

# Connections

## News for Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council supporters Winter 2023



### Girl Scout Cookie Program

You are a big part of our cookie program. Go to [www.gssjc.org](http://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 Protect Wetlands for Silver Award Project

Concerned about protecting wetlands in their community, three Girl Scouts in Troop 142142 created a presentation and Jeopardy-like computer game to help educate children about the vital role wetlands play in our lives. The girls partnered with the Delores Fenwick Nature Center in Pearland, where their game is available on a touchscreen platform for visitors to play. "Savannah, Alex, and I came up with this project because we noticed a lot of trash around the local area wetlands," said Girl Scout Jayla. "We didn't like it."

The girls spoke with staff at the nature center to ask how they could help. The center needed to reach more children, so the girls decided to focus on educating children ages 6-16 because they are the future and easier to influence.

The Silver Award is the highest award that Cadettes can earn. Girls are required to spend up to 50 hours on their projects. Girls use this time to identify an issue they care about in their community or beyond, plan and implement their project, and then reflect on what they have accomplished.

They used their research information to create questions for their game. "It was a lot of hard work researching the facts, but it was also fun to learn them and put together the presentation and game," Jayla said.

The girls said they learned a great deal about plants they did not know, and that communication is crucial when doing a group project like the Silver Award. "I was really proud of myself and my troopmates. I learned that you can do anything if you try hard enough."



## An Amazing Year at Girl Scouts, Make 2024 Better

As the year closes, we want to thank you for your generous support to the more than 38,000 Girl Scouts in our council. Through our Girl Scout Leadership Experience program, these girls obtained the tools they need to succeed at home, at school, and in their communities.

This year, about 2,000 campers enjoyed summer overnight or day camp, 203 of those were able to experience it through a campership. Girl Scouts earned 21,000 outdoor badges. Plus, girls in our community had a chance to discover their passions, connect with others, and take action to make the world a better place.



What will girls do next year? If you believe in building girls of courage, confidence, and character, please consider making a gift to GSSJC this holiday season. Your gift will help ensure our Girl Scouts gain the skills and confidence needed to accept challenges and overcome obstacles. Plus, every dollar you give stays right here in our community.

What you give today helps girls and young women become future leaders.

For more information about how to give, visit [www.gssjc.org/donate](http://www.gssjc.org/donate) or contact Ruth Delaunay at [rdelaunay@sjgs.org](mailto:rdelaunay@sjgs.org) or 713-292-0273.

# You Can Help GSSJC While Shopping All Year

Did you know you can support GSSJC year-round by simply shopping? Below are some simple ways to financially support the council. Share these opportunities with your friends and colleagues!

**iGive:** Help Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council every time you shop online at more than 1,500 stores. The iGive button makes it simple. Visit [www.igive.com/Xnuchv](http://www.igive.com/Xnuchv) to sign up to support GSSJC. You only have to sign up once, and your donations will be automatically processed when you shop at qualifying online stores.

**Kroger:** GSSJC is part of the Kroger Community Rewards program that donates \$1 million annually to local nonprofits. Visit [www.krogercommunityrewards.com](http://www.krogercommunityrewards.com) to link your Kroger Plus Card to GSSJC, and a portion of your purchase will be donated to our council. You only have to sign up once, and you'll become a supporter of GSSJC for one year. Please be sure to relink your card annually to continue supporting GSSJC! You can search for Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council by name or number. Our organizational number is 83762.

**Randalls:** The Randalls Good Neighbor Program donates 1% of customers' purchases to up to three nonprofit organizations of their choice. Visit the courtesy booth at your local Randalls to fill out the enrollment form and indicate charity #519. Your account will be linked to GSSJC. You only have to sign up once!

## Employer Contribution Match

An employer contribution match is a great way to increase the impact of your gift. Please check with your Human Resources department to see if your employer participates in matching gifts or check out our Double the Donation tool at [www.gssjc.org/donate](http://www.gssjc.org/donate).

If you have questions, contact Suzanne Carmona at [scarmona@sjs.org](mailto:scarmona@sjs.org) or 713-292-0334.



## 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@sjs.org](mailto:scarmona@sjs.org). Contributions made July 1 – Sept. 30, 2023*

### \$25,000-\$49,999 – Ambassador

M. D. Anderson Foundation  
Girl Scouts of the USA  
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### \$10,000-\$24,999 – Senior

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### \$5,000-\$9,999 – Cadette

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### \$1,000-\$4,999 – Junior

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### Memorials

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Linda Hickerson  
Jim Keffer  
George Rothschild

**In Memory of Karen Orsak**  
Coni B. Ellis

### Honorariums

**In Honor of Mary Ryder**  
Ruth S. Darling

**In Honor of Shooting Stars Girl Scout Community**  
Shooting Stars Community

**In Honor of Troop 126046**  
Amie Hows

**In Honor of Genevieve Walls**  
Nancy Lee G. Peterson



# Thanks to Success to Significance Donors, Event Huge Success!



## Confidence Sponsors

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## Character Sponsors

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More than 600 Girl Scout supporters and friends helped raise more than \$360,000 at the 2023 Success to Significance luncheon in September. Nine-time New York Times bestselling author and Girl Scout alumna Katherine Center was the guest speaker at the organization's signature fundraiser. Her novels, *The Lost Husband* and *Happiness for Beginners* are available on Netflix as movies. Center's story exemplifies the resilience and determination that Girl Scouts instills in young girls, inspiring them to reach their goals.



*Guest speaker Katherine Center.*



*Event co-chairs Mel Reeves and Cassandra Mott.*

“As we celebrate our 13th annual Success to Significance luncheon, we're reminded of GSSJC's incredible impact,” said Mary Vitek, CEO of GSSJC. “The community's continued support and the money raised from Success to Significance keeps our programs affordable and accessible to all girls. We were honored to host Katherine and share her inspiring story.”

Thank you to all of the support provided to deliver girl leadership programs for more than 38,000 girls in southeast Texas.



Sarah Brehm of Troop 122292 just raised the bar for horseback riding! Sarah is a member of the Gleannloch Farms Equestrian Team, which recently participated in an event and a horse costume contest at Highbury Stables. Sarah dressed her lesson horse, Alex, as a Girl Scout. The pair won the Judges' Choice Award for creativity and design. Even her horse loved being a Girl Scout!

**girl scouts**   
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 Houston, TX 77098-4508  
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Donate now!



Join us for a  
**Jingle and Mingle  
 Holiday Social!**

GSSJC's Women's Leadership Network invites you to celebrate the season with friends, Bingo Singo, drinks, and appetizers.

**Wednesday,  
 December 6  
 5:30 - 7:30 p.m.**  
**Carrabba's  
 The Original on Voss**  
 1399 S Voss Rd.,  
 Houston  
 RSVP by Nov. 30  
[kgordon@sjgs.org](mailto:kgordon@sjgs.org)

Warm up a girl's heart in our outreach program.  
 Bring a pair of fuzzy socks to donate.



## USG Supports Outreach

The United States Gypsum Company in Galena Park recently showed their support of GSSJC through their Give Local Grant program. This gift is dedicated to the Girl Scouts Outreach program which provides the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to girls in underserved communities.



GSSJC recently collaborated with the City of Galena Park's Mayor's Office, Galena Park Police and Fire Department to host a two-day Summer Camp for more than 80 girls focusing on women in leadership. The camp allowed girls to expand their knowledge on STEM, grow an appreciation for nature and to experience the great outdoors all while learning important skills that teach valuable life lessons, like self-reliance, leadership, and perseverance.

At GSSJC, we are thankful for community partners such as the United States Gypsum Company for their support in building girls of courage, confidence, and character who will make the world a better place. To find out how you and your company can support under-served girls in our community contact Ruth Delaunay at [rdelaunay@sjgs.org](mailto:rdelaunay@sjgs.org).



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