

GSEIWI Historical Timeline

1912-2015

1910s

- 1912 Girl Scouts founded by Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Georgia.
- 1917 First troops in region organize in Iowa City and Burlington with Mae Phipps at the helm.
- 1919 Second troop organizes in Iowa City with Mrs. George Maresh as the Girl Scout commissioner.

1920s

- 1920 Troops launch in Aledo and Rock Island, with the help from the Women's Club. National membership exceeds 50,000. The second local Council is formed.
- 1923 The first troop in Galesburg, Illinois, starts with Nell Edgar.
- 1924 Troops in Maquoketa and Fairfield, Iowa, begin with Mrs. P.C. Hildreth in Fairfield.
- 1925 The first troop in Geneseo, Illinois, starts when girls go to the library to find information about a girls' club and the librarian suggests Girl Scouts. National membership tops 100,000.
- 1926 Mrs. Frank Keck is the leader for the first troop in Davenport, Iowa, which becomes eighty-five girls strong.
- 1927 Founder Juliette Gordon Low dies in Savannah.
- 1928 Girl Scout troop already functioning in Cedar Rapids.

1930s

- 1930 The Davenport council is formed, and soon acquires Camp Shirmanan, the first local Girl Scout camp.
- 1930-31 Troops form in DeWitt, Iowa, and East Moline, Kirkwood, Silvis, and Keithsburg, Illinois.
- 1932 Miss Annette Christiaansen, who had been a leader in Milwaukee, registers the first troop in Dubuque, Iowa, at St. John's Lutheran Church with twelve girls. The Dubuque council is formed.
- 1933 National membership is more than 300,000.
- 1935 Mrs. Charles Wilson arranges Girl Scout summer camp for girls at Camp Minneyta, a Boy Scout camp. A two-week cookie sale is conducted in Davenport and Bettendorf, Iowa, and a total of \$192 is raised.
- 1936 The first nationally franchised Girl Scout cookie sale occurs.
- 1937 Lou Henry Hoover attends a regional conference in Davenport. The Moline council is formed.
- 1938 Galesburg troops dress 250 dolls for the empty stocking club. A total of 120,000 cookies are sold in Davenport.
- 1939 Davenport day camp costs ten cents every other day (no slacks allowed at camp). Delia Miner, who has been in Girl Scouting in Chicago, forms the first troop in West Branch, Iowa.

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1940s

- 1940 Moline resident camp costs \$8 a week; Davenport camp is \$6 per week.
- 1941 Dr. Mabel Otis and Mrs. W. Butterworth donate a 119-acre camp to the Moline council; it is later named Camp Shabonee. A group of 16 girls asks Mrs. Melvin Shepard to form a troop the first in Waterloo, Iowa.
- 1942 Davenport troops crochet afghans and make dresses for English Girl Guides and sewing kits for service men. They also work as farmhands during World War II. Moline Brownie troop dues are two cents a week. National dues are fifty cents a year.
- 1944 National membership is more than 1 million. Moline Girl Scouts have war effort projects: fat salvage, paper salvage, clothes collections for Russian relief, and victory gardens.
- 1945 Waterloo is twelve troops strong.
- 1945 Camp L-Kee-Ta is purchased with a gift from the Elks Club. The first parcel of land for Camp Conestoga is purchased with money from Kiwanis and cookie sales.
- 1946 The East Moline council is formed.
- 1949 The original 110 acres for Camp Little Cloud are purchased and donated by Harry Wahlert.

1950s

- 1951 The Shining Trail Council of Girl Scouts is formed with offices in Burlington. The original, formal dining hall named after long-time Girl Scout leader and volunteer Bea Conrad is built at Camp Conestoga. Over the next decade, Cardinal, Shabonee, and River Bend councils are formed.
- 1952 Camp Conestoga is dedicated (replacing Camp Shirmanan), and Mrs. C.P. Conrad is the first commissioner. Moline troops pack kits for Korea.
- 1953 National membership is more than 2 million. Juliette Gordon Low's birthplace in Savannah is purchased by the national Girl Scouts organization.

1960s

- 1962 Fiftieth anniversary of Girl Scouts is celebrated. National membership is 3.5 million.
- 1963 The national Girl Scout program is redesigned for four age levels: Brownies, Juniors, Cadettes, and Seniors.
- 1965 Conestoga Council acquires 275 acres of land in Allamakee County for what will become Camp Tahigwa.
- 1967 Troop 3 of Cedar Falls wins a Conestoga Council-sponsored camp naming contest for Camp Tahigwa. The name is Native American, meaning "at peace."

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1970s

- 1973 The River Bend and Shabonee Councils merge to form the Mississippi Valley Girl Scout Council. The board consists of seventeen from Illinois and sixteen from Iowa. Eight of the members are men.
- 1975 Cardinal Council joins the Mississippi Valley Council. National delegates vote that membership should continue to be limited to girls. Members elect first black national Girl Scout president, Gloria D. Scott.
- 1978 National membership dues are raised to \$3. A new Girl Scout emblem launches with the three-profile silhouette of girls' faces.

1980s

- 1982 The Mississippi Valley Girl Scout Council receives a gift of land from the city of Rock Island to build a program center and council office.
- 1983 President Ronald Reagan signs a bill into law naming a new federal office complex in Savannah for Juliette Gordon Low. It is the second federal building to be named for a woman.
- 1983 The original swinging bridge is built by the 389th Army Reserve Unit from Decorah, Iowa, at Camp Tahigwa.
- 1989 The Oaks building at Camp Little Cloud near Epworth, Iowa, is destroyed in a fire.
- 1989 The national meeting of presidents and executive directors by regions includes a teleconference session, the first use of this technique at a Girl Scout national meeting.

1990s

- 1990 A capital campaign to raise \$400,000 begins for Shining Trail Council's Camp L-Kee-Ta.
- 1993 The Little Cloud Girl Scout Council receives nearly \$60,000 in donations to purchase a building for new quarters.
- 1996 An equestrian program is added to Camp Tahigwa, complete with a barn, trails and tack. Thanks to a \$1.16 million capital campaign for Camp Little Cloud, its main lodge is remodeled extensively and renamed Singing Bird Lodge.
- 1996 GSUSA's website debuts on the Internet.
- 1997 Construction begins on the Shining Trail Council's new 6,000-square-foot building in the Flint Ridge Business Park in West Burlington, Iowa.
- 1997 Mary Rose Main, the national executive officer of Girl Scouts of the USA and a native of Moravia, Iowa, visits Girl Scouts of the Mississippi Valley.
- 1999 Mississippi Valley Council officially changes its name to Girl Scouts of the Mississippi Valley, Inc.

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2000s

- 2001 Resident camp is closed at Camp Conestoga near New Liberty, Iowa, for the beginning of reconstruction of facilities.
- 2005 GSUSA announces that 312 Girl Scout councils will merge into 109 realigned councils over a time period of several years.
- 2007 Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois is formed by the merger of the Mississippi Valley, Shining Trail, Conestoga, and Little Cloud councils. Diane T. Nelson is announced as the new organization's chief executive officer.
- 2008 A flood in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, inundates the council's service center with eight feet of water; the staff has a half-hour to evacuate. Flooding also impacts Camp Tahigwa.

2010s

- 2010 The council moves from Westdale Mall to the new Human Services Campus of East Central Iowa in downtown Cedar Rapids.
- 2011 In preparation for the 100th Anniversary, Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois launches a website with programs, activities and events for girls, troops and Service Units. In addition, all trainings required of troop volunteers are available online.
- 2012 Girl Scouts celebrates its centennial. Girl Scouts of Eastern Iowa and Western Illinois hosts *Journey of the Century* and *Celebration of the Century* events, and 3,000 Girl Scouts pledge to be "Forever Green" by protecting the environment in everyday ways. More than \$200,000 is secured locally to ensure the future of Girl Scouting.
- 2013 In a record-breaking year, 20,026 girls and 4,812 adults are served, and the council is the first in the nation to reach its goal for membership. Also, the Girl Scout Quad Cities Leadership Center celebrates its opening in Bettendorf, Iowa, allowing for the remodel of the Girl Scout Program Center in Rock Island, Illinois.
- 2014 The Girl Scout Program Center opens in Rock Island, Illinois. After a successful feasibility study, the quiet phase of *Outdoor Odyssey: Where Leadership Begins—The Campaign for Girl Scout Camp* is launched for improvements to the camp facility in New Liberty, Iowa. Setting a record for recent years, 396 Girl Scouts complete Take Action Projects to earn their Bronze, Silver, or Gold Awards.
- 2015 The national Customer Engagement Initiative is launched, with a new web platform, online Volunteer Toolkit, and new staff structure aligned to better support volunteers and girls beyond placement with a troop. Doubleknot, an online facility reservation system, is also launched.