

# Connections

News for Girl Scouts of  
San Jacinto Council supporters  
Fall 2022

## Save the Date for Just Desserts

Join us for a fun Girl Scout Cookie dessert event,  
Thursday, Feb. 16, 2023 from 5:30 – 7:30 p.m.  
Go to [www.gssjc.org/donate](http://www.gssjc.org/donate) for more information.

## Horse-Riding Program Helps Girls Blossom into Leaders

Girl Scout Rachel Utley recalls being shy and uncomfortable around people when she joined SPURS four years ago. Today, the Level 5 SPUR, loves talking to people, being a leader, caring for horses, and teaching younger girls how to ride them. The program even helped her win a four-year college scholarship to study equine science and management this fall.

“SPURS helped me build confidence and come out of my shell,” Rachel said. “I didn’t like “peopling,” but over the years, I have done several media interviews and events to promote the program.”

SPURS – Super People Using Riding Skills – is one of Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council’s equitation programs. The special interest group teaches girls how to ride horses and care for them, while also helping the girls learn new skills they can use throughout their lives. The horse-riding fun happens at the McNair Equestrian Center at GSSJC’s Misty Meadows Ranch in Conroe.

SPURS also helped Rachel discover her career path. She received a four-year scholarship from Emory & Henry College where she will study equine science and management this fall. Rachel says she won the scholarship based on her knowledge and experience in caring for and handling horses – all of which she learned through SPURS.

Rachel says she will miss the program but plans to return to SPURS as an adult volunteer after graduating from college.

The SPURS program is a Girl Scout favorite, with more than 100 girls and 84 adult members participating in 2021-22. Volunteers and donors are needed to keep programs like SPURS going. Volunteer at [www.gssjc.org/join](http://www.gssjc.org/join) or donate at [www.gssjc.org/donate](http://www.gssjc.org/donate).



## Online shopping for the holidays? Your Amazon purchases can support GSSJC!

When you shop at Amazon, you are helping us fulfill a mission to help girls become women of confidence and character, who make the world a better place. Through the AmazonSmile program, 0.5% of your purchases go towards making an impact in the life of a girl at our council. Make sure when you shop on Amazon you use the [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) link and search for Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council and link your Amazon account to us. Holiday shopping will be a little sweeter this year as you purchase gifts that keep on giving.

## Double the Donation

Employee matching gift programs are corporate giving programs in which the company matches donations made by employees to eligible nonprofit organizations. This means you can double your impact at no extra cost to you. Now you can initiate a match when you donate on our website. Visit [www.gssjc.org/donate](http://www.gssjc.org/donate), enter your employer’s name, and you’ll then be able to access guidelines, matching forms and more. Thank you for helping us leverage your gift even further.

# We are Delighted to Announce the Class of 2022 Gold Award Girl Scouts!

This year, 111 girls in the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council earned the Gold Award – the most prestigious award for girls in the world. Girls who pursue the Gold Award are rock stars, role models, and real-life heroes. They aspire to transform an idea and vision into an accomplishment with measurable, sustainable, and far-reaching results. In doing so, they bring about impactful change to their communities and beyond.



Our council honored these young women in May during the annual Gold Award Ceremony, held this year at Houston Baptist University, Morris Cultural Art Center. Host Sharron Melton, CW39-TV anchor, read highlights from each girl's Gold Award project as they walked across the stage in full Girl Scout attire to receive their award.



The Gold Award is the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn. They use everything they have learned in Girls Scouts – leadership, problem-solving, and collaboration – to follow their passion for making the world a better place to live. Only girls in high school are eligible to earn the award. They choose an issue dear to them, then develop and execute community projects to address the challenges in their communities. Girls spend six months to a year completing their Gold Award projects, impacting the worlds of STEM, education, medicine, social justice, poverty, and more. The Gold Award has opened doors to scholarships, college admissions, and even career opportunities.

Like many parents, troop leaders, and volunteers who attended the Gold Award Ceremony, we are so proud of these courageous, confident, and compassionate young women who will soon become our future leaders.



Scan for more on the Girl Scout Gold Award.

Please join us in congratulating the Class of 2022 Gold Award Girl Scouts!

## 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 Ruth Delaunay at rdelahunay@sigs.org. Contributions made April 1 – June 30, 2022.*

### \$500,000-\$999,999 - Gold

United Way of Greater Houston

### \$25,000-\$49,999 - Ambassador

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United Way of Beaumont and North Jefferson County  
United Way of Greater Baytown  
Area & Chambers County  
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### \$250-\$999 - Brownie

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Joyce Victory  
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Woodland Trails Community

**Memorials**  
**In Memory of Mark Lamb**  
Jo Blackburn

# Local Girl Scout Wins GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship

We are excited to announce that Isabella Cantone is the recipient of the GSUSA Gold Award Scholarship for 2022. This is a scholarship program to recognize and provide financial support to one Gold Award Girl Scout per Council.

As a recipient, Isabella completed a Gold Award project that:

- Demonstrated extraordinary leadership
- Had measurable and sustainable impact
- Addressed an issue of national and/or global significance.

Isabella and 16 volunteers helped young women understand and manage their menstrual cycle while also being swimmers. She created a website for girls to get helpful information on swimming with their period from a pediatrician and nutritionist along with reviews about period friendly suits. The high point for Isabella was hosting two live seminars with girls from all over the nation to present all the information and to answer any questions they might have. Part of her education was the creation of a hand sign to communicate “Week 4” to coaches.

“Many girls locally and from all over the nation including states like Alabama and Michigan have attended the webinar or watched the video to understand how to manage their period while swimming. Coaches and parents also benefited from my project,” Isabella said.

Bonnie Homier, Isabella’s Girl Scout mentor, enjoyed working with the high school student. “Isabella is an amazing young woman. Through the Gold Award she learned so much about herself and strengthened her self-confidence,” Bonnie said. “Isabella adjusted her project multiple times to account for the Covid-19 pandemic as well as the disappointment of her initial team not following through with their promised commitments. But these gave Isabella the opportunity to learn how to adjust her plan to keep her goal within sight.”



Isabella will receive:

- An academic scholarship of \$2,000
- An official letter of notification.
- Promotion that helps her reach a broad audience while highlighting the importance and impact of her project.
- She will be added to a Movement-wide list where she may be asked to serve as a representative for Girl Scouts through public relations, web/social, speaking engagements, or other related opportunities.

We can’t wait to see more of Isabella!



## Workforce for Pathways Youth Grant

We are pleased to share that Girl Scouts of the USA was among five recipients of a federal Workforce for Pathways Youth Grant that was announced earlier this month. Our grant request was fully funded, at just shy of \$2.5 million, to be spread across GSUSA and the participating councils.

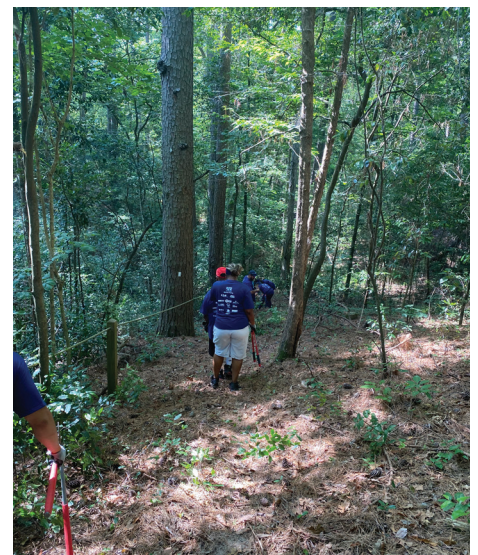
San Jacinto Council is one of a handful of councils that collaborated to apply for this grant and will be receiving funding to help us recruit and train camp staff as part of a three-year workforce development program. We are excited about the opportunity this will bring to our council and look forward to sharing good news in a future update.

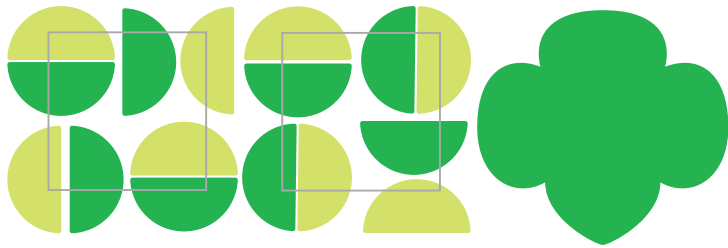
## Nacogdoches Area United Way Lends a Hand (or two) at Camp Whispering Pines

The normal work day looked a bit different for EATON employees on June 17, as they lent a hand at Girl Scouts of San Jacinto’s Camp Whispering Pines. This volunteer event was part of United Way’s Days of Caring, which mobilizes volunteers to celebrate the spirit of giving through service.

The Nacogdoches Area United Way provided 14 volunteers from EATON– one of United Way’s community partners– to clear some hiking trails at Camp Whispering Pines. The volunteers spent the morning at camp and cleared our two longest trails enabling for girls to comfortably hike and explore the outdoors.

These volunteers did a fantastic job! We are so grateful to our community partners for the ongoing support and service as we strive to continue our mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character.





**girl scouts**  
of san jacinto

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**Success to  
Significance  
2022**

Centennial Celebration

Tuesday, October 18, 2022  
11:30 a.m. - 1:30 pm.

Hilton Americas  
1600 Lamar St.  
Houston, TX 77010

Join us as Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council celebrates its 100th anniversary!

This year we will welcome keynote speaker Lauren Anderson, a native Houstonian who will share her triumphant journey in becoming the first African American to be promoted to principal dancer at Houston Ballet and her incredible story of resiliency.



**GSSJC Named Recipient of Bank of America Grant**

We are honored to announce that Girl Scouts of San Jacinto has been named as one of the 35 nonprofit recipients of a generous grant program sponsored by Bank of America. The grants, given across the Houston region, focus on investing in basic needs, workforce development, and education in vulnerable communities.

For many years, Bank of America has worked with nonprofit partners, local organizations, and leaders across public and private sectors in Houston to help drive economic mobility for disadvantaged populations. These grants will help individuals chart a path to employment and better economic futures. They also will provide them with basic needs fundamental to building lifelong stability. Funding will specifically support programs focused on job training, food insecurity, affordable housing/shelter, youth employment, and family and health care services.

We're honored to be supported by Bank of America in our mission as we continue to strive in delivering our program to every girl everywhere.

**S2S Co-Chairs**



Sue Kean



Amanda S. Vavilala

For sponsorships or tickets go to [www.gssjc.org/donate](http://www.gssjc.org/donate) or contact Princess Zambrano at [pzambrano@sjgs.org](mailto:pzambrano@sjgs.org).



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