

## Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama Names Interim Leadership Team and Launches National CEO Search

**BIRMINGHAM, AL — March 26, 2026** — Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama (GSNCA) announces a planned leadership transition, as the organization moves forward with experienced interim leadership and a national search is conducted for its next permanent Chief Executive Officer. In December 2025, GSNCA announced the retirement of Chief Executive Officer Karen Peterlin after ten years of her service to the council. The Board of Directors extends sincere appreciation to Karen for her service and dedication.

### Experienced Interim Leadership in Place

To ensure continuity of the Girl Scout mission, the Board of Directors has selected two leaders who have deep experience and familiarity in the organization, who will assume their roles effective April 1, 2026.

**Barbara A. Hill** assumes the role of **Interim Chief Executive Officer**. Barbara's connection to Girl Scouting spans decades — from her early service as Board Chair of the former Michigan Metro Girl Scout Council, to her role as Executive Director of the former Girl Scouts of Mitten Bay, to serving as Interim CEO for multiple Girl Scout councils nationwide; she went on to serve as CEO of Girl Scouts Overseas, leading operations in Japan and South Korea. Beyond the Movement, Barbara has held executive leadership roles at YWCA of the USA, the Michigan Women's Foundation, and the Women's Business Initiative — institutions defined by their commitment to empowering women and girls. She holds a bachelor's degree from Kentucky State University and a master's degree in social work from Washington University in St. Louis, and she is a proud Girl Scout Alum and Lifetime Member.

**Ramona S. Graffeo** steps in as **Interim Human Resources Director**. A seasoned nonprofit and human resources executive with more than 25 years of leadership experience, Ramona brings expertise across talent strategy, recruitment and retention, performance management, conflict resolution, risk management, and organizational change. A graduate of The University of Alabama, she has served on the Board of Directors for GSNCA and multiple nonprofit organizations — bringing to this role both institutional knowledge and a proven record of building stable, high-performing teams.

Together, Hill and Graffeo bring a broad foundation of knowledge, skills, and abilities to keep the council moving forward.

## **A Deliberate National Search for Permanent Leadership**

The Board of Directors has engaged **Find Great People**, a nationally recognized executive search firm, to lead the search for the next permanent Chief Executive Officer of GSNCA. Find Great People brings a proven track record in nonprofit leadership placement, having successfully placed CEOs in more than 20 Girl Scout councils across the nation — making them uniquely positioned to identify a leader who reflects the values, mission, and long-term vision of GSNCA. The Board will provide stakeholder updates as the search progresses.

## **Moving Forward with Confidence**

“We are grateful for the time Karen has invested in supporting our girls, volunteers, and communities,” said **Danielle Oliver, Board Chair, Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama**. “With Ramona and Barbara stepping in, both of whom are deeply rooted in Girl Scouts, we are in steady and capable hands. With Find Great People leading our national search, we are confident in our path forward. Our council remains committed to building on the progress made and continuing the strong momentum ahead. We look forward to this transition with confidence in our mission and in the future of Girl Scouts across our council.”

## **About Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama**

Girl Scouts of North-Central Alabama serves thousands of girls across its service area, providing leadership development programs that build courage, confidence, and character. Through hands-on experiences in STEM, entrepreneurship, outdoor education, and civic engagement, GSNCA prepares girls to lead with purpose and make a lasting impact in their communities.

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