



October 21, 2026

Wanda Sobieski
Women's Suffrage Museum
P.O. Box 14322
Knoxville, TN 37914

Dear Wanda,

On behalf of the Girl Scouts of Southern Appalachians, I am writing to express our enthusiastic support for the establishment of the Women's Suffrage Museum in Knoxville. Preserving, honoring, and sharing the stories of the courageous women who fought for the right to vote is a vital mission, one that deeply aligns with the history of Girl Scouts and our core values of courage, confidence, character, and civic engagement.

When Juliette Gordon Low founded the Girl Scouts in 1912, the United States was at the height of the women's suffrage movement. The suffragettes demonstrated to the nation that women could organize, lead, and transform society, which was parallel to Low's desire to build an organization dedicated to helping girls discover their own strength, voice, and leadership potential. Long before all American women secured the right to vote, Girl Scouts were taught that good citizenship required understanding local, state, and federal government. The 1916 handbook, *How Girls Can Help Their Country*, featured the Civics badge.

Many early Girl Scout leaders were prominently active in the fight for the vote. Supporters, such as Edith Carpenter Macy, believed the Girl Scout movement could be a vital channel for developing young girls into future voters through teaching them about the importance of civic engagement.

The Women's Suffrage Museum will serve as an educational resource for young people across the nation. For today's Girl Scouts, who continue to earn civic education badges and advocate for positive change in their communities, visiting a museum that honors the suffragettes provides a powerful connection to the generations of trailblazing women who came before them.

Exhibiting the history of the suffrage movement teaches young leaders that progress requires persistence, teamwork, and courage. By preserving these stories,

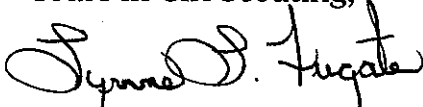
GirlScoutCSA.org | 800.474.1912

Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

the Women's Suffrage Museum will remind every girl who walks through its doors that her voice matters and that she, too, has the power to shape history.

We stand proudly alongside you in supporting this critical project and look forward to partnering in educational opportunities, troop visits, and community programming once the museum opens its doors in 2028.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lynne D. Fugate". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "L" and "F".

Lynne Lawson Fugate

Chief Executive Officer

Girl Scouts of Southern Appalachians