with IRS guidelines and supports the product program philosophy and purpose (financial literacy). These IRS guidelines and recommendations have prompted Girl Scout councils across the nation to make changes regarding cookie rewards, proceeds, and bonuses. Changes in our 2016 cookie sale will include:

- Discontinued GS\$
- Increase of Troop Proceeds and Offer Bonuses
- "Girl Experience" Rewards

**No more GS\$.** We recognize that GS\$ was a great benefit to girls selling cookies. However, 37% of 2014 GS\$ was unused by girls. To ensure that girls still get the benefit of participating in the product program, the following changes have been made: troop proceeds have been increased, program and camp vouchers will be available at the 315+ level for selling cookies, and girl experiences will be offered at 750+ levels.

**Increase of Troop Proceeds.** Troops will receive an extra 10 cents per box, 65 cents (2015 was 55 cents), with the opportunity to increase to 70 and 75 cents per box. Per IRS guidelines, these funds are collective troop funds, not assigned to individual girls; all decisions about troop funds should be made collectively, by the girls in the troop. We encourage you to help girls develop the 5 skills through the product program, from goal setting to spending of the proceeds.

**Offering Girl Experiences.** Girl experiences are similar to programs, they are offered to girls on specific, pre-determined dates so that girls eligible for the girl experience have the experience as a group. Girl rewards/benefits must support the GSLE (camp, travel, events, and similar). Travel & events related to GS programming are highly encouraged by GSUSA and fall within the IRS guidelines. However, if a girl cannot attend the set event, she cannot be reimbursed. GSNMT product program staff created quality, mission-related girl experiences that girls can experience together.

Questions about the changes to the 2016 cookie sale and/or IRS guidelines? More information will be available in the cookie sale trainings and manuals. Or you can contact the Product Sales Department at 505-343-1040 or GSNMTinfo@gs-nmtrails.org



# Membership

## Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails Membership by the Numbers:

**Girl membership growth.** The following numbers share the growth in girl membership among several categories:

<b>Girl Membership</b>	<b>0.9%</b>	<b>3867 in 2015, 3833 in 2014</b>
<b>K-5 Growth</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>3078 in 2015, 2761 in 2014</b>
Daisy (K-1 <sup>st</sup> )	22.9%	939 in 2015, 764 in 2014
Brownie (2 <sup>nd</sup> -3 <sup>rd</sup> )	7.3%	1129 in 2015, 1052 in 2014
Junior (4 <sup>th</sup> -5 <sup>th</sup> )	6.9%	1010 in 2015, 945 in 2014
<b>9-12 Growth</b>	<b>13.0%</b>	<b>209 in 2015, 185 in 2014</b>
Ambassador (11 <sup>st</sup> -12 <sup>st</sup> )	47.3%	81 in 2015, 55 in 2014
<b>Native American</b>	<b>19.7%</b>	<b>279 in 2015, 233 in 2014</b>
<b>African American</b>	<b>10.3%</b>	<b>64 in 2015, 58 in 2014</b>

**Retention.** 345 girls in 6-8th grade Early Birded for 2016 (9.9% increase from 2014), indicating that we are improving retention at the critical grade 6 drop off for membership.

GSNMT was **3<sup>rd</sup> in the region** in total girl membership growth (+0.89%)

GSNMT was **2<sup>nd</sup> in the region and nation** in K-5 girl growth rate (+11.48%)

**Rural membership.** Membership in rural areas increased by **6.7%** with 1587 rural members in 2015, up from 1487 in 2014.

**Counties exhibiting growth.** The following GSNMT counties increased their membership numbers significantly in 2014-2015, the 2015 membership year:

<b>Cibola</b>	<b>147.8%</b>	57 in 2015, 23 in 2014
<b>McKinley</b>	<b>72.4%</b>	150 in 2015, 87 in 2014
<b>Rio Arriba</b>	<b>37.3%</b>	92 in 2015, 67 in 2014
<b>San Miguel</b>	<b>687.5%</b>	63 in 2015, 8 in 2014
<b>Union</b>	<b>185.7%</b>	20 in 2015, 7 in 2014
<b>Valencia</b>	<b>25.2%</b>	154 in 2015, 123 in 2014

*\*presence was established in Mora and Quay counties, where there were previously no Girl Scouts*

**Median household income** (of those choosing to report)

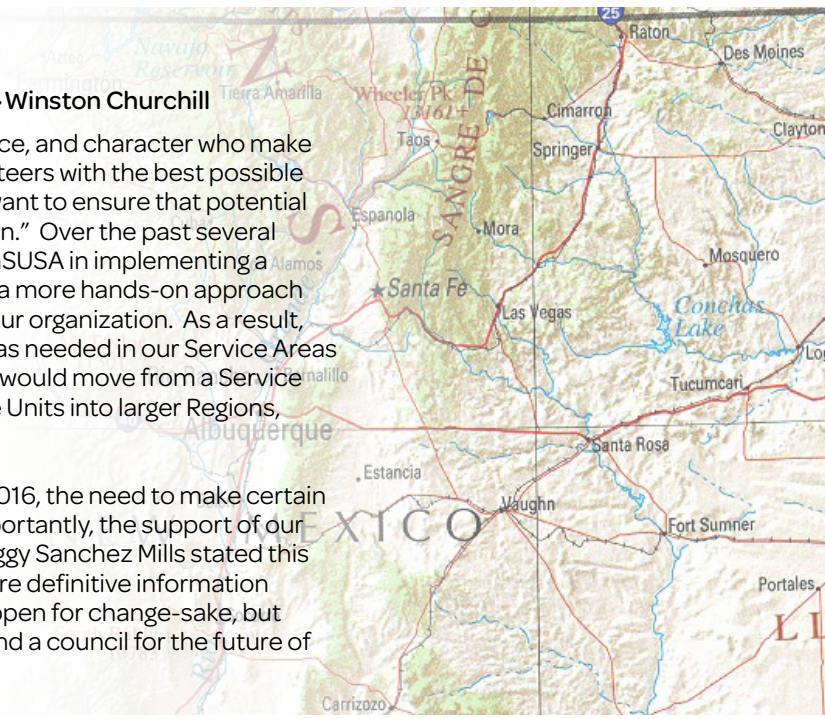
<b>\$0-35,000</b>	<b>19.2%</b>	423 in 2015, 355 in 2014
<b>\$35-50,000</b>	<b>2.4%</b>	1472 in 2015, 1437 in 2014

## Service Area Restructure

“There is nothing wrong with change, if it is in the right direction.” ~Winston Churchill

In our effort to build girls across New Mexico with courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place, and to provide our troop leaders and volunteers with the best possible support from staff and other volunteer mentors at the council, we want to ensure that potential changes to the Service Area structure is change in the “right direction.” Over the past several months, Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails has been partnering with GSUSA in implementing a new database system which will provide our membership staff with a more hands-on approach to tracking and connecting with potential and current members to our organization. As a result, there was some discussion early in the process that a restructure was needed in our Service Areas because of this database implementation, and that as a council, we would move from a Service Unit delivery system to a Regional delivery system – merging Service Units into larger Regions, consolidating Service Unit bank accounts, and more.

In light of our pending Go-Live date for the new database in March 2016, the need to make certain we have educated reasons for any structure changes, and most importantly, the support of our volunteers, Service Area consolidations will be put on hold (CEO Peggy Sanchez Mills stated this at our November 7 Annual Meeting, as well). Our hope is to have more definitive information regarding any changes by January 2016, and that change will not happen for change-sake, but rather to move us in the “right direction” as a staff, volunteer base, and a council for the future of girls within the New Mexico Trails service area.



Help GSNMT build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place... participate in #GivingTuesday:

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

#GIVINGTUESDAY

December 1, 2015

Now in its fourth year, #GivingTuesday is a global day of giving fueled by the power of social media and collaboration. Observed on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving (in the U.S.) and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, #GivingTuesday kicks off the charitable season, when many focus on their holiday and end-of-year giving. Since its inaugural year in 2012, #GivingTuesday has become a movement that celebrates and supports giving and philanthropy with events throughout the year and a growing catalog of resources.



# Volunteer Development

## Congratulations 2014-2015 Chile Award Troops

Troop 285, Albuquerque  
Troop 10053, Albuquerque  
Troop 10080, Los Lunas  
Troop 10253, Gallup  
Troop 10403, Clovis  
Troop 10443, Rio Rancho  
Troop 10513, Los Lunas  
Troop 10520, Santa Fe

The Chile Award is a program designed to guide troops to become a well-rounded partner with the council. Requirements include participating in Early Bird membership registration, participating in Service Unit events, training for troop volunteers, participation in product programs, and learning about Girl Scout traditions.



## Call for Nominations: Adult & Community Recognitions

Girl Scout awards and recognitions are offered through GSUSA, GSNMT, and through partnering organizations. These awards and recognitions are available to eligible volunteers, community partners, troops, and sometimes even for girls.

Council awards show recipients that they are noticed and appreciated. You can participate in thanking and recognizing those adults who make a difference in the lives of girls by nominating someone you know for a council award.

Know a Volunteer or Community Partner you would like to thank? Find the nomination forms on our website: [nmgirlscouts.org](http://nmgirlscouts.org) Nomination deadline is January 31.

### Volunteer highlight: DeeAnn Briceno.

DeeAnn leads her girls by example whether they are working on badges, attending events, or volunteering in the community. Her daisy and brownie troop was the highest cookie selling troop in 2014, in large part because of the dedication of this full time worker, student and mother of four.



## Girl Scouts of New Mexico Trails Trefoil Guild



**What is a Trefoil Guild?** This group is for adults, aiming to provide social and service opportunities.

### Objectives of the Trefoil Guild are:

- To keep alive among members the spirit of the Girl Scout Promise and Law
- To carry that spirit into the communities in which members live and work
- To give practical, financial and moral support to Guiding and Scouting

The Trefoil Guild of New Mexico Trails will have our first organizational meeting on December 8 at 6:30pm at the Albuquerque Service Center Board Room. Everyone is invited!

**Questions?** Contact Nancy at [HeadCookie@aol.com](mailto:HeadCookie@aol.com)

## Prominent Alumnae Survey

We surveyed prominent women in New Mexico to find out if they were Girl Scouts as girls, what they gained from their Girl Scout experience, and their favorite activities. Following are the findings from this survey:

**73%** were Girl Scouts for 1-5 years, with the average respondent dropping out of Girl Scouts after **6th** grade.

*I loved wearing the uniform and working toward goals.*

**Skills.** The most cited skills gained from their Girl Scout experience that have helped them as adults:

- 67%** social skills
- 64%** team-building
- 62%** self-confidence

**Favorite Girl Scout Activities.** The majority of respondents cited the following traditional activities as their favorites:

- 73%** earning badges
- 64%** arts & crafts
- 58%** camping

*My mom was my Brownie leader and I really enjoyed having that time with her and being able to create things with other girls. I enjoyed seeing the leadership skills develop and being able to get outdoors.*

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