



Please utilize the bitly links and QR codes to access additional information and see the latest updates.

Girl Scout Promise

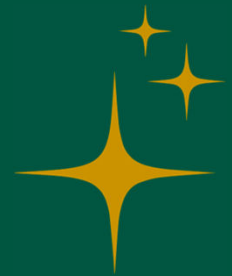
On my honor, I will try:
To serve God* and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

*Members may substitute for the word God in accordance with their own spiritual beliefs.



Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong,
and responsible for what I say and do,
and to respect myself and others,
respect authority
use resources wisely,
Make the world a better place,
And be a sister to every Girl Scout.





Good morning, Girl Scouts and families!

I am Mary Vitek, council CEO, and I am joined by Mel Underhill, the chair of our board of directors and, in her “day” job, the chief volunteer and human resources executive for the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo.

Mel assumed the chair role June 1st and hit the ground running.

If you’re a Girl Scout, you might want to chat with her today as I understand she has her “I met the board chair” patches with her
...



In Girl Scouting, every patch tells a story. Mel can you share what the graphics on your patch represent about your story?

[Mel to talk about her patch – the boot represents the rodeo, the sunset and bluebonnets represent her favorite scenes to photograph, the heart represent her family, children, and grandchildren]

Thank you, Mel. I am excited to serve alongside you and each amazing Girl Scout in this room!



Speaking of amazing Girl Scouts, I would like to take a minute to introduce the members of your senior leadership team ... Connie Chavez, Chief External Affairs Officer; Dr. Mandelé Davis, Chief Membership Officer; April Moncrieff, Chief Program Officer; and Debbie Sprunger, Chief Financial Officer.

A ***magical*** day awaits you during this year's Membership Kickoff as we introduce you to what is most exciting for girls, volunteers and supporters in the upcoming Girl Scout year.

This morning, Mel and I will share a few big picture updates with you. Then, we'll invite a special guest from our board to share her Girl Scout experience and how it landed her where she is today. And lastly, we'll dive headfirst into our 60 in 60 tradition: 60 announcements in 60 minutes, highlighting what you can look forward to this year in Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council.

If you registered for the afternoon sessions, you'll get to explore more specific topics that will prepare you for another exciting year for our Girl Scouts.



First, I want to set the scene for you – especially parents – as we approach another Girl Scout year. In July, Girl Scouts of the USA released its 2026 State of the Girl report, a deep dive into what girlhood looks like today, what girls struggle with, and despite the obstacles, why they remain the brightest light for our future.

Girls are growing up in a fast-paced, age-compressed cultural landscape. The pressures that girls face aren't new; what has changed is the speed and the age at which they begin. Girls are absorbing messages about perfection, performance, and identity earlier than ever – at home, school and online.

For those girls in the room, you are going to hear some results of a study that describe you and your peers – but you are not a statistic! As you hear the following information, I hope you remember that there are adults and others your age in your life who are here to guide you, to listen to you, and to help you become whatever you dream of becoming. Hopefully you see some ways in which Girl Scouts has helped you or your troopmates navigate school, home and digital life!

State of the Girl 2026

3 in 5 girls say they have not felt confident at school because of how they feel about their appearance

58% of high school girls do not believe they are smart enough for their dream job

Nearly 7 in 10 girls ages 5-13 report feeling lonely – and that number rises as girls grow.

46% of teens say they are online “almost constantly.”



Here are a few sobering statistics that reveal the transformation of the childhood journey for girls:

- 3 in 5 girls say they've not felt confident at school because of how they feel about their appearance
- 58% of high school girls do not believe they are smart enough for their dream job
- Nearly 7 in 10 girls ages 5 to 13 report feeling lonely – and that number rises as girls grow.
- 46% of teens say they are online “almost constantly”

I imagine most of you are not surprised by this information. While maybe not surprised, I find the statistic around loneliness truly heartbreaking. The fact that you are in this room affirms that you are committed to helping us reverse these trends. And hopefully you see Girl Scouts as being one of your partners in creating the world that we wish for our daughters, granddaughters and the girls we lead through Girl Scouting.

Girls are resilient. They desire challenges.

They seek advocates, supporters, and spaces in which they can grow without pressure.

65% of girls ages 5-13 would rather be creative than engage with screens.

70% of girls have thought seriously about their careers.

55% are interested in science, tech, engineering or math.

One in two girls says a friend by her side is what makes her brave enough to try something or talk to someone new

59% of girls ages 5-13 would rather spend time with family than engage with screens.

78% of girls ages 12-17 says that at least one adult outside their household makes a difference in their lives.



While the report found that girlhood is challenging, it also found that girls are resilient. They don't want to be challenged less; they want more advocates and support, and more spaces in which to grow without pressure.

- 65% of girls ages 5 to 13 would rather be creative than engage with screens ... and 59% would rather go outside and play ... and get this: 59% would rather spend time with their family.
- 70% of girls have thought seriously about their careers – and 55% are interested in science, technology, engineering and math
- One in two girls says a friend by her side is what makes her brave enough to try something or talk to someone new
- And last, but not least: 78% of girls ages 12 to 17 say that at least one adult outside their household makes a difference in their lives – and we have an opportunity to be that adult for a girl.

As we continue today's meeting, I hope you'll see the many ways we are building an environment designed to allow girls to lead, where they can test what they're capable of, and where adults are equipped to shift the conversation from how she looks to how she feels and grows! Because we are committed to being on her side, to helping her experience the joy in her journey, and creating space for meaningful friendships,

authentic growth and lasting confidence.



Girl Scouts is a safe, supportive environment that guides girls to build confidence in a genuine way that leads them to find the joy in their journey.

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These findings aren't just takeaways to file on a shelf; we must consider them as we plan so that our organization continues to evolve alongside girls for the next 100-plus years. Therefore, you'll see us pivoting both in messaging and programming to deliver on what parents are looking for: a safe, supportive environment that guides girls to build confidence in a genuine way that leads them to truly find joy in the journey of growing up.

Luckily, our Girl Scout Voices Count – the local membership survey we disseminate annually reflects that our council is already providing value to families with girls across Southeast Texas.



This past year, 1,217 members participated in our Voices Count survey. I am so pleased to share some very positive results.

- The percentage of girls achieving the five outcomes of Girl Scouting – sense of self, positive values, challenge seeking, healthy relationships, and community problem solving – increased across all measures.
- The percentage of girls experiencing the three elements of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience - a variety of experiences, supportive adult relationships and the three Girl Scout processes - increased across all measures.
- Supportive adult relationships has the strongest influence on girls' achievement of outcomes, with 83% of girls reporting supportive adult relationships through Girl Scouting.
- Net Promoter Score increased to 43, the highest level in the eight years reported on the survey.

Congratulations to every person in this room who contributes to these important outcomes for the girls in our council.

We placed a significant focus on enhancing the new troop experience during the 2025-2026 membership year, and we are already seeing encouraging results from those efforts. In the spring, we surveyed first-year troop leaders and received responses from 126 leaders. Among respondents, satisfaction was strong at 85%, and more than 90% indicated their intent to return next year.

New leaders provided especially positive feedback about the Girl Scout Experience Boxes and the support they received from Community-level mentors. For those who were paired with a mentor, the program was consistently cited as a valuable resource during their first year. Leaders also shared

constructive feedback on areas such as the website experience and cookie program resources for new troops, providing important insights to guide our continued improvements.
Thank you to the Community Leadership Teams, AKA CLTs, and community mentors, who help us effectively welcome and support new troops.



CampHER: Empowering Girls in Nature

Speaking of feedback ... a few years ago, feedback from members (many of you who are probably here today) provided us with valuable insights into what you and girls were most looking for when it came to outdoor adventures at camp. This is another example of how we don't just file feedback; we put it into action.

What resulted was our CampHER Capital Campaign which concluded earlier this year.

Awarded a \$1.44M challenge grant  Unlocked a \$500K match  128 Donors 4 Camps 20 Projects  Casa Mare  Misty Meadows Ranch  Camp Agnes Arnold  Camp Robinwood	Campaign Leadership <i>Campaign Chair</i> Tom McGee <i>Campaign Ambassadors</i> Mary Bass Ann Deaton Ellen DeSanctis Shelly deZevallos Susie Glasscock Stacy Methvin (in memoriam)
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Thanks to 128 individuals, foundations and companies, I am pleased to report that we surpassed our CampHER campaign goal earlier this year, raising \$14.3 million. This included a \$1.44 million challenge grant and a generous \$500,000 match.

These funds will support over 20 projects at four of our most-trafficked camp properties: Casa Mare, Camp Agnes Arnold, Misty Meadows Ranch and Camp Robinwood. The projects that have been undertaken – and that are still in progress – are expanding year-round access to outdoor camp experiences for Girl Scouts, improving the safety and comfort of our camp facilities, and modernizing these locations to ensure that every Girl Scout can experience the life-changing power of camp and the outdoors as she explores who she is going to become.

As the staff share updates in our 60 in 60 portion of the meeting, you will see the impact of this campaign coming to fruition as you prepare for the outdoor experiences of your Girl Scouts this year. I hear entirely new cabins ... more air conditioning ... refreshed bathrooms ... and more programmatic features are among the updates!



In addition to successfully wrapping up CampHER, it was a historic year because the 58th National Council Session was held in Washington, D.C., last month. This meeting, which only occurs every three years, is a business meeting where delegates from every council gather to discuss, debate, and vote on issues important to the Girl Scout Movement. It's truly democracy in action and it was inspiring how well-represented we were at the event and to see our Girl Scouts participate.

Highlights from the National Council Session include:

- Delegates voting to elect the proposed National Board and National Board Development Committee for the next triennium. I'm pleased to say that our council's immediate past president, Betsy Kamin, has been elected to the National Board!
- A proposal passed to allow councils to set our own policies and procedures to guide fundraising efforts for Highest Awards projects. Our staff and Highest Awards volunteers will collaborate to determine an appropriate approach for our council in this space.
- Another proposal passed to allow dues to increase by up to 15% within a triennium, with continued input from councils and delegates before any change.
- Delegates determined another proposal around Girl Scout Cookie licensing was not in order and removed it from consideration.

And after NCS, the Girl Scouts Unite conference began – a fun opportunity for some of our girls to bask in an uplifting celebration of sisterhood and Girl Scouts. During the conference, attendees were treated to some exciting updates, including new ways for girls to explore, grow and lead in their own way.

The evolution started with our Leadership Awards and continued with the recent release of eight new program themes inspired by what Girl Scouts want to explore.

And starting next spring, even more updated programs and a new digital experience for Girl Scouts of all ages are on the way, making it easier than ever for volunteers and families to support Girl Scout adventures.

The New Styles



Illustrative purposes only

For Seniors:



PANTONE®
7729 C



Spruce Green Vest
\$30



Spruce Green Sash
\$17.50



Spruce Green Blazer, \$49

For Ambassadors



PANTONE®
19-4225 TCR
Dark Slate



Slate Vest
\$30



Slate Sash
\$17.50



Slate Blazer, \$49



And new uniforms were introduced for Seniors and Ambassadors, although timing on their arrival is still to be determined.

More to come on all of this as the membership year begins.



Now, I want to welcome a fellow board member to the stage to share her Girl Scout story. Shavonnah Roberts Schreiber is the founder and CEO of SNR Creative. And let me tell you: she is always elevating women, girls and the power we have to change the world in everything she does. She has served on the board since 2025 and provides invaluable guidance on how our council can continue to evolve for the betterment of girls across Southeast Texas. Without further ado, please give a round of applause to Shavonnah.

[Shavonnah remarks (10-15 min)]

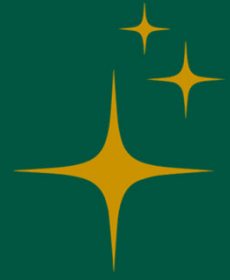
Shavonnah, thank you for sharing your story. In Girl Scouts, we say it's not about what girls do ... it's about who they become. You are a shining example of how our organization helps build a pipeline of future women who make a difference. Thank you!

And now, perhaps the moment you've been anxiously waiting: our 60 in 60 council update!

During the coming hour, you are going to hear from staff members about new and enhanced initiatives, programs, facilities, trainings, and more, that will take our Girl Scout adventures to the next level.



Thank you!





Sheri – As Mary mentioned this has become a bit of tradition. Each year we love to surprise and delight you with new and exciting ways to be a Girl Scout so let's get started with Amy Earle from Volunteer Experience!

Volunteer Experience





SLIDE #1-Intro Slide

Good morning! My name is Amy Earle, and I am the Volunteer Experience Council-wide Coordinator. My staff partner is Evelyn Holm, Director of Member Experience for VE.

As we head into the 2026-7 Membership Year, we are coming off the heels of a fantastic MY27 Early Bird season. I wanted to share a quick recap of some of our achievements.



MY27 Early Bird Final Recap

- ❖ 12,901 Uses of the EB discount code
- ❖ 110% of our EB Goal
- ❖ 10,165 girls & 17,230 total members
- ❖ Renewed 50% of MY26 girls & 60% of MY26 adults
- ❖ Renewed 180 more girls than Last Year
- ❖ 34 communities met or surpassed EB Goal

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SLIDE #2-Early Bird Recap

This year the campaign ran from April 11th - May 31st. With the second increase in membership dues, we decided to offer a \$15 discount for girls and a \$10 discount for adults during the first week of the campaign, in addition to several lucrative incentives. Our goal was to have 12,500 uses of the code and instead, we ended up with **12,901**. Y'all REALLY took advantage of the discount! Here is some the exciting data:

On May 31st, the final day of Early Bird, we reached 110% of our goal which was to renew **9,133 girl members**. We ended up renewing **10,165 girls** and surpassed last year's same day number by **180 girls**. When we include our adult members, we successfully renewed a total of **20,777** members during Early Bird this year!

In addition, by the end of the campaign, we had renewed 50% of our MY26 girl members and 60% of our MY26 adults! Best of all, we had **34 communities** reach or exceed their Early Bird Goals.

I'd like to share a list of those communities who hit or surpassed their goal, so give yourselves a shoutout if your community is on the slide!



Congratulations for hitting your MY27 Early Bird Goal!

- ❖ Dogwood Wonders
- ❖ Pine Village
- ❖ Tannybo
- ❖ Pine Forest
- ❖ Magnolia Blossom Hills
- ❖ Spring Creek Trails
- ❖ Woodland Trails
- ❖ Heart of Texas
- ❖ Firefly Trails
- ❖ Wildflowers
- ❖ Cypress Bend

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SLIDE #3 -Early Bird Communities 1

Congratulations to our first 11 communities...(Pause)



Congratulations for hitting your MY27 Early Bird Goal!

- ❖ Copper Creek Meadows
- ❖ Kein Trails
- ❖ Rainbow Trails
- ❖ Emerald Oaks
- ❖ Rainbow's End
- ❖ Harmony Creek
- ❖ Island Creek
- ❖ Western Horizons
- ❖ Way Out West
- ❖ Golden Coast
- ❖ Eastern Thicket
- ❖ East Enders

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SLIDE #4 - Early Bird Communities 2

Awesome job to our next 11 communities...(Pause)



Congratulations for hitting your MY27 Early Bird Goal!

- ❖ Skyline Junction
- ❖ Gulf Coast Stars
- ❖ Tonkawa Trailblazers
- ❖ Clear Creek
- ❖ Stargazers
- ❖ Shooting Stars
- ❖ Braes Oaks
- ❖ Willow Rock
- ❖ Windcatchers
- ❖ Yellow Rose
- ❖ Trinity Treasures

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SLIDE #5 - Early Bird Communities 3

And, finally, to our last 12 communities, great work everybody! We're so grateful to ALL 34 communities who worked tirelessly to achieve their goals. There is a certificate of appreciation for each community so please have on our CLTs pick it up before the end of the day at one of the Volunteer Experience tables in Program Place. We also have some extra Early Bird patches at the table if you get one in May. The success of this year's Early Bird Campaign has put us in a strong position as we head into our new membership year. If, by chance, you didn't get a chance to renew during Early Bird, don't worry, I have some great news! If you stop by our table in Program Place, one of our Volunteer Experience Managers is ready to renew your membership today!

New MY27 Volunteer Experience Resources

SLIDE #6-New VE Resources

In the summer of 2025, we created several new resources and implemented new strategies to Simplify the Year 1 troop leader experience. In May, we conducted a survey of our 2025-26 new troop leaders and I'm happy to share that **85%** of them reported positive experiences, with high satisfaction and felt well-supported. Isn't that awesome?

This past summer we focused on ways to support our troop leaders with both Parent Engagement and Older Girl Retention. We developed two new resources which I'm very excited to share with you today. The first one is the Older Girl Resource Guide.

Type here to enter the presentation section name.

Older Girl Resource Guide

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The Older the Girl Scout, the Bigger the Opportunities!

Why should my middle or high schooler stay in Girl Scouts?
Girl Scouts evolves as girls grow. Older girls have more input, more independence, and more opportunities to shape experiences around their own interests, passions, and goals.

My teen is so busy. Can she still be a Girl Scout?
Absolutely! Girl Scouts is designed to fit into busy lives. Troops can meet on flexible schedules, and participation can focus on events, travel, service projects, or activities that complement sports, academics, jobs, and other commitments.

Why stay through high school?
The high school years offer some of the most rewarding outcomes of Girl Scouting. Girls build lasting friendships, strengthen their sense of purpose, develop leadership skills, and graduate with experiences that help them feel ready for whatever comes next.

What opportunities are only available to older girls?
Older Girl Scouts unlock unique experiences, including:

- Earning the prestigious Gold Award
- Traveling locally, nationally, and internationally
- Exploring career and STEM pathways
- Attending leadership conferences and special events

Is Girl Scouts still fun for teens?
Definitely! Older girls help choose the activities they want to do — from outdoor adventures and travel to creative projects, community impact work, and memorable experiences with friends. Their troop experience is shaped by their interests.

How does Girl Scouts help with college and careers?
Girl Scouts helps girls build real-world skills that matter beyond high school. Through leadership, teamwork, problem-solving, public speaking, and hands-on experiences, girls gain confidence and practical skills that prepare them for college and future success.

girl scouts
of san jacinto

SLIDE #7 - Older Girl Resource Guide- 1st Page

We all know that we lose some of our Girl Scouts in the transition to both middle school and high school. This guide is designed to be used as a resource for troop leaders with girls from Cadettes to Ambassadors. The front side includes a Q & A section with the benefits of staying in Girl Scouts and it identifies GSSJC Older Girl Programs.

For more information, check the Happening Now page:
www.gssjc.org/happeningnow



SLIDE # 9-Parent Connect Page

This resource is designed for both troop leaders and parents and identifies the benefits of parent participation in their girl's troop experience. It also includes information about troop leadership roles and Council programs for girls, and parents or caregivers, to experience together. Both resources will be available digitally and in print. We also have printed copies on one of Volunteer Experience tables in Program Place so feel free to stop by and pick one up today!

For more information, check the Happening Now page:
www.gssjc.org/happeningnow



Slide #10 – Thanks for Giving Fest

Lastly, please save the date for our 2nd Thanks for Giving Fest which will be held on **Saturday, November 7th** from **10:00am-12:00pm** at all our GSSJC Shops & Resource Centers. This is our chance to celebrate **YOU**, our fabulous troop leaders, and thank you for making a lasting impact on the lives of your Girl Scouts!

The 2026-2727 membership year is off to a fantastic start, and our Volunteer Experience Team is ready to support you, our fabulous volunteers, in any way we can to ensure that this membership year is a huge success!

For more information, check the Happening Now page:
www.gssjc.org/happeningnow

Community Engagement



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SHERI Next is Jamie Arlt representing Community Engagement



Hello everyone! I'm Jamie Arlt, Community Engagement Department Coordinator, and I have the pleasure of working with our community ambassadors who are recruiting new girls and adults into this incredible sisterhood.



girlscouts
of san jacinto
**Say YES to the Vest:
Be a Girl Scout!**



Kick off the school year with friends, fun, and Girl Scouts!
Join us at a location near you and "Say YES to the Vest" and earn your first patch as you learn about how Girl Scouts gives K-12 girls a safe space to explore their interests and strengths in a welcoming, supportive environment meant to spark joy in her journey!



Come to a one-stop-shop event to join or start a troop, get your uniform, earn your first patch and learn about exclusive new member discounts!



Scan QR Code
or go to
gssjc.org/yesvest
to RSVP!

Saturday, August 29: 10 a.m. - noon

Central Houston (Girl Scout Program Place) - 3000 Southwest Freeway

North and North of Houston Area

- Spring/Woodlands - The Woodlands United Methodist Church, 2200 Lake Woodlands Dr.
- Kingwood - Lake Houston Family YMCA, 2420 W Lake Houston Pkwy.
- Imperial Valley - 15800 Imperial Valley Dr., Houston
- Humble/Livingston - Josey Girl Scout House, 2203 Ave M, Humble

South of Houston Area

- Stafford - 12200 Parc Crest Dr., Ste. 167
- Lake Jackson - 231 W. Highway 332

East and East of Houston Area

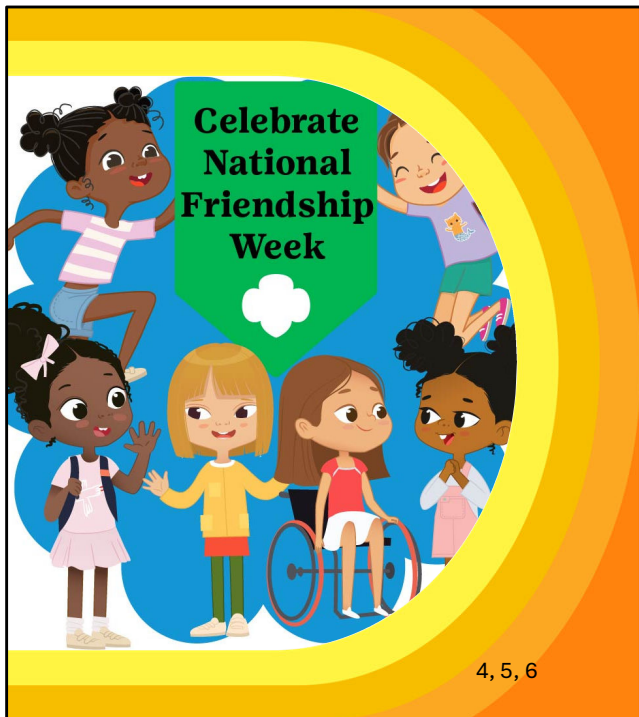
- Bay Area - 12000 A Bay Area Blvd. #106
- Pasadena - East Harris County Activity Center, 7340 Spencer Hwy. 1 Sept. 12 this location only
- Beaumont - Wesley Methodist Church Annex Building, 3810 N. Major Dr.

West Houston Area

- Cypress - 19708 Northwest Freeway, Suite 100, Jersey Village
- Katy - 5000 Katy Mills Circle, Suite 723

As we have already kicked off our recruitment season with our Meet the Teacher events these past two weeks, the CEME team will be hosting the 2nd Say YES to the Vest events on Saturday, August 29th at our Girl Scout resource centers and community sites. On this day, girls are to join Girl Scouts, earn their first patch, purchase their uniform, and much more.

For more information, check the Happening Now page:
www.gssjc.org/happeningnow



4, 5, 6

Start a Troop |
July 8 – October 31
 \$50 in start up funds to the first 100 New Troops

Friendship Week |
August 29 – September 14
 \$10 off girl annual memberships

Fill Your Troop |
July 8 – October 31
 \$30 GSSJC Shop Gift Card for opening troop to 3+ girls

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This year, there are several initiatives that we hope will help current and new troops along with new families.

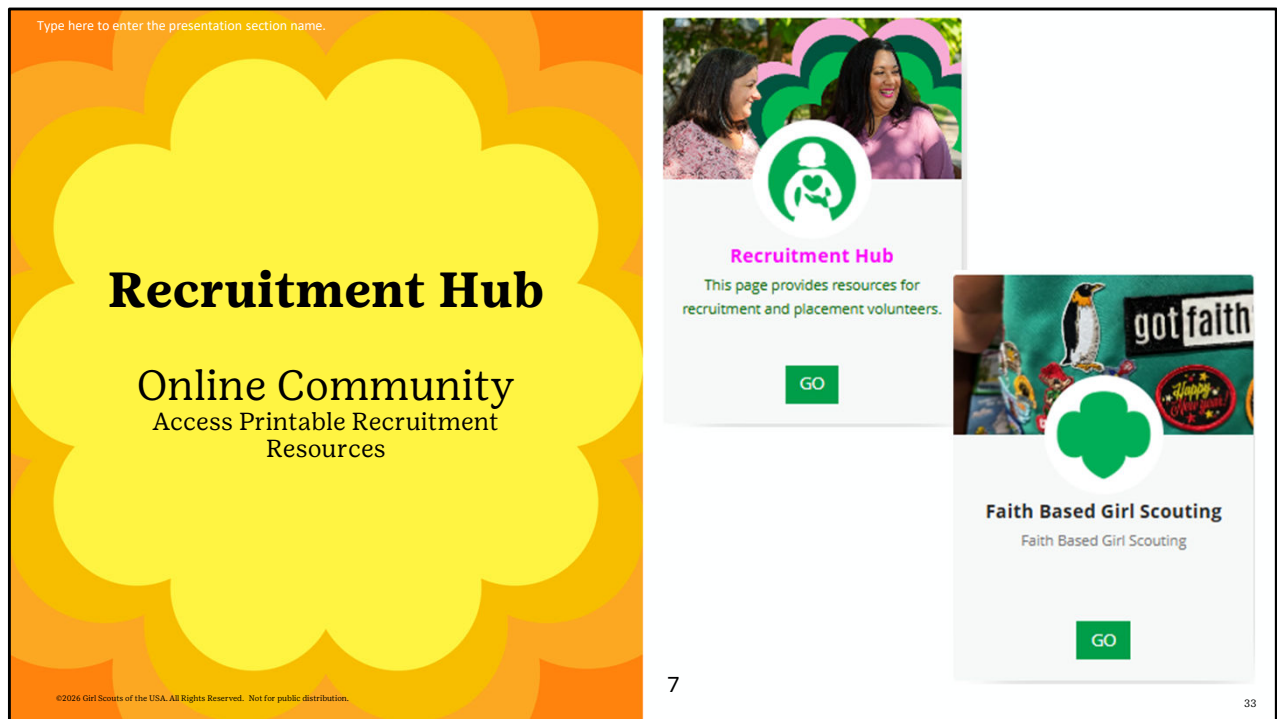
Our Fill Your Troop incentive started on July 8th and we're asking troops to "fill their troop" to 12 girls or more. If they complete the troop ? Page, request 3 additional girls and ADD those three girls, they will receive a \$30 GSSJC Shop gift card.

The Start a Troop incentive also began on July 8th. This is an incentive for NEW troops. The first 100 new troops that start between July 8 and October 31st, complete their trainings, have at least 5 girls and two adults, and open their bank account will receive \$50 in start up funds.

Lastly, it's almost FRIENDSHIP WEEK time. From August 29th through September 14th, the first 1000 will receive a \$10 discount for their annual membership.

For more information, check the Happening Now page:

www.gssjc.org/happeningnow



Are you looking for this year's marketing materials? Look no further than the recruitment hub on the Online Community and your Community Engagement manager, of course. You will find sign in sheets, digital flyers, and more. The Council's faith-based marketing materials can also be found on this same page.

For more information, check the Happening Now page:
www.gssjc.org/happeningnow



There is nothing quite like girls celebrating and supporting one another. Starting in October, the Community Engagement team will offer Sisterhood Celebration Kits that can be used at recruitment events or community "Bring a Friend" gatherings.

These kits were inspired by a local Girl Scout's Silver Award project, which focused on bringing girls together to celebrate friendship, kindness, and encouragement. The impact of her project was so powerful that Community Engagement has adopted the concept as a new way to welcome girls and adults into the Girl Scout experience.

Each kit includes activities and resources designed to celebrate friendship, build connections, and strengthen the spirit of sisterhood. Whether used at a recruitment event or a community gathering, the Sisterhood Celebration Kit provides a fun and meaningful way for girls to connect, celebrate one another, and discover all that Girl Scouts has to offer.

For more information, check the Happening Now page:

www.gssjc.org/happeningnow



And lastly, if you missed this year's Power of Her: Recruitment Reimagined Conference in July, you missed a truly inspiring experience. Attendees heard powerful messages from Mary Vitek and Board Member Shavonnah Schreiber, along with engaging workshops designed to equip volunteers with innovative strategies for recruiting girls and adults into our organization.

The conference provided valuable tools, fresh ideas, and opportunities to connect with fellow volunteers. Be sure to join us next summer for another exciting day dedicated to The Power of Her and the incredible difference we can make together!

For more information, check the Happening Now page:
www.gssjc.org/happeningnow

Community Development

Agustina Ruiz

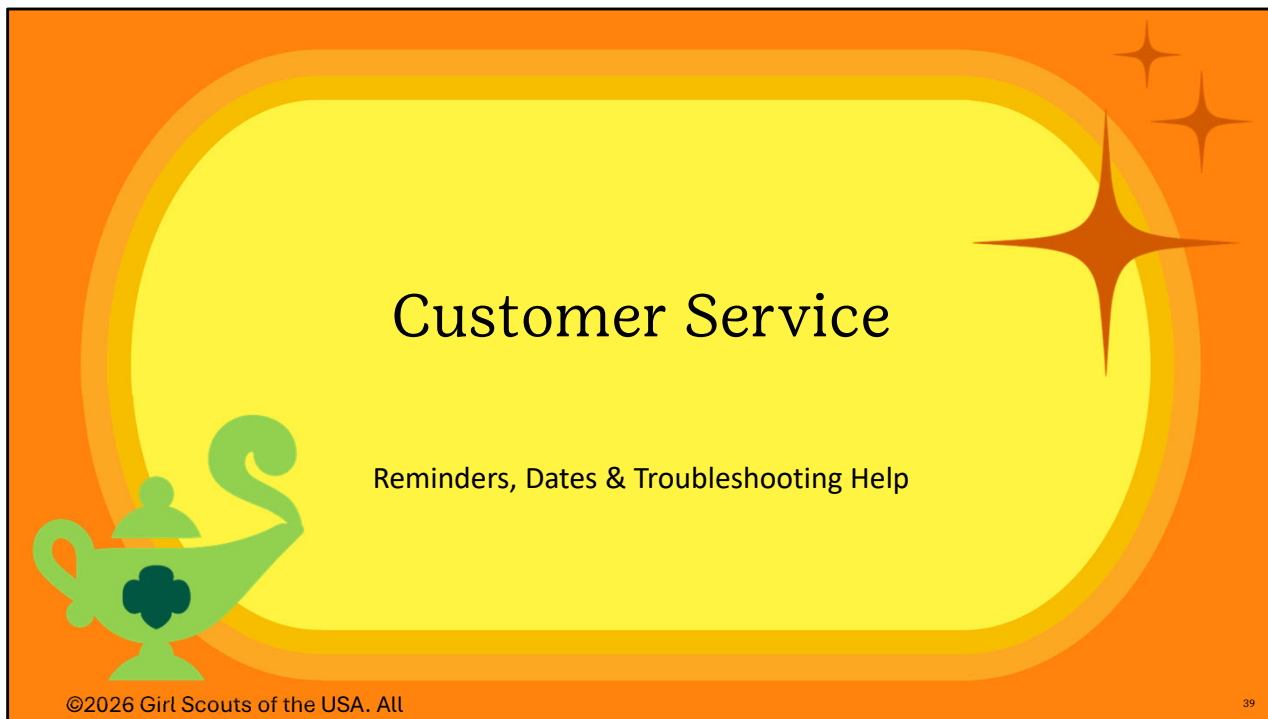




When a family receives support in their own language, they not only understand better—they feel welcome, respected, and empowered. Hispanic Community Engagement exists to foster that sense of belonging and to ensure our Spanish-speaking families have access to the training and resources they need to help their girls thrive.



The Volunteer Experience Support Team (V.E.S.T.) is a source of pride for our council; it is a unique bilingual model—the only one of its kind in the country—led by committed, trained volunteers who take pride in serving as a national example of inclusion and community support.



SHERI From Customer Service is Jamie Williams with timely reminders and tips

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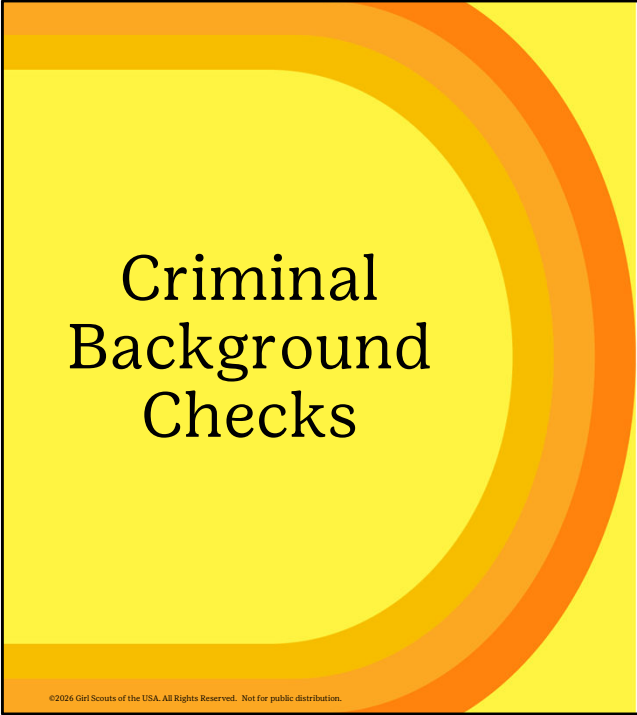


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Jamie Williams

Customer Service Director

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Criminal Background Checks

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Remember...

- New CBC links expire after 7 days. You can request a new one from Customer Service.
- Completed CBCs expire after three years and must be redone.
- Look for emails from Asurint.

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Welcome to the Customer Service portion of today's presentation! Just a few reminders as you begin the membership year.

Criminal Background Check links for new CBCs (for both new volunteers and volunteers with a CBC expiring in the next three months) will expire after 7 days. (This is 7 calendar days and *not* business days.) Reach out to Customer Service to request a new one.

A new CBC must be completed every three years! You'll start getting reminder emails 90 days before your CBC expires!

Keep an eye out for emails from Asurint, our trusted CBC vendor!

Questions? customerservice@sjgs.org



You can find the CBC
expiration date
under My Household
or My Troop.



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Membership/Participation	Council	End Date	Background Check Expiration Date	Status
☐ Lifetime member	Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council	N/A	N/A	• ACTIVE
☐ Troop12999 STARS	Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council	09/30/2027	04/04/2027	• ACTIVE
☐ Friends and Family	Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council	09/30/2027	04/04/2027	• ACTIVE

My Account

My Household

My Troop(s) ▼

My Profile

My Events

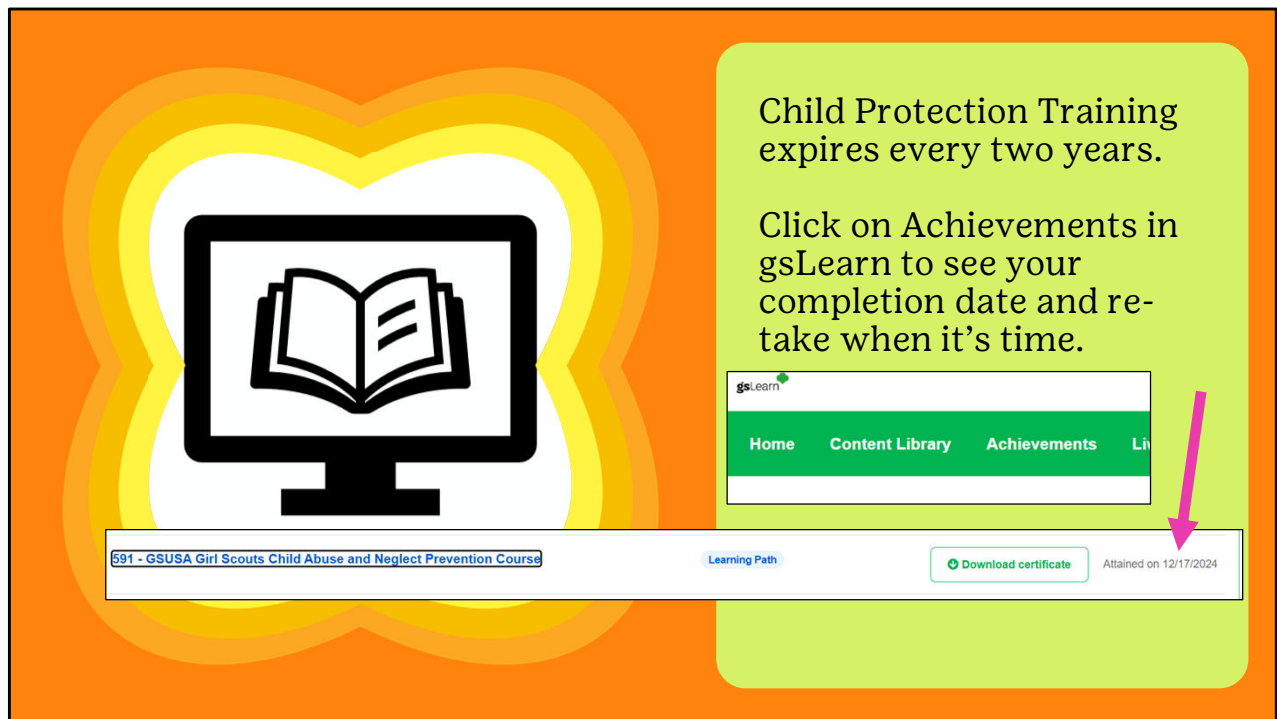
Participation	Council	End Date	Background Check Expiration Date	Status	Not Returning
☐ Troop146011	Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council	N/A	03/05/2027	• ACTIVE	☐
☐ Troop Cookie Manager	Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council	09/30/2027	03/05/2027	• ACTIVE	☐

If you are an established volunteer, your next question might be... but how do I know when my CBC is expiring?

You can check the CBC expiration date for your household adults by clicking on my Household in MyGS.

If you are a troop leader, you can see the CBC expiration date for all of your adult volunteers by clicking on My Troop and the troop number, then scrolling down to the adults. If anyone's CBC is expiring in the next three months and they did not see their Asurint email, Customer Service can send them a new one!

Questions? customerservice@sjgs.org



Child Protection Training expires every two years.

Click on Achievements in gsLearn to see your completion date and re-take when it's time.

Home Content Library Achievements L...

691 - GSUSA Girl Scouts Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Course Learning Path Download certificate Attained on 12/17/2024

In addition to a current CBC, all adult volunteers must have taken Child Protection training. This training is available via gsLearn at no charge.

Child Protection training must be retaken every two years.

Not sure when you took the training? Log in MyGS and click on gsLearn. Then click on Achievements and scroll to child protection training. You'll see your last completion date listed.

Questions? customerservice@sjgs.org



gsLearn not loading?
Can't access forms in
Volunteer Hub? Other
access issues?

Email Customer Service at
customerservice@sjgs.org or call 713-
292-0300. Let our team know what you
were trying to access and grab a
screenshot of any errors if possible.
We'll figure out what's going on to
restore access.

44

Speaking of gsLearn... not able to access gsLearn? Can't access forms in
Volunteer Hub? Any other access issue around the sites GSSJC uses?

No worries! Email or call Customer Service. Let our team know what you were
trying to access. If you can grab a screenshot of any error messages, that is
very helpful as we troubleshoot. We'll take a look and and restore your access.

Questions? customerservice@sjgs.org



Community and Regions Camp Reservations

Due April 1 for September through February.

Due October 1 for March through August.

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45

Let's pivot to camp! For all the CLTs and RSTs out there, don't forget that camp reservation requests for September through February are due via the F-126 JotForm by April 1, and by October 1 for March through August requests.

Ensure your group will get a placement by choosing your top three camp locations and three possible dates. Remember, there are a lot of events and groups who want to use camp, so all flexibility is helpful in getting your group a date.

Questions? customerservice@sjgs.org

A graphic with a yellow flower-like shape in the center containing the text "Troop Camping Timeline". The background is orange with a pattern of overlapping circles. At the bottom left of the graphic, there is small text: "©2026 Girl Scouts of the USA. All Rights Reserved. Not for public distribution." At the bottom right of the graphic, there is a small number "46".

**Troop
Camping
Timeline**

Troop camping reservation open...

June 1 for September through February.

December 1 for March through August.

Galveston Bay House initial requests are done via draw initially. Draw closes on the 2nd of the month (June or December), winners are notified, and all remaining dates open for first-come, first-served on the 15th.

Resource Centers open on June 1 for September through August.

Book online at gssjc.me/reservations

And for those troops going camping, troop camping open on June 1 for September through February, and on December 1 for March through August.

Don't forget that Galveston Bay House is initially done via draw for each time period. The draw JotForm will open the month before troop camping opens, and will close the day after troop camping opens. Winners will be notified and all remaining dates will open for first-come first-served on the 15th.

Resource Centers open on June 1 for September through August, and are free of charge to reserve. Access instructions are included in your confirmation emails.

Book online at gssjc.me/reservations.

Thank you very much! Remember to reach out to Customer Service – if we don't know the answer, we'll find out!

Questions? customerservice@sjgs.org

Type here to enter the presentation section name.

Retail Shops

Presenter: Ellen
Stickney



47

SHERI - Ellen Stickney, Retail Director will share the latest in shopping for Girl Scout merchandise

Shop our Council store <https://www.gssjc.org/en/discover/our-council/shop-gssjc.html>

Shop Hours & Locations

Starting Aug. 4 to May 31, 2027

Program Place Bay Area Cypress Stafford

Tuesday to
Thursday
10 to 5:00 p.m.

Friday
10 to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday
10 to 3:00 p.m.

Beaumont

Tuesday to Thursday
10 to 5:00 p.m.

Imperial Valley

Tuesday
10 to 5:00 p.m.

Thursday
10 to 4:00 p.m.

Katy Mills Mall (Entrance 7)

Wednesday
10 to 5:00 p.m.

Friday
10 to 4:00 p.m.

Saturday
10 to 3:00 p.m.

Online orders: shop@sjgs.org

Lufkin

First Saturday of
the Month
10 to 3:00 p.m.

(and occasional
special events)

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Shops hours are the same as last year as you can see from the slide.

I would like to thank my team, who could not be here since they are working the shops.

1. Katy Mills is Laura Schotts
2. Cypress is DeShaunda McConico
3. Stafford is Yolanda Cooper
4. Bay Area is Cayla Wilson
5. Lufkin is Ivy Brinson
6. Beaumont is Sierra Moore
7. IVSC is Andrea Salado who also covers PP
8. Program Lead is Delores Wallace who works with Jaclyn Youngson
9. Inventory Specialist Shawn Smith



Heat Press service available
at Program Place shop.

**Coming soon to Stafford and
Cypress shop locations.**

Cost starting at \$10 for core pieces
on uniforms and \$1.00 for each extra:
badges/patches/awards, etc

9 and 10

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Last year we introduced new heat press services at the Program Place shop. Our customers proved it was a needed service, so we are branching out to 2 more shops. That will be the Stafford and Cypress locations. Time frame will happen this coming fall.

Heat press cost stays the same at \$10 for core startup on new uniforms.

And \$1 for each additional badge/patch/awards, etc.

Shop our Council store <https://www.gssjc.org/en/discover/our-council/shop-gssjc.html>



New Shipping
options for online
orders at

shop@sjgs.org

11 and 12

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Our council shops are offering discounted or free shipping based on the ship-to address of 30 miles or more from closest shop.

Place your order online at shop@sjgs.org

Purchase of \$99 or less, discounted ship rate \$5.00.

Purchase of \$100 or more, gets free shipping.

50

Introducing a new shipping service from our council shops.

By placing your order online at our very own council site: shop@sjgs.org, email your wish list along with your address to determine if you get discounted shipping or even free shipping.

<https://www.gssjc.org/en/discover/our-council/shop-gssjc.html>

Shop GSSJC



Fashion Show

Today at Program
Place Stage
Starting at 11:30 a.m.

51

Plus, I am hoping all you wonderful volunteers might want to take 10-15 min. during lunch to enjoy our fashion show at the Program Place stage area starting at 11:30 today.

So swing on by and let us show you what Retail have in **store** for you, literally!

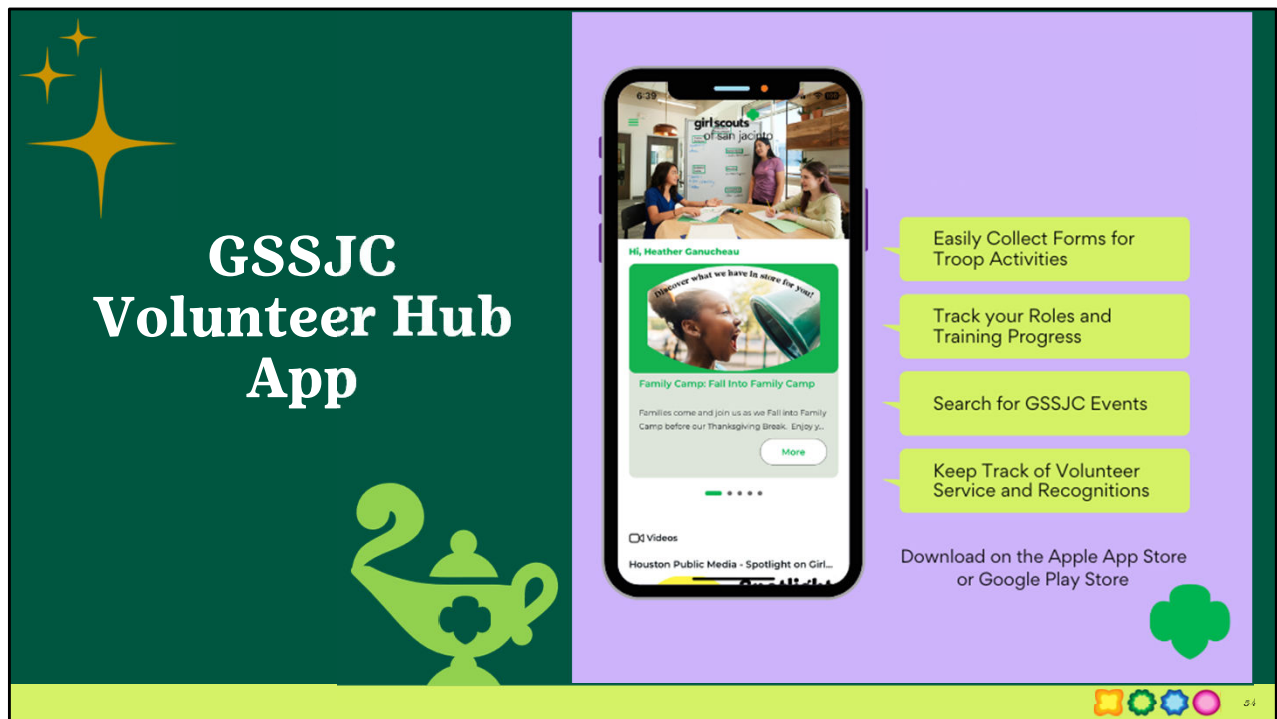


SHERI – sharing the latest from Information Technology is Michele Herod



Michele Herod

- **IT Committee**, member
- **VRC**, member
- **Council Coordinator**, Adventure Park
- **Treasurer**, Gulf Meadows Community



The Volunteer Hub App makes it easy to:

- Track your membership status.
- Browse upcoming events.
- Access and submit digital forms.

Spend less time on paperwork and more time creating amazing Girl Scouting experiences with your troop.

Download the app today and streamline your volunteer journey.

<https://gssjc.jotform.com/262155153824051>

GSSJC Volunteer Hub App

Let us know
what features you
want to see next.

<https://gssjc.jotform.com/262155153824051>



13

We want to know what you think! Fill out this survey about the Volunteer Hub App and rank possible new features. Let us know what you want to see this next year in the application.

There are a few posters placed around the buildings with this information, link and QR code.

<https://gssjc.jotform.com/262155153824051>



Fund Development

Connie Chavez



CampHER: Empowering Girls in Nature

\$14.3 Million Raised!

Thanks to the generosity of foundations, corporations and friends like you the CampHER campaign is complete!

Awarded a \$1.44M challenge grant

Unlocked a \$500K match

129 Donors

4 Camps

20 Projects

Casa Mare

Misty Meadows Ranch

Camp Agnes Arnold

Camp Robinwood

Campaign Leadership

Campaign Chair
Tom McGee

Campaign Ambassadors
Mary Bass
Ann Deaton
Ellen DeSanctis
Shelly deZevallos
Susie Glasscock
Stacy Methvin (in memoriam)

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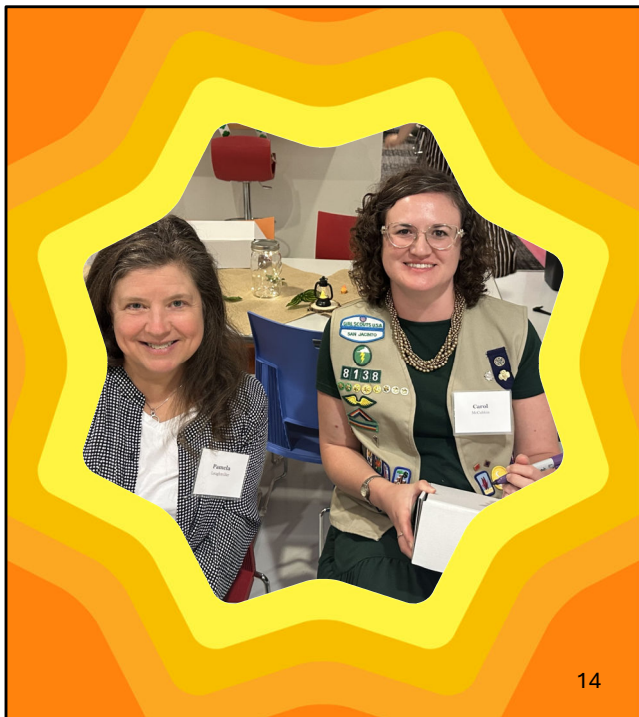
57

Script:

We are excited to announce that the CampHER campaign is complete! We have raised \$14.3 million dollars that will fund 20 projects at Casa Mare, Misty Meadows Ranch, Camp Agnes Arnold and Camp Robinwood. This includes expanded year-round access, improved safety and comfort, and modern, accessible facilities ensure that every Girl Scout can experience the life-changing power of camp and the outdoors while growing into the leader our world needs.

The generosity of the community was overwhelming, including a \$1.44 million dollar challenge grant and a \$500,000 dollar match. We are especially thankful to our campaign chair and ambassadors who helped make this possible.

57



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Coming Soon: Troop 713!

- For Girl Scout alumnae and those who always wished they had been Girl Scouts.
- Creating opportunities to reconnect, build relationships, and engage with the Girl Scout community
- A space to network, give back, and rediscover the joy, adventure, and sense of belonging inspired by Girl Scouting.
- Supporting lifelong engagement and future opportunities for leadership, service, and philanthropy.
- **Stay tuned!** More information coming in October

58

Script:

This fall we are launching a new network of alumnae and friends. Join Troop 713, connect with women in your community and enjoy the belonging and sisterhood of Girl Scouts. We will host various events throughout the year including service projects, networking and fun! Stay tuned for the official announcement in October. In the meantime, feel free to scan the QR code in your packet and let us know you are interested in learning more.



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Good morning. I am Jared Underwood, Facilities Director. I'd like to tell you about some new and exciting things at our camp properties.

Meet the Rangers



Bill Hatfield
Treelake



Ryan Curry
Treelake



Mars Duran
Treelake



Dominic Vessell
Camp Robinwood



Mason Hawley
Casa Mare



Josh Hawley
Camp Pryor

First of all, let me introduce out great team. I'm sure you have seen some of their faces around our camp properties, but this is our incredible Ranger team who live and work on site year-round. These guys work hard all year making sure all of our properties are safe and enjoyable for our campers of all ages.

Shaggy Low at Misty Meadows Ranch



15

At Annual Meeting, many of you were introduced to Shaggy Low, a mini highland cow who recently joined us a Misty Meadows Ranch. He has been a big hit this summer, and you can find him hanging out with the goats and chickens.

Pirate Ship Playground at Casa Mare

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We recently installed a new pirate ship playground right next to the Galley at Casa Mare thanks to a grant we received from MD Anderson. We look forward to seeing girls playing, climbing and sliding on the ship.



Troop 139012 recently installed Hammock Village at Casa Mare as part of a Silver Award Project. Casa Mare is a great place to just relax and hang out while looking at the bay. Hammock are available on a first come, first serve basis and can be checked out with the Reserve Ranger.



Coming Soon! A new addition to Seabrook's famous Pelican path will be a Girl Scout Pelican at the entrance to Casa Mare. This fall, our Pelican will join the over 50 Pelican statues scattered throughout the city.



Laura's Place was moved from Camp Wind-A-Mere to Camp Pryor with a new fresh look and feel while still providing a place of serenity.



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Capital Campaign Property Updates

Kevin Jensen
Construction Manager

As presented previously, we successfully completed our capital campaign earlier this year. We have already been working on several projects and are fortunate to have Kevin Jensen, a long time ranger currently overseeing project management of several of these projects.



Staff House



**Lakeview
Dorm**

19, 20, 21



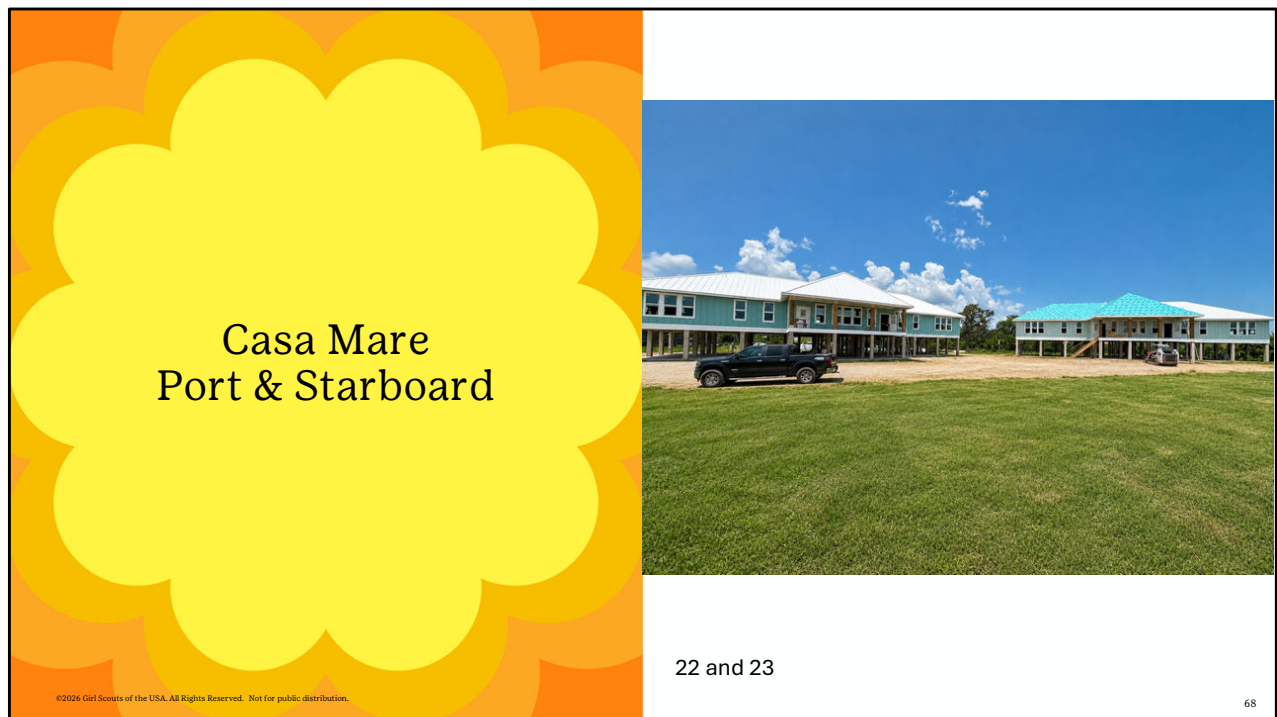
Troop Cabin

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Last Fall we renovated several units at Robinwood including Lakeview Dorms, Staff House and Troop Cabin. All units have fresh new restrooms and kitchens. Units all have Central Air and Heat. Now it's even easier to camp year round at Robinwood.



At Casa Mare, Construction on our brand-new Port and Starboard dorms is coming along. The layout is very similar to the beloved Galveston Bay House. With an A and B side in each dorm, each side allows for 16 girls and 3 adults. Port and Starboard are scheduled to be available for booking in early 2027.

Camp Arnold Craft House and Silver Springs Flushies

24 and 25

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The oldest building at Agnes Arnold received a big refresh with updated kitchen and bathrooms. We've updated the former staff house at Agnes Arnold to create our new craft house. This can still be booked for overnight accommodations or as a craft space for large events. And there are no more latrines at the Silver Springs units as we installed new flushing toilets.



- Front Lawn at Camp Agnes Arnold
- Front Lawn at Misty Meadows Ranch
- Robinwood Lodge Remodel
- New Tent Units at Camp Agnes Arnold
- New Cabins at Camp Agnes Arnold
- New Staff House at Camp Agnes Arnold

70

We have a lot of exciting projects in the works, many of which will be ready for this upcoming program year. Watch for updates in the Golden Link and on our social media. We can't wait to see you at camp! And now I'll turn it over to Genny Walls, our Outdoor Experience Department Coordinator.



Outdoor Experience

Genny Walls

Outdoor Experience Department Coordinator

NEW! Equitation Programs

Daisy Pony Patch Adventure

NEW – This 2-hour, non-riding session lets Daisies groom horses, play games and do a craft!

Pony Pals

A refresh of Love, Hug & Groom Program with added FUN!

26 and 27

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Daisy Pony Patch Adventure - This is a 2 hour session for Daisies! This is a non-riding activity in the barn, but the girls will have the opportunity to sit on a horse for photos. You will groom horses, play games and do a craft. If the girl want to take photos on a horse they will need their hair in a low ponytail. If you can't put a hat on, you can't put a helmet on! Helmets are provided. Limit of 24 girls per workshop.

Pony Pals is a refresh of our traditional Love, Hug, and Groom program with more fun added. This is a non-riding session with 3-4 rotations. Participants will still get a chance to Love, Hug, and Groom and see the barn. Added rotations depend on the program level and could include quick release knots, leading a horse, or measuring horse height for older participants or parts of a horse and barn feeding for younger participants. Limit of 24 girls per session.

Type here to enter the presentation section name.



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NEW! Fishing Basics

- Girl Scouts of all levels and their families are invited to join us for our new Guided or Self-directed Fishing Workshops.
- Participants will learn the fundamentals of fishing while exploring how to fish responsibly and respectfully.
- Workshops will be 1 ½ hours and equipment will be provided.

28 and 29

73

A new addition to our camp activities, all levels of Girl Scouts are invited to learn the fundamentals of fishing while exploring how to fish responsibly and respectfully. A fishing expert will be present to guide beginners. Participants will practice casting techniques and identifying common fish species. Girl Scouts will become honorary anglers and feel a new connection to nature. Don't forget your favorite fishing hat and snack. Beginner poles will be provided *

➤ **SAVE THE DATE**

GAM 2027
April 24, 2027
@ Casa Mare






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This event will have you explore the nautical world with a day full of fun, teamwork, excitement, and a unique experience that celebrates the spirit of sailing. The day will be packed with a variety of activities designed to engage and entertain everyone, perfect for a seasoned sailor or a landlubber

GAM is all about friendly competition, teamwork, and making new connections! Gather your crew (up to 10 to people) or join solo, and we'll help you find a crew to compete with. Whether you come with friends or meet new ones here, your crew will be your teammates for the day's exciting events. A crew does not have to be a troop. It can consist of different girls from different troop.

Health & Safety Weekend

*September 11-13, 2026
@ Camp Robinwood*

Health and Safety Weekend

September 11- 13, 2026

<https://tinyurl.com/GSSJC-HSW>

	Training Schedule		
	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
1-DAY TRAININGS			
First Aid & CPR/AED	9 am - 1:30 pm		
Youth Mental Health First Aid	10 am - 5:30 pm		
Level I Archery Facilitator		1- 5 pm	9 am - 2 pm
Volunteer Camp Director			1- 5 pm
3-DAY TRAININGS			
Lifeguard	4 pm Friday - 6 pm Sunday		
Canoe Facilitator	5 pm Friday - 6 pm Sunday		
Kayak & Stand Up Paddleboard Facilitator	5 pm Friday - 6 pm Sunday		
Wilderness & Remote First Aid	6 pm Friday - 4:30 pm Sunday		

Join us for hands-on Outdoor and Facilitator training!

75

Bring your adult volunteers out to get trained for First Aid, Canoe, Archery, Lifeguard, Day/Twilight Camp, and more! Courses are filling FAST so register now to ensure your space!

Some courses require prerequisites or online courses prior to attending. Please read each course description carefully. Meals will be included for courses which extend past reasonable mealtimes. Overnight lodging will be provided for those who are taking all-weekend courses or multiple courses in the same event

Type here to enter the presentation section name.

Register today!

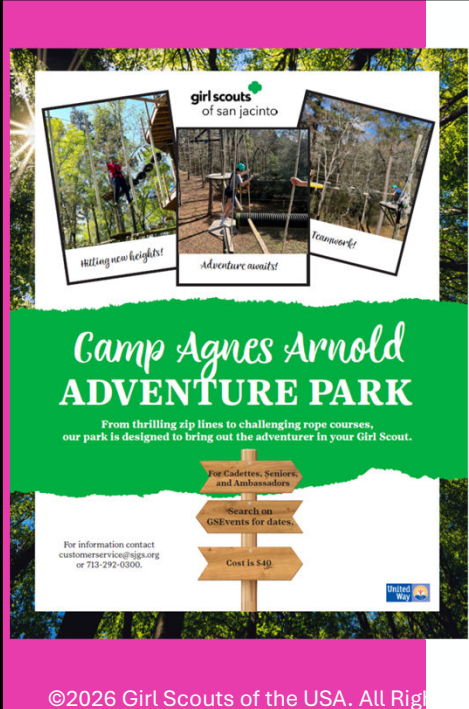
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SPARK SCHEDULE

Date	Theme	Location
Sept 26, 2026	Sassy Sister Squad	Camp Agnes Arnold
Oct 9, 2026	Harvest Fun	Robinwood
Nov 14, 2026	Renaissance Faire	Casa Mare
Jan 9, 2027*	Ranch Hand	Misty Meadows Ranch

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Spark Events are fun, themed day experiences designed to help Girl Scouts and troops explore different camp properties while enjoying hands-on activities, friendship, adventure, and camp traditions. Each event offers a unique theme and gives girls an opportunity to experience camp in a new way. Looking for a fun activity for your troop? Join one of our Spark Events and discover all that our camp properties have to offer. From sisterhood celebrations and Renaissance adventures to hands-on ranch experiences, there is a Spark Event for every Girl Scout!



Adventure Park

Join us for a themed climb!

Date	Theme	Description
Oct. 24	Blind Fold Climb	Add an extra challenge to an already exhilarating climb! Girls will be given a blindfold and encouraged to complete elements with limited sight. Blindfolds are optional and participation is by choice.
Nov. 7	My Adult & Me Climb	Moms, Dads, Troop Leaders, and Parental Units are invited to climb alongside their girl. Ratio is one girl to one adult. Troop leaders wishing to climb with their troop should contact customer service for accommodations. Proposed capacity: 16 total spots (8 girls and 8 adults).
Dec. 12	Secret Mission Challenge	Put on your spy gear and complete fun secret missions throughout the course, such as making three friends laugh or completing an element backwards. A climb full of silly challenges and surprises!
Jan. 9	High Ropes BINGO	Each girl receives a BINGO card and pen to mark off completed elements. The first participant to get BINGO wins a prize.

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Join us at the Adventure Park for a fun 2-hour climb! Conquer floating tires, ride a horse through the sky, or even climb a rope wall from one level to the next. Each girl will be fitted with a harness and helmet for optimum safety and will join our trained facilitators on the course where they will participate in team building and overcoming any fears of heights. At the end of the climb, the girls may get to ride our zipline to the end! Every girl will earn an Adventure Park patch for participating. Girls must weigh between 70 and 300 lbs. while being at least 70 inches tall when measured from the bottom of their flat feet to the tip of their fingers with one arm fully extended overhead.



Nature Center 2026-2027 Events

Date	Theme	Cost	Ages
Sept 19th 10a - 12p	Mushroom Mania	\$18	All levels
Oct 17th 10a - 12p	Bewitched by Bats	\$18	All levels

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Join us again this year for a Nature Center Workshop at the Agnes Arnold Nature Center!

Our fall events include **Mushroom Mania**, where you'll uncover the secrets of mushrooms and discover why these fascinating organisms are nature's hidden helpers, and **Bewitched by Bats**, a spellbinding evening featuring bat-themed fun and learning at the Agnes Arnold Nature Center.

Throughout the year, we offer monthly opportunities to explore and connect with the natural world. Be sure to check back often for upcoming workshops and programs.

Type here to enter the presentation section name.

Senior and Ambassador Weekend



➤ **SAVE THE DATE**
February 5-7 @ Casa Mare

For more information or to join the Girl Planning Board,
contact Natalie Jares at customerservice@sjgs.org

Type here to enter the presentation section name.

Family Camp

- Hosted on Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Spring Break, Memorial Day, and Independence Day weekends.
- The whole family is invited to join us for s'mores, campfires, archery, games and more.
- Perfect for new or advanced campers!

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80

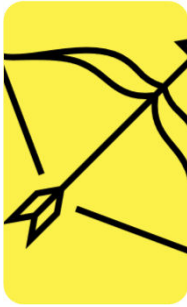
Family Camp is the perfect getaway for campers of all experience levels.

Offered during
Labor Day,
Thanksgiving,
Spring Break,
Memorial Day, and
Independence Day weekends,

Family Camp combines outdoor adventure, camp traditions, and quality family time. Enjoy s'mores, campfires, archery, games, and more in a fun and welcoming environment for both new and experienced campers.

Type here to enter the presentation section name.

Outdoor Experience Special Interest Groups (SIG)



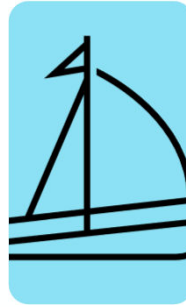
AIM
Archers In
Motion



Backpacking



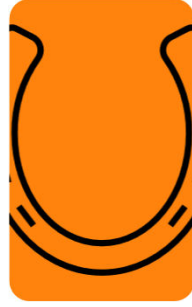
G.R.I.T
Girl Rifle
Instruction
Training



Mariners



**Small
Watercraft**



SPURS/STARS
Equitation

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Our Special Interest Groups continue to create opportunities for older girls

Mariners – Learn sailing skills & water safety;

Small Watercraft – Kayak, canoe, paddleboard fun;

AIM (Archers in Motion) – Archery skills in action;

GRIT – Rifle instruction for confident young women;

SPURS/STARS – Improve riding skills while helping younger girls;

Backpacking – Trail adventures & outdoor skills



Ready to explore Product Program?



I'm Melissa McBride, the Product Program Council-Wide Coordinator. I'll be presenting on behalf of the Product Program Team.



Each program has a theme that carries from the Fall Product Program into the Cookie Program. The theme includes a mascot per program to highlight an endangered animal and information to learn more about them. This opens discussion for ways to take care of our environment and animals. Girl Scouts should get “Ready to Explore” the 2026 Fall Product Program and 2027 Cookie Program. The mascot for fall is the Kangaroo and Lop-eared Rabbit for cookies.

2026 Fall Product Program Dates

Event	Date
Troop fall product manager access to M2OS	September 7
Fall Product Program begins	September 9
Parent order card entry into M2OS	October 12
Deadline for troops to verify/edit order card entries	October 13
Fall Product delivery	October 26-31
Fall Product Program ends	November 8
ACH withdrawal	November 20

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Once the troop fall product manager requirements are completed, TFPMs will begin gaining access into the M2OS site starting September 7. We will continue to upload TFPMs throughout the program. If you do not start on the start date, you can still begin at any time before November 8 to participate. Girl Scouts may begin sending out their storefront link using Share My Site, send emails, or use their order cards starting September 9. Families will be required to enter their order card entries into the M2OS site before midnight on October 12. If a Girl Scout missed entering an order, troop fall product managers have October 13 to make entries on their behalf. All girl delivered order products will be delivered to communities and troops during October 26-31. We encourage Girl Scouts to deliver and collect payments (if applicable) before the program ends on November 8. The funds owed to council will be withdrawn from the troop bank account starting November 20. Troops should ensure all funds are deposited into the troop bank account by November 15. Troop proceeds earned from online orders will be credited to the troop bank account.



Troop Proceeds

Now \$3



25% of retail price



New! \$3 per magazine subscription, Tervis Tumbler, Personalized Products, candle or BarkBox sold

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Troop proceeds will remain 25% for our nuts and candy and we are excited to announce an increase from \$2 to \$3 per magazine subscription, BarkBox, Tervis Tumbler, personalized product or candle purchased. As mentioned, our percent of troop proceeds is still amongst the highest in the nation.

2027 Cookie Program Dates

Event	Date
Troop cookie manager training at Fall Volunteer Conference	November 15, 12:30 p.m.
Troop cookie manager (TCM) online training on gsLearn	November 16
TCMs/CCMs start gaining access into Smart Cookies	December 2
TCM in-person training (Katy)	December 12, 10:30 a.m.
TCM in-person training (GSC)	December 13, 12:30 p.m.
Starting inventory order deadline	January 8
TCMs/CCMs start gaining access into Digital Cookie	January 9
Girl Scouts/caregivers gain access into Digital Cookie	January 10

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The first troop cookie manager training will be held on Sunday, November 15 starting at 12:30 after Fall Volunteer Conference. Online training will be posted the following day for our early bird volunteers to complete their requirements and gain access into ABC Smart Cookies on December 2. We will host two additional in-person training on December 12 at Katy Resource Center and December 13 at the Girl Scout Center. The starting inventory order will need to be placed before midnight on January 8. TCMs and CCMs will start gaining access to Digital Cookie starting January 9. Girl Scouts and caregivers will begin receiving access January 10.



2027 Cookie Program Dates

Event	Date
Cookie deliveries	January 27 – February 4
Cookie Program begins	February 6
Cookie cupboards open for shortages/overages/damages	February 7-9
Cookie cupboards open	February 10
Cookie stands and booths begin	February 12
Last day for cookie cupboards	March 20
Cookie Program ends	March 21
Cookies for a Cause pick up	March 24-27

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Cookie deliveries from the starting inventory orders placed will run from January 27 – February 4. Girl Scouts may begin selling door-to-door, walkabouts or with their order card beginning February 6. In case there are discrepancies from the cookie delivery, cookie cupboards will be open to resolve the discrepancy from February 7-9. This will be the only time troops can resolve cookie delivery issues. On February 10, cookie cupboards will open for planned orders and eventually first come, first served order pick-ups. Girl Scouts may begin selling by cookie stands and cookie booths starting February 12 at 4:00 p.m. The Cookie Program will run until March 21 with the last available cookie pick-up from cupboards on March 20. To support cookie donations, cupboards will be open for Cookies for a Cause pick up from March 24-27.





The United City Church delivery
will now be held on Feb 4 at the
New Caney Stadium.

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There is a change of location for those of you who pick up your starting inventory orders from the United City Church. The cookie delivery will now be held at the New Caney Stadium on Feb. 4.

Girl Experience



Magna Cayll, **GE Coordinator**



Corrie Jenkins, **GE Coordinator**, & the Girl Experience Staff

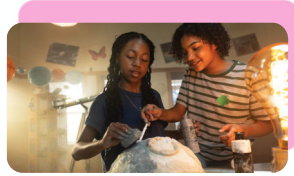
90

Good morning! I'm Shannon Rodriguez, Director of Girl Experience, and I'm joined by volunteer coordinator Corrie Jenkins. We're excited to share a few highlights and updates for Girl Experience this year.

Announcing **New** Program Themes



Animals & Nature



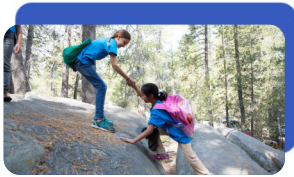
Art & Imagination



Balanced Living



**Leadership & Your
Future**



**Outdoor
Adventure**



**Sports &
Recreation**



**Technology &
Innovation**



**Your World Near
& Far**

35,36,37,38, 39, 40, 41, and 42



Many of you are familiar with our four program pillars. This year, GSUSA is beginning a transition to eight program themes.

For troop leaders, this means it will be easier to find activities and badges that match girls' interests and easier to plan for multi-level troops.

For council programs, these expanded themes help better highlight the wide variety of experiences already available to girls, from outdoor adventure and STEM to travel, leadership, arts, and wellness.

The good news is that there's nothing you need to change right now. You'll continue using current badges and resources during the transition. Think of this as an evolution of the pillars, not a replacement of the experiences girls already know and love.

- Animals and Nature
- Art and Imagination
- Balanced Living
- Leadership and Your Future
- Outdoor Adventure
- Sports and Recreation
- Technology and Innovation

- Your World Near and Far



The graphic features a central illustration of a diverse group of young women in various styles of clothing and headwraps, arranged in a circular pattern. This illustration is set against a background of concentric, wavy lines in shades of orange and yellow, creating a sunburst effect. Below the illustration, the text 'Registration <https://bit.ly/4hOr7gd>' is visible, along with the number '43' in the bottom right corner of the graphic area.

Camp LeadHERship

*Confidence. Courage. Leadership.
This is your moment.*

- ✓ Seniors & Ambassadors
- ✓ Casa Mare, Feb 26-28
- ✓ Inspiring mentors
- ✓ Career exploration
- ✓ Networking
- ✓ Confidence-building
- ✓ Online Application

Registration <https://bit.ly/4hOr7gd> 43

92

One of the opportunities we're most excited about this year is our new **Camp LeadHERship** program for Seniors and Ambassadors.

Girls selected for this experience will spend the weekend at Casa Mare paired with female executives and community leaders who will serve as mentors, sharing insights on leadership, careers, and personal growth.

Through mentoring, networking, and hands-on leadership experiences, girls will build confidence while exploring what's possible for their future.

Because this experience pairs girls directly with mentors, space is limited and participation is application-based. Applications

open soon, with a December 1 deadline.



Camp LeadHERship



Application due Nov. 1
<https://bit.ly/4qpMUgr>



Registration
<https://bit.ly/4hOr7gd>



(Design Your Own!)
Arts & Wellness Camp

Heart to Art

Returns!

April 30 – May 2

Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors

Contact: Jnoble@sjgs.org

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Heart to Art returns in Spring 2027 after a successful debut in 2025. This biennial arts and wellness retreat is designed specifically for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors and gives girls the opportunity to create their own experience through a variety of creative, wellness, and outdoor activities.

One of the things that makes Heart to Art special is that it's designed by a Girl Planning Board, ensuring the experience reflects what older girls actually want to do.

Whether girls are interested in art, mindfulness, self-expression, adventure, or simply connecting with other Girl Scouts, Heart to Art offers a chance to unplug, recharge, and explore what inspires them.

And if your girls are interested in helping shape the event itself, applications for the Girl Planning Board are open. Reach out to Julia Noble for more information.



Our heritage programs continue to create opportunities for girls to learn, connect, and celebrate the rich diversity of our communities.

Returning for its fourth year, our **Hispanic Heritage Celebration** continues to be a favorite, bringing girls together to explore culture, traditions, food, art, and leadership through hands-on activities and shared experiences.

Hispanic Heritage Celebration Registration: <https://bit.ly/4gmcVbN>



And this year, we're excited to launch our first-ever **Juneteenth Celebration**, where girls will learn about the history and legacy of Juneteenth while exploring themes of freedom, culture, and community. They'll also discover the important contributions of Black cowboys & cowgirls, ranchers, and other trailblazers who helped shape Texas and the American West.

Both events will offer girls meaningful opportunities to learn, create, connect, and celebrate.

New STEM Program Partners!



Space Center Houston Career Exploration Days

- **Three Options:** Oct 17th, Nov 14th
OR Dec 5th
- 9am to 1pm

Gulf Coast Bird Observatory

- **Bird Banding:** Oct 24th 8 to 10am, Juniors+, Lake Jackson
- **Bolivar Beach Clean Up:** Nov 7 10am to 12pm, All Ages, Bolivar Ferry Landing
- **Bryan Beach Clean Up:** 1/9 10am to 12pm, All Ages, Free Port

45 and 46

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We're excited to introduce several new STEM program partners this year, creating even more opportunities for girls to explore careers, science, and the outdoors.

Through our partnership with **Space Center Houston**, girls can participate in Career Exploration Days, connect with STEM professionals, and earn their STEM Career Exploration badge.

We're also partnering with the **Gulf Coast Bird Observatory** to offer unique experiences like bird banding and conservation projects, giving girls the opportunity to contribute to real-world science while exploring local wildlife and ecosystems.

Watch GS Events and The Golden Link for dates and registration information.



The illustration features a large heart shape with a thick yellow border, set against an orange background. Inside the heart is a scene of five Girl Scouts in various uniforms (blue, purple, red, orange, and yellow) standing on a green bridge over a grassy field. The sky is blue with white clouds. To the right of the heart, within a light green rounded rectangle, is the text for the 'Council Wide Bridging Ceremony'. Below the title is a list of four items, each preceded by a green checkmark. The number '47' is printed below the heart.

Council Wide Bridging Ceremony

- ✓ May 22, 2027
- ✓ All levels
- ✓ Houston Memorial Park Land Bridge
- ✓ Families Welcome

47

We're excited to introduce a brand-new council tradition: our **first Council-Wide Bridging Ceremony** on May 22, 2027.

Girl Scouts from every level, along with their families and volunteers, are invited to gather at Memorial Park's iconic Land Bridge to celebrate the next step in their Girl Scout journey.

Whether a girl is bridging from Daisy to Brownie or Ambassador to Adult, this will be a unique opportunity to celebrate alongside Girl Scouts from across our council and recognize this important milestone together.

We hope you'll save the date and join us for what we expect to become a memorable new council tradition.

Council Trips

2027

London & Pax Lodge
Southern College Crawl

2028

New York City
Japan & South Korea

48, 49, 50, and 51



Explore the world and make lifelong memories on an unforgettable adventure!

Our Council Trips program continues to offer incredible travel opportunities for girls. In 2027, we're headed to London and Pax Lodge and launching the Southern College Crawl. In 2028, girls can choose between New York City and Japan and South Korea. Each trip offers unique opportunities for leadership, cultural exploration, and unforgettable experiences. Information sessions are coming soon, so watch the Golden Link and our website for details.

All of these trips have upcoming Zoom information sessions where you can learn more details. Check online or in the Golden Link for more information – and watch the Spring issue of the Golden Link for the launch of the 2029 trip!

London & Pax Lodge: Zoom Info Meeting: Aug. 27, 7 p.m.; [RSVP for more info](#)

Japan & South Korea: Zoom Info Meeting: Sept. 3, 7 p.m.; [RSVP for more info](#).

New York City: Zoom Info Meeting: Sept. 10, 7 p.m.; [RSVP for more info](#).

Council Trips: <https://bit.ly/4wDumLa>





Community Service Committee



- ✓ Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors
- ✓ 2nd Sundays, 3-4:30 PM
- ✓ Quarterly Council-Wide Service Projects
- ✓ Patch in the Shop

99

Our Community Service Committee continues to grow and is open to Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors who want to make a bigger impact in their communities.

Committee members meet virtually on the second Sunday of most months from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m. to help plan council-wide service projects, build community partnerships, and identify causes they care about.

Even girls who aren't on the committee can participate. Watch The Golden Link for quarterly council-wide service projects, then collect the Community Service patch and add a green heart for each project completed.

To Attend Meetings: <https://bit.ly/4zrstUd>





52, 53, 54, 55, and 56

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Join the League!

The Older Girl Program League:
Where Passionate Volunteers Inspire Extraordinary Girl Leaders.

- 5 New Geographical Leagues
- Create Meaningful Experiences
- Support Award Success
- Leverage Community Connections
- Make a Lasting Local Impact

**Your Voice.
Your Community.
Your League.**

Learn More Today  Program Place  12:00 PM

100

One of our most exciting updates this year is the launch of the **Older Girl Program League**, or simply, **The League**.

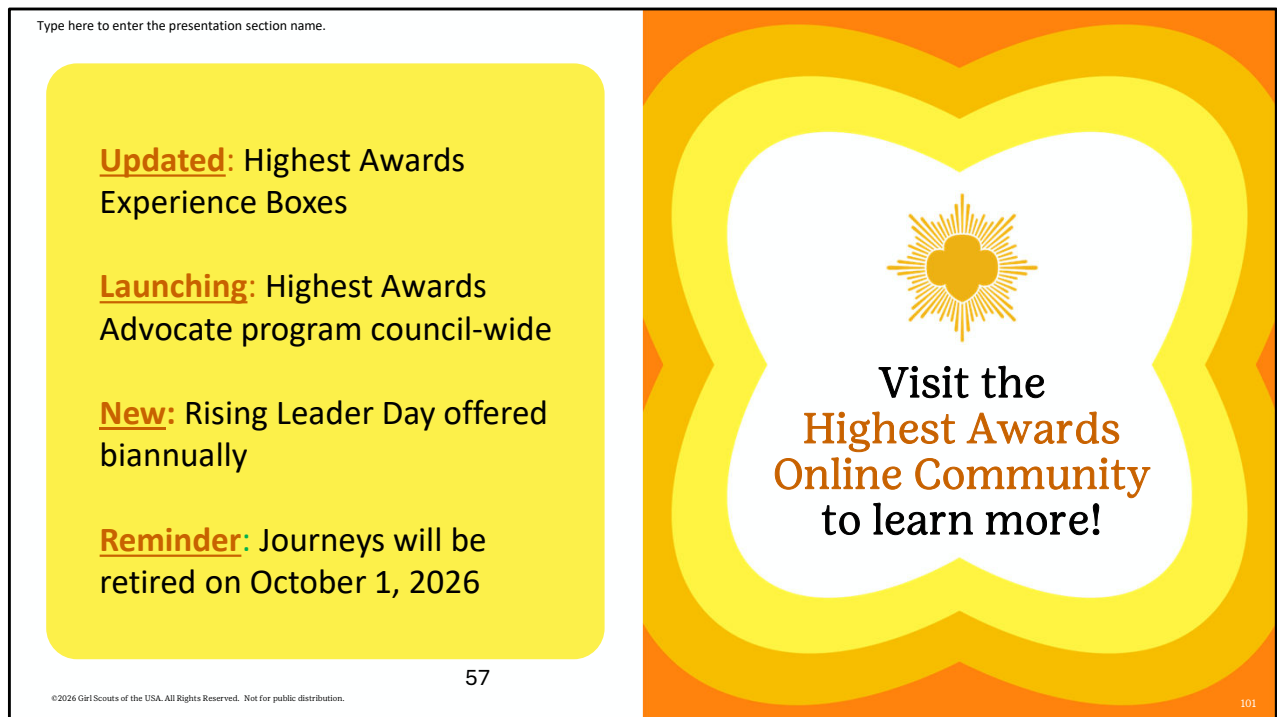
The League replaces our previous regional structure and creates new opportunities for volunteers to work together locally to support older girls through leadership experiences, Silver and Gold Awards, community partnerships, and special programs.

We're currently recruiting volunteers for all five geographical Leagues, and we'd love to have passionate Girl Scout volunteers help shape this new program.

To learn more, join us today at 12:00 PM in Program Place for "Reimagining Older Girl Experiences: Be Part of the Team."

Interest Meeting (October 3, 11 am – 12:30 pm, Girl Scout Center): <https://bit.ly/4qqtkR3>





We have several exciting updates in Highest Awards this year. First, the updated **Highest Awards Experience Box** returns this September for Junior and Cadette troops. This game-based resource helps girls work toward their Bronze and Silver Awards, and volunteers consistently tell us it's easy to use and requires very little preparation. Eligible troop leaders will receive an email in September with instructions on how to claim their box. If you already received last year's version, we encourage you to use it! The new version has only minor changes.

We're also launching the **Highest Awards Advocate Program** council-wide. These trained volunteers will help promote and support Highest Awards in communities across the council.

In addition, **Rising Leader Day** is now a recurring event, offered twice each year. Girls can work on their Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards while also participating in Leadership Awards trainings like Junior Aide, Program Aide, and Volunteer in Training. The next event is January 9 at Camp Agnes Arnold.

And finally, a reminder that **Journeys will retire on October 1, 2026**, but any Journey completed before that date may still be used as a Highest Awards prerequisite.

For more information on any of these opportunities, visit the **Highest Awards Online Community**.
<https://bit.ly/4x5Gdm3>



Volunteer Development



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Volunteer Development

Sheri Arceneaux

Council Wide Coordinator for
Volunteer Development

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Save the Dates!



Winter Train-in

January 9
Casa Mare



Summer Train-in

June 26
Girl Scout Center



Summer Train-in

July 31
VIRTUAL

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Each year we look forward to several live training dates to connect with volunteers in many troop roles. Here are some upcoming Train-in dates you won't want to miss. January 9 at Casa Mare will include a variety of enrichment for troops and Day Camps and tours of the new Port and Starboard dormitories!

Next summer – connect with us at the Girl Scout Center on June 26 or online for virtual Train-in on July 31.



Adult Learning Opportunities



NEW!

591 First Aid Orientation

and

**GSUSA Behavior
Management for Girl
Scouts**

gsLearn 



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58 and 59

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Visit the gsLearn training library to see some new trainings available to you!

591 First Aid Orientation is less than ten minutes long and provides information essential to being a Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Troop or Group first aider. All troop first aiders are encouraged to complete.

From GSUSA we have a new Behavior Management course that might be helpful for leaders in troops of all levels

591 First Aid Orientation



gsLearn  bit.ly/4hKJ7rM

GSUSA Behavior Management



gsLearn  bit.ly/4qrADbf



New this fall - Girls and Adult Volunteers who provide volunteer service to the council are eligible for our newest award patch – Jewels of GSSJC! Track your hours by project or role, complete an online form and receive special recognition through our patch program. Details for this new recognition are available on the GSSJC website under forms and documents and on the Volunteer Recognition page. Patches will be available beginning in September.

https://www.gssjc.org/content/dam/gssjc-redesign/documents/forms/Volunteer%20Experience/awards/GSSJC_ServiceHourAwardGuidelines.pdf



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Fall Volunteer Conference 2026

"Dive into Leadership"

November 13th-15th at Camp
Arnold

All volunteers welcome!

On Time Registration ends
September 15th- \$60

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Fall Volunteer Conference 2026 is returning and getting the volunteers ready to "DIVE" into Girl Scouting! This all-in-one camping weekend is returning once again to let volunteers experience their own weekend at camp. There will be plenty of fun, food, and friends and this year we're introducing a THREE HOUR Cooking over the campfire selection to allow our volunteers to get even more experience in one of our most popular classes.



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Adult Weekends at Camp

Adventure Park Climbing Weekend

October 31 – November 1, 2026

Great Outdoors Weekend

April 30 – May 2, 2027

STEM Exploration

TBD Winter 2027

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Just for the fun of it, and just for you the volunteer..... we know you want to make Girl Scout memories too, so you and a buddy bring your gear and make a weekend of it at one of our amazing camps. We'll make sure there's climate controlled sleeping, great food, really fun program and time for relaxing and of course a campfire, and S'Mores. If you would like to suggest a theme or co-host let Volunteer Development know.



Adult Learning Opportunities





Save the Date:

Adult Recognition
Event and
Annual Meeting

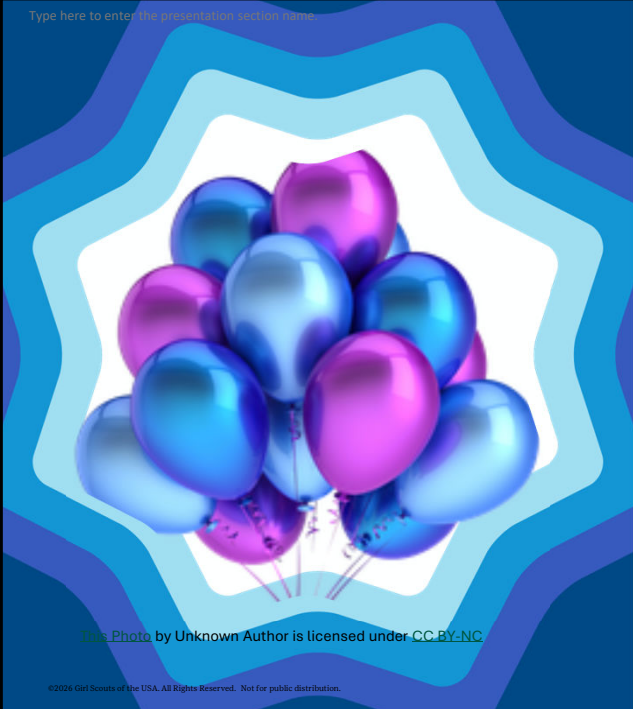
Camp Agnes Arnold

April 17th, 2027

109

Mark your calendars! Adult Recognition Event and Annual Meeting is back and will be happening on April 17th. Celebrate and appreciate your fellow volunteers at Adult Recognition Event and here some important information about the state of the Council in the afternoon at the Annual Meeting. Check out future Golden Links for some cool new updates coming to the recognition process.

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Save the Date

Membership Kickoff 2027

(tentatively)
August 14, 2027

110

Plan now to attend Membership Kickoff next August.

Tentatively planned for August 14, 2027, watch the website, Golden Link, Golden Scoop, and Troop Scoop for updates!



Please utilize the bitly links and QR codes to access additional information and see the latest updates.



Thank you for being part of our member meeting! Don't forget to use the QR code to give us feedback and watch our social pages for more updates. If you did not check in for your afternoon workshops earlier, return to the lobby and check in for your schedule before heading to lunch. Now head over to the Program Place for the Fashion Show. This will be a most Magical year for San Jacinto!

<https://bit.ly/GSSJC-MKOsurvey>

