

Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes Statement on Green Bay Troop

As an organization, our policy is to not comment on an individual's employment or volunteer status or to discuss why any individual has chosen to leave or has been separated from our organization. As always, Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes leads with an adherence to the principles of the Girl Scout Promise and Law, including those of "honesty and fairness", "responsibility for what we say and do," and "respect for others."

However, due to recent comments on social media pursued by the news media we feel compelled to address some general misconceptions. As an organization centered around volunteers to help us deliver our mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place, we see new volunteers and departing volunteers with frequency. No matter the reason for no longer volunteering, our Council always seeks to find placement solutions for the girls who had been served by that troop. These solutions may include: placing girls in a nearby existing troop, working with parents and other volunteers to step into the troop leader roles or working to provide staff to temporarily lead a troop while we recruit parent volunteers to take over the responsibilities. We work hard to make sure every girl who wishes to be a part of the Girl Scout organization may do so. Troops are not disbanded by our Council.

Troop finances are troop managed bank accounts which are managed by troop leaders and co-leaders. When there is a change in troop leadership, volunteers are naturally removed from the bank account. Troop funds stay with each troop and if a troop is no longer in place, troop funds are allocated with each girl to their new troop.

In the aftermath of the Chippewa Falls tragedy we saw an enormous outpouring of support and generosity. Many communities and troops throughout our Council chose to honor Chippewa Valley Girl Scouts unique ways including service projects, candlelight vigils and cards and letters. Girl Scouts of the Northwestern Great Lakes supports each troop and organization as they honor the girls in whichever way they see fit and while were not involved in planning or leading them, certainly were and are supportive of their right to have them.

Several individuals started GoFundMe pages or "passed the hat" to collect funds for those impacted by the tragedy. As a non-profit organization we did not establish, manage or direct the use of any of these funds. These efforts are led by individuals who are free to make their own determinations on how these funds are used. At no point do we direct the use of these funds. If an individual chose to donate to our organization in honor of the impacted troop or girls, those funds are segregated to support our Council's efforts in delivering the Girl Scout mission to girls in the Western Region of our Council, specifically the Chippewa Valley.