

# Connections

**News for Girl Scouts of  
San Jacinto Council supporters**  
Summer 2023



## 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 [rdeLaunay@sjgs.org](mailto:rdeLaunay@sjgs.org).

## Misty Meadows Named a Top Summer Camp

We are thrilled to announce that Misty Meadows Ranch has been named as one of the top Summer Camps of 2023 by Newsweek! This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of numerous staff, volunteers, and supporters who strive to provide a memorable and rewarding experience for every camper.

Misty Meadows Ranch offers a unique opportunity for girls to connect with nature, build new friendships, and develop their leadership skills. The camp features a variety of activities, such as horseback riding, archery, hiking, swimming, and art.

What sets Misty Meadows Ranch apart from other summer camps is its focus on instilling confidence and independence in young girls. The camp staff encourages campers to step out of their comfort zones and try new things, whether it's learning to ride a horse or leading a group activity. Girls are empowered to take on leadership roles and make decisions for themselves, helping them develop the skills they need to succeed in life.

The Newsweek recognition is a reflection of the camp's commitment to providing a safe and inclusive environment for girls to learn, grow, and have fun. Here every camper feels valued and supported, regardless of their background or experience. We are dedicated to helping girls realize their full potential!

Misty Meadows Ranch is a shining example of what a summer camp should be - a place where girls can challenge themselves, build confidence, and make memories that will last a lifetime. Congratulations to Misty Meadows Ranch for this well-deserved recognition!



## Are You Between a “Rock and a Hard Place” to Find the Perfect Thank You Gift?

The solution may be as simple a commemorative paver or plaque on the Promise Path at Camp Agnes Arnold! A commemorative paver is a way to remember and honor a special Girl Scout in your troop or service unit, say thank you to a troop leader or Girl Scout volunteer, highlight an event, or tangibly represent something meaningful in your life. These individually engraved bricks are a timeless tribute to those who believe in the values of Girl Scouting and are tax deductible. Every custom-designed paver tells a story, and we would like to add yours this summer. To order a commemorative paver, visit our website at [www.gssjc.org/en/donate/ways-to-support.html](http://www.gssjc.org/en/donate/ways-to-support.html), use the QR code, or contact Suzanne Carmona at 713-292-0334.



# Double Your Impact

Every donation – no matter the size – can make a powerful difference! An employer contribution match is a great way to increase the impact of your gift. Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will match any charitable contributions or volunteer hours completed by their employees. You can easily verify an employer-matching gift program by scanning the QR code to the right. You can also check with your Human Resources department to see if your employer participates in matching gifts. If your employer does participate in matching donations, complete a matching gift form available from your employer and mail it to: GSSJC, Attn: Development Department, 3110 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77098. If you have questions, please contact Suzanne Carmona at [scarmona@sigs.org](mailto:scarmona@sigs.org) or 713-292-0334.



## Lessons in Networking

Girl Scout mentors, members of the Women's Leadership Network, visited with more than 45 young women from Delta Zeta Sorority on March 27 at Girl Scout Program Place. Special thanks to the mentors, who shared their knowledge and experiences with the women in an effort to support the next generation of women as they prepare to enter the workforce.

## Rise to the Top

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto celebrated International Women's Day at the Greater Houston Partnership's Rise to the Top event on March 9.

Rise to the Top featured compelling, candid conversations from outstanding female executives who discussed the challenges and triumphs of succeeding as a woman in today's business environment.

Mary Vitek, GSSJC's CEO, was featured on the event's podcast and discussed her career journey, family life, and what drives her as a community leader.



*Moh'd Nour, proud Girl Scout dad!*



*Casey Schrade, Greater Houston Partnership; GSSJC Development Director Diane Likeness; and CEO Mary Vitek.*



*Mary participates in the Rise to the Top Podcast*

# Thank You, Donors!

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### Honorariums

**In Honor of Kenzie Briggs**  
James Briggs

**In Honor of Darcie Durham**  
Beth M. Merfish

**In Honor of Peggy Rios**  
Cherie Cheney

### Memorials

**In Memory of Lucille Voegel Bradshaw**  
Kathryn Collins

**In Memory of Norma Gist**  
Nancy Banasik

**In Memory of Dee Hinkle**  
Jerry Keen  
Mary K. Ryder

**In Memory of Yvonne Koehn**  
Barbara Dampman

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 Jan. 1 – March 30, 2023

# Entergy Awards \$26,000 For Energy-Saving Project at Camp

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto is thrilled to announce that it recently received \$26,000 from Entergy to convert fluorescent lights to modern LED lights at Camp Agnes Arnold. The grant money has allowed the council to create a more environmentally friendly and energy-efficient camp. GSSJC believes this project will be a national model for advancing Girl Scout camps toward energy efficiency.

Light-emitting diode (LED) bulbs emit a bright, vibrant light that uses 80 percent 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 was crucial in completing the project and ensuring the well-being of our earth and camp for future generations.

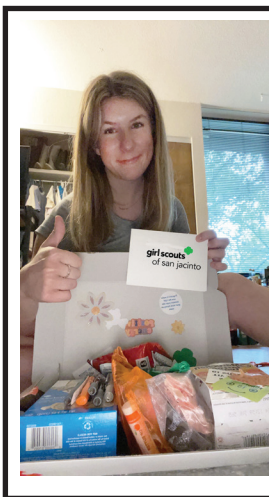


Benefits of converting to LED lighting:

- LED technology is so efficient that one bulb can last up to 22 years or 25,000 hours, reducing required maintenance and allowing staff to spend more time maintaining the natural resources on the camp property.
- LED bulbs need replacing less often than traditional bulbs. And because it takes fewer materials to make them, less waste goes into landfills, helping to create a healthier planet for all of us.
- Upgrading to LED lighting reduces electric usage.
- The project will increase youth environmental education and Entergy volunteerism.

“One core tenet of our Girl Scout Law is to use resources wisely, and this includes our energy usage,” said Mary Vitek, CEO of the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council. “Thanks to the support from Entergy, Camp Agnes Arnold now features energy-efficient lighting. Reducing our energy consumption allows our council to preserve precious natural and financial resources and invest cost savings in delivering programming to our Girl Scouts. Over time, these cost savings will also allow us to fund more projects that make our facilities more environmentally friendly.”

## Emerald Circle Send Care Packages



Since 1992, The Emerald Circle has awarded more than \$780,000 in scholarships. In April, Emerald Circle members assembled final care packages for Gold Award Girl Scouts. Maddie Davis, Texas A&M student, was excited to receive a box of goodies and stated “I love how supportive the Girl Scout community is, even throughout college! This care package brightened up my whole week! Thank you GSSJC!”

## Anonymous Donor Funds Backpack Project

GSSJC is grateful to be the recipient of a \$25,000 grant from an anonymous donor to support our Treelake Complex Backpack Locker Project. The complex Welcome Center now houses educational materials that are available for all campers to use while they visit Camp Agnes Arnold and/or Camp Misty Meadows Ranch.



This project has increased visiting Girl Scouts’ understanding, appreciation, and concern for the camp and surrounding environment. The backpacks contain tools for active engagement and cater to a variety of interests, so all visiting girls can find activities that match their interests and complement things they are doing at camp – whether they are learning about equitation, asking questions in the nature center, identifying birds in the forest, or completing archeology tasks in the field.

Thanks to this generous gift, Girl Scouts can discover their passion. Girl Scouts have enthusiastically shared that their camp experiences – though programs about horses, archery, riflery, sports, arts and crafts, and overcoming challenges through teamwork – have been enhanced by these resources being readily available to them.

In a post camp survey, Girl Scouts told us:

- “I learned that I am capable.”
- “Something I learned was how to challenge yourself.”
- “I learned there is more than one way to fix a problem.”
- “Camp was just so much FUN!!!”
- “You listened to us, helped us solve problems, and didn’t brush them off.”
- “I learned that you need to work together on a lot of things.”

The Treelake Complex Backpack Locker Project is just one part of an overall experience focused on providing girls with outdoor skills, environmental education, and an appreciation of nature while building friendships.

# Archery Program Helps Girls Focus and Persevere on the Range and in Life

Girl Scout Maggie loves archery because it's fun and makes her feel strong and independent. She says that hitting the bullseye is so exciting that she cannot help but share her enthusiasm with the other girls in the Archers in Motion (AIM) program. "Sometimes it's hard to get on the target, but I like the challenge," says Maggie, a Junior Girl Scout. "Even when I struggle, I still have a lot of fun."



Maggie joined the special interest group about two years ago. She attended a family camp with her mom and dad and had the opportunity to try archery. Soon after, she received her own bow and arrows for her ninth birthday and joined the Girl Scout of San Jacinto Council's archery program.

AIM teaches girls archery skills and techniques at Camp Robinwood, where they shoot from a certain distance and try to hit a specific score before progressing to the next shooting level. Girls in the program meet monthly and shoot six rounds for two hours. They each carry a goal sheet to every session to track their shooting progress. As a group that follows the Junior Olympic Archery Development program, girls work to master archery so they can eventually participate in competitions.

Archery helps girls learn how to focus, concentrate, and persevere. When girls miss hitting the target or the bullseye, they slow down, refocus, work on their technique, and shoot again until they are successful. More importantly, the girls feel a sense of empowerment and confidence every time they hit the target or reach a score to move to the next level.

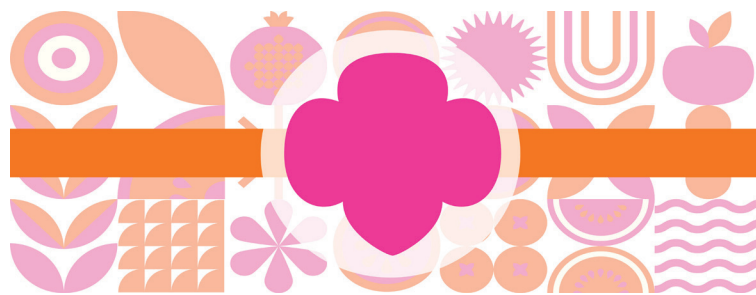
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Donate now!



## Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council Women's Leadership Network invites you to a Summer Social

**Tuesday, June 13, 6 - 8 p.m.**  
**She Space, 2799 Katy Freeway, Suite 250, Houston, 77007**

Tour Houston's premier female-focused coworking space and enjoy light bites and wine. Feel free to bring a friend and/or colleague who might be interested in learning more about Girl Scouts. We will be collecting clear backpacks for girls enrolled in our community outreach programs. Contact Katie Gordon at [kgordon@sjgs.org](mailto:kgordon@sjgs.org) to RSVP.



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