
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Ruth Strawser, Director of Brand & Strategy

260.422.3417 Ext. 118

ruth.strawser@gsnim.org

NEW GIRL SCOUT STEM BADGES DESIGNED TO INSPIRE LEADERSHIP

July 26, 2018

Fort Wayne, IN — Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana, along with Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA), revealed 30 new badges for girls ages 5 to 18 to address some of society's most pressing needs, such as cybersecurity, environmental advocacy, mechanical engineering, robotics, computer science and space exploration. Girl Scouts worked with top organizations like the Cyber Innovation Center, the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics and the Museum of Science to design the most cutting-edge programming available to girls.

"Girl Scouts are learning how to proactively address some of the foremost challenges of today while building skills like confidence and perseverance that will set them up for a lifetime of leadership," said Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana CEO Sharon Pohly. "Most important, Girl Scouts offers girls a sense of belonging and a place to find their voice."

Girls in grades 6-12 can now earn badges in:

- Environmental Stewardship (funded by the Elliott Wildlife Values Project) focuses on environmental advocacy. Girls prepare for outdoor experiences and take action on environmental issues.
- College Knowledge for Girl Scouts in grades 11 and 12 is the first badge completely dedicated to college exploration, showing girls how to research the admissions process, financial aid and other factors.
- Think Like a Programmer Journey (funded by Raytheon) provides a strong foundation in computational thinking.
- Think Like an Engineer Journey prepares girls to pursue careers in fields such as cybersecurity, computer science and robotics.

Girls in grades K-5 can now earn badges in:

- Environmental Stewardship (funded by the Elliott Wildlife Values Project) encourages girls to respect the outdoors and take action to protect the natural world.
- Cybersecurity (funded by Palo Alto Networks) introduces girls to online safety and privacy principles, information on how the internet works, and how to spot and investigate cybercrime.

- Space Science (funded by NASA’s Science Mission Directorate and led by the SETI Institute) enables girls to channel their inner NASA scientist as they learn about objects in space and how astronomers conduct investigations.
- Mechanical Engineering for Girl Scout Juniors, encourages girls to design paddle boats, cranes and balloon-powered cars, learning about buoyancy, potential and kinetic energy, machines and jet propulsion.

To volunteer, reconnect, donate or join, visit www.girlscouts.org.

###

About Girl Scouts of the USA

We're 2.6 million strong—1.8 million girls and 800,000 adults who believe in the power of every [G.I.R.L. \(Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader\)™](#) to change the world. Our extraordinary journey began more than 100 years ago with the original G.I.R.L., Juliette Gordon "Daisy" Low. On March 12, 1912, in Savannah, Georgia, she organized the very first Girl Scout troop, and every year since, we've honored her vision and legacy, building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. We're the preeminent leadership development organization for girls. And with programs from coast to coast and across the globe, Girl Scouts offers every girl a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success. To volunteer, reconnect, donate, or join, visit www.girlscouts.org.

About Girl Scouts® and Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana

Today, as when founded in 1912, Girl Scouts® helps cultivate values, social conscience and self-esteem in young girls, enabling them to succeed as leaders today and tomorrow. Girl Scouts of Northern Indiana-Michiana provides leadership experiences for more than 6,000 girls ages 5-17. They are guided by more than 3,000 adult volunteers who mentor them and work behind-the-scenes to support Girl Scouts and our mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

follow us on [twitter](#) [facebook](#) [YouTube](#)