These scouts wear yellow sunflowers. The flower was a symbol of the women’s voting-rights movement.

Working for Women

Girl Scouts want to honor women leaders with a statue in New York City.
Where Are the Women?

The Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Statue Fund and the Girl Scouts want a statue of real women in New York City.

Walk through any park in the United States and you will see historic statues. But how many are statues of women?

In New York City’s Central Park, there are statues of Mother Goose, Alice (from Alice in Wonderland), Juliet (with Romeo), and angels. But not one statue depicts a real woman. Pam Elam wants to change that.

Pam Elam says, “We won’t let anything stop us from achieving our goal.”

Elam is working with the Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony Statue Fund, or the Statue Fund. The group is working to raise $1.5 million to create and install a bronze statue of Stanton and Anthony in the park. In the late 1800s, Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony led the charge for women’s right to vote. Elam says the statue is a way to honor all suffragists. “We’re inspired by the women [who came] before us,” Elam says. “We want to see this.”

Elam says, “They would say, ‘Good job! The fight goes on.’”

Charlotte Hartog, 10, is a member of Girl Scout Troop 3484, in New York City. Her troop is working to spread the word about the Statue Fund. Charlotte says the girls in the troop were upset to learn there were no statues of real women. “It should be equal,” she told TFK. “It’s important to have all types of role models.”

The New York City Parks Department has approved the monument request. If the fund raises enough money, the statue will be unveiled on August 26, 2020. The date will mark the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment, which gave American women the right to vote.

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—By Stephanie Kraus

Should School Bake Sales Be Banned?

Cupcakes and brownies are out. Carrot sticks and granola are in.

In Massachusetts, selling sugary treats at fundraisers is banned during the school day. Massachusetts is one of 24 states that have adopted the federal Smart Snacks standards. The rules were finalized in June by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

People who support the rules hope that clamping down on bake sales will promote healthy eating habits and reduce childhood obesity. Critics argue that restricting bake sales makes it harder for students to raise much-needed money for field trips, sports teams, and other school programs. Here, two TFK readers offer their views.

Jaelyn Bailey, 10

Saint Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands

Schools should offer healthy alternatives at bake sales instead of sugary snacks. Banning unhealthy foods at school fundraisers would help students learn about which fats, oils, and sugars are not healthy. Kids might not want to eat healthy snacks, but they should be encouraged to do so. There are too many overweight kids. Even if schools make less money selling vegetables, that would be better than offering unhealthy food to kids.

—Jaelyn Bailey

Layla Virji, 11

Morgantown, West Virginia

Bake sales are beneficial for schools. Selling snacks can help fund programs such as art, music, field trips, and sports. Unfortunately, many schools have been forced to reduce these programs due to budget cuts. The money from bake sales can keep these programs going. Some people think bake sales promote unhealthy eating habits. Yes, too many sweets can be harmful. But it is fine to have a treat once in a while. Bake sales during school hours should be allowed.

—Layla Virji

We want to hear from you! The next topic: Should cities limit the use of plastic bags? Email your opinion to tfkasksyou@timeforkids.com. For more information, go to timeforkids.com/debate.