Luncheon tickets still available!

Success to Significance

In 2011, Jessica Buchanan and a colleague were kidnapped by Somali land pirates and held for 93 days. During her captivity, she was terrorized by her captors, held outdoors in a scrub desert and kept on a starvation diet. Meanwhile her husband, Erik Landemalm, was furiously working behind the scenes with the FBI, professional hostage negotiators and the United States government in negotiating her release.

Finally, after fruitless negotiations with her captors, President Barack Obama ordered Navy SEAL Team Six to attempt a rescue. On January 25, 2012 members of SEAL Team Six attacked the heavily-armed captors, killing all and airlifting Buchanan and her colleague to safety.

Through this experience, Buchanan and Landemalm, who were a Girl and Boy Scout respectively growing up, learned that the human spirit is indomitable. Join us at the 2015 Success to Significance luncheon to hear first-hand how Jessica and Erik found the courage, confidence and character to survive the most difficult 93 days of their lives.

Success to Significance will honor:
Y. Ping Sun of counsel with the law firm Yetter Coleman LLP and first lady of Rice University. She has been involved in numerous Houston-area nonprofits and organizations benefitting girls and the greater Houston community, such as United Way of Greater Houston, Asia Society Texas Center and Houston Arts Alliance.

2015 Success to Significance
Thursday, April 23, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
Hyatt Regency Downtown, 1200 Louisiana St., Houston

Individual tickets are $150. Table sponsorships begin at $2,500. To learn more, visit s2s.gssjc.org or contact Emily Adkison at 713-292-0358 or eadkison@sjgs.org. Last day to purchase tickets is April 17.

Thank you,
Cookie Lovers!

Our 2015 Cookie Program wrapped up in the last few weeks, and we want to say an extra thank you to you, cookie lover! Whether you placed an order with a girl using COCOMobile or bought a few boxes of Thin Mints to stock your freezer, you helped our Girl Scouts earn funds for their activities, learn essential life skills and participate in the largest girl-led business in the United States!

In 2014, our Council was excited to be named the largest sale in the entire country. We’re still tallying up the numbers for 2015 and will share the results in the next issue. But in the meantime, thank you for your support of GSSJC!

Save The Date
Alumnae Camping Weekend
Do you remember roasting marshmallows over the campfire, singing songs, shooting an arrow and hiking through the woods? Spark those memories and create new ones! Join us on September 26 – 27 for the Alumnae Adult Camping Weekend at Camp Whispering Pines. More details will be in the June issue of AlumnaE-news, or contact alumnae@sjgs.org if you would like to share your ideas with the event team. If you’re not a member of the GSSJC Alumnae Association, register today on www.gssjc.org. Click on Our Council, then Alumnae.
Delicious event highlights Girl Scout Cookies

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council (GSSJC) hosted its annual Just Desserts event on Thursday, January 22 at the Magnolia Hotel in downtown Houston. At “A Night at the Movies,” the 2015 theme for Just Desserts, guests walked the red carpet and were transported to the set of some of Hollywood’s box office hits as seven local chefs offered up movie-themed desserts using Girl Scout Cookies.

More than 100 guests enjoyed the palate-pleasing event as celebrity chefs vied for awards in eight categories. This year’s participants included chefs from: Ooh La La Dessert Boutique, Red Dessert Dive & Coffee Shop, Take the Cake, Quite A Stir, Maine-ly Sandwiches, Smallcakes Houston and The Village Bakery. This year’s underwriter was Sysco.

Girl Scouts were paired with members of the media who served as judges, which included Sonia Azad of KTRK Ch. 13; Amy Davis of KPRC Ch. 2; Tiffany Craig of KHOU Ch. 11; Lizzet Lopez of Univision; Marcy de Luna of CultureMap; Katharine Shilcutt of Houstonia magazine; and Dana Donovan of Houston Family Magazine.

The girl judges and assistant chefs were all top cookie sellers, having each sold more than 1,000 packages during the 2013-2014 cookie sale.

Participants earned the following awards:
- Most Creative Recipe: The Village Bakery – Peanut Butter Sandwich – Star Wars
- Best Use of Cookie: Maine-ly Sandwiches – Thin Mints – Forrest Gump
- Best Table Display: Ooh La La Dessert Boutique – Shortbread – Wizard of Oz
- Celebrity Judges Favorite: Quite A Stir – Thanks-a-Lot – Jurassic Park
- Girl Scout Judges Favorites, People’s Choice: Take the Cake – Lemonades – Pirates of the Caribbean
- Most Delicious: Red Dessert Dive & Coffee Shop – Peanut Butter Patties – Grease
- Best Theme Interpretation: Smallcakes Houston – Caramel deLites – E.T.

Ways to Give: Consider a gift of stock or securities

Giving a gift of stock or securities is just one of the many ways you can help GSSJC build girls of courage, confidence and character right here in southeast Texas. A gift of stock is valued for tax purposes on the date of transfer. The fair market value of gifts of long-term, capital gain securities or real estate is deductible up to 30 percent of a donor’s adjusted gross income. Any amount in excess may be carried forward for a period of five years. Giving securities that have increased in value is a great way to both benefit GSSJC and bypass the capital gains tax due on a sale. Contact Diane Pavey for more information at 713-292-0277 or dpavey@sjgs.org.

GSSJC CEO Mary Vitek Speaks at International Women’s Day event

Did you know that there is a day dedicated to celebrating the achievements of women across the globe? Each year International Women’s Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8. The first IWD was held in 1911, one year before Girl Scouts was founded.

Thousands of events occur to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women. This year, our CEO Mary Vitek was asked to speak before a group of influential business women at a luncheon hosted by Citi and Bracewell & Guiliani. Mary spoke about the importance of the Girl Scout leadership experience and how we prepare girls for future leadership roles. The keynote speaker for the event was Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison, a Girl Scout alumna and longtime supporter of Girl Scouts.
Mariners get rare tour of Coast Guard ships
By Madison Ziegelmair, Girl Scout Senior in Troop #26005, Mariner

The Mariners were invited to tour the Coast Guard Cutter Dauntless and Coast Guard Cutter Harry Claiborne in Galveston. One of the Mariner dads is in the Coast Guard Auxiliary and volunteers aboard the Dauntless some weekends.

The Mariners collected money for a Christmas present of workout gear for the crew. The ship does not have a gym or much space for workout equipment. We met a young Coast Guard officer who was going to lead us around and teach us a lot about the Coast Guard and the Dauntless. Then the Harry Claiborne crew gave us a tour. As we started our journey aboard the ship, I noticed just how large the cutter was and what the crew of past and present had accomplished on its missions through the Caribbean.

We finished looking around at some amazing things about the ship and then learned how the Coast Guard tie and throw their ropes, climbing from the highest lookout point to the lowest. Once our tours were complete, we had lunch aboard the ship on the mess deck. We then went over to Harry Claiborne’s ship and learned that the ship takes care of all the buoys in and around our regional areas. The buoys are designed to helps boats and ships of all kinds know where they are and guide them through the waters. Each buoy has its own coordinates, and the Coast Guard makes sure they stay in their specific location for the safety of boats.

I speak for my whole sailing team when I say it was an awesome day with all our parents and sailing coordinators and sailing directors at the Coast Guard. We had a wonderful adventure! This trip definitely gave me more respect for our Coast Guard! I wish I could list all the amazing experiences that we had and can’t thank the crew more for spending so much time with us.

Your support of Girl Scouts makes programs, like Mariners, possible! Opportunities to learn life skills and see careers in action, like this visit with the Coast Guard, help build girls into leaders.

Donor Highlight

HEB

Making the world a better place – it’s what Girl Scouts and H-E-B are all about. Girls make impacts, big and small, whether they’re volunteering for an afternoon at a food bank or creating a sustainable impact by earning the Gold Award. H-E-B does the same when they support organizations like GSSJC not only by allowing Girl Scouts to host cookie booths at their stores, but also by pledging as a company to give five percent of pre-tax earnings to charities in their service area.

“H-E-B is dedicated to the communities it serves,” said Mayerland Harris, group vice president of HR with H-E-B. “We are not just a grocery store; we are a company that proudly supports organizations who help others. We see our contributions enabling charities to help others. Among the organizations we support is Girl Scouts.”

Girl leadership has been important to H-E-B since its beginnings. “We know that there are many girls who could become the next Florence Butt and being part of Girl Scouts is a great start for the next leader,” said Harris.

As a supporter of GSSJC’s annual luncheon, Success to Significance, H-E-B helps San Jacinto Council build the next generation of female leaders. Funds raised at the event benefits programs supported by the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. These funds help the Council put on programs and events where girls can learn new skills, try something new in a safe environment and maybe even discover their career path.

“H-E-B has chosen Girl Scouts because teaching a young lady to be a leader benefits everyone, not just themselves,” said Harris. “Teaching life skills at a young age is important for a girl to understand their value in society, and H-E-B recognizes that.”
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Girl Scouts of the USA

Great care has been exercised to ensure the proper recognition of our donors. If an error or omission does occur, we apologize and hope you will bring it to our attention. Contact 713-292-0273 or sboak@gssjc.org. Honorariums listed are $25 and above.

Thank You, Donors!

GSSJC receives second 4-star Charity Navigator rating
GSSJC’s sound fiscal management practices and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America’s largest independent charity evaluator. This is the second consecutive time that GSSJC has earned this top distinction.

Charity Navigator awards only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. They have added a second dimension of Accountability and Transparency (A&T) to its rating methodology and now reviews 17 governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, providing information on its website for each of the charities it evaluates. The A&T metrics reveal which charities have “best practices” that minimize the chance of unethical activities and whether they freely share basic information about their organization with their donors and other stakeholders.

For more information on GSSJC’s rating, visit gssjc.org and click on Our Council.


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Union Pacific Foundation

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In Honor of Troop #02172
Arlene Beagan

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Susan M. Shirley-Menzel

In Memory of Lee Gaskill
Susan M. Shirley-Menzel
Katherine M. Tamer

In Memory of David Gross
Susan M. DeSciofi

In Memory of Penny Harp
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Katherine M. Tamer

In Memory of Betsy Skidmore
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In Memory of Mary Boyd Mock Slattery
Diana B. Bresk

In Memory of Phyllis Vaughn
Sidney Farmer

In Memory of Maria Vernarske
Saundra Coffey

In Memory of Kara Whitney
Chris Pallone
GSUSA announces new outdoor badges chosen by girls

To celebrate its 103rd anniversary, Girl Scouts of the USA announced a new series of outdoor badges, chosen by Girl Scouts themselves.

Outdoor experiences are an integral part of Girl Scouts and are woven into Girl Scout program in such a way that girls feel comfortable trying new things and testing their limits, gain confidence and acquire new skills in a safe and supportive all-girl environment. From a relaxed nature hike through the forests to teaming up on a wildlife conservation project to high-adventure rock-climbing, Girl Scouts offers girls a variety of opportunities to learn and grow inside and out.

In November 2014, GSUSA began the polling process for the Girls’ Choice Outdoor Badges by inviting girls to vote on a diverse option of outdoor badge themes. Outdoor Explorer emerged as the overall theme, with five age specific Badge offerings.

But why is this so important to us?
According to our research (Girl Scout Research Institute’s study, More Than S’mores), girls benefit immensely from time outdoors. Girls who spend time outdoors eclipse their peers in environmental stewardship, more readily seek challenges, and are better problem solvers, all of which are traits needed for 21st century leadership.

Outdoor experiences through Girl Scouting, such as camp, are beneficial to girl leadership development across ethnicities. Latina (38 percent) and African American (40 percent) girls are more likely than their peers (28 percent) to say they overcame a fear of the outdoors through Girl Scouting; seventy-nine percent of Latina girls say they first tried an outdoor activity in Girl Scouts, and an overwhelming 59 percent of Latina girls say Girl Scouts has offered them outdoor activities they would not have otherwise had access to.

Outdoor experiences are important to GSUSA and GSSJC because they are important to girls. Once exposed to the outdoors, girls love it. And, now more than ever, research shows us that getting outdoors is so important to the physical, social and psychological development of our girls and the health of our planet.

Your support of Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council helps maintain our 10 camp properties and continue outdoor programing so every girl has the chance to learn these valuable skills. Thank you for continuing to help make these life changing learning opportunities available.

Come camp with us!
Do you know a girl ready for an exciting outdoor experience this summer? GSSJC has a camp for that! Looking for a week-long adventure? Girls in San Jacinto Council can attend resident camp at one of our three beautiful camp properties: Camps Agnes Arnold and Misty Meadows in Conroe or Camp Casa Mare in Seabrook. Girls who attend resident camp can choose a session based on their interests, whether it’s sports, theater or canoeing! They will also participate in traditional camp activities like swimming, crafts, campfires and, of course, making new friends.

Pick your session today: Visit gssjc.org and click on Camps, then Summer Resident Camp to begin browsing and find the perfect session for your girl. Resident camp is open to all girls, not just Girl Scouts!

Looking for a day-long adventure? GSSJC is excited to offer several full-day camps this year! Girls who attend these all-day camps will enjoy many traditional camp activities without spending the night. All-day camps include meals, a day camp T-shirt and patch. Visit gssjc.org and click on Camps, then Day/Twilight Camp to begin browsing and find the perfect all-day camp for your girl.

Send a girl to camp
Support girls at camp by giving to the Campership Fund! Each year, this fund sends girls to a GSSJC camp where they can enjoy swimming, canoeing, playing games, horseback riding, learning to sail and much more.

Give online at http://donate.gssjc.org and select “Campership”
Buy a commemorative plaque at camp

Honor your moms, dads, grads and Gold Awardees

Consider purchasing a paver or plaque to honor your mother, daughter, sister or friend, or honor a girl who has completed a milestone, like earning the Gold Award. It’s also a great way to celebrate graduates or a Girl Scout dad on Father’s Day.

Commemorative pavers and plaques at four of our camp properties provide a lasting way to honor or remember a special Girl Scout, your troop or an event.

Proceeds from the pavers and plaques will continue the legacy of Girl Scouting through the GSSJC Endowment Fund.

Make your mark at camp – contact Sally Swanson at 713-292-0346 or sswanson@sjgs.org for more information or visit gssjc.org; click on Our Council and then Donate.

Why I Give

Thea Fabio

As a troop leader, Gold Award advisor and donor, Thea Fabio understands the importance of giving back to girls.

As a troop leader for two of her daughters, Thea was able to give back directly to girls as she saw them through their Girl Scout journey. Through that process, she discovered her passion for helping girls realize their dreams of earning the Gold Award, Girl Scouting’s highest honor, and became a Gold Award advisor for GSSJC. “I am a strong proponent of opportunities for girls to enjoy being with other girls, for them to gain confidence in their own abilities and for them to demonstrate their leadership skills,” said Thea. “I support girls’ schools and women’s colleges and organizations that promote women’s issues.”

Her support of organizations for girls and women led Thea to the decision to earmark GSSJC as a nonprofit to donate to in her will.

“Girl Scouts give girls the opportunity to be with other girls, to excel outside the co-ed stereotypical school peer pressures, and to lead,” said Thea. “Girl Scouting has offered so much to my own daughters over the years and has provided me a means to give back to girls and young women in a way that promotes their maturation and self-confidence.”

Make a gift to GSSJC in your will

One of the simplest ways for you to make a future contribution is to include Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council in your will. If you have already made GSSJC one of your nonprofit beneficiaries, please share this with us. For more information, contact Diane Pavey at dpavey@sjgs.org or 713-292-0277.