

Girl Scouts' Honorary Troop Capitol Hill



Girl Scouts' Honorary Troop Capitol Hill, a bipartisan delegation of women members of Congress, was established by Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) to educate Congress about issues affecting girls and young women. Co-chaired by Senators Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV), Susan Collins (R-ME), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), and Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH) and Representatives Susan Brooks (R-IN), Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ), Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA), and Debbie Wasserman-Schultz (D-FL), Troop Capitol Hill comprises members who explore and promote policy solutions that improve girls' lives.

This honorary troop has assisted Girl Scouts by introducing Members of Congress to the benefits of Girl Scouts and developing policy ideas in the areas of STEM education, financial literacy, bullying prevention, outdoor education, and supporting a strong nonprofit community. Troop Capitol Hill has also collaborated with Girl Scouts in briefing Congress on key issues facing girls and young women, and identifying funding opportunities to support these issues.

In the 115th Congress, Girl Scouts aims to work with Troop Capitol Hill co-chairs to continue to:

- Support events on Capitol Hill that target policy issues that affect girls and young women. As an example, in 2017, we plan to hold a series of briefings on issues that impact girls and Girl Scouting.
- Engage all newly elected female members of the 115th Congress in Girl Scouts' Honorary Troop Capitol Hill.
- Develop policy ideas and identify funding opportunities to ensure Girl Scouts is equipped to deliver our quality leadership programming to more girls.
- Speak to the value of women as Girl Scout volunteers, as many more are needed. Each fall, Girl Scouts has approximately 20,000 girls on waitlists due to a shortage of volunteers.
- Support and attend local Girl Scout council events such as Gold Award ceremonies, donor recognition events, and STEM programs that promote the work of Girl Scouts in a given area.
- Participate in internship opportunities on Capitol Hill that are open to Girl Scouts; for example, the Congressional Aide Program, which pairs a Girl Scout from the Washington, DC, region with a Capitol Hill office for a week.

Girl Scouts of the USA looks forward to working with our Troop Capitol Hill co-chairs to plan a few signature events in Washington, D.C. over the next two years. We also want to continue advancing our legislative agenda to bring greater attention to issues that impact girls and Girl Scouting, so that the nation can best meet girls' needs.

If you have any questions about Girl Scouts or Troop Capitol Hill, please contact Alice Hockenbury, Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy, at ahockenbury@girlscouts.org, or Rachel Tabakman, Manager of Public Policy, at rtabakman@girlscouts.org or 202-659-3780.