



A Message From Molly T. Fuller, CEO

October 12, 2017

Dear Girl Scout Members, Parents and Friends:

You may have heard or read the announcement that Boy Scouts of America (BSA) plans to open its membership to girls starting in 2018.

I want to assure you that Girl Scouts of the USA and Girl Scouts of the Commonwealth of Virginia remain committed to, and believe strongly in, the importance of the all-girl, girl-led, and girl-friendly environment that Girl Scouts provides.

Girl Scouts creates a necessary safe space for girls to learn and thrive. We hear from girls and their families every day about the value of the incredible experiences we offer them, including STEM, outdoor, entrepreneurship, and life-skills programming. In addition, thousands of exceptional Girl Scouts earn their Gold Award each year, Girl Scout's highest award. They become Gold Award Girl Scouts by transforming an idea and vision for change into an actionable plan with measurable, sustainable, and far-reaching impact at the local, national, and global levels.

The benefit of this type of girl-centered environment has been well-documented by educators, scholars, and other girl- and youth-serving organizations, as well as Girl Scouts themselves. We are dedicated to ensuring that girls can take advantage of a program tailored specifically to their unique developmental needs—**because girls are at the center of everything we do.**

Only Girl Scouts has more than 100 years of experience helping girls tap into their leadership potential by reinforcing and extending the skills they learn in school in a supportive, encouraging environment in which they feel safe to just be themselves. **At Girl Scouts, we are girl experts.** Our approach to developing a pipeline of strong, confident girls and women with leadership skills originates from our expertise knowing the unique needs of girls and understanding the gender gaps that still exist in every facet of business and society.

Last week I attended the G.I.R.L. 2017 convention, with our GSCV delegates and our girl representatives. I saw first-hand the power of our membership engaged in a true democratic process. We were there alongside nearly 8,000 girls and girl champions from across the country--inspiring speakers, dedicated volunteers, alumnae, and leaders from across our Movement, as well as many from the general public.

We came together from all over our country and across the globe to celebrate and amplify the incredible power of every G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™. I couldn't be prouder to be in attendance with such amazing Girl Scouts, and I'm energized for the journey we will take in the future as a Movement.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me personally at mfuller@comgirlscouts.org.

I truly believe in the greatness of our adult volunteers who are committed to building the pool of future female leadership in the communities across the council. But most of all, I believe in the “right now” leadership our girls show us every day through their Take Action projects, community service and badge interests.

This is why we do what we do.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Molly T. Fuller

Chief Executive Officer