

TRAILBLAZING WOMEN IN GIRL SCOUTS FEBRUARY 2026

Each February, people across the United States celebrate Black History Month, a time to honor the achievements and contributions of Black Americans throughout history. This month, we are focusing on Black women who have shaped history, inspired change, and helped build the Girl Scout Movement.

Black women have played an important role in making Girl Scouts a place where all girls can grow, learn, and lead. Josephine Groves Holloway helped establish the first African American Girl Scout troops in the South. Gloria D. Scott became the first Black National President of Girl Scouts of the USA. Dr. Bettie F. Harris was an influential executive and advocate for inclusion, and Margaret H. Wright was one of the first Black Girl Scouts to earn top honors and went on to become a pioneering mathematician. These women showed courage, leadership, and dedication to creating opportunities for girls in their communities.

For this month's challenge, your challenge is to learn more about one of these Black women in Girl Scout history, see page 2 and 3 for a more trailblazing women. Or maybe you know someone personally that is a trailblazer - maybe your troop leader or a Girl Scout in your troop?

Think about how she showed courage, leadership, and service, and how her contributions reflect the values in the Girl Scout Law. Choose one line of the Girl Scout Law and explore how that woman demonstrated it in her life.

Finally, think about your own future. Write a letter to yourself describing how you want to make a difference in your community, inspired by these women's leadership and dedication. Celebrate the ways Black women have shaped Girl Scouts - and how you can continue their legacy.

EXTENDED SUBMISSION DEADLINE!



Deadline to submit your July Fourth Report:

Tuesday, March 31, 2026 @ 5:00 PM MDT

Submit report at: https://bit.ly/TrailblazingWomen_Feb26

You will receive your patch in 3 - 4 weeks after the end of challenge.

If you have any questions, please email info@gdsw.org.





Get to Know These Girl Scout Alums During Black History Month



Josephine Holloway

Josephine Holloway was one of Girl Scouts' first African American troop leaders. She started the region's first African American Girl Scout troop in 1942. Because of her revolutionary work in Nashville, Holloway was hired by Girl Scouts of the USA as a field advisor for African American troops until her retirement in 1963.



Dr. Gloria Dean Randle Scott

Civic and educational leader Dr. Gloria Dean Randle Scott was named the first African American national president of Girl Scouts of the USA in 1975. Dr. Scott helped put Girl Scouts' ongoing commitment to diversity into action, and her efforts ushered in an influx of women with diverse backgrounds into Girl Scout leadership. Her vision also helped Girl Scouts' reach more girls of diverse populations.



Bazoline Usher

Bazoline Usher was a trailblazing American educator who advocated for African-American students in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1943, she started the area's first Girl Scout troop for African-American girls, then led a group of 30 volunteers to start troops as well. In 1952, she was elected to the board of the Atlanta Girl Scout Council, and continued to be a member of the organization her entire life.



Mae Jemison

A lifetime member of Girl Scouts, Mae Jemison is the first Black woman to travel to space. In 1992, she flew a space mission, where she helped conduct life science tests. She continues to advocate for STEM education and is the author of several children's books.



Serena Williams

Serena Williams has won 23 Grand Slam titles – the most by any player in the modern era of tennis. As a child, both she and fellow tennis star sister Venus were Girl Scouts!

In 2019, she was named the “Female Athlete of the Decade” by the Associated Press.



Michelle J. Howard

Girl Scout alum Michelle J. Howard began her military career in 1978 by entering the U.S. Naval Academy just two years after women were provided the opportunity to attend. She was the first African-American woman to command a U.S. Navy ship and the first African-American woman to achieve two- and three-star rank. In 2014, she was appointed Vice Chief of Naval Operations, becoming the highest-ranking woman in U.S. Armed Force history at the time.



Jackie Joyner-Kersey

A native of East Saint Louis, Girl Scout alum Jackie Joyner-Kersey was voted “The Greatest Female Athlete of the 20th Century” by Sports Illustrated. In 1982, she was recognized as the nation’s best female collegiate athlete. She is best known for being a 6-time medalist during four different Olympic Games – which includes winning three gold medals.



Dr. Condoleezza Rice

Girl Scout alum Condoleezza Rice was the first female African-American Secretary of State and the second female Secretary of State. In 1986, she served as assistant to the Joint Chiefs of Staff and then was part of the National Security Council for President George Bush. She led the National Security Council for President George W. Bush in 1999 as the first woman to hold that position. In 2005, she became Secretary of State.



Robin Roberts

Robin Roberts is a Girl Scout alum who currently anchors Good Morning America. During her career, she has been honored with many accolades, including the Walter Cronkite Award for Excellence in Journalism and Sports Broadcasting Hall of Fame.