



# Connections

**News for Girl Scouts of  
San Jacinto Council supporters**  
Summer 2024

## Calling All Adventurers!

Overnight and day camp sessions are still available. Let your child spend the summer learning new skills and making friends. Find out more at [www.gssjc.org/summercamp](http://www.gssjc.org/summercamp). Or, help send a girl to camp by donating to camperships. Contact [sthraen@sjgs.org](mailto:sthraen@sjgs.org).

## Empowering Girls for a Lifetime

Girl Scout camp promises amazing adventures and transformative experiences this summer! It is a place where girls can unplug, experience the outdoors with guidance from strong female role models, and take on new challenges in a safe, girl-led environment.

Last year, camperships enabled 203 Girl Scouts to embark on unforgettable camp adventures. This year, we've received more requests than expected for camperships, and our resources are stretched thin. With nearly **100 more requests than available funds**, we ask that you consider supporting our effort to send more girls to camp this summer.

A gift of any amount can help a girl attend camp but a gift of \$750 will give a girl access to an entire week of overnight camp and \$300 will provide one girl a week of day camp.

Think of the impact your gift can have:

- It can give a shy, timid girl the chance to step out of her comfort zone and discover her leadership potential.
- It can provide an underprivileged girl with access to nature and outdoor adventures she may never have experienced otherwise.
- It can offer a safe and supportive space for girls to learn valuable life skills, foster resilience, and develop a sense of belonging.

Every dollar you contribute will directly support these girls. Your support is not just an investment in their summer—it's an investment in their future. Donate now at [www.gssjc.org/donate](http://www.gssjc.org/donate) or scan the QR code on the back page. For additional information, please contact Susan Thraen at [sthraen@sjgs.org](mailto:sthraen@sjgs.org).



## Thank You to Sponsors of Port Arthur STEM Day

Bechtel, Port Arthur LNG, and United Way of Mid and South Jefferson County teamed up with Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council to help spark girls' interest in STEM and discover ways to become environmental champions.

Over 30 families joined a STEM Girl Scouts Day event on April 20 at the West Port Arthur Community Garden. Girls and families learned about Girl Scouting, planted tomatoes in the community garden, and learned from professional engineers about the importance of recycling.

Thanks to a sponsorship from Sempra Infrastructure, 25 girls and their parents received a free one-year membership to Girl Scouts. We are excited to see Girl Scouting grow in the Port Arthur community!



# Entergy Funds Energy-saving Project at Camp Agnes Arnold

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council is thrilled to announce that it received a \$33,766 grant from Entergy's Environmental Initiatives Fund to complete its final phase of transitioning from fluorescent to LED lighting and fixtures at Camp Agnes Arnold. The grant will help the council make cost-saving energy upgrades at its Treelake complex, which includes Camp Agnes Arnold, so it can serve as a national model for advancing energy efficiency at Girl Scout camps.

Light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs emit a bright, vibrant light that uses 80% less energy than conventional fluorescent lights. They last longer and emit less heat than traditional bulbs because they do not have a filament. Also, light bulbs that use LED technology cause less environmental damage than incandescent bulbs and compact fluorescent lights. LED bulbs, however, are more expensive than other alternatives. Thus, receiving funding from Entergy's Environmental Initiatives Fund was crucial in completing the project and ensuring environmental well-being.

Benefits of converting to LED lighting:

- LED technology is so efficient that one bulb can last up to 22 years or 25,000 hours, reducing required upkeep and allowing staff to spend more time maintaining the natural resources on the camp property.
- Fewer materials are needed to make LED bulbs, helping to reduce waste in landfills.
- Upgrading to LED lighting reduces electric usage.
- The project will increase youth environmental education and Entergy volunteerism.

"With Entergy's Environmental Initiatives Fund, Camp Agnes Arnold now boasts energy-efficient lighting and better aligns with our Girl Scout Law's commitment to wise resource use," said Mary Vitek, CEO of GSSJC. "By reducing energy consumption, we preserve resources and can direct savings into enriching programs for our Girl Scouts. Thanks to the fund, we illuminate not just our spaces but a commitment to responsible environmentalism."



## Thank You, Donors!

*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 Suzanne Carmona at [scarmona@sjgs.org](mailto:scarmona@sjgs.org). Contributions made Jan. 1 – March 31, 2024*

### **\$500,000+ - Gold**

United Way of Greater Houston

### **\$100,000-\$499,999 - Silver**

James Lewis  
Kathryn Sanders

### **\$50,000-\$99,999 - Bronze**

The Marie M. and James H.  
Galloway Foundation

### **\$10,000-\$24,999 - Senior**

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and Patty Keys  
Cassandra Mott  
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### **\$5,000-\$9,999 - Cadette**

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OCuSOFT Inc  
Texas Parks and Wildlife  
Melinda and Lee Underhill

### **\$1,000-\$4,999 - Junior**

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### **\$250-\$999 - Brownie**

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### **Memorials In Memory of Marie Woung Binns**

Carl Binns

### **In Memory of Mary Gedelian**

Rachel Barski  
Alice Bohlae  
Julie Carlson  
Bonnie Crosby  
Ellen R. DeSanctis  
Brittany Hank  
Jodi Huntley  
Corrie B. Jenkins  
Josey Scout Lodge  
Lydia Klespis  
Katherine Koch  
Carol Miserlian  
Diane Neudorf  
Kristin Oberle  
Deborah Parker  
Maureen Shannon  
Aimée R. Sproles  
Genevieve S. Walls  
Brenda and Dwayne Young

### **In Memory of Dee Hinkle** Jamie and Larry Vazquez

**In Memory of  
Daniel T. Kamin**  
Evans Attwell  
Clark Hill  
Jackie Cyphert  
Marian Davenport  
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Becky Delancy  
Ellen R. DeSanctis  
Former S&P Girls  
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Patty and Mike Tilton  
Kay Towns  
Jacque and D.K. Willardson  
Eileen K. Wilson  
Jana H. Woelfel  
Mary and Mike Vitek

### **Honorariums In Honor of Kenzie Briggs** James Briggs

**In Honor of Emma Leavitt**  
Gene Wiechmann





Save the Date!  
**Success to Significance Luncheon**  
Tuesday, October 8, 2024  
Hilton Americas Houston

Featuring guest speaker and Girl Scout alumna

**Karen Walrond**



Karen, a Houstonian and Girl Scout mom, authored *Radiant Rebellion*, where she investigates how we can resist ageism and live a gratifying, meaningful life along the way. Her earlier work, *The Lightmaker's Manifesto*, beckons readers towards lives of integrity, advocacy, conviction, and joy.

A panel of Girl Scouts will join Karen to share how they are making the world a better place!

**EVENT CHAIRS**



**Secure your sponsorship. Visit [www.gssjc.org/s2s](http://www.gssjc.org/s2s)**

**girl scouts** of san jacinto

## International Women's Day

Melinda Underhill, a Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council board member, recently participated as a speaker panelist at the Greater Houston Partnership's Rise to the Top event in celebration of International Women's Day.

The event featured compelling and candid conversations among outstanding female executives. They discussed the challenges and triumphs of succeeding as a woman in today's business environment.

Underhill, chief volunteer and human resources officer of the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, shared her inspiring personal story, describing how she has identified opportunities, overcome challenges, and achieved success.



## Women's Leadership Network

Members of the Girl Scout Women's Leadership Network served as mentors and visited with more than 45 young women from Delta Zeta Sorority on March 25 at GSSJC's Program Place for Girls.

We would like to express our gratitude to the mentors who shared their knowledge and experiences to support the next generation of women entering the workforce.

# Emerald Circle

Each year, graduating Gold Award Girl Scouts in our council can apply for The Emerald Circle Scholarship. The nonrecurring scholarships range from \$1,000-\$3,000 and are funded entirely by members of The Emerald Circle, donations, and earnings from The Emerald Circle Gold Award Scholarship Endowment. The Emerald Circle has awarded more than \$800,000 in scholarships to date. This year, the Emerald Circle committee will award 25 scholarships totaling \$31,000!

Join us as we help our Gold Award recipients have a head start in their first year of college. Donate now at [www.gssjc.org/donate](http://www.gssjc.org/donate) or scan the QR code on this page. For additional information, contact Katie Gordon at [kgordon@sjgs.org](mailto:kgordon@sjgs.org).

## Raising Awesome Girls

A group of community members learned about cyber safety and human trafficking during a presentation by Crime Stoppers of Houston on April 24. The presentation provided attendees with valuable information about techniques that predators use and ways that we can help keep our children safe.



Following the presentation, guests assembled care packages for 20 Emerald Circle Scholarship recipients. These young ladies are completing their first year of college, and we are happy to celebrate their success with a small box of goodies and encouragement.

**girl scouts**   
of san jacinto

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Donate now!

## ABB Sponsors Girl Scout STEM Programming

At Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council, we proudly provide opportunities for girls to discover, connect, and take action through STEM. Despite exponential growth in STEM occupations, women remain vastly underrepresented in the STEM workforce, in holding STEM degrees, and in opportunities to develop STEM interests as youth.

Thanks to a partnership with ABB, GSSJC has offered a STEM program to girls in our community for a third year. Girls in the program can earn the ABB Stem patch by building a solar-powered circuit, among other STEM-focused activities. So far this year, more than 1,500 girls have completed this STEM project, earning the ABB STEM patch.

Initiatives such as these give girls access to materials and mentors to help them explore fields such as robotics and information technology. Thank you, ABB, for giving our girls a platform to be innovative and collaborative while being exposed to exciting opportunities available to them in the future.



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