



# Connections

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

## Success To Significance

Celebrate with us at our annual luncheon this fall. Sign up now to be a sponsor! Go to [www.gssjc.org/s2s](http://www.gssjc.org/s2s) or contact Katie Gordon at [kgordon@sjgs.org](mailto:kgordon@sjgs.org) for more information.



## *Raising Awesome Girls* **Cyber Safety and Human Trafficking**

There is an inseparable link between Human Trafficking and the Internet. This presentation by Crime Stoppers of Houston highlights the nexus between pornography, trafficking, and grooming techniques used by predators. Gain an understanding through examples of direct messages used to lure students away from their homes, and most importantly how to have the uneasy but necessary conversations with your student.

This presentation is intended for adults only and is not suitable for children.

Wednesday, April 24  
6 – 7:30 p.m.

Girl Scouts Program Place for Girls,  
3000 Southwest Freeway, Houston

To RSVP, scan QR Code or contact  
Katie Gordon at [kgordon@sjgs.org](mailto:kgordon@sjgs.org).



## Send a Girl to Camp!

GSSJC remains committed to providing fun, mission driven outdoor experiences for all girls in our community. Summer overnight camp provides a supportive environment where girls spend time together and experience the outdoors. They also learn about important ecological and environmental issues with hands-on activities, like learning to canoe, riding horses, and growing their leadership and people skills.

We are thrilled to share that this summer we'll again be offering overnight camp sessions at Camp Agnes Arnold, Misty Meadows Ranch, and Casa Mare.

Girls need a sense of normalcy and a safe place to make friends, have fun, experience the magic of camp, and tackle new challenges. Help us give every girl access to the joy and developmental benefits that resident camp provides by donating to our Campership program. Camperships allow girls to attend summer overnight camp regardless of their family's financial situation. Many times this is the only way girls can experience the magic of camp.

Please consider donating today. The benefits of this investment extend far beyond the one-week resident camp experience. For more information, please contact Ruth Delaunay at [rdelaunay@sjgs.org](mailto:rdelaunay@sjgs.org) or visit [www.gssjc.org/donate](http://www.gssjc.org/donate).



# Just Desserts 2024, a Sweet Celebration

The air buzzed with anticipation at GSSJC's annual Just Desserts event, as we put the culinary skills of Houston's celebrity chefs to the test. Their mission? To create delectable desserts using Girl Scout Cookies as their secret ingredient.

Gourmet magic unfolded as the chefs transformed Girl Scout Cookies into mouthwatering masterpieces on Feb. 8. Each chef crafted a unique dessert, infusing it with creativity, flair, and a dash of nostalgia. A symphony of aromas—chocolate, caramel, and zesty lemon—wafted through the room at the Junior League of Houston, as each bite of deliciousness became a tasty tribute to both culinary artistry and the Girl Scout spirit.

Participating bakers were: Cake Fine Pastry, Crumbville, TX, Gud Sugar, HTX Nitro, Kenny & Ziggys New York Delicatessen Restaurant & Bakery, Lexi Coffee, Lick'd, Michael's Cookie Jar, Phoenicia Specialty Foods, The Cheesecake Queen, and The Union Kitchen. Gud Sugar won the People's Choice Award!



Beyond the sweet indulgence lay a deeper purpose. The Girl Scout Cookie program—the world's largest girl-led business—fuels fun adventures, builds girls' courage and confidence, and nurtures their character. With every cookie sale, girls become more empowered as they unbox their full potential as leaders and entrepreneurs.

Girl Scout cookie season won't last forever, so get them as soon as you can. Visit [gssjc.org](http://gssjc.org) to find cookies near you. The cookie sale ends on March 24.

## 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@sigs.org](mailto:scarmona@sigs.org). Contributions made Oct. 1 – Dec. 31, 2023*

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The John M. O'Quinn  
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### \$50,000-\$99,999 - Bronze

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

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

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### Memorials

**In Memory of  
Roberta Draughn**  
Carrie King

### Honorariums

**In Honor of Jean Chapin**  
Jay B. Chapin

**In Honor of Lance Feldman**  
Melanie Rippentrop

**In Honor of Julie McMahon**  
Sharon Berberich

**In Honor of Shooting Stars  
Community**  
Kathy Johnson-Throop

**In Honor of Troop 126046**  
Amie Hows

**In Honor of  
Amanda Vavilala**  
Lori and Bill Dawson

# Girl Scouts Horse Programs Teach Leadership

I joined the STARS (Super Terrific Awesome Riding Scouts) and SPURS (Super People Using Riding Skills), both special interest groups (SIG), to be able to work with horses and learn new skills. SIGs are a great way for individual Older Girl Scouts to participate with other girls that enjoy their specialized interests. I have enjoyed making new friends and progressing in my equitation skills. Both SIGs have taught me leadership, time management, and accountability. I have long-lasting friendships through these SIGs.

Two years ago, GSSJC introduced competition show teams to further progress our equitation programs. I participate on both the western and hunt seat teams that compete in the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA) league. There is also an equestrian vaulting team too.

Participating on the IEA teams has brought my riding skills to a new level. Catch riding, where you draw a horse to ride from the host barn, gives you the opportunity to test your riding skills on many different horses. You improve both your equitation and communication with the horse. It also teaches you adaptability and resilience. I'm looking forward to trying out for a college equestrian team with the skills that I have learned.

I'm grateful to Girl Scouts for these great opportunities. We have fantastic coaches and amazing volunteers that support these programs.

**Lily R, Ambassador, Troop 25357, SPURS, STARS**

*Join us in empowering the next generation of female leaders by making a gift today. Your contribution will make a lasting impact on the lives of girls and the world they will shape. For additional information, contact Ruth Delaunay at [rdelaunay@sjgs.org](mailto:rdelaunay@sjgs.org) or make a donation at [www.gssjc.org/donate](http://www.gssjc.org/donate).*



## Be a Part of The Juliette Gordon Low Society

Our founder, Juliette Gordon Low, imagined a movement where all girls come together and embrace their unique strengths and passions. Her legacy is still relevant to all Girl Scouts - past, present, and future. You can join this exciting Girl Scout Movement by becoming a member of the Juliette Gordon Low Society.

By making a legacy gift to Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council, you will automatically become a member of the Juliette Gordon Low Society. Making a legacy gift is easy. You can name GSSJC as a partial beneficiary in your will. You can leave a flat amount or a percentage of a specific asset, such as a retirement plan or life insurance. A gift of any size will make a lasting impact on girls who will become the leaders of tomorrow.

Legacy gifts are crucial to helping the council maintain our beautiful camp properties and provide quality programming for girls across Southeast Texas. These gifts also help us offer training to our dedicated volunteers and stay relevant with up-to-date technology to support our work.

To make a legacy gift, or if you or your financial advisor would like additional information on the Juliette Gordon Low Society, contact Susan Thraen at 713-292-0331 or [sthraen@sjgs.org](mailto:sthraen@sjgs.org).

## Pave the Way for Girl Scouts

Camp is a place where Girl Scouts make lasting memories, friendships, and transformative experiences. Now, imagine leaving your own legacy—a custom paver etched with your name, a heartfelt message, or a tribute to someone dear.

Each paver becomes part of a story, a bridge connecting generations of campers, dreamers, and adventurers. So, won't you join us? Let's create a trail that whispers tales of friendship, courage, and the magic of campfires.

A custom paver serves as a wonderful way to honor significant milestones, including:

- Birthdays
- Honoring your troop leader (Leader Appreciation Month is in April!)
- Honor your Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award Girl Scout
- Honor your graduating Girl Scout
- Celebrate your troop's bridging

To start the order process, scan the QR code and select Commemorative Pavers and Plaques or go to [www.gssjc.org/donate](http://www.gssjc.org/donate). Questions? Contact Suzanne Carmona [scarmona@sjgs.org](mailto:scarmona@sjgs.org) or 713-292-0334.





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## Harris County District Attorney's Office Invests in Future Female Leaders

According to a recent Girl Scout Research Institute report, 59% of young women are interested in a future leadership role through advocacy, public service or as an elected official. But without devoted mentors and role models and access to programs like the Girl Scouts, many girls are not equipped with the essential tools and guidance to develop the confidence, problem-solving and decision-making abilities needed to become successful community leaders.

By reinvesting \$100,000 in legally seized criminal assets into Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council's Success to Significance Outreach program, the Harris County District Attorney's Office is helping to ensure that 20,000 girls living in low-to-moderate income areas have the opportunity to develop crucial leadership skills.

As a woman in leadership for the top law-enforcement agency in Harris County, District Attorney Kim Ogg knows first-hand the uphill battles young women often face to establish themselves as leaders.

"Many of the top prosecutors in our office – including myself – were once Girl Scouts," Ogg said. "The impact of this organization extends far beyond badges; it shapes character, resilience, and a strong sense of civic duty, often propelling these young women into roles of significant influence and service."

The outreach program also provides special programming for girls at the Harris County Juvenile Detention Center and the Burnett Bayland Rehabilitation Center, where having strong female role models is exceptionally important to provide guidance and encouragement. This program focuses on conflict management, decision-making, self-esteem, self-awareness and healthy relationships, along with leadership skills.

"This reinvestment of funds seized from criminals like drug dealers and human traffickers takes the power away from those who prey on vulnerable young women," Ogg said. "Instead, we're investing in our community and empowering the youth who will become the leaders of tomorrow." The Harris County District Attorney's Office uses reinvested criminal asset funds to support crime prevention and victim services programs.



Donate now!



## Women's Leadership Network invites you to Lessons in Networking

Monday, March 25, 2024  
 6 – 7:30 p.m.

GSSJC Program Place  
 3000 Southwest Freeway

Join us for an evening of mentorship.

To RSVP, scan QR Code or contact  
 Katie Gordon at [kgordon@sjgs.org](mailto:kgordon@sjgs.org).



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