



What's Happening

A Seasonal Newsletter from the World Foundation
for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Inc.

August 2026

Welcome to a new Triennium!

This summer, our Global Movement celebrated a new triennium with a series of fantastic events.

First, WAGGGS hosted its World Conference in Cambodia where OB-PS held a concurrent event, continuing their Project 100.

Later, GSUSA held its National Council Session and Girl Scouts UNITE Convention in Washington, D.C.

The World Foundation was very pleased to be able to offer presence and support to each of these events, including an incredible effort by our many amazing volunteers and funding

for youth pre-conference events where participants developed leadership and advocacy skills with international cohorts.

We were able to connect with thousands of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts through these major moments. **WELCOME** to our new connections. We are so glad to have you with us, and cannot wait to share more with you about what we do and how you can get involved.

And **THANK YOU** to everyone who was involved before, during, or after these events. None of it could have happened without you.



Many of our GS Unite volunteers celebrating at our Hall of Experiences Booth



WAGGGS World Conference

Get Ready for World Conference – young women in governance

The Get Ready for World Conference programme was a series of youth leadership activities aimed at empowering young women attending World Conference to actively participate in the Conference and beyond. It consisted of: three online webinars prior the conference, a Campfire group, an in-person event in Cambodia as well as an online webinar for online delegates, a youth observatory at World Conference and other participation activities during Conference, and a follow up webinar in September. The programme focuses on: creating meaningful connections, leadership and governance.

As part of the World Conference programme, The Get Ready for World Conference event was a jam packed 1.5-day event which included the perfect mix of activities related to governance and leadership and activities to help

experience the Cambodian culture. 116 participants took part in a very hot but very fun Temple Treasure Hunt, providing them with an opportunity to learn about Angkor Wat but also get to know one another before the conference. On the full day, there were opportunities to connect with leaders from different walks of life in WAGGGS but also practice for the World Conference through an immersive simulation hosted by the Procedural Team. For those who joined the



Get Ready for World Conference participants at Angkor Wat

conference online there was a 1.5-hour webinar to get to know each other, and to practise public speaking, debating motions and understanding governance procedures, attended by 10 participants.

All in all, it was a programme that helped grow friendships, build skills and helped everyone get ready and excited for World Conference!

39th World Conference highlights and new World Board

From a special opening ceremony featuring traditional Cambodian dancing and distinguished guests including His Excellency Samdech Thipadei Hun Manet, Prime Minister of Cambodia, and Her Majesty Queen Azizah of Pahang, Malaysia, to a vibrant Closing Ceremony at Angkor Wat, the 39th WAGGGS World Conference, hosted by the incredible team at Girl Guides Cambodia in Siem Reap, was a truly memorable occasion.

The Conference was delivered as three connected events: Get Ready for World Conference (Our Young Women's Governance Event, strengthening youth participation and leadership), the Olave Baden-Powell

Society (OB-PS) Annual Event, and the 39th World Conference. This offered a unique opportunity for our donors, young women and Member Organisations delegates to connect, welcoming over 560 attendees.

This also marked the first hybrid World Conference with both online and in person attendees: In total, 102 Member Organisations took part: 69 in person, 21 online (12 mixed participation), and 12 through split delegations, alongside two potential Member Organisations attending in person.

Highlights from the conference included the launch of *Growing and Learning Part II*, a framework designed to

support our members in delivering quality Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting, international night and celebrating outstanding contributions across our global Movement through the Olave Awards 2024–2026 and the prestigious WAGGGS Medal of Service.



Newly elected World Board members

We said goodbye to six dedicated World Board members: Jess Bond, Fiona Bradley, Chamathya Fernando, Candela Gonzalez (outgoing Chair), Debra Nakatomi, and Christiane Rouhana (outgoing Vice-Chair). At the same time, we welcomed six new Board members: Fatima Al-Faylakawi (Kuwait Girl Guides Association), Lydia Fang (Girl Scouts of Taiwan), Dr Natasha Montesalvo (Girl Guides Australia), Tricia Tilford (Girl Scouts of the USA), Dr Hina Velji (Pakistan Girl Guides Association) and the new World Board Chair Sarah Govan-Sisk (Girl Guides of Canada). Fiona Lejosne (former Vice-Chair) and Signe Obel will serve as Vice-Chairs for the next term.

The 40th World Conference is set to be hosted by the Association des Guides du Rwanda in Rwanda in 2029.

Welcoming Two New Member Organisations to Our Global Movement

During the 39th WAGGGS World Conference in June, we were delighted to officially welcome two new Member Organisations to WAGGGS: Føroya Skótaráð

(the Faroese Scout and Guide Council) and the Fédération Nationale du Scoutisme Marocain, (the national Scout and Guide Organisation of Morocco). This marks an exciting milestone, highlighting the continued growth and diversity of our Movement, and expanding our global network to 154 Member Organisations.

USAGSO at WoCo

As part of the official GSUSA delegation, Abigail Trafford, USAGSO Director of Strategy, represented our movement at the 39th WAGGGS World Conference in Cambodia, where Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from around the globe came together through the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS) - the world's largest movement dedicated to empowering girls and young women. She strengthened global partnerships, co-led a workshop showcasing the Girl Scout Experience Box, welcomed delegates from around the world, and supported the U.S. delegation. Along the way, she connected with fellow Girl Scout organizations, experienced the rich culture and hospitality of Cambodia, and even shared the joy of American Girl Scout Cookies with sister Guides from around the world.

World Foundation at WoCo

Veronica Arjuna, the Program Manager at Nuestra Cabana, attended World Conference as WAGGGS staff to represent the World Centers. She had the opportunity to speak to over 600 World Conference participants and

shared her excitement about Nuestra Cabana.

As the highlight of the Cambodia event, WAGGGS awarded two Friends of Nuestra Cabana and our World Foundation Board President with the WAGGGS Medal of Service. This award is the highest honor that WAGGGS presents, recognizing distinguished, long-term service at the global level. Patty Cook (not present) received the award in recognition of her hard work to ensure Nuestra Cabana was able to reopen and succeed. Rae Ann Dougherty accepted her award in recognition of her



New WAGGGS Member Organisations, Føroya Skótaráð (the Faroese Scout and Guide Council) [above] and the Fédération Nationale du Scoutisme Marocain, (the national Scout and Guide Organisation of Morocco)

multifaceted contributions to WAGGS, the World Board, and Nuestra Cabana. Linda Foreman was recognized for her dedicated service through a variety of roles including as the current leader of the World Foundation Board.

We are also pleased to highlight that the new World Board mentioned above includes Emerita Director of the World Foundation Board, Tricia Tilford. It is an honor to serve in sisterhood with Tricia, and we cannot wait to see her contributions to our Global Movement in her new role.

Congratulations, also, to outgoing World Board member Debra Nakatomi, another great supporter of the World Foundation. Thank you for all you've given through your term, Debra. Cheers!



The 2026 OB-PS event in Cambodia was joint with the WAGGS World Conference, for only the second time in their history of hosting events. It was a remarkable celebration of the strength and generosity of the OB-PS community and sought to bring together members from across the world while shining a spotlight on our hosts in Cambodia.

The joint event allowed OB-PS Members to meet with members of MOs, as well as young women of the Movement who have been directly supported by the Olave Baden-Powell Society. There were countless opportunities to build meaningful connections, from the Light the Future Reception where OB-PS Members pinned participants of the Get Ready for World Conference Event, to the World Cafe where OB-PS Board Members had meaningful conversations with these

young leaders. This event was successful in raising the visibility of OB-PS globally and showcasing the generosity, commitment and global spirit of our members.

This was also an opportunity to honour new and upgrading members with a presentation of their award by HRH Princess Benedikte of Denmark. OB-PS welcomed an incredible 96 new members, including 26 Young Members (23 from Cambodia) and 70 Inaugural Members (57 from Cambodia), and celebrated 17 members reaching new Recognition Levels. This year also marked the introduction of the new Champions Award, recognising giving exceeding £35,000, with the first recipients honoured during the event. The ceremony demonstrated the growing impact of our community, with supporters in Cambodia alone raising an outstanding £376,000.

Finally, the event closed, marking an important moment of transition for the OB-PS Board. All were delighted to welcome new Board members Demetra, Kate, Sue, and Amanda, whose experience, passion and commitment will help guide the Society into its next chapter. At the same time, heartfelt thanks was extended to outgoing Board members Ekua, Morag, and Kris for their outstanding service, leadership, and dedication to OB-PS. Their contributions have helped shape the Society's growth and impact, and OB-PS is deeply grateful for the lasting legacy they leave behind.



OB-PS Board Members in Cambodia

Special notes from WAGGS:

Light the Future: thank you for making this possible

As Growing and Learning enters its next chapter, we want to thank everyone who supported this year's *Light the Future* campaign. Your generosity has done far more than help us reach a fundraising target

– it has helped create opportunities for girls and young women around the world to learn, grow and build brighter futures.



Project 100 update: USA supporters are helping drive the momentum

Project 100 is OB-PS' flagship campaign as we look ahead to WAGGGS' centenary in 2028. It's a collective challenge to grow our community, inspire generosity and bring even more people into support of girls and young women worldwide.

Thanks to the energy and commitment of OB-PS members around the world, Project 100 is already building real momentum. So far this year, 91 new members have joined OB-PS, including 3 from the USA. We have also seen 39 members increase their giving level – and an incredible 23 of those upgrades have come from the USA. Alongside this, 320 new donors have been inspired to give to WAGGGS.

At the recent OB-PS event in Cambodia, both Cambodia and Malaysia were recognised with Project 100 awards for their outstanding contribution to these goals. Malaysia has recruited 13 new members this year, while Cambodia has achieved an extraordinary 65 new members.

To our USA supporters: thank you. Your generosity and commitment are helping power this campaign in a big way. If you know someone who cares about creating opportunities for girls and young women, why not share OB-PS with a friend, family member or fellow supporter? With your help, perhaps the USA could be our next Project 100 award recipient.



The inaugural Girl Scout Global Citizen Summit held just before Girl Scouts UNITE brought together approximately 100 Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from around the world for an inspiring leadership experience focused on becoming global citizens. Through interactive sessions with internationally recognized organizations, including Vital Voices, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the United Nations Association-USA, participants explored global issues, strengthened

Thanks to supporters like you, this year's campaign has raised an extraordinary £175,165.00 (\$235,000 USD) – far surpassing its original £70,000 (\$93,457 USD) target.

Over \$95,000 of that total came from supporters in the USA giving through the World Foundation – a powerful reflection of the commitment and belief of our US donor community.

The success of this year's *Light the Future* campaign was celebrated at the OB-PS event in Cambodia, where supporters came together for a special gala dinner in aid of Growing and Learning. The evening featured an inspiring talk from lead volunteer Barbara Muñoz, as well as performances from local Girl Guides, offering a powerful reminder of the girls and communities at the heart of this work. It was a joyful celebration of what supporters can achieve together – and of the brighter future their generosity is helping to build.

Every gift given through Light the Future is a vote of confidence in girls and young women: in their potential, their leadership and their future. Because of your support, Growing and Learning can continue to open doors, strengthen opportunities and help more girls gain the skills, confidence and support they need to thrive. Thank you for making this possible.





Highlights from the Global Summit

their cross-cultural leadership skills, and discovered how they can create positive change in their own communities.

USAGSO was proud to be selected as one of the participating delegations, with 17 girls and five adults representing Belgium, China, Germany, Italy, the Northern Mariana Islands, Saudi Arabia, South Korea, Spain, and the United States. Throughout the Summit, our delegates connected with peers from around the world, shared their unique overseas experiences, and built friendships that crossed borders.

The experience concluded with each participant committing to an Amplification Project - a way to bring what they learned back to their communities and inspire others to think globally, lead with courage, and make a difference. The Summit was a powerful reminder that, no matter where Girl Scouts call home, they are united by a shared commitment to leadership, service, and making the world a better place.

National Council Session and Girl Scouts Unite

USAGSO was proudly represented by eight National Council delegates and seven staff members at Girl Scouts Unite and the National Council Session. Throughout the event, delegates and staff welcomed attendees to the USAGSO exhibit, sharing the story of overseas Girl Scouting through an interactive trivia wheel, engaging conversations, and popular giveaways.

Behind the scenes, the delegates spent a full year preparing for the National Council Session, collaborating to understand key issues and advocate for the unique needs of Girl Scouts living overseas. Their thoughtful leadership ensured the voices of our global members were represented as delegates from across the movement helped shape the future of Girl Scouting.



USAGSO Delegates to NCS

Beyond the meetings and sessions, the week was also an opportunity to strengthen friendships and celebrate the diversity of our movement. Delegates and staff enjoyed exploring Washington, D.C., while many international

participants delighted in experiencing iconic American snacks and treats they had long missed or were trying for the very first time.

WAGGGS in D.C.

From July 20–25, WAGGGS CEO Nadine El Achy, Deputy Chief Executive Sally Elkes, and World Board Member Sharrada Segeran represented our global Movement at the 58th Girl Scouts of the USA National Council Session and Girl Scouts Unite in Washington DC.



WAGGGS Representatives at the World Foundation booth

The week opened with a Flag Ceremony, celebrating all 154 Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting Member Organisations. This included our newest Members Føroya Skótaráð (Faroe Islands) and Fédération Nationale du Scoutisme Marocain (Morocco), alongside Girl Scouts councils and territories from across the United States.

Before the official programme began, the WAGGGS team met with the inspiring young international delegates attending the Girls Global Summit. They exchanged stories, built new friendships, and shared their hopes for the week ahead.

We are proud to have joined Girl Scouts of the USA at these events, celebrating the global impact of girls and young women.

World Foundation at Convention

This convention looked a little different in 2026 for the World Foundation than in some of the recent years. The planning committee took on a unified approach – leaning into the Girl Scouts UNITE theme – to integrate

all the WAGGGS World Centres with the broader scope of work we do for the Global Movement with great success.

Our booth was located in the “Global Neighborhood” alongside GSUSA Global and Public Affairs and USAGSO. Our volunteers led visitors through a map activity that highlighted the breadth of opportunity that exists in Girl Scouting worldwide, invited new “pen pals” to address a postcard to themselves, and introduced global programming offered by WAGGGS, GSUSA, and USAGSO alike.



Top: Map activity



Middle: Setting up the booth space

Bottom: Filling out postcards



Convention attendees could learn even more by participating in our Scavenger Hunt that allowed folks to stay linked to our work as they explored the entire expo hall. Volunteers wandered through the crowds as Tour Guides to help teach the symbolism of



*The design for
our Scavenger
Hunt prize sticker
- created by
Kaela Saenz Oriti*



A long line of Girl Scouts waiting to approach the World Foundation booth

the World Badge and point in the right direction for Girl Scouts to check off any of the tasks on our complete list of challenges. This Scavenger Hunt is also to be updated as a takeaway activity. Girl Scouts will be able to find our virtual task list [here](#) and work alone or with their troop to expand their knowledge on all things Global.

We consolidated our digital resources for convention into a single link that allows anyone to dive deeper into whatever they care most about. From travel opportunities to joining Friends groups to becoming a donor, you can find it all [here](#).

Several World Foundation volunteers also assisted Tanya Tulloch of Our Chalet and Martha Concha of Nuestra Cabaña in leading workshops that taught both youth and adults about travel to WAGGGS World Centers and the amazing experiences offered there. The rooms were packed!

Many folks from the World Foundation attended the GSUSA International Commissioner's Reception on Wednesday evening where they heard from GSUSA leadership, youth and young alum hosts, and a global panel of speakers. The speakers from USAGSO, WAGGGS, OB-PS, and the World Foundation Board shared a message of sisterhood and of championing Girl Scouts and Girl Guides everywhere.

On Thursday evening, our Board hosted a get-together at a rooftop venue to allow Friends, family, and partners to gather and enjoy conversation and company in a zero-obligation space. It was a joy to see familiar faces and new faces alike join together for a relaxed moment in the high-intensity experience that is Convention.

Several World Foundation supporters were also honored during the event. Julie Dawson and Connie Matsui were awarded the Juliette Gordon Low World Friendship Medal, which recognizes individuals who have enriched Global Girl Scouting. GSUSA presented Debra Nakatomi with a Thanks Badge, the highest honor in Girl Scouts.



**Investing in Girls to
Become Global Leaders**

The event also served as the public kickoff of our new tagline: **Investing in Girls to Become Global Leaders.**



Rooftop reception

A Special Message from the Program Coordinator

It has been an honor to work alongside so many inspiring women as we planned this summer's events, and especially in preparing for Girl Scouts Unite.

Special recognition is due to the volunteer planning

team chaired by Jennifer Allebach. Without their great efforts in the months leading up to Girl Scouts Unite, none of this would have been possible. **THANK YOU** to Barbara Johnson and Sarah Edwards of Friends of Pax Lodge, Kandi Lancaster and Gail Lamotte of Friends of WAGGGS USA, Leilani Wilmore of Friends of Our Chalet, Allison Kaufman and Michelle Luster of Friends of Sangam, Cathy Lockyer-Moulton of Friends of Nuestra Cabaña, Karen Saenz and Kaela Oriti Saenz of OB-PS, and Addy and Sabine Lerner for your hours of dedication, your inspired ideas, and your endless passion for Girl Scouts, the World Foundation, and the Global Movement. We cannot

suitably express our appreciation for your efforts and talents in crafting the memorable experience we were able to share with all the Girl Scouts who came through our space in D.C.



Volunteers getting ready to head out as Tour Guides on Day 1

To all the volunteers who took shifts in the booth, as Tour Guides, or in the World Centers workshops, you have our sincerest gratitude. You took the vision and made it a reality. By giving your time in this great event, you facilitated meaningful learning opportunities for thousands in support of our shared mission. **THANK YOU** for your vital roles in this success.

Believe it or not, I am already looking forward with excitement to the next triennium and the next GSUSA Convention!

- Valerie Pierpoint

Acknowledgement:

Thank you to the contributors of this edition of What's Happening. The above articles are supplied by WAGGGS, USAGSO, Friends of Nuestra Cabaña, and the World Foundation Board and Program Coordinator. The following closing piece comes from participants of the Global Citizen Summit in Washington, D.C.



The GSUSA Global Citizen Summit in Washington DC was an exciting and enriching two days that offered many lessons to be learned and friends to be made for the lucky 100 participants.

I feel inspired to pursue a career in humanitarian aid work, and especially proud of the change Girl Guides and Girl Scouts all over the world are making. **The Global Citizen Summit was an incredible opportunity that truly showcased to me how capable and passionate young girls are about building the best possible future.**

It was fascinating to hear how Guides and Scouts all over the world are similar and different in so many ways. Overall, the entire week was incredible, and I will never forget all that I learnt and the friends that I made. Thank you, GSUSA, and WAGGGS for a truly incredible experience.

Lily, Australia

We made new friendships, shared Portugal and our Association with others, and returned home carrying a little piece of every country represented there. From Mexico and Chile, we brought back new dances and games; from Australia, a curiosity for new adventures; from Taiwan, a deeper understanding of our global community; and from the United States of America, new stories and valuable lessons that we will treasure dearly.

Monica, Portugal



Adult leaders from Mexico and Australia

I joined this wonderful movement when I was just 4 years old—an adventurous and restless little girl who had fun every single Saturday. I remember looking up to the older girls: camp counselors, staying up all night by the campfire keeping watch, sharing incredible stories about volunteering at world centers and/or living international experiences while representing our country. Now I'm able to live all the **incredible and unique experiences** this wonderful movement offers, all the doors it can open, and all the friendships it can bring.



Chilean Girl Guides at a dinner reception

After 15 years, I'm still part of this movement—it's now a part of me, part of my very essence, one of the things that sets me apart as a teenager. During this event in Washington, I had the opportunity to meet several incredible women who inspired me to keep fighting for what I want, to keep swimming against the current, to be brave enough to take risks, and to know how to face moments of doubt and rejection. **What I take away is: sisterhood.** I shed a few tears on the last day as I said goodbye to all the Girl Guides I'd met throughout the week. Even though we spoke different languages and came from different places, this movement unites us in a very profound way.

Valentina, Mexico

Do you know someone with an Impactful Story to share, or do you have one of your own?

We are excited to highlight your stories and share them with our community. If you have been impacted by projects or programs through WAGGGS, GSUSA, or USAGSO, we want to hear them! Giving these experiences and opportunities to Girl Scouts and Girl Guides around the world is the joy of what we do. Let us celebrate with you!

If you'd like to submit a story for publication in a future What's Happening Newsletter, please send it and any photographs you'd like to include to vpierpoint@girlscouts.org with the subject line "Impactful Stories." You are welcome to send your story at any time for consideration for future newsletters. Please encourage your friends to share their stories, too!

For additional information, contact:

Linda Foreman,
President

Email: lindapforeman@gmail.com

Phone: 919-623-7613

Website:
www.worldfoundationgggs.org

OR

Ellen Petrino,
Treasurer

Email: epetrino@girlscouts.org

Phone: 212-852-8612

OR

Valerie Pierpoint,
Program Coordinator

Email: vpierpoint@girlscouts.org

Phone: 484-547-5072

Support:

Gifts can be made online at

<https://worldfoundationgggs.salsalabs.org/wfdonations-allfunds>

Checks can be mailed to

World Foundation for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Inc.
PO Box 6457 – Dept. 276
Indianapolis, IN 46206

See [How to Donate](#) for information on giving via IRA, DAF, or EFT, as well as information for legacy giving