



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Alvernia partners with Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania to offer scholarships to members**

Girls will be eligible for merit awards up to \$27,000/year

**Reading, Pa. – Sep. 6, 2024** - [Alvernia University](#) and [Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania \(GSEP\)](#) are proud to announce a new partnership to expand educational opportunities for Girl Scouts across the region. The partnership includes up to \$27,000 per year in merit scholarships for Girl Scouts in Eastern PA's nine-county footprint, renewable for four years.

“Alvernia University is thrilled to partner with the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania to empower young women and provide them with the resources to succeed in higher education,” said Alvernia University President [Glynis A. Fitzgerald, Ph.D.](#) “This collaboration aligns perfectly with our mission to create transformative experiential-based educational opportunities for students who aspire to be community leaders.”

“This is a game-changer for Girl Scouts in our council, opening the door to a 4-year college education at one of our state’s most respected universities,” said Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania CEO Kim E. Fraites-Dow. “We know college is out of reach for many and we are grateful to President Fitzgerald for her visionary leadership and faith in our girls. Alvernia and Girl Scouts believe leadership is diverse, and that every girl deserves the opportunity to become the leader she wants to be, and the world needs her to be.”

Alvernia University will offer guaranteed admission and a four-year renewable merit scholarship to qualifying members of GSEP who meet specific academic criteria. This initiative includes a minimum \$19,000 merit scholarship per year, with opportunities to earn up to \$27,000 annually for students enrolling in Alvernia's programs. Additionally, Girl Scouts residing in Berks County who have achieved the prestigious Girl Scout Gold Award will receive an extra \$1,000 award annually, renewable for up to four years or five years for those in extended programs.

“We are committed to supporting the educational goals of Girl Scouts who have demonstrated leadership and dedication through their service to their communities,” said Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Affairs Mary-Alice Ozechoski. “This partnership is a significant step in making higher education more accessible and rewarding for these outstanding young women.”

This partnership will take effect immediately, with the first scholarships available to Girl Scouts enrolling in the fall 2025 semester.

For more information about the partnership and scholarship opportunities, prospective students and their families are encouraged to visit [Alvernia's admissions website](#).

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[Alvernia University](#) is a Catholic comprehensive university with a liberal arts foundation founded by the Bernardine Franciscan Sisters in 1958. The university serves nearly 3,000 students in Reading, Pottsville and Philadelphia with a unique blend of rigorous liberal arts education, strong technical training in many high demand majors, ever-expanding experiential learning opportunities through study abroad and internship experiences and community engagement through its Franciscan-based community service model.

**Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania** (GSEP) is the largest girl-serving organization in Pennsylvania and builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. What was started in 1912 in Savannah, Georgia by founder Juliette Gordon Low as one small, yet dedicated troop of diverse girls has grown into 2.8 million Girl Scouts across the U.S. today. GSEP serves more than 25,000 girls in partnership with more than 11,000 volunteers in Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, and Philadelphia counties. Today, 80 percent of women in leadership and executive roles in the U.S. were Girl Scouts. Girl Scout alum comprise 70 percent of women in the U.S. Congress. For further information about Girl Scouting, how to join, volunteer, reconnect, or donate, call 215-564-2030 or visit [www.gsep.org](http://www.gsep.org). Follow @GirlScoutsEPenn on X, Instagram and Facebook.

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