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**Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington (GSOSW)  
Media Statement Regarding BSA Name Change**

PORTLAND, OR. – May 2, 2018

**GSOSW Position Statement**

Girl Scouts' focus is, and always has been, on providing a one-of-a-kind leadership development experience for girls. Our unsurpassed, girl-centered programs are uniquely designed to help girls reach their full potential and compete on a playing field that is still, regrettably, not a level one. Regardless of Boy Scouts' name changes or marketing campaigns, Girl Scouts is and will remain the *best* leadership development organization for girls.

**GSOSW CEO Quote**

"Girl Scouts has been the premier girl leadership development organization and girl expert for over 100 years," says Karen Hill, Chief Executive Officer for Girl Scouts of Oregon and SW Washington. "There is no organization that more thoroughly understands the value of programming designed specifically for girls. We offer girls the single best leadership experience in the world and help develop girls into strong, confident women. What else do we have to say? Join Girl Scouts."

**BACKGROUND**

Girl Scouts offers supportive environments free from the pressures and social anxiety that can result from a mixed-gender environment. Through hands-on, girl-led, girl-centered programs, Girl Scouts try new things, develop a range of skills and step into leadership roles.

From the boardroom to the courtroom to the caucus room, the need for female leadership has never been clearer or more urgent than it is today.

**GOLD AWARD GIRL SCOUT**—The Girl Scout Gold Award—the most prestigious award a Girl Scout can earn—calls upon girls to utilize these skills as they transform their ideas and vision for change into sustainable community projects tackling issues such as poverty, illiteracy and the environment.

**G.I.R.L. AGENDA—GIRLS SCOUTS' CIVIC ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM**—In October 2017, Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. launched the G.I.R.L. Agenda, a nonpartisan initiative to inspire, prepare, and mobilize girls to lead positive change through civic action. To learn more about the G.I.R.L. Agenda, please visit [girlscouts.org/girlagenda](http://girlscouts.org/girlagenda). To learn more about GSOSW's local G.I.R.L. Agenda efforts, please visit: [http://www.girlscoutsosw.org/en/our-council/news/2018/upcoming\\_civic\\_engag.html](http://www.girlscoutsosw.org/en/our-council/news/2018/upcoming_civic_engag.html)

**GIRL SCOUT COMMITMENT TO STEM**— Girl Scouts of the U.S.A. is committed to increasing girls' opportunities to explore and build career paths in the fields of Science , Technology , Engineering and Math (STEM). The Girl Scout STEM Pledge is a multiyear initiative to put 2.5 million girls through hands-on STEM programs by 2025.

In April, GSOSW introduced STEM Month which featured JavaScript Game Design, Seeking our Senses, Bugging at Wildlife Images, Digital Media Studio: Movie Maker, Wonderful Whales at Umpqua Discovery Center, Minecraft Build Challenge with Microsoft and OMSI Family Science Night.

An upcoming example of GSOSW STEM programming is **ASTRONOMY ADVENTURE**. In June, our council is hosting a group of 10 girls from across the USA for the "Astronomy Adventure" Destination. The girls will join astronomers at the Pine Mountain Observatory for solar observing by day, deep sky observing by night, and camping under the stars in the beautiful Deschutes National Forest of Central Oregon. They'll learn to operate the telescopes, collect data, learn how to manipulate data into an image, and explore fun astronomy activities. They'll join University of Oregon undergraduate women, the Observatory Director, and other professional instructors to develop STEM skills and learn about careers in astronomy.

**GSOSW OUTDOOR PROGRAMMING**—More Than 80 Overnight Camp Sessions

An upcoming example of GSOSW Outdoor programming is **GIRLS IN THE WOODS 2018**. In late July, there is a five-day overnight camp hosted by U.S. Forest Service staff. Girls get the chance to practice orienteering, fire building and leave no trace principles as well as learn about nature, conservation and restoration efforts.

To learn more about GSOSW Outdoor programming (*more than #80 Overnight Camp Sessions*), please visit: [http://www.girlscoutsosw.org/en/camps/explore\\_our-camps.html](http://www.girlscoutsosw.org/en/camps/explore_our-camps.html). Our **Camp Brochure** is located online at: <http://www.girlscoutsosw.org/content/dam/oregon-sw-washington-/forms/Camp2018brochure.pdf>.

**GSOSW ACTIVITIES**—262 Activities Offered in 2017/2018

To learn more about GSOSW Activities (*262 activities offered during the Membership Year 2017/2018*), please visit: <http://www.girlscoutsosw.org/en/activities/activities-list.html>. Our **Program Guide** is located online at: [http://www.girlscoutsosw.org/content/dam/oregon-sw-washington-/forms/Spring-Summer-2018\\_Program\\_Guide-web.pdf](http://www.girlscoutsosw.org/content/dam/oregon-sw-washington-/forms/Spring-Summer-2018_Program_Guide-web.pdf).

**ABOUT GIRL SCOUTS OF OREGON AND SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON | GSOSW**—Our council serves 13,955 girls in 38 counties with the help of over 10,000 volunteers. The Girl Scout mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Every opportunity in Girl Scouting, including the Girl Scout Cookie Program, develops these essential skills in an all-girl, inclusive, safe environment. For more information, please visit [girlscoutsosw.org](http://girlscoutsosw.org).

### Interested Media

More information, including photo and video assets, are online, in the GSOSW **Press Room** at: <http://www.girlscoutsosw.org/en/MediaKit.html>.

**GIRL SCOUTS OF THE U.S.A. (GSUSA)**—The Girl Scout mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. The impact of Girl Scouts in the United States is reflected in the fact that 90 percent of female astronauts, 80 percent of female technology leaders and 75 percent of female senators are Girl Scout alumnae. To learn more about Girl Scouts of the U.S.A., visit [girlscouts.org](http://girlscouts.org).