

## The History of Evanston Girl Scouting

*Juliette Low's maternal great grandfather was John Kinzie (1763-1828), the first permanent white settler in Chicago. She came to Chicago in 1914 to promote the growth of Girl Scouting.*

*Ysabel Pfeiffer founded Evanston's first Girl Scout troop in her apartment in 1917, but her troop was short-lived.*

Miriam Heermans formed the first permanent Evanston Girl Scout troop, Troop 1, at the First Congregational Church in 1918 or 1921. She had two Girl Scout troops: one for girls ages 10 to 13, and one for high school girls. The first Girl Scouts wore khaki-colored uniforms of middie blouses and bloomers along with an official red belt weighted down with Girl Scout equipment. They worked on badges, hiked in Harms Woods, and camped at sites on the Des Plaines River and Lake Geneva.

*Girl Scout Troop 2 was started in 1919 by the First Baptist Church under the leadership of Mrs. Orville Baird.*

In 1927, when the Chicago Council of Girl Scouts decided to restrict its jurisdiction to the metropolitan area, the Evanston Council was formed. The headquarters for the council was in the basement of the First Congregational Church. By that time, 8 active Girl Scout troops were formed.

*The first Girl Scout Brownie troop was formed in 1932.*

Today, (2008) there are 62 Girl Scout troops serving 1,173 members, consisting of 841 girls (41 Girl Scout Daisies, 375 Girl Scout Brownies, 321 Girl Scout Juniors, 104 Girl Scout Cadettes/Seniors/Ambassadors) and 332 adult volunteers. They work on badges, have adventures, and perform community service.