

Connections

**News for Girl Scouts of
San Jacinto Council supporters**
Winter 2022

Girl Scout Cookie Program

You are a big part of our cookie program. Go to www.gssjc.org after Feb. 5 to find where you can find Girl Scout Cookies. Celebrate your employees by buying them all a box of cookies! Sweets for your sweet? Celebrate Valentine's Day with a case of cookies.

Girls Connect with Nature by Backpacking

For girls who love the outdoors and want to learn basic outdoor skills, our council's backpacking program is an exciting opportunity for them to connect with nature and new friends who share the same interests. The special interest group also gives girls a chance to learn how to pack a backpack, hike, and camp overnight. The girls organize monthly weekend trips from September to May, and extended trips for spring break, summer, and overnight camp sessions.

Girls must be at least 11 years old to join the group and have attended a backpacking orientation. Girls gain so much more than outdoor skills in the program. They develop confidence and independence that they will carry with them the rest of their lives. They also learn skills they can use in college and beyond, like teamwork, problem-solving and the willingness to try something new.

Did we mention travel? Girls can choose to attend one-night backpacking trips to Houston-area state or national parks or go on an extended trip lasting seven to 10 days.

The short trips take place once or twice a month and the extended trips occur to two to three times a year. In previous years, backpacking Girl Scouts have traveled to the Rocky, Smokey, and Appalachian mountains. Girls also participate in service projects for state and national parks in Texas by rebuilding and preserving hiking trails for others.

Help keep programs like backpacking available to girls by donating at www.gssjc.org/donate.



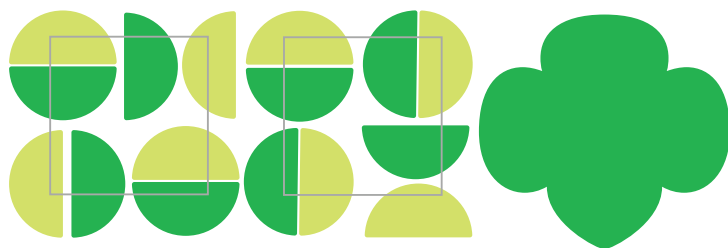
Today's Girls, Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs



The Girl Scout Research Institute conducted a national survey with 1,506 girls ages 8 – 17 to better understand how girls define, experience, and aspire toward entrepreneurial pursuits in their current and future lives. We learned that many are already engaging in entrepreneurial activities and possess an entrepreneurial mindset.

To transform this interest and aptitude into success, we need to provide girls with opportunities to learn in the entrepreneurial space and remove obstacles that girls themselves identify: perceptions that women in business face a steeper hill to climb than men. In other words, the world needs to get ready for girls!

To many, entrepreneurship is synonymous with start-ups or capital ventures. But at Girl Scouts, we know that entrepreneurial innovation can also be used to solve social problems and make the world a better place. To read the complete study, visit www.whygirlscouts.org/success.



Centennial Celebration

Event Raises \$354,000 to Support Girl Scouting

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council supporters and donors showed up and showed out for the annual Success to Significance fundraising event, helping the council raise \$354,000! About 600 people attended the Oct. 18 event at the Hilton Americas.

Guest speaker Lauren Anderson, a native Houstonian and one of America's most distinguished Black ballet dancers, captivated the audience as she discussed her historic career in a conversation with Marguerite Woung-Chapman, the council's president and board chair. Her amazing story is one of courage, confidence, and character – the same attributes girls develop through Girls Scouting.

Anderson danced with Houston Ballet from 1983 to 2006, performing leading roles in all the great classical ballets, appearing across the world to critical acclaim, and in the process, becoming one of Houston Ballet's most beloved stars. In 1990, she became the first African American to be promoted to principal dancer at Houston Ballet – and one of the few African American ballet dancers at the head of a major ballet company anywhere in the world.

In 2007, she assumed her current role in Houston Ballet's education department where she teaches ballet classes at Houston Ballet's Ben Stevenson Academy, conducts master classes at area schools, and lectures to students on dance.

Attendees also had the opportunity to buy raffle tickets to win gifts baskets ranging in value from \$2,000 to \$5,000. Items included Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo opening night tickets, Houston Museum of Natural Science Family Membership, a one-night weekend stay and breakfast at Hilton Americas, Ruth Chris Steakhouse gift card, Kendra Scott jewelry and more! Thank you to all the event sponsors for their support and generous gift basket donations.

During a VIP reception before the event, Houston Congresswoman Sylvia Garcia read the proclamation she drafted and read on the House Floor recognizing the council's 100th birthday and long history of helping girls in Southeast Texas develop leadership skills.

We look forward to another fantastic Success to Significance event next year. We hope to see you there!

Thank You, Success to Significance Supporters

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Just Desserts

Save the date!

February 16, 2023

6 – 8 p.m.

1811 Briar Oaks Lane, Houston

*Please RSVP
by Feb. 9.*



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 rdelaunay@sjgs.org. Contributions made July 1 - Sept. 30, 2022.

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**In Honor of the Camp
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Janet McMasters

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

**In Honor of Marguerite
Woung-Chapman**
Douglas E Brooks

Be a Part of the Juliette Gordon Low Society

Our founder Juliette Gordon Low descended from an extensive line of strong and independent women. Her vision lives on through Girl Scouts across the globe who continue her legacy. You can also help ensure the future of the Girl Scout movement by becoming a member of the Juliette Gordon Low Society.

Anyone who makes a legacy gift to Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council is automatically a member of the Juliette Gordon Low Society. Making a legacy gift can be remarkably simple. You can name GSSJC as a partial beneficiary in your will. You can opt to leave a flat amount or a percentage of a specific asset, such as a retirement plan or life insurance, and there is NO minimum requirement. You can also give anonymously. We keep all information strictly confidential.

Legacy gifts are crucial to helping the council maintain our beautiful camp properties, provide quality programming for girls across Southeast Texas, offer training to our dedicated volunteers, and stay relevant with up-to-date technology to support our work. When you give to GSSJC through legacy giving, your generosity changes the lives of the girls in our community. No gift is too small, and every gift counts.

To make a legacy gift, or if you or your financial advisor would like additional information on the Juliette Gordon Low Society, please contact Michele Wiseley at 713-292-0331 or mwiseley@sjgs.org.



Juliette Gordon Low Society member testimonial

As I think about investing in the future of women's leadership, I always start with Girl Scouts. I was a Girl Scout growing up in New Mexico and earned the highest award, now called the Gold Award. I learned how to explore new things, set goals, overcome obstacles, work together with others, and make a difference in my community.

Decades later I got involved as a volunteer in Houston. My volunteer experience has included committee and board work for Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council. Over the past 15-plus years, I have had the opportunity to work closely with the council's Senior Leadership Team, board of directors, and volunteers. The dedication to the mission of Girl Scouts in Southeast Texas, as well as across the country, is key to girls becoming leaders in our communities. That is why I was inspired to include GSSJC as a beneficiary in my will. Every girl should have the opportunity to be a Girl Scout, and this is one way I can impact the future of our movement.

-Juliette Gordon Low member and past council president and board chair Mary Ryder

girl scouts 
of san jacinto

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Back to Camp for a Day



Women's Leadership Network (WLN) members enjoyed traditional camp activities and the Adventure Park at Camp Agnes Arnold on Nov. 4. Stay tuned for future camp days this spring! To inquire about WLN, contact Diane Likeness at dlikeness@sjgs.org.



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