It’s Girl Scout Cookie time!
You’re invited to our annual Girl Scout Cookie dessert event

Just Desserts
Thursday, January 21, 2016
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.
1811 Briar Oaks Ln., Houston
Tickets: justdesserts.gssjc.org

Just Desserts is an evening full of sweet treats made from Girl Scout Cookies. This event, which started as a donor appreciation event and is now open to the public due to overwhelming demand, is one you won’t want to miss! Join GSSJC as eight local chefs serve up a delicious dessert made using Girl Scout Cookies.

Guests then spend the evening indulging their sweet tooth amidst themed décor - and it’s all for a good cause! Proceeds from the event’s ticket purchases benefit Girl Scouting locally.

YOU can support the Girl Scout Cookie Program now! Call 1-888-GSCOOKIES to find a troop near you, or go to girlscoutcookies.org on February 12 to find a cookie booth near you.

Success to Significance Luncheon, April 22
YOUR help brings Girl Scouting to all girls

In 2016, we are proud to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts’ highest award, today known as the Gold Award, in conjunction with Success to Significance, our signature fundraiser that supports Girl Scout programs locally.

Since 1916 more than one million of the best and brightest young women in Girl Scouts have answered the call to “go gold” and tackle community-wide issues by developing sustainable projects and programs that leave a legacy in their communities. Known as the Golden Eaglet of Merit, the Golden Eaglet, the Curved Bar, First Class and the Gold Award, throughout its storied history, this award has recognized the extraordinary efforts of exceptional girls.

If you earned the highest award during your Girl Scout experience, we want to celebrate you! Please identify yourself by emailing alumnae@sjgs.org.

Success to Significance
Hyatt Regency Downtown, 1200 Louisiana, Houston
Friday, April 22; 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m.
For sponsorship opportunities, tickets and more, visit s2s.gssjc.org.

All Girl Scouts who have earned their Gold Award are invited to attend Success to Significance in 2016 to celebrate their accomplishment of earning the organization’s highest honor during the centennial year of Girl Scouting’s highest awards. Visit s2s.gssjc.org for ticket information.
YOUR support gives girls an opportunity to save lives

Girls learn about breast cancer and give back to community with education about the disease and projects to help those in hospital

Girl Scout Founder Juliette Gordon Low, born October 31, succumbed to breast cancer in 1927 during a time when the words breast and cancer were not used in conversation. Today, October is not only Low’s birth month, but the month devoted to raising awareness about breast cancer.

Many Girl Scouts, girls and adults, from around the country observe Breast Cancer Awareness Month by completing service projects in Low’s honor, including serving as volunteers during breast cancer walks, making pillows and blankets for breast cancer patients, hosting workshops or wearing pink. Low would be happy to know Girl Scouts is still committed to addressing the issues facing girls.

Troop #2644 from Nacogdoches, Texas recently earned the Girl Scouts of the USA’s (GSUSA’s) Silver Award – the second highest award in Girl Scouting – for raising awareness about the disease.

As part of its Silver Award project, the troop invited an OB-GYN to teach them the importance of early detection by performing a self-exam each month. The doctor also provided replicas of different breast tissue to show girls the difference between a regular breast and one infected by the disease.

“The girls wanted to learn the full cycle of breast cancer and how to be aware to also help those that have the disease,” said Shelley Evans, troop leader. “The girls had a lot of questions, so I am happy that the doctor was available to answer them.”

In addition to inviting the doctor to talk to them about breast cancer, members of the troop learned to sew on a sewing machine, created fleece pillowcases and delivered the pillowcases to patients seeking treatment at the Julie Rodgers Cancer Center in Beaumont, Texas. They also gifted a pillowcase to a local patient they invited to their meeting to share her story of courage as she battles the disease.

Troop #2644 from Nacogdoches, Texas recently earned the Girl Scouts of the USA’s (GSUSA’s) Silver Award – the second highest award in Girl Scouting – for raising awareness about the disease. Members of the troop are pictured with State Representative James White and U.S. Congressman Brian Babin’s wife, Roxanne Babin, after receiving their awards.

Houston-area Girl Scout Nikia Stelian, whose grandmother is undergoing treatment for breast cancer, raised awareness about the importance of early detection by making this the focus of her Gold Award project. The Gold Award is the highest honor in Girl Scouting.

For her project, Stelian worked with Lyerly Housing, in north Houston, dedicated to the special needs of senior residents and persons with disabilities, to host a workshop on breast cancer awareness. She also showed a brief video provided by Reconstruction of a Survivor, a nonprofit organization that provides support groups for women affected by the disease, and distributed packets that included information from The Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation and shower breast exam shower tags donated by a local OB-GYN.

“Every year many women are diagnosed with breast cancer and any age can be affected by this horrible disease,” said Stelian. “The information provided by my project should help educate and increase awareness about the importance of early detection.”

GSSJC volunteer and donor Sandy Judson, seated second from left, received the Evolving Eve Award from Houston Woman Magazine in August 2015. The Evolving Eve Award is given to a woman in Houston who has accomplished a significant, positive change in her life by improving not only her own status in life, but also the lives of those around her. Sandy has done just that through her more than 30 years of volunteerism in San Jacinto Council. Congratulations Sandy, and thank you for giving back to girls in GSSJC!

Does your company offer corporate matching?

Your gift to Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council could be matched dollar-for-dollar by your employer! Many companies have programs that match charitable contributions made by their employees and retirees. To find out if your company has a matching gift program, contact your human resources department or email donate@sjgs.org.
Earning Girl Scout badges turns into career path and life-long travel bug

From her beginnings as a Girl Scout Brownie in San Jacinto Council, Lauren-Kristine Pryzant always dreamed big whether she was busy earning badges or setting her sights on earning Girl Scouting’s highest honor, the Gold Award. “I was that girl with a ton of different badges because I had so many different interests,” said Lauren-Kristine. “Girl Scouts really let me explore all of my different interests, which I loved.”

With badges, programs and opportunities in every area imaginable, Girl Scouts helps foster girls’ curiosity and explore their interests – any interest. “That same intellectual curiosity is now a big part of my job at a venture capital fund,” said Lauren-Kristine. “We invest in start-up companies and help them grow. In our portfolio, we have all different types of start-ups, from high tech software companies to biological science companies. I love my job because we get to imagine the future and help develop what’s missing.”

Amazing how earning a few dozen badges can turn into a career path, isn’t it? Experiences like Lauren-Kristine’s are what make Girl Scouting about so much more than selling cookies or going camping. Girl Scouts gives girls the platform to explore their interests that will eventually lead to, well, the rest of their lives.

The organization also helps girls develop lasting relationships with friends and mentors who continue to play a role in their life long after the last camping trip is complete.

“I had a phenomenal Girl Scout leader, Caroline Compton, who was a role model to me growing up,” said Lauren-Kristine. “She was a big part of what kept me in Girl Scouts. She challenged me to think critically about the world around me, set high expectations and encouraged me creatively. Caroline provided the caring ear of a friend and the wise advice of a mentor throughout my time as a Girl Scout, and still today. I really value my ongoing relationship with Caroline.”

As a girl member in San Jacinto Council, Lauren-Kristine says her experience on a Destinations trip to Costa Rica was one of her most memorable experiences. The trip was a two week Outward Bound backpacking trek through the rainforests of Costa Rica. “We essentially hiked from the outskirts of San Jose to the Pacific Ocean – with some white water rafting for the last few miles,” she said. “Along the way, we stayed in little villages with families. I got to use my Spanish skills and experienced a way of life completely different than my own. They showed us how they did everyday tasks like get water and food, and all of it fascinated me. We pitched in with chores, played soccer and walked with the kids to their tiny rainforest school. Something in me clicked. I started to fathom just how big the world is, and I knew I wanted to see and experience more of it.”

You could say that click was Lauren-Kristine catching the travel bug as a result of this once-in-a-lifetime Girl Scout experience. “Since that trip I haven’t stopped exploring. I have been to 40 countries – and counting! Girl Scouts of San Jacinto was gracious enough to provide me with a Destinations scholarship that made the trip possible. Travel opens the senses and instilled in me an incredible independence. I am so thankful for Girl Scouts providing me this formative experience.”

While it’s been a few years since Lauren-Kristine made the switch from girl member to alumnae, she still knows how vital the Girl Scout experience is for today’s girls. “Girl Scouts is a great organization that reaches girls at a really important time in their development,” she said. “The organization creates a support network for girls and encourages them to reach higher, learn more and stay true to important core values. That strong foundation will serve you well later in life.”

Your support of Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council makes experiences, like Lauren-Kristine’s, possible whether it’s receiving a travel scholarship or funding for an inspiring STEM workshop. You can help make these experiences possible for girls by visiting gssjc.org to donate. Click on Our Council, then Donate to give.
Thank you Anadarko

Girl Scouting is about so much more than cookies or camping – it’s where girls discover their career paths. It’s also where girls learn the skills that will make them successful in the professional world.

No one understands this better than Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, which is why the company recently announced a $50,000 donation to Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council: $25,000 for the Council’s robotics special interest group and $25,000 for Gold Award initiatives. Both areas that expose girls to new career paths and help girls develop skills that will be essential to success later in life.

“We operate in a business that relies on technology, engineering and science,” said Jacqui Dimpel, VP, Midstream for Anadarko. “They shape everything that we do and will continue to play a central role in the advancement of a secure energy future. Providing students with the tools they need to develop these skills will prepare them to succeed in the work place and ultimately contribute to a better tomorrow.”

Through their support of robotics, Anadarko is helping groups of girls participate in the FIRST LEGO League this year where teams will have the opportunity to learn more about science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, as they problem solve and build and program robots together. More than 30 girls on five teams across GSSJC will complete in FIRST LEGO League activities throughout the Council.

In addition, Anadarko’s support of the Gold Award will help GSSJC raise awareness of Girl Scouting’s highest honor and support activities throughout 2016 as Girl Scouting celebrates the 100th anniversary of its highest awards.

Supporting Girl Scouts is a great way to help girls get a good start learning about teamwork, responsibility and accountability. Girl Scouts provides a great way to help enhance diversity in the workforce and create long-term opportunities for women in the professional world,” said Dimpel.

Supporting their local community is an important initiative for Anadarko – and something that is built into the identity of their organization. “It is a natural extension of our personal lives, as we live in the same places we do business, so there’s a natural desire to contribute and give back,” said Dimpel. “Additionally, one of our core values is servant leadership, which means putting the good of others above our own. That’s something we all take to heart and strive to put into practice every day.”

As for choosing to support Girl Scouts, there was no questioning it. “For us, it’s an easy decision because when you invest in the Girl Scouts you are investing in the future of girls and young women,” said Dimpel. “You’re creating opportunities and helping to develop tomorrow’s leaders. That’s a pretty easy sell.”

For more information on how your company can give back to Girl Scouts, visit gssjc.org and click on Our Council, Donate.

Your support of Girl Scouting sets the example for girls to complete service projects

Troop helps babies get a good start

Girl Scout Troop #18963, fifth graders at Duchesne Academy of the Sacred Heart, celebrated the 155th birthday of Girl Scouts founder, Juliette Gordon Low by donating a gift basket to the first baby girl born on October 31 at Women’s Memorial Hermann Hospital. Low was born October 31, 1860 in Savannah, Georgia and founded Girl Scouts in 1912.

“We met a sweet mom and dad and their beautiful baby girl, Harper, at Women’s Memorial Hermann Hospital,” said Tracy Simmons, troop leader. “Mom was very gracious and allowed the girls into her room to see her newborn daughter. She was also a Girl Scout and had fond memories of her grandmother leading her troop many years ago and looked forward to the day baby Harper would join Girl Scouts too.” The troop’s gift basket included, a pink onesie with Future Girl Scout printed on it, rattles, baby wipes, soft toys, cute booties, hair bows and books all donated by family and friends. “Thanks to everyone who donated items for the basket,” said Simmons. “We hope that baby Harper likes the gifts and the Girl Scout onesie.”

Completing service projects is just one of the ways Girl Scouts make a difference in their communities. Help us support girls making the world a better place. To donate, visit donate.girlscouts.org.
The GSSJC robotics program includes 34 girl participants led by 11 coaches this year, forming five competitive teams. These robotic teams are located in the Bellaire, Spring/Tomball, Katy, Sugar Land and Pearland areas. Anadarko Petroleum Corporation’s gift sponsors robotics during the 2015-2016 Girl Scout membership year. This program gives girls the chance to design, build and program robots competitively. GSSJC also offers a robotics special interest group that meets throughout the year and gives girls the opportunity to progress in their programming and engineering skills.

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 $250 and above. (Contributions made Sept. 1-Nov. 30, 2015)

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- Troop #09721

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- United Way of Brazoria County
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- Genevieve and John M. Walls
- Harriet Wasserstrum
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**Honorariums**
- In Honor of Madelyn Becker
- In Honor of Kay K. Craig
- In Honor of Laurie Mitchell
- In Honor of M. Anne Murphy
- In Honor of Troop #27260

**Memorials**
- In Memory of Tommy Castales
- In Memory of Evelyn Cernik
- In Memory of George Rook
- In Memory of Noel Keith
- In Memory of Elaine Metter
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Why I Give
Mary Jo Poindexter

No two Girl Scout stories are quite the same – especially when it comes to adult members. Many were members as a girl, and many also saw their daughter(s) through the program and served as a troop leader. But when adult members, like Mary Jo Poindexter, start accepting additional responsibilities in their volunteer role, that’s when amazing things happen for girls.

“After serving as a troop leader for 3 or 4 years, I began to assist GSSJC with odd jobs as requested,” said Mary Jo. “Working in a male dominated industry, GSSJC gave me an opportunity to connect with other active women. I worked with another volunteer to recruit inner city girls to form a troop one year. I ran engineering day for several years, and I also served on the board of directors. Each step of my Girl Scout journey has been inspirational.”

“I strongly believe that girls get opportunities in Girl Scouting that they would not have any other way,” said Mary Jo. “I recall camping with a troop of inner city girls who had never been out of the city before. After witnessing this, I still remember how this trip transformed troop members and enabled them to realize there was this whole new outdoor world. I believe it also gave them the opportunity to see that there are a lot of things that they hadn’t seen before. This experience had a huge impact on them as well as myself. It deepened my belief in Girl Scouts.”

For Mary Jo, it’s also the volunteers that set Girl Scouts apart from other nonprofits – the 18,000 volunteers it takes to make Girl Scouting possible in San Jacinto Council, to be exact. “GSSJC volunteers embody so many skills and devote so much labor to the Girl Scout mission,” said Mary Jo. “I cannot imagine that any other organization could duplicate this.”

For this reason, Mary Jo plans to earmark GSSJC as a beneficiary in her will. “Time and time again I have witnessed the Girl Scout mission in action and I want to make sure this continues for future generations of girls.”

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.