

The Golden Link

The official publication of Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council. | Volume 50 Issue 2 | Summer 2024



**Join the fun
and adventure
of a Special
Interest Group!**

**Renew your
membership
by June 28 to
earn a special
patch!**



Raising Awesome Girls

7 Ways to Be Respectful (And a One-Step Trick to Getting More Respect From Others)

While respect should be second nature to us (Aretha made darn sure we knew how to spell it and practice it), there seems to be a major deficit of it in our world today. From mean tweets to cliquish behavior on the playground, respect is plainly overdue for a comeback. The good news is that you can play a big role in starting a respect revolution just by modeling respect for yourself and teaching your girl to follow suit.

Here are 7 simple ways you can teach your girl to be more respectful today:

Listen and be present

If someone else is speaking, give them the courtesy of listening to and thinking about what they've said before responding, forming your own opinions, or dismissing theirs. Your girl may not agree with what's being said, and that's absolutely OK (and sometimes important!) for her to express, but she should wait her turn, pay attention, and avoid jumping to conclusions. You never know, what someone says could surprise her!

Be thoughtful of others' feelings

Talk to your girl about how she might feel angry, sad, or even embarrassed if someone rolled their eyes at one of her ideas or talked over her when she was trying to speak. It might feel even worse to hear that someone was calling her names or making fun of her. Since she doesn't want to feel that way, she should do her best to ensure others aren't made to feel that way either.

Acknowledge others and say thank you

If your girl did half the work on a science project, but her partner took all the credit, how would she feel? Probably pretty upset. Similarly, if she made a gift for another girl in school, and that friend never said thank you, she might feel confused or think the gift wasn't very good. Letting others know that their efforts matter and thanking them for their time, work, and/or thoughtfulness doesn't need to take more than a few seconds, but it makes a big difference.

Address mistakes with kindness

Everyone, even your girl, makes mistakes! Have her think back to a time she messed up a little. Would she want to be called out and humiliated in front of her friends, or would she have felt better if someone pulled her aside, gently told her about the mistake, and then helped her to improve next time? We're all human and we're all going to need a helping hand now and then. Helping others grow from their mistakes with dignity is just the decent thing to do.



Make decisions based on what's right, not who you like

Sometimes it might feel easier for your girl to go along with the crowd and either mimic the behavior of her friends or choose their ideas over those of others out of a sense of loyalty or to gain favor with more popular kids, but that's not smart or fair. Talk to your girl about weighing the pros and cons of the choices she makes in her daily life, about thinking about what's right, and what will lead to the best outcomes for all involved. Sometimes it takes guts to stand up and support less popular views, but that doesn't mean it's not worth doing. Not only do people's feelings get hurt when we play favorites, but we can sometimes make poor decisions that have even bigger consequences.

Respect physical boundaries

Everyone's body is their own, and everyone has the right to decide the level and type of physical contact they're comfortable with. For instance, some people love to be greeted with hugs, some people don't, and that's OK! Talk to your girl about the importance of respecting people's personal preferences and how she should insist on others respecting her boundaries as well.

Live and let live

In this great big world of ours, there are a billion different ways to live life, and that's what makes life interesting! As long as everyone is being respectful and no one is hurting anyone else, it's important to take a step back and accept that there's no one right way to exist on this planet.

And finally, how can your girl get more respect in her life?

Talk to her about the word integrity. Someone who has integrity is honest, is true to their word, does the best they can, and owns up to their shortcomings without making excuses, covering it up, or passing the blame onto someone else. Nobody's perfect, but when your girl lives her life with integrity, she'll earn others' respect and be able to feel good about who she is as a person—and she'll make others feel better in the process.

For more articles like this, visit www.girlscouts.org and find Raising Awesome Girls.





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and Chair of the Board**
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Mission Statement

GSSJC: Girl Scouts builds girls of courage, confidence and character, who make the world a better place.

DEIB Statement

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council fosters belonging and respect for all girls. We empower all girls, volunteers and staff to fulfill their potential and make the world a better place. Our Girl Scout Promise drives us to provide diverse, equitable and inclusive experiences where all girls, volunteers and staff are confident they belong. We stand firm in these commitments and united by these ideals.

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Troop 114155 participated in the Conroe Go Texan Parade. The Brownies earned the Celebrating Community badge and all the troop got a parade fun patch. See more Scrapbook photos on page 38.

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Join your friends at
Overnight and Day
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www.unitedwayhouston.org/icj and start your
integrated client journey.



Betsy Kamin
President of the Council
and Chair of the Board

We recently celebrated the more than 100 Girl Scouts who received Gold Awards this year. Seniors and Ambassadors can earn the highest award in Girl Scouting by addressing an issue that's important to them. Girls build a team of trusted adults, peers, and community leaders to guide them through challenges and support their success in executing a plan that brings lasting change to their community.

While doing so, they learn organization, collaboration, project management, and leadership skills. Many Gold Award Girl Scouts have earned college acceptance and scholarships based partly on their Gold Award experience. There are some exciting Gold Award project summaries for you to read in this issue.

We also recently held our Adult Recognition Event to honor

volunteers who exceed expectations to help support our mission. They play a vital role in building girls with courage, confidence, and character every day. We can't express enough appreciation for their time and support and for being caring adults who provide positive guidance to our girls.

If your daughter enjoys being a Girl Scout and would like to continue in the next year, now is the time to renew her membership for the 2024-2025 season! The Early Bird season is a terrific opportunity to secure your spot and receive a free Early Bird patch featuring our mascot Rosie the Roseate Spoonbill. Girls and adults can renew their memberships early until June 28. We want all members to take advantage of early renewal and be ready for new adventures!

Early Bird renewal can save time for parents, who will have one less task during the busy back-to-school season. Also, it gives parents and their girls peace of mind knowing that they will have a troop spot in the fall. Furthermore, troop leaders can plan early for the new year when they know how many girls will return to their troop.

There's about a month left to renew early. We encourage you to do so soon. Visit the council website or read this issue to learn how to register early. We hope to see you all in 2024-2025! Summer is just around the corner, and although many troops take a break or meet less often during this time of year, Girl Scout programming continues year-round. We highly recommend girls attend summer camp because it's a transformative experience. Girls learn more about themselves and discover their full potential while having fun.

At Adventure Park, a girl may conquer her fear of heights by zip-lining between tall trees. A girl who has never been away from home may discover at Camp Misty Meadows that she can be self-reliant. And the shy girl might return home with delightful stories about all the new friendships she made while foraging for food and cooking over a fire she built at Case Mare. All these experiences take place in a safe environment under the guidance of our trained staff.

Spots for summer camp are filling up fast, so check the council website www.gssjc.org/summercamp to see camp descriptions and register.

As always, be kind, be safe, and have a great summer!

Shop Hours

Program Place for Girls

3000 Southwest Freeway, Houston
713-292-0247
Tues. – Thurs. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Fri. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Imperial Valley

15800 Imperial Valley Dr., Houston
281-447-8870
Tues. – Thurs. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Fri. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Lufkin

1202 College Drive, Lufkin
936-634-4688
Tues. and Thurs. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed June 11 – Aug. 5

Beaumont

700 North Street, Suite F,
Beaumont
409-832-0556 Ext. 1500
Tues. to Thurs. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Closed June 11 – Aug. 5

Westside

Wednesday pickup only:
10 a.m. – 4 p.m. No in-person shopping.
Provide min 24 hour notice on orders by
contacting shop at shop@sjgs.org or
713-292-0247
531 FM 359 South, Brookshire

We're hiring!

If you are ready to embark on a rewarding career and make a difference in our community, explore job openings at www.gssjc.org/careers.

Stafford

12300 Parc Crest, Ste 170, Stafford
281-670-5982
Tues. – Thurs. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Fri. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Bay Area

1300 A Bay Area Blvd., Ste. 106,
Houston
281-282-6077
Tues. – Thurs. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Fri. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Cypress/Jersey Village

19708 Northwest Freeway, Suite
100, Jersey Village
346-818-3227
Tues. – Thurs. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Fri. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Sat. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.



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Our 211 Texas/ United Way HELPLINE is here 24/7.
Just dial 211 for help in 150 Languages or go to www.unitedwayhouston.org/icj and start your integrated client journey.

Be sure to renew your membership!

Clip these dates and save!

Important Dates

- May 19 Gold Award Ceremony
- Aug. 10 Membership Kickoff
- Aug. 24 Educator Preview Day
- Oct. 8 Success To Significance

Aim for Consistency and Learn Perseverance, Responsibility in G.R.I.T.

Sofia M. used to go to the shooting range to watch her older sister, Ariana, participate in Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council's rifle program. She was only 3 years old then, but now, as an eighth grader, she is doing more than watching. She's improving her marksmanship skills in Girls Rifle Instruction and Training, or in G.R.I.T.

Since joining the special interest group three years ago, Sofia says she has learned the various shooting positions and how to control her breathing to make the best shots. Learning shooting skills and techniques has made her feel more confident and knowledgeable about guns, which are tools of the sport.

“I like the shooting because I like being in control of where the shot goes, and I get to practice in the program,” Sofia said. “Sometimes I get frustrated when I don’t get the right shot. I have learned how to be more patient and to be calm.”

The rifle program is one of the newest GSSJC special interest groups launched in 2018. The first girls to join the program had the honor of naming it. The program offers shooting sessions every second Saturday of each month at Camp Misty Meadows. The council plans to build a new premier target sports facility at the Treelake complex. It will house G.R.I.T., archery, and other target sports.

Girls must be 12 years old to take the Introduction of Rifle Program class, which teaches girls the basics of gun safety and how to be a responsible shooter. The next level class is Rifle Marksmanship.

The girls can attend one or more rifle marksmanship sessions. Girls can join G.R.I.T. after attending both classes. The program has an executive board and elected officers created by the girls in 2019. The board plans field trips to different target ranges and decides how the group will spend proceeds from their Fall Product and cookie sales.

Becky Perry, a GSSJC volunteer and rifle instructor, says shooting is one of the safest sports girls can participate in. Guns are tools of the sport, and girls must develop physical control to use them correctly. They also learn perseverance, problem-solving, self-evaluation, persistence, and responsibility when shooting pellet guns.

During the rifle marksmanship sessions, girls work as a group to decide on four shooting positions they want to try for the first time or the positions they want to improve. They learn to shoot in the bench rest, prone, sitting, kneeling, and standing positions. Bench rest is the easiest and most accurate position, while the standing position is the hardest and least accurate position, Perry said.



GRIT

Trained instructors guide you as you learn basic firearm safety and the proper way to handle a rifle. You will receive your own pair of safety glasses and learn to shoot at the bench rest position, then learn more shooting positions and how to improve your shooting skills in each. You may register for and attend as many of the monthly sessions as you would like.

Who: Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors
(12 years and older)

Where: Misty Meadows Ranch

Training Required: Training is part of the regular meetings.

When: Once a month

Annual Membership Fee: \$20/girl

Other Costs: Monthly Practice - \$10/girl

The girls also work on breath control and paying attention to their heartbeat. Both can affect how the gun moves and shooting accuracy. “Every minute thing can affect the sport,” Perry said. “After a shot, I ask the girls to evaluate what happened in that moment so they can learn what they can do differently for their next shot.”

The girls in the program become consistent shooters as they grow in the program. When girls grasp a concept, the instructor encourages them to look around the group and find girls they can help. The girls step up and become leaders, said Perry, who teaches along with GSSJC volunteer Terry Kelley. They are both trained rifle instructors and range safety officers.

Sofia plans to continue in the program through her Ambassador level. Her goal is to increase her shooting range and become a better shooter. She encourages other girls to try the program because they can learn a lot about rifle shooting and themselves. Plus, it's fun, she said.

Girls Connect with Nature and New Friends in Backpacking Program

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 a Cadette or above 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 push their comfort zones.

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 two to three times a year. In previous years, backpacking Girl Scouts have traveled to the Rocky, Smoky, and Appalachian mountains. Girls also participate in service projects for state and national parks in Texas by rebuilding and preserving hiking trails for others.



Backpacking

The Backpacking Special Interest Group (SIG) hosts several backpacking trips a month from October through May. These trips are a great way for novice backpackers to gain skills by learning from experienced backpackers, and it's an excellent way for both experienced and novice backpackers to meet more girls who share the same interests and love for the outdoors. Don't worry if you don't have all the necessary backpack equipment for weekend trips. We provide low-cost gear rentals. So get out on a trip and join the fun! To get started, you just need to attend one of our Backpacking Orientation weekends at Camp Arnold.

Who: Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors, and Adults

Where: Camp Arnold – Backpacking orientation

When: Trips are generally scheduled once a month

Training Required: Backpacking Orientation – offered three times per year

Annual Membership Fee: \$25/girl

Other Costs: Trip Fees (vary based on length of trip)



Overcome Fear and Gain Confidence in GSSJC's Sailing Program

Karina D., a Girl Scout who attends George Ranch High School in Sugar Land, used to think sailing was a "weird sport" until she participated in a sailing class at her mother's suggestion. She attended the class with her best friend, who didn't enjoy it, but the experience converted Karina. She joined the Mariner program soon after and is now enjoying her fifth year, serving in a leadership role. "I never thought about what it would be like to be in the ocean," Karina said. "I found out, and I fell in love with sailing. I felt so free on the water. It's exhilarating."

The Mariner program is one of the oldest special interest groups of the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council. The program started about 50 years ago to provide individual girls who enjoy challenging outdoor adventures with an opportunity to specialize in an activity outside of traditional Girl Scout activities. The Mariners meet most weekends during the fall and spring at GSSJC's Casa Mare in Seabrook. There are also summer camp sailing programs at Casa Mare. The girls receive instruction from trained adult volunteers, older Mariners, and mid-program Mariners who serve as on-the-water coaches.

Girls who want to join the program must have a swim card and complete the basic training course over two weekends. Girls learn everything from turning the boat upright if it tips over to how to do man overboard recovery. Many girls who join the program have never been on a sailboat before. By the end of the training, they will have learned how to sail a 14-foot sailboat.

Karina says learning how to sail is more challenging than learning math and science in school. "You can't read or study at home to learn sailing. You learn by practicing. I practiced and never gave up. Now I help run the basic sailing class." She recalls the first time she sailed solo in a Sunfish boat, a small boat all Mariners learn to sail. She remembers being frustrated when she couldn't catch the wind and kept drifting back to shore multiple times, going nowhere. However, after about 30 minutes of practice, she was sailing.

Robert Rice, a Mariner volunteer and avid sailor, says sailing isn't easy, but it's within every girl's reach. Girls don't have to be athletic or good students to be successful sailors. "It's an opportunity to try challenging things in an environment where failure has a soft landing," he said. "Sailing is fun because there is always something new to learn, some new skill to master."

Once they have completed the basic sailing class, girls are members of the Mariner program. They can come to camp for Sail for Fun Mariner weekends, take more advanced sailing classes, and help non-sailors experience the fun during Intro to Sailing weekends. The girls start sailing on small Sunfish boats and eventually learn to sail bigger boats.

Karina says her next challenge is to learn to sail a sloop sailboat and earn her sailing instructor certification. She has a crew and is learning all the sailing skills, like jibing and rigging more of the boat. She will take the skipper class next spring, followed by the captain class in the fall.

Besides learning how to sail, Karina has learned how to be a leader. Her fellow Mariners elected her as the commodore on the program's leadership team for the 2024 calendar year. The program has helped her develop self-confidence and discover her resiliency. While in middle school, she was insecure and had a tough time making friends. That changed after she joined the sailing program. All the older girls welcomed and accepted her and shared their love of sailing with her.

"Mariners has done so much for me and opened many doors for me," said Karina, who recently received the Girl Scout Presidential Service Award for logging 300 volunteer hours in Mariners. "I found a community that taught me what true friendship is like. I have friendships that will last a lifetime."



- Mariners

- As a Mariner you will learn how to sail, how to tie nautical knots,
- how to rig boats, how to rescue others, STEM concepts in sailing,
- and more!
-
- **Who:** Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors, and Adults
- **Where:** Casa Mare
- **When:** Weekends during the spring and fall
- **Training Required:** Completion of the Basic Sailing
- course (offered over two weekends in the spring
- and fall, and during the summer)
- **Annual Membership Fee:** \$10 per girl
- **Other Costs:** \$50+ per weekend (includes meals, lodging,
- and sailing)

.....

- Robert says it is important for younger girls to see
- older girls take command of the boat so they can get
- excited about the program and become part of the Mariner
- community. “Mariners is a community that is tight-knit,”
- he said. “Friendships are vibrant, powerful, and long-
- lasting. This community of friends is one of the most
- important parts of the program.”



Small Watercraft SIG

Join us for an exciting experience in canoeing, kayaking, and stand-up paddleboarding (SUP).

Our Small Watercraft Special Interest Group is our newest addition for Cadette girls and up interested in the world of small watercraft paddling such as canoeing, kayaking, and stand-up paddleboarding. You learn different paddling skills and techniques while experimenting with various watercrafts, exploring local waterways, and participating in lake camping adventures.

Throughout all the activities, you will also discover the fascinating history of small watercraft, acquiring navigation skills, understanding conservation principles, and connecting with nature.

To participate in the monthly small craft paddling programs, girls must be a current Cadette or higher Girl Scout and be a member of the Small Watercraft Special Interest Group. This SIG will meet once per month for practice toward GSSJC paddling levels based on age.

To join, register on the GSSJC event page under Small Watercraft SIG. The SIG fee is \$10. For more information, contact Gabrielle Garritson at ggarritson@sjgs.org. We look forward to seeing you on the water soon!

Girls Become STARS To Teach Other Girls Horse-riding Skills

STARS – Super Terrific Awesome Riding Scouts. Girls who join the program must complete three levels of equine training to become program aides – or STARS. These are girls who are interested in teaching horse skills to younger girls.

The horse training takes place at Camp Pryor during the fall and spring. Girls must be at least 13 years old and complete Saddlehorns, Rustlers, and Wranglers levels. Saddlehorns is the first level of training for girls who are at least in the fifth grade. Girls learn about grooming and leading, equine nutrition, horse colors, basic horse safety, and riding skills at a walk. Girls can work with horses at four of the six stations.

Rustlers is the second level and is an intermediate program that continues the skills started in Saddlehorns. Girls learn to saddle a horse, how to clean and maintain tack, and the basics of horse anatomy. They also learn riding skills – walk and trot – and horse safety.

The third level is Wranglers. At this level, girls build upon the skills and knowledge they gained in earlier training sessions. Girls learn equine healthcare and conformation, and how to bridle a horse. They learn horse safety and riding skills – walk, trot, and canter.

When girls choose to go to final level of STARS and become program aides, the program requests that they work at least one fall and one spring session at Camp Pryor per year. They also attend Program Aide Training weekend, which focuses on helping girls improve their horse handling skills, teaching techniques, professionalism, and teamwork.



Equitation – SPURS & STARS

Do you love horses? Join the SPURS (Super People Using Riding Skills) at Misty Meadows Ranch, or the STARS (Super Terrific Awesome Riding Scouts) at Camp Pryor, and learn about horse safety, horse care, and riding skills, and help teach those skills to younger Girl Scouts. Register online for training in the fall or the spring or opt to attend SPURS training at summer overnight camp.

Who: Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors, and Adults. Younger girls may participate in STARS-led Wrangler, Rustler, and Saddlehorn sessions, and SPURS-led Love Hug and Groom and Troop Riding sessions.

Where: Misty Meadows Ranch (SPURS) and Camp Pryor (STARS)

When: Weekends throughout the school year

Annual Membership Fee: \$25/girl

Training Required: SPURS Training (offered three times per year) or completion of the STARS program (offered two times per year)

Other Costs: Weekend meals

Horseback-riding Program Helps Girls Blossom Into Leaders

Cadette Isabella W. used to feel shy and nervous around adults and older girls before she joined SPURS, a Girl Scouts of San Jacinto equitation program. However, her involvement in SPURS has since transformed her into a curious leader who enjoys helping other girls.

For Catherine B., a Girl Scout Ambassador, the program has helped her improve her public speaking skills and grow as a leader who enjoys teaching others. After six years in the program, Catherine will attend West Texas A & M University in the fall to study the equine industry and business, where she hopes to join the university's competition team.

SPURS – Super People Using Riding Skills – is one of the council's special interest groups. It teaches girls how to ride and care for horses while helping them learn new skills they can use throughout life. The horse-riding fun happens at the McNair Equestrian Center at GSSJC's Misty Meadows Ranch in Conroe. It is a popular program with more than 100 girls and 84 adult members.

Girls must complete a SPURS training weekend in the summer or January to enter the program. Stephanie Bazile, the equitation volunteer coordinator, said SPURS is a space to build leadership through horses. Girls come in timid, and by the time they reach their junior or senior year, they have transformed into confident leaders "It's so exciting to see them blossom and come out of their shell," Stephanie said.

Now in her third year as a SPURS member, Isabella said the program has helped her become more confident and outgoing. "Now, if someone asks for a volunteer,

my hand is the first one up. I learned how to use my voice. I'm comfortable asking questions and speaking up for myself. I know it's a good thing. It shows growth," Isabella said. She said she had never been around horses until her Brownie troop visited Misty Meadows. The troop participated in a trail ride and Love, Hug, and Grooms - an opportunity for Daisies and Brownies to brush and pat the miniature and full-size horses. The girls also learned about SPURS and the requirements to become a member.

Isabella was "super excited" to join SPURS. "Being around them and being able to sit on a horse was mindboggling to me. At first, it was a little nerve-wracking, but once I was up there, the SPURS were there to talk us through it. I loved it the first time I did it."

Catherine has been around horses since she was 6 years old, and like Isabella, she joined SPURS in the sixth grade after her troop visited Misty Meadows. She said she loves horses because they make her feel calm. But it has been more than just the horses that have kept her in the program. "I stayed because of the friendships and amazing experiences," Catherine said. "I have a lot of close friends."



Girls must be in at least sixth grade to join the group. Each girl can progress through five training levels and pass written tests. With each level, girls learn more advanced skills and take on more responsibilities under the supervision of older Girl Scouts in the group and adult volunteers. At Level 1, for example, girls learn the basics, such as horse safety, and how to groom, tack, and care for horses. As they advance to Level 2, they continue to learn more advanced riding skills and strengthen their leadership skills by teaching Level 1 SPURS.

Girls at Levels 4 and 5 can work as leaders and instructors in the horse arena. They mentor and teach younger girls about horse care, how to correctly steer a horse, and the importance of barn and safety rules. The girls also lead troop rides and supervise Love, Hug, and Grooms. "At the higher levels, girls should be able to tack up and work with any horse in the barn and be able to walk, trot, and canter a horse," said Mariah Balmer, an outdoor experience manager. "They have to put in a lot of challenging work and dedication and improve their skills."

As a bonus for the Level 3 and above SPURS, the girls can become members of the council's parade team that represents the council at local parades, including the Houston Rodeo and Stock Show parade. Isabella is not a member of the parade team but is interested in becoming a member soon.

She is a member of the council's equestrian vaulting team and the SPURS advisory board. She has been a part of the vaulting team for two years, performing freestyle routines on a specially trained horse, and recently qualified for a national competition for which she is now preparing. Isabella describes vaulting as a gymnastics beam routine but on a horse. Judges score riders in several categories, including artistic performance and interpretation of the music. Another GSSJC Girl Scout and SPURS member, Kaycee Be. also qualified for the national competition.

As an advisory board member, Isabella represents girls in Levels 1 and 2. If girls have an issue, they can come to Isabella, and she will help resolve the issue, big or small. Catherine, a Level 5 SPURS, served as the advisory board's president last year, helping resolve girl issues and make program improvements. The board is also responsible for planning activities such as fall festivals and the 100-Hour celebration, which recognizes girls who have volunteered 100 hours in the program.

Besides serving on the advisory board, Catherine also worked as an equestrian aide for two years, teaching younger girls how to care for the horses and leading them on trail rides and, for the last two years, she has been a member of the SPURS horseback-riding competition team.



Girls who like to dance and take the lead will get plenty of opportunities to do both when they join the Green Starlettes Dance Team. This special interest group is for girls who enjoy performing, showing off their team spirit, and having fun with friends while working together on dance routines. Any Girl Scout Junior and above can join, regardless of experience. All they need is a positive attitude and willingness to learn.

“The Green Starlettes is a wonderful all-inclusive dance program that offers so much more than just dance. With this program, my daughter has learned great leadership skills and how to be more confident,” said Christy Tahin, North Division Director.

The team performs at events held at various venues such as the University of Houston, Rice University, Harlem Globe Trotters exhibitions, Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo, and dozens of holiday parades. Plus, council events like Brownie Magic.

Girls must be on the team for at least a year to try out for an officer position. The highest leadership position is general, followed by colonel down to first and second lieutenant. Each rank has specific responsibilities, such as choreographing, teaching, and mentoring. Each division has its officers, but they all come together for monthly leadership meetings to discuss upcoming events and other team business.



leadership when needed. It has opened up my mind to the endless possibilities for my future," she said.

Emily F. is a colonel on the Officer Squad. She said she'll never forget the performance opportunities like leading the Starlettes in the Houton Livestock Show & Rodeo parade. "Being a part of the Green Starlettes Dance Team has given me a family of girls I have grown to love," Emily said. "I've gained lifelong friendships while being a part of the Green Starlettes Dance Team and will always look back on all of my amazing memories of the program."

The team's season runs from August through May. During the fall and winter, the program focuses on camps, half-time shows, events, and parades.

During the spring, the team shifts to preparing for its annual self-produced spring show. Each division performs a dance routine. The officers choose the theme each year, but the division can select whatever dance style it likes - novelty, modern, hip-hop, or jazz. In addition to division dances, each squad has its dance, and girls can also choose to do specialty dances, such as solos, duos, or trios.

The program closes in May with a festive banquet, where girls receive recognition for their participation, and they appoint new officers for the following season.

- Love to dance? Join Green Starlettes! No previous
- experience or tryouts required.

- **Cost:** Registration is \$40 (includes patch and T-shirt. Other uniform pieces and equipment separate)
-
-



Adventure Awaits at Girl Scout Summer Camp!

Camp is important! We're all surrounded by screens—phones, laptops, TVs, you name it. Sometimes, you just want a break from it all, right? We totally get that. Our staff are friendly and caring. They'll help your girl navigate our progression programs and push her to take some healthy risks and experience new things that help build essential life skills, like:

- Interpersonal and social skills
- Conflict resolution and collaborative teamwork
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Confidence and independence



Scan code to register and find more about camp. Or go to www.gssjc.org/summercamp.

She'll have a blast playing, exploring, discovering who she is, and making memories that will last a lifetime.

Misty Meadows Ranch

	Week 1 June 9–15	Week 2 June 16–22	Week 3 June 23–29	Week 4 June 30 – July 3 Mini Week	Week 5 July 7–13	Week 6 July 14–20	Week 7 July 21–27
Br		• Br Gardener (Half Week) • Little Bits (Half Week)			• Br Gardener (Half Week) • Little Bits (Half Week)		• Br Gardener (Half Week) • Little Bits (Half Week)
Jr	• You can't do THAT at Camp! • Ranch Hand • Horsin' Around (1R) • Sure Saddles (DR)5th+	• Field to Fork • eQUESTrians (DR, 5th+)	• You can't do THAT at Camp! • Ranch Hand • Horsin' Around (1R) • Sure Saddles (DR)5th+	• Choose Your Own Adventure	• You can't do THAT at Camp! • eQUESTrians (DR, 5th+)	• Horsin' Around (1R) • Sure Saddles (DR)5th+	• Field to Fork • eQUESTrians (DR, 5th+)
Cad	• Ranch Cook • Trailblazers (DR) • Sure Saddles (DR)5th+	• Crafting Cadettes • Trailblazers (DR) • eQUESTrians (DR, 5th+)	• Ranch Cook • Trotters (DR) • Sure Saddles (DR)5th+ • Vaulting 1 (DR)	• Choose Your Own Adventure • SPURS Training (DR, 7th+)	• Ranch Cook • Vaulting 1 (DR) • Trotters (DR) • eQUESTrians (DR, 5th+)	• Glamper • Vaulting 2 (DR) • Sure Saddles (DR)5th+ • Misty Riders (DR)	• Photography Session • Misty Riders (DR) • Trailblazers (DR) • eQUESTrians (DR, 5th+)
Sr/ Amb	• Bits & Bridles (Week 1) (DR) • Trailblazers (DR) • Sure Saddles (DR)5th+ • CIT/WIT II (Week 1)	• Bits & Bridles (Week 2) (DR) • Trailblazers (DR) • CIT/WIT II (Week 2)	• Trotters (DR) • Sure Saddles (DR)5th+ • Vaulting 1 (DR) • CIT/WIT I (Week 1)	• Choose Your Own Adventure • SPURS Training (DR) • Equestrian Aide (DR) • CIT/WIT I (Week 2)	• Vaulting 1 (DR) • Trotters (DR)	• Voyager • Vaulting 2 (DR) • Sure Saddles (DR) 5th+ • Misty Riders (DR) • Equestrian Aide (DR)	• Camp Fandom • Misty Riders (DR) • Trailblazers (DR) • Equestrian Aide (DR)

Welcome to Misty Meadows Ranch, where all campers experience the fun of a ranch camp! Campers will get to pet a horse this summer, visit the chickens and goats, and help tend the garden. We'll also offer camp sessions tailored to interests in arts and crafts, glamping, and cooking!

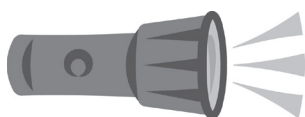
Note only sessions marked with 1R (one ride) or DR (daily ride) will ride a horse during camp session.



Casa Mare

Casa	Week 6 July 14–20	Week 7 July 21–27
Brownie	• Adventurer (half week)	• Brownie Pirate's Plunder
Junior	• Junior Olympics • Pirates of the Bay	• Explorer • Pirates of the Bay
Cadette	• Cadette Olympics • Ship Wrecked • Basic Sailing (11+) • Sail Aide (13+)	• Wanderer • Ship Wrecked • Basic Sailing (11+) • Sail Aide (13+)

This summer we are bringing traditional overnight summer camp back to Casa Mare! Join us for a week (or half week if you're a Brownie) for some time by the bay! Girls will enjoy themed weeks plus archery, outdoor fun, and daily swimming. Casa campers will have fun with their session groups and with all the girls at Casa this summer at our fun and exciting All Camp activities!



Summer overnight camp registration has opened and some sessions have filled but many still have openings. You can also be added to the wait list for full sessions.

Camp Agnes Arnold

	Week 1 June 9 –15	Week 2 June 16 – 22	Week 3 June 23 –29	Week 4 June 30 – July 1 Mini Week	Week 5 July 7 –13
Daisy				• Daisy Day (July 2)	
Br	• Magical Mermaids	• Firelight and Fairytail (Half Week)	• Magical Mermaids	• Me and My Gal • Me and My Guy	• Firelight and Fairytail (Half Week)
Jr	• Explorer	• H-2 Whoa! • Junior Survivalist	• Explorer	• Me and My Gal • Me and My Guy	• Junior Survivalist
Cad	• Water You Doing Tonight? • Adventure Trek	• Night Owls • Wanderer	• Water You Doing Tonight?, Adventure Trek	• Me and My Gal • Me and My Guy	• Night Owls • Wanderer • Adventure Trek
Sr/Amb	• Adventure Trek • CIT/WIT II (Week 1)	• CIT/WIT II (Week 2)	• Adventure Trek • CIT/WIT I (Week 1)	• CIT/WIT I (Week 2)	• SPARK • Adventure Trek

Located near Conroe, Camp Agnes Arnold offers a wide variety of classic camp activities, including archery, nature hikes, arts and crafts and much more! Shadow Lake is the main attraction, giving campers 35 acres of cool, refreshing fun—girls can canoe, fish, swim, explore nature, and more around the lake.



GSSJC Day Camp Program Place for Girls and Katy Mills Mall

Week 1	Week 2	Week 3	Week 4	Week 5	Week 6	Week 7
June 10-14	June 17-21	June 24-28	July 8-12	July 15-19	July 22-26	July 28- Aug. 2
Into the Spotlight	Wacky Science	Camp Quest	Mystery Academy	Culinary Cookoff	Puppet Pals	Art Explorers



Scan QR Code to register for Council Day Camps.

Join us for a full-day, staff-led day camp at the Program Place for Girls or the the Girl Scout Resource Center at Katy Mills Mall. Girls can work on badges, sing new songs, and make new friends. Camp sessions will focus on the arts, games, STEAM, and crafts. Snacks are provided daily, but a sack lunch and water bottle are required. Camp is from 8 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday through Friday. Contact daycamp@sjs.org if you have any questions.

Week 1 - Into the Spotlight

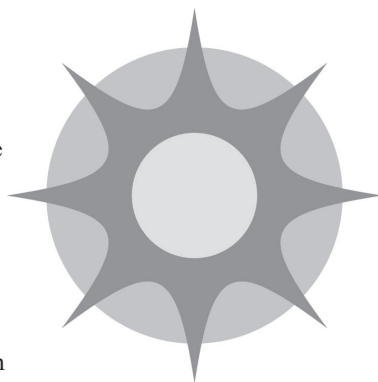
Work together to write an exciting play script based on a fairy tale. Create the set, props, and costumes, and at the end of the week, put on a dazzling show for your family and fellow campers. The stage awaits.

Week 2 - Wacky Science

Get your mad scientist on at camp with some wacky experiments. We'll be making toothpaste for elephants, colorful slimes, and you'll even see an exploding watermelon.

Week 3 – Camp Quest

Join us for a magical week of fantasy adventure. You will help create our very own fantasy world for an immersive storytelling game experience. Work with your fellow campers to create our own band of adventurers to defeat bad guys, solve puzzling challenges, and save the day at Camp Quest.



Week 4 – Mystery Academy

Learn the mysterious skills of the spy such as writing in codes and making invisible ink. Learn about famous spies and practice solving puzzles. Then, put your skills to the test at the end of the week by solving a real-life mystery.

Week 5 – Culinary Cook-off

Master the basics of culinary arts and learn a collection of simple recipes. At the end of the week participate in a friendly cooking competition.

Week 6 – Puppet Pals

Do you love art and theater? Explore the magic of puppets in this week of silly puppet fun. Create your very own homemade felt puppet pals and put on some wacky puppet performances.

Week 7 – Art Explorers

Find your new favorite form of art with us as we learn about different ways to express yourself. Sculpt with clay, paint on a real canvas, and make a special collage.

Gold Award Girl Scouts

The Girl Scout Gold Award represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouting. The award recognizes girls in grades 9-12 who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through sustainable and measurable Take Action projects. Since 1916, girls have successfully pursued the highest award, an act that indelibly marks them as accomplished members of their communities and the world.



Meredith Beeson addressed the lack of safe housing for endangered bats in her community. With her team, she researched and built three environmentally friendly and sustainable bat houses (with room for colonies of 200 to 300 bats) that were installed in Pearland parks. They also hosted a workshop for younger girls to learn about these bats and created informational brochures.



Catalina Cortes wanted to help seniors struggling with dementia and had been researching the connection between music and brain activity. This made her decide to coordinate volunteers to play music and sing to the residents of an assisted living facility. Her high school's music and memory club will continue the musical visits and take care of the sensory garden they also created.



Shantell Brown decided to improve the Junior Ranger Program at Texas State Parks for her project. She worked with interpretive rangers to create pages to a unique feature specific to each park and include an activity page with an answer key. With help from the Spanish Honor Society, she translated those pages into Spanish to reach a wider audience. She also created templates and gave them to the field interpretation coordinator to share with other rangers.



Allison Contreras studied American Sign Language throughout high school, so she designed her project to assist deaf students in need of medical attention at school. She created an illustrated booklet that enables students to communicate with school nurses and an accompanying video for classroom education. Her materials have been shared throughout Fort Bend ISD for continued use.



Jannah Bryant and her 13 volunteers educated the community about teen mental health. They held a pet therapy workshop for more than 100 teens and their families. Her team created weekly school announcements for a month. They also designed self-care calendars, which are posted on her school district's website providing students and families easy access to mental health tips and resources.



Dominique Cortez discovered a lack of dance studios that focus on teaching those with Down syndrome. She collaborated with Gigi's Playhouse, a nonprofit organization for children with Down syndrome, to create a three-week dance program for teens. She choreographed a short and fun dance routine that she taught to the kids. The routine helped improve participants' memorization skills and contributed to their physical health in a positive and entertaining form.



Elizabeth Bunch wants to be a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) nurse, so it was natural for her to do a project focused on newborns and helping them bond with their parents. She built, painted, and filled a bookshelf with books for a hospital NICU. Then with her team, Elizabeth designed and created a flyer to advertise her new informational website. She collected enough books to donate to two other local hospitals.



Lale Dean chose to focus her project on making books accessible to a community with no surrounding libraries for 10 miles. With assistance from various volunteers and artists, she designed a blueprint for a bilingual Little Free Library in Smither Park and built it. The library will make a lasting impact as it is constantly turning over new books and will be supported by donation bins at various Orange Show properties.



Ariel DeWalt provided residents who live in a food desert with information to grow local vegetables and prepare nutritious meals at home. She partnered with a forager camp instructor who oversees a community garden that had fallen on tough times. Together, they invited high school students to the garden for a day to rebuild it. Ariel spread awareness about the garden by giving two presentations at the local YMCA. She also published a website and article about food deserts.



Isha Kura volunteered at her local hospital and saw a need to bring some fun distractions into the children's waiting area. She coordinated a toy drive and built shelves to organize the toys. Her team also designed an activity book which included origami and other activities. The hospital's Child Life program will work with the VT Seva volunteer group to continue the toy drive annually.



Carolyn Durso noticed a gap in representative literature for children with rare diseases or chronic illnesses after she was diagnosed with Hypermobility Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome. For her project she researched, illustrated, wrote, and printed a children's book, "You're Not Alone Little Zebra," to help give these children a sense of community. She also created a website with a video of her reading the book. Those affected by rare disease or chronic illness can request a copy.



Kara LeBrun worked with her team of seven volunteers to design and plant a sustainable architecture plan for a 9,100-square-foot esplanade at the 2300 block of Sunset Blvd. She and her team worked with the Southampton Place Homeowners Association and the surrounding community. They also educated the community about sustainable landscaping. Five households pledged to maintain and upkeep the improved esplanade.



Arnaz Irani saw the need for suitable ways for teens to de-stress, so she and her team collected art supplies and placed stations in 16 classes at two different schools. These stations, along with activity guides she created, provide spaces for students to relax and de-stress in the classroom. Arnaz also used her own artistic skills to create two stop-motion animation films about the importance of managing stress for mental health.



Shelby Morrison helped The Moses Closet with its facility needs. The nonprofit provides tangible items needed by foster and adoptive children and their families. With help from her team, she completed physical updates to the building, added a bicycle rack, improved the organization of donations, and introduced a Lean toolkit to the organization's board of directors and put it online for others to access.



Rachel Kee held an awareness week at her school to improve mental health. Daily topics included hobbies, meditation, exercise, and the names of mental health providers and counselors. She shared the framework, goals, and outcomes of this week with the school district superintendent, eleven other high schools, and state senators and representatives.



Danica Nichols created a student club about how personal biases and privilege affect and endanger marginalized communities. She included students, peers, and adults who had personally been affected by the topic. They spoke and shared their personal experiences. She held two meetings per month over the school year, which encouraged empathy and involved outside organizations to continue bringing awareness to these hardships.



Sarina Khairah created a curriculum for a series of five dance classes at Gigi's Playhouse, a nonprofit that supports those with Down syndrome. She wanted to share her love of dance with a population that does not have the same opportunities to make a connection between music and physical activity. Those with Down syndrome also suffer from decreased muscle tone. Sarina also recorded a series of stretching and exercise videos, posted them on YouTube for easy access.



Jordann Owings wanted children to improve their large motor skills and get outside. She worked with her volunteers to research, design, and create a sensory walk at the preschool where she is a substitute. They included a survey to evaluate its effectiveness and trained the teachers on how to use the walk and incorporate it into their lessons. They gave a presentation and recorded it so the preschool director can use it during annual training.



Cheyenne Pacheco and her team held a bike workshop that included information on road safety and bike maintenance. This project was developed after her friend was in a bike accident. The team also held a bike rodeo where they rode their bikes around the block to demonstrate what they learned. The team formed a bike club that will be continued by the neighborhood center, which plans to repeat this event.



Evelyn Riha focused her project on rebuilding a garden at the Cy-Fair Independent School District Science Resource Center. She added two rain barrels and a spacious compost bin. During this process, she and her team also created multiple educational videos which will be used with the current curriculum for the elementary students in CFISD, thanks to assistance from the curriculum coach at the center.



Diya Patel wanted to spread awareness about children who don't have access to school supplies. Working with several organizations, she created a slideshow presentation to raise awareness and placed it on a website she designed. The website includes links to other websites for those who need more information. She and her team created a tote box for community donations for a school in the neighborhood.



Rachel Roth helped other Girl Scouts recognize the value of older adults after discovering that their loneliness and isolation is partly due to a lack of visitors. She worked with troop leaders and event coordinators to create resource kits to assist in planning visits to these facilities. The kits include scheduling tips, seasonal cards, caroling booklets, crafts, "get to know you" questions, and other ideas to foster connections. Additionally, she created a project website to share these resources.



Chloe Phan designed a plan to protect and nurture pollinators on her school's grounds. With her 20 volunteers, she designed, built, and planted a 150-square-foot cinder block-raised garden and a composting system that will last up to 80 years when maintained properly. Student groups and teachers, and more than 80 people thus far, are able to grow vegetables, conduct experiments, improve mood, and experience time in nature.



Sydney Shield addressed the issue of declining pollinators in Texas, especially native bees, for her project. She and her team of eight volunteers designed, built, and installed three bee houses at Cedar Springs Ranch and two at the Houston Arboretum. She also created videos with building tutorials and educational materials that she shared with area Girl Scout troops for continuous use.



Kaitlyn Raj focused on the issue of rising suicide rates in disadvantaged regions with limited access to mental health resources. With her team, she held four courses focused on physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, addressing significant resource deficiencies. She developed a comprehensive to facilitate learning and practical application of these concepts at Nerys Promise. The next group of volunteers have been trained.



Ainsley Shultz addressed the issue of non-compostable waste being dumped into storm drains. She partnered with the Galveston Bay Foundation and her local municipal utilities district to find a solution. They installed inlet notification plaques to raise awareness in the community and discourage illegal dumping into the drains. She gave presentations to various groups, which helped to recruit volunteers and get articles published in local newspapers.



Riley Rexford designed and published two magazines centered on sustainability initiatives. She shared the publications with high schools and made presentations to school clubs, shared facts on social media, and created a video presentation for future viewing. Her magazines and website, titled "Review and Renew" (reviewandnewgs.com), include a pledge for students to commit to continued environmental action.



Courtney Smith noticed that many girls at her school were dealing with stress and anxiety which affected them emotionally, physically, and mentally. She implemented three student workshops and created posters with information posters and QR codes to help them schedule appointments with the school counselor, who has agreed to continue the workshops and scheduling tips.



Annabelle Strange highlighted the contributions of women in the Armed Services by creating an interactive theatrical performance at Duchesne Academy. After interviewing five women veterans, she and her team designed different theatrical ways of presenting their stories. The script for the event has been provided to the school's drama department for future productions.



Hannah Washington aimed to simplify the college application process for peers. Her project includes a website covering topics such as essay writing, financial aid, and mental health support. She held two college prep workshops featuring admissions counselors and other organizations offering assistance with essay writing and scholarship information. Hannah had more than 200 attendees at her workshops and 300 visits to her website.



Sara Turner created and installed an herb and vegetable garden at the Atascocita Middle School campus for the special education department to use along with resources such as seeds, tools, and watering cans. With advice from the special ed teachers, she also created sharable lesson plans with videos for use with the garden. The teachers will continue to use the lesson plans with their students and share with other special education teachers.



Clare Waterman led her team of eight volunteers to create and deliver an activity book along with activity boxes for those with intellectual disorders within her school district. She collaborated with teachers with expertise in this area and tested her book with K-2 students who really enjoyed and engaged in the activities. The activity book and boxes are available in Waller ISD, and she has trained teachers on how to use them.



Laila Virani helped students who struggle with ADHD and organization. She and her team created over 60 downloadable templates and spreadsheets that assist people in optimizing various aspects of their lives, including academics, home management, financial planning, and more. They designed a website that features all these resources, plus research and recommendations to alternative sources that can help with planning and ADHD.



Irene Zheng led her volunteer team to provide exercise, dance, movement, and mediation for 15 senior citizens. They conducted 13 sessions, and their biggest rewards were getting to know the seniors and the connection created between her team and the seniors. She trained members of Dance Outreach, a local organization run by high school dancers that provides free dance classes to the Houston community, to continue these sessions in the future.

Girl Scout Uses Art to Educate About Historic Women

Parker Roberts has two passions – drawing and women's rights. She used both as inspiration to create her Gold Award project, an educational coloring book about notable women in history. Her online coloring book, Color Me Strong, enables girls to learn fascinating facts about historic women while using their creativity to color sketches of the subjects.

The website features 30 women, including sprinter Wilma Rudolph, the first American woman to win three gold medals at one Olympics; Sally Ride, the first American woman to fly in space; and Aung San Suu Kyi, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1991 for her non-violent struggle for democracy and human rights.

Parker used an online platform to help her create the sketches, incorporating realism and cartoon art forms. Each drawing is a PDF stored on her website, allowing visitors to print and color them however they choose. To inspire girls to see themselves as history makers, Parker added a blank page for girls to draw a self-portrait and share facts about themselves. They can also submit their picture and bio to the website if they choose.

"I'm so passionate about this project because women have been underestimated for so many years, and it relates to my interest in women's rights," Parker said. "I wanted to find women who haven't been recognized as much but have made huge contributions. This way children could color and gather information about women throughout history who have changed the world we know today."

The Gold Award is the highest award that Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts can earn. Girls who earn the Gold Award are required to choose an issue in the community that is important to them and create a plan to address it. They are further required to execute the plan as a project with a sustainable impact on the community. Parker decided to make an online coloring book so that it would be easily accessible to everyone, especially girls. Plus, it will live forever on the internet, she said.



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Parker led a group of six volunteers from her Girl Scout troop and youth group. The volunteers helped her find women to include in the coloring book. From there, she researched the women and created the website. Making the sketches was the most challenging – and enjoyable – part of her project, she said.

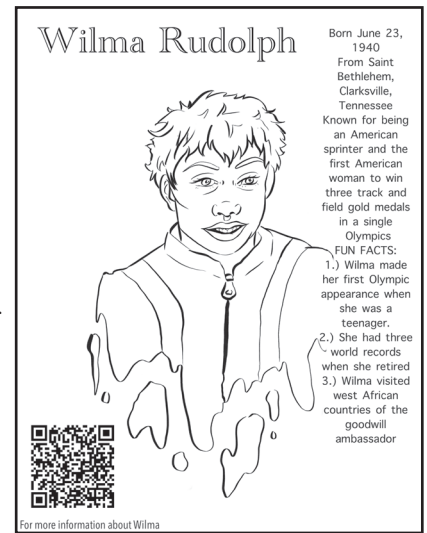
“I tried to get all the pictures to look similar to the person so people could recognize the person without having to really look at it,” she said. “It took about three hours for each woman.”

She also loved learning more about the intriguing women in her coloring book. She did not know some of them until she began her project. One of them was Rudolph whose story captivated Parker. After being diagnosed with polio as a child, doctors said Rudolph would never walk again. She later went on to claim the title of the fastest woman in America.

Parker is a senior at Dickinson High School. She has been a Girl Scout for 12 years and earned the Bronze Award as a Junior Girl Scout. “Girl Scouts has been such a positive experience in my life. I don’t know where I would be without it,” she said.

She will attend the University of Houston-Clear Lake in the fall and has received the Mark Kilroy Foundation Scholarship. She plans to study education and become a teacher.

Visit Color Me Strong at <https://sites.google.com/view/colormestrong/coloring-sheets>.



Troop Trip to Casa Mare Leads to Ocean Cleanup

While on a weekend trip to Casa Mare in Seabrook, the girls in Troop 143095 discovered a beautiful bay shore covered with more than just sand. They found plastic cups, food wrappers, socks, and a lost flip-flop sandal as they walked along the bay shore. The amount of trash surprised the girls, prompting them to swing into action. They decided to clean up the shore and educate the community about the dangers of ocean waste for their Bronze Award project.

“We looked at bay and saw how much trash was in the sand and water, and we started cleaning up some of the trash,” said troop member Claire. “We were aware of trash but unaware of how much trash was there.”

Claire’s troopmates include Junior Girl Scouts Abigail, Irelyn, Kaylee, Liesel, Lily, Lola, Mia, Miranda, Rozlyn, and Samantha. Only Junior Girl Scouts can earn the Bronze Award, the first award in the Highest Award progression. The group must collaborate on finding a community issue that is important to them and then create and execute a long-term solution to address it.

Troop 143095 cleaned up the bay shore near the Girl Scout House at Casa Mare that weekend, filling two trash bags. After the trip, the troop brainstormed ideas for a Bronze Award project. Two project ideas surfaced – create a garden or tackle the issue of ocean waste. The beach experience made such an impression on the girls that they felt compelled to protect the environment.

The girls researched ocean debris and learned it’s a global problem that affects the health and safety of humans, wildlife, and aquatic habitats. The debris also costs millions of dollars to clean up. They then recorded and edited a video sharing fun facts and posted it online. They shot the video at Casa Mare.

Next, the girls bought a bin and cleaning supplies using their troop funds. The bin is at the Girl Scout House, filled with trash bags, gloves, trash pickers, and other items to use for cleaning up the bay shore. Inside the bin, the troop placed a signed note with ocean waste facts and information about where to access their video. The troop also posted a flyer on the bin explaining its purpose so that when other troops visit Casa Mare, they can check out the cleaning supplies and contribute to keeping the shore and ocean clean.

“We wanted to step it up and do something with a big impact and get other Girl Scouts into it,” said troop member Rozlyn. “We learned the importance of cleaning and taking care of our community, and how it (ocean debris) affects things in our world.” The girls also learned the value of teamwork and compromise. Being a Girl Scout means learning how to be a leader, so “it was hard for some of them to be a participant instead of the leader,” said troop leader Brooke Hrach. “They learned, as fourth and fifth graders, that they can make an impact by working together as a team. They were very proud of what they had accomplished.”

Claire said the most challenging part of the project was learning to compromise. With so many competing ideas, it was sometimes difficult to agree on one idea, she said. “That was the biggest thing I learned. If you compromise, it will make the best impact, and it will all work out,” she said.



Girl Scout Designs Pet Food Box For Those In Need

As a pet owner, Jalynn M. wanted to give a helping hand to other pet owners who lack adequate funds or resources to care for their pets. Her solution? The Needy Pet Box. It's like a tiny library but offers free pet food and handmade toys instead of free books.

Jalynn came up with the idea for her Silver Award project. She built and then installed the pet box at a Huntsville dog park, fulfilling a need in her community. The box has been quite popular since its installation and thanks to generous community donations, it has been restocked several times.

Her journey to earning the Silver Award hit a few bumps, though. Early in the process, her project partner decided not to pursue the Silver Award. Jalynn chose to move forward with their idea of creating a food box for seniors, but the idea didn't receive approval from the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council because of concerns about health and safety issues. Rather than give up, she pivoted and found another community issue to address – people who need assistance taking care of their pets.

"My Needy Pet Box addresses this need by allowing those who need a helping hand to feed their dogs or cats. They get free pet food and toys for their pets," said Jalynn, whose favorite thing in the world is horses. "Homeless pet owners, as well as low-income households, can get a little assistance feeding their pets by visiting the pet box."

Only Cadettes can earn the Silver Award. Girls must choose a community issue that's important to them and create and execute a plan with a long-term solution to address it. Girls can work individually or with a group to complete their Silver Award project.

Jalynn drew a design plan for the box and then asked local retailers to donate the materials to build it. They came through, supplying her with wood, nails, screws, paint, roofing material, and a small window. She also received pet food from a local grocery store to stock the pet box. Her troopmates in Troop 103113 helped her make pet toys to contribute to the box.

"The hardest part of the project was getting the donations. I'm a shy person, so it put me outside of my comfort zone," Jalynn said. She also worked with Penny Joiner, her project advisor and director of the Huntsville Parks and Leisure Department, to get approval to install the pet box at Eastham-Thomason Park. Her dad helped her install it. They dug holes for the posts holding the box and secured them with cement.

Jalynn said she learned many things while pursuing the Silver Award, but the most surprising one was about herself. She discovered that she sometimes procrastinates. She said she's a busy person who enjoys playing tennis, dancing, and participating in the GSSJC horseback riding program. "It was hard to get started on my project because I was holding onto my free time, but once I got started, it let the fire under me to get it done," she said. Above all, the Silver Award allowed her to make a difference in her community, and "that's what gave me motivation," she said.



Adventure Awaits! Join Us for Family Camping Fun!

Looking for a family getaway? Look no further! Embark on a series of unforgettable outdoor adventures with our family camping events at beautiful Camp Pryor and Camp Robinwood. Each family camp event offers a wealth of activities for the whole family to enjoy. Typically, our family camps include archery, tie-dye, crafts, and various outdoor games. Additionally, depending on the season and facilitator availability, we offer canoeing, swimming, and fishing experiences.

- Discover Nature's Playground: From lakeshores to wooded trails, each camp provides the perfect backdrop for family bonding and outdoor exploration.
- Fun for All Ages: Our family-friendly activities cater to campers of all ages and experience levels. Whether you're embarking on a nature hike, crafting in the great outdoors, or gathering around the campfire for stories and s'mores, there's something for everyone to enjoy.
- Campfire Bonding: Share laughter, stories, and marshmallows as you gather 'round the campfire with fellow families. Our experienced staff ensures a safe and welcoming environment, where cherished memories are made under the starlit sky.
- Year-Round Adventure: With camping events scheduled throughout the year, there's always a new season to explore at camp. From the vibrant colors of spring to the cozy warmth of autumn, each camping trip promises its own unique delights.
- Connect with Nature: Unplug, unwind, and create lasting memories with your loved ones amidst the natural beauty of our camps.

Book your spot today! Family camps are scheduled during three-day weekends and other holidays to make them accessible to our families. Look out for events around Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Spring Break, Memorial Day, and Independence Day.

Don't miss out on a family adventure. Reserve your family's spot at our upcoming camping events and start counting down the days until your next outdoor family getaway. Spaces fill up fast, so secure your place in nature today! Please contact customer service with questions at customerservice@sjgs.org.

Distinguish Yourself With Girl Scout Highest Awards

The Bronze, Silver and Gold awards are the most prestigious leadership awards you can earn as a Girl Scout. Highest Award recipients have distinguished themselves as leaders and change-makers by creating a long-lasting impact in their community that focuses on any topic of their choice. How amazing is that?

Distinguish yourself with the Highest Awards by:

- Developing advanced leadership skills like communication skills, adaptability, responsibility, time management, and project management.
- Demonstrating self-motivation and commitment in an area that interests you.
- Stepping outside your comfort zone to collaborate with adult experts in the community.
- Earning scholarships and having a standout college/career resume!

	Bronze Award	Silver Award	Gold Award
Eligibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Junior Girl Scouts • Complete as a troop or group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cadette Girl Scouts • Complete as an individual or in a group of up to four girls 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts • Complete as an individual
Hours (PER GIRL)	20 hours	50 hours	80 hours
Prerequisites	Complete one Junior Journey, including the Take Action project.	Complete one Cadette Journey, including the Take Action project.	Complete two Senior/Ambassador Journeys OR the Silver Award and one Senior/Ambassador Journey, including the Take Action project/s. Complete Gold Award Orientation on gsLearn. (Sign up at this link: https://gssjc.me/gaorientation)
Approval Process	No project proposal required. Final Report submitted/approved by troop leader.	Required Project Proposal and Final Report approval from the Silver Award Committee. Responses typically take two to three weeks.	Required Project Proposal and Final Report approval from the Gold Award Committee. Reviews typically occur every two weeks.
Deadlines	Final Report due by Sept. 30 of the year the girl completes fifth grade (i.e. the fall of 6th grade).	Final Report due by Sept. 30 of the year the girl completes eighth grade. (i.e. the fall of 9th grade). Girls who have completed the eighth grade must submit their Project Proposal by July 1.	Final Report due by Sept. 30 of the year the girl completes 12th grade. (i.e. the fall after graduation). Girls who have completed 12th grade must submit their Project Proposal by July 1
Where to Start	Visit GSSJC's Highest Awards Online Community and read the Bronze Award Project Guide.	Visit GSSJC's Highest Awards Online Community and read the Adult Guide for Earning the Silver Award. Take Silver Award Training on Zoom/gsLearn.	Visit GSSJC's Highest Awards Online Community and read the Gold Award Project Guide. Girls sign up for Gold Award Orientation on gsLearn at this link: https://gssjc.me/gaorientation .
Contact	bronzeaward@sjgs.org	silveraward@sjgs.org	goldaward@sjgs.org

Please explore ALL information provided about your Highest Award BEFORE reaching out to the corresponding Highest Award email. Most questions will be answered by reading the appropriate guides and forms, and by watching any relevant training.



Discover Your Role in Girl Scouts Outdoor Adventures!

Are you passionate about the great outdoors? Do you have a specific talent or interest you'd love to share with young girls? Then we have the perfect opportunity for you to make a difference with Girl Scouts Outdoor Experience Department!

We're recruiting volunteers to fill needs that align with their skills and passions. Choose the role that speaks to you, and together, we'll create unforgettable outdoor adventures for girls of all ages. Whether you are looking to give a few hours a month or a few hours a week, we have a place for you on the team.

Event Organizers

Are you a master planner with a knack for creating memorable experiences? Join our team as an Event Organizer and bring your creativity to life by planning and executing exciting outdoor activities for our Girl Scouts.

Equipment Managers

Do you have a keen eye for organization and a love for all things gear-related? Become an Equipment Manager and ensure that our program supplies and other outdoor essentials are organized, in top condition, and ready for adventure.

Volunteer Team Members

Are you a natural collaborator who enjoys working with others? Join our team as a Volunteer Team Member and work closely with our dedicated volunteers to support our outdoor programs and activities.

Outdoor Educators

Are you passionate about inspiring the next generation of outdoor enthusiasts? Exciting opportunities await for volunteers interested in becoming certified to lead specialized camp activities such as archery, riflery, adventure park, canoeing, lifeguarding, and more! We're also eager to welcome those interested in learning the ropes of other programs like nature center activities and backpacking adventures.



Don't see a role that fits your skills? Let us know! We have opportunities for volunteers with a wide range of talents and expertise. No matter which role you choose, you'll play a vital part in empowering girls to discover their potential and develop essential life skills through outdoor exploration.

Ready to find your place in our adventure-filled team? Choose your role and sign up to volunteer today! Please contact customer service at customerservice@gssjc.org with inquiries, and you will be connected with the Outdoor Experience Manager corresponding to your area of interest.

girl scouts
of san jacinto

Girl and Troop Activities

Register for events under the My Events tab in My Account. Go to gssjc.org and select MyGS, log in at the top right corner, next click My Events in the left-hand menu. If you have a question about your activity, contact 713-292-0370 or 1-800-392-4340. If you have a problem with your login, contact Customer Service at 713-292-0300 or registration@sjgs.org. For all events, bring Permission Slip F-204 and Medical Form F-185 for each girl and the Adult Emergency Form F-22 for each adult.



Attention Daisy leaders! Look for the Daisy in this section for activities that Daisies can attend.

Look for this symbol to indicate a virtual program offering.



These are some of the events and activities upcoming this summer. You can find more information on the referenced pages.

Green Starlettes Dance Team Registration	JCSA		Page 28
Astronomy SIG	CSA		Page 30
Intro to Robotics Club	BJCSA		Page 31
Think Like an Engineer Team Captains	CSA		Page 30
Forensics Weekend GPB	CSA		Page 30
Brownie Snacks	B	June 1	Page 27
Family Camp- Chill Out at Camp	DBJCSA	July 5-7	Page 24
Sea Day at Coast Guard Galveston Bay	CSA	June 12	Page 24
Juliette Chronicles	BJ	June 15, July 13	Page 30
Animeals on Wheels	JCSA	June 15, July 20, Aug 17, Sept 21, Oct 19	Page 24
Cadette Screenwriter Badge	C	June 22	Page 27
Pride Flag Collage Art	CSA	June 22	Page 28
Splish Splash! Subsea STEM	J	June 22	Page 31
Pretend City	DBJ	July 13	Page 25
Robotics Trial Day	BJCSA	July 13	Page 31
Gratitude Art Journaling	DB	July 20	Page 27
Family Camp-Out of This World	DBJCSA	Aug 30 – Sept 1	Page 24
ComicCon	CSA	Sept 20 – 22	Page 25
Girl Scout Museum Magic	BJ	Sept 28	Page 25
A Very Harry Halloween	CSA	Nov 1 – 3	Page 26
Think Like an Engineer	J	Dec 6 – 8	Page 30

Wait! Look Here First!

How to Register for an Event

1. Go to www.gssjc.org and click on MyGS. Login with your Girl Scout credentials when prompted.
 2. Click on My Events and then Register for Another Event.
 3. To search, put in the ZIP code where the event is taking place. Move the search radius to 90 miles. Put the partial or whole title of the event in Keyword, using quotes. Click Search.
 4. Click on the event you want. Add the appropriate number of girls and adults. Click Add Events.
 5. Choose your registrants and check the credit card box. Follow check out instructions.
- Tip: If you are a troop leader registering your group, be sure to toggle over to the Troop radio button FIRST when choosing registrants. This will guarantee you continue to see your troop drop-down list when registering a group.



Troops Needed to Host Carousel Weekend!

Calling all Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador troops and groups! Are you interested in earning leadership and service hours while raising funds for your troop by planning an AWESOME event for younger girls? Carousel weekends are introductory camp weekend experiences for many troops. The weekends are held at either Camp Pryor, Camp Robinwood, or Camp Whispering Pines. Each Carousel Weekend has a unique theme planned and executed by the host troop. Past themes have included Career Barbie, Camp Carnival, Holiday Candyland, Princesses Around the World, Wizard of Oz, Willy Wonka, Haunted Forest, Fall Harvest, Scooby Doo Mystery Camp, and more! Please contact Natalie Jares at customerservice@sjgs.org with questions.

General Activities

Book the Adventure Park for Community needs!

Communities can reach out to aswatson@sjgs.org about organizing a weekend for their Community to come to the Adventure Park and have an experience by themselves. The cost is \$35 per girl, and we will need more than a month's advance notice to ensure we can get facilitators. Age requirements: Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors.

Family Camp – Chill Out at Camp

Escape the summer heat with a laid-back family retreat at Camp Pryor! Plunge into the pool, test your aim in archery, or join in some water games for some family fun. Unleash your creativity in craft sessions. Cool down with snow cones and end the day with a hearty dinner provided onsite. Relax in our air-conditioned cabins between our exciting summer activities. We'll wind down by the campfire, swapping stories, singing tunes, and toasting s'mores. Then we'll wrap up with a cozy movie night. Don't forget to pack your own breakfast and lunch to complete your camping adventure.

Who: All levels and adults

Where: Camp Pryor

When: July 5 – 7

Cost: \$60 per participant for the weekend; \$40 day only

Bring: Each family will need to bring all meals except for dinner on Saturday night.

Contact: Natalie Jares at customerservice@sjgs.org



Sea Day at Coast Guard Galveston Bay

Are you interested in being out at sea, going on rescue missions, and learning what to do in emergency situations out on the water? Join us as we team up with the US Coast Guard Galveston Bay and explore the careers and requirements it takes to become a seaman. At this event you will get the chance to tour the base, talk to military personnel, and even get to ride on the Coast Guard Ship and see what it's like to rescue fellow civilians. Sign up and be sure to bring extra clothes as you will get wet!

Who: ③ ⑤ ⑥

Where: Coast Guard Bay Galveston

When: June 12, 9:30 a.m. – noon

Cost: \$12

Contact: Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org

Grants Available for Environmental Projects

GSSJC offers troops and individuals a chance to apply for a mini-grant to complete an environmental project. This could be a service project, Take Action project associated with a Journey, or even a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award project. The amounts awarded depend on the number of girls involved and the nature of the project. If interested, contact Rachel Archer (rarcher@sjgs.org) for more information or to receive an application form.

Family Camp – Out of This World

Are you ready for a cosmic camp event? Enjoy a space-themed weekend at beautiful Camp Pryor with fun-filled experiences for stargazers of all ages. During the day, engage in various activities like archery and nature hikes. Learn about constellations and planets through interactive workshops and telescope observations. As night falls, gather around the campfire with your loved ones to roast marshmallows and enjoy delicious s'mores under the starlit sky. You and your family will be guided through stargazing sessions, offering insights into distant planets and stars. Whether you're a seasoned stargazer or a curious beginner, our cosmic camp promises an enjoyable adventure for the whole family. Don't forget to pack your own breakfast and lunch to complete your camping adventure. Join us as we journey through the cosmos together!

Who: All levels and adults

Where: Camp Pryor

When: Aug. 30 – Sept. 1

Cost: \$60 per participant for the weekend; \$40 day only

Bring: Each family will need to bring all meals except for dinner on Saturday night.

Contact: Natalie Jares at customerservice@sjgs.org



GSSJC and Capital One: Ask the Experts- Financial Literacy Edition

Are you interested in working in the financial world and what types of professions are in this career field? Join us to talk with a panel of financial gurus and learn what it takes to become a professional yourself!

Who: ③ ⑤ ⑥

Where: Virtual via Zoom

When: June 18, 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Cost: \$5

Contact: Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org

Animeals on Wheels

Are you looking for a fun service project? Every third Saturday of the month is Super Saturday at Animeals! Help bag kibble and prepare pet food for the delivery teams to take to seniors with pets! (Don't forget to keep track of your service hours!)

Who: Juniors and up, and Volunteers

When: June 15, July 20, Aug. 17, Sept. 21, or Oct. 19

Cost: Free!

Where: 3202 San Jacinto St., Houston, 77004

Contact: Taylor Plata, 713-533-4944, TPlata@img.org
(General) Kathy Elliott, kelliott@sjgs.org

We're growing the garden!

We would love to invite troops to schedule a time to enjoy the garden at Misty Meadows Ranch and help us plant new vegetables or help weed/prepare the garden! We have all the supplies needed and can help coordinate projects. Please contact aswatson@sjgs.org for more information!

Pretend City with Fort Bend Children's Discovery Center

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be an adult for the day?! Would you like to live in the city and sit behind the wheel of a real car? Or see what it's like to earn a paycheck and buy your own groceries at HEB? Join us and experience what its like to be a grown up by playing in real- life interactive exhibits at the Children's Museum Houston. Feel free to stay after the program and enjoy the other exhibits at no extra cost.

Who: (d) (b) (j)
Where: Fort Bend Children's Discovery Center
When: July 13, 10 a.m. –noon
Cost: \$10
Contact: Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org



Region 12 Present: Marathon Refining STEM Day

The Marathon Refining STEM Day program is a wonderful opportunity for Girl Scouts to explore different energy subjects and to possibly become interested in a STEM path that may develop into a career. Each girl will participate in a full day of hands-on activities led by women in the oil and gas industry at the Marathon Training Center location. Lunch is provided. Experiences throughout the day include assembling piping segments, performing lab experiments, running instrument and electrical checks and engineering solutions for today's energy needs.

Who: (C) (S)
Where: Marathon Petroleum Training Center, Houston
When: Nov. 9, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Cost: \$10
Contact: Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org

ComicCon

Enjoy a colorful, comical, creative, confident clash of pop culture fun at Girl Scout ComicCon! Attend Superhero Training Academy, learn bo staff choreography, create your own manga, compete in the cosplay and art competitions, and more! Run from booth to booth making paracord keychains and comics; learning to sew, doing needlepoint and decoupage; letterboxing, and more! Cadettes will have the opportunity to complete the Comic Artist badge and Seniors the Collage Artist badge.

Who: (C) (S) (a) Adults
Where: Camp Whispering Pines
When: Sept. 20, 7 p.m. – Sept. 22, 10 a.m.
Cost: \$55/girl, \$35/adult
Contact: Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org

Girl Scout Day at the Circus!

Get ready to have the most amazing time at The Greatest Show On Earth®! The all-new Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey® welcomes everyone, from kids to grown-ups, to a world of thrilling fun. Picture the “ultimate playground” with trapeze swings soaring through the air, jaw-dropping somersaults off teeter-totters, extreme BMX riders defying gravity on huge ramps, and a merry-go-round stage spinning with excitement, and much more. It doesn't get any bigger or better than this! We're counting the nights until we welcome you to The Greatest Show On Earth!

This event includes admission, seating in a section reserved just for Girl Scouts and their families, and a special commemorative patch. Tickets will be emailed, and patches will be mailed after registration closes.

Who: All levels, adults, families
Where: NRG Stadium, Houston
When: Saturday, July 20, 3 – 5 p.m.
Cost: \$35 per person
Contact: Kathy Elliott, customerservice@sjgs.org



Older Girl Kick Off!

Learn all the extraordinary things offered beyond the troop for older Girl Scouts! This annual event will be virtual so we can reach girls from across our 26 counties! Sign up and log on to learn about unique older-girl programming and more. Hear about our Special Interest Groups (astronomy, robotics competitions, horseback riding, sailing, archery, dance, riflery, backpacking and more!). Later, enter breakout rooms and be led in activities or see awesome demos for specific topics, like an interest group, how to take leadership of your Girl Scout experience, Highest Awards, or other engaging topics and activities. Free patch, Girl Scout stickers and a chance to win awesome door prizes included!

Who: (C) (S) (a)
When: Sept 28, 9:30 a.m. – noon
Where: Virtual
Cost: Free
Contact: Rachel Archer, customerservice@sjgs.org



Girl Scout Museum Magic

Be among the first to see the newly updated exhibits at the Girl Scout Museum and purchase the new museum patch. The displays have been enhanced with QR codes so you can use your cell phone to hear the audio description. After exploring the new displays, learn some new songs and games - including some passed down from Juliette Low's time. This event includes a patch for girls. (Extra patches are available for purchase in the shop.)

Who: (b) (j) Adult Volunteers
When: Saturday, Sept. 28, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Where: Program Place for Girls
Cost: \$5/girl; Free for adults
Contact: Kathy Elliott, customerservice@sjgs.org



A Very Harry Halloween: Year 6

Hogwarts is back for another magical year! Join Region 1 at Camp Whispering Pines to hone your magical skills, compete in the Quidditch Cup, and solve the mystery of the Half-Blood Prince! Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors will earn components of the Book Artist, Paddler, and Dinner Party badges respectively. Please sign up for either the Halloween OR Holiday event. Registration for this very popular event will open on July 15.

Who: © (S) (a) Adults
Where: Camp Whispering Pines
When: Nov. 1, 7 p.m. – Nov. 3, 10 a.m.
Cost: \$55/girl, \$35/adult
Contact: Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org

A Very Harry Holiday: Year 6

Hogwarts is back for another magical year! Join Region 1 at Camp Whispering Pines to hone your magical skills, compete in the Quidditch Cup, and solve the mystery of the Half-Blood Prince! Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors will earn components of the Book Artist, Paddler, and Dinner Party badges respectively. Please sign up for either the Halloween OR Holiday event. Registration for this very popular event will open on July 15.

Who: © (S) (a) Adults
Where: Camp Whispering Pines
When: Dec. 6, 7 p.m. – Dec. 8, 10 a.m.
Cost: \$55/girl, \$35/adult
Contact: Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org

Use QR Code
to go directly
to events page.



Archery and Rifle

What's New in Shooting Sports?!

Are you looking for a fun way to fill your summer free time? We have a great addition to your calendar! This summer, for the first time ever, we will offer Summer Shooting Sports Workshops where girls can come out to camp and try their hand at target sports. Whether you've never stood in front of a target or have hit more bullseyes than you can count, these sessions will be the perfect way to add some excitement to a few of your long summer days. For questions or to inquire about pairing this activity with other types of camp fun, please reach out to Ashlie Yarborough at ayarborough@sjgs.org.

Note: In order to participate in archery, girls must be in second grade or higher (based on the 23-24 school year).

Camp Robinwood Archery: June 9, June 11, June 20, June 22, July 1, July 9, July 14, July 18, July 23, July 27, July 29

Camp Pryor Archery: June 13, June 23, June 27, June 30, July 25

Riflery Trainings

Where: Camp Misty Meadows
When: Aug. 24 – 25, Sept. 21 – 22, Oct. 26 – 27, Nov. 16 – 17
Participants will obtain the NRA RSO certification as well as a site-specific training that will allow the booking of private riflery sessions. Overnight onsite accommodations are available.

Archery Trainings

Fall Archery Training dates will be taking place at Casa Mare, Camp Agnes Arnold, and Camp Pryor. Dates and times TBD. Reach out to Ashlie Yarborough at ayarborough@sjgs.org for more information.

Fine Arts

GSLE Arts Manager: Julia Noble; For more information or for registration questions, contact 713-292-0300 or customerservice@sjgs.org

Ask the Experts: Photography

Do you like snapping photos? This hobby could take you anywhere! Whether you're interested in a career in photography or even just a side-gig, this event is for you! Join us for this engaging discussion, hosted by GSSJC, where you'll have the chance to hear from a panel of professional photographers as they answer questions about the different paths available, how they got started, and offer advice for older Girl Scouts on how to elevate your hobby or pursue a career!

Who: © (S) (a)
When: July 27, 11 a.m. – noon
Where: Virtual
Cost: \$5/girl



Junior Simple Meals

Izzie's Jewels

Calling all Junior chefs! Earn your badges in this fun, hands-on workshop. Girls will learn how to create delicious, healthy meals for themselves, their family, and friends! Badge is included!

Who: (j)
When: June 1; 1 – 3 p.m.
Where: Program Place for Girls
Cost: \$25/girl

GSSJC Camps Photography Contest

GSSJC is home to some of the most excellent camps in the country each having their own unique landscape and offerings. The opportunities to capture the beauty of nature and the magic of camp are endless! Now, we want to see our camps through your lens! Whether you've only ever snapped selfies on your phone or whether you know your way around a darkroom, every girl has an inner artist and a perspective worth sharing!

Photo Requirements

- We challenge you to keep photography subjects limited to landscapes, buildings/structures, objects, and wildlife. A person, or persons, can be included in the photograph, but should not be the main subject of the image.
- All photos must be taken by a girl member at a GSSJC camp.

Entry Information

- The contest is open to Daisies through Ambassadors.
- Submissions are open now through December 1, 2024.
Contest has been extended!
- To participate in the contest, you must first register at GSEvents. A jotform link for submission will then be sent out. To enter, you will use the link to submit.
- Submit your most captivating camp photo, and in the description box, let us know what struck you most about the image you captured.
- Only one entry per girl!
- Must agree to the terms and submit a GSSJC Media Release form along with your photo entry.

Contest Results

- The contest consists of two rounds: One winning photograph per Girl Scout level (6 total) will be chosen by a team of judges. These photos will then be eligible for public online voting for the final round, where one Overall Winner will be chosen!
- All contestants will receive: a Camp Obscura fun patch and included in digital showing of photos at Exhibition Event

Level Winners will receive:

- An award ribbon
- Winning photos shared on social media, and featured in the Golden Link
- Winning photos will be on view at Exhibition Event
- Winning photos will be framed and installed at a GSSJC camp
- Level prize: (eg.) Magazine subscription, photography journal, pair of museum tickets, or class voucher (\$50+ Value!)

Overall Winner:

- An award medal
- Winning photo shared on social media, and featured in The Golden Link
- Winning photo will be on view at Exhibition Event at PPFG
- Winning photo will be framed and installed at a GSSJC camp
- Grand Prize: Instant camera bundle with customizable accessories (\$200+ Value)

Exhibition Event: The contest will conclude with an event in January where the winning photos will be on view at Program Place during a small ceremony where everyone will receive their prizes and the Overall Winner will be announced!

Cost: \$5/girl

Contact: Julia Noble, jnoble@sjgs.org

Self-Paced Photography

Learn how to capture your vision of the world in photographs. This course is designed to be hands-on while including video instruction that is fun and engaging. Students will watch a short video introducing a new photography technique or skill, watch a demonstration, and then complete a photo challenge using the new skill learned. Be prepared to learn a lifelong skill you will cherish forever! You never know where this one click will take you. Once the course starts, you will be given access to learning modules and challenges designed by real photographers! You will have 30 days to complete the modules at your own pace. Juniors and Ambassadors will earn their Photographer badges.

Who:

① ③ ⑤ ⑥

When:

Every month, available on your own time.

Where:

Virtual

Cost:

\$18/girl



Brownie Snacks

Calling all Brownie chefs! Earn your badges in this fun, hands-on workshop. Girls will learn how to make yummy snacks for themselves, their family, and friends! Badge is included!

Who:

②

When:

June 1; 10 a.m. – noon

Where:

Program Place for Girls

Cost:

\$25/girl

Cadette Screenwriter

Are you obsessed with film and television? Do you want a little more drama in your life? Do you constantly quote from your favorite movies and TV shows? Why not write your own script and stretch those creative muscles? In this workshop you will discuss how to create an engaging script and write one of your very own! Who knows, It may be the next Sundance film festival winner! Cadette Screenwriter badge will be completed and presented at the end of the workshop.

Who:

③

When:

June 22; 10 a.m. – noon

Where:

Program Place for Girls

Cost:

\$25/girl

Gratitude Art Journaling

The Art of Gratitude is a hands-on workshop that will teach you how to combine art journaling with gratitude journaling. You will learn a variety of art techniques to use with art journaling prompts that will allow you to channel stress and anxiety into a creative flow, while learning ways to incorporate mindfulness and gratitude into an art journaling practice.

Who:

④ ②

When:

July 20; 10 – 11:30 a.m.

Where:

Program Place for Girls

Cost:

\$27/girl



Green Starlettes Dance Team Registration 2024-2025

If you love to dance, then the Green Starlettes is for you! Registration is now open for the Green Starlettes Dance Team for the 2024-2025 membership year. No previous dance experience is required and there are no try-outs to join the team. Any girl in grades 4-12 can register now! The purpose of the Green Starlettes is for girls to build confidence through a fun and exciting dance experience. GSDT gives girls the opportunity to participate in a non-competitive, team atmosphere. Teams meet once a week to practice routines and prepare for upcoming parades, shows, and appearances. We have multiple divisions to choose from, so find one near you!

Who: (j) (c) (s) (a)
When: Registration is open through Sept. 1
Cost: \$40/girl
Contact: GreenStarlettes@sjgs.org

Pride Flag Collage Art

Please join us for an arts and crafts workshop filled with both fun and learning. Girls will make their own mini pride flag as they learn the meanings behind each of the colors and the history of the LGBTQ movement. Don't miss out on the fun!

Who: (c) (s) (a)
When: June 22, 1 – 3 p.m.
Where: Girl Scout Center, Houston
Cost: \$10/girl

Brownie Magic

Calling all Brownie troops! Have you ever been to a Girl Scout camp? If not, we have a magical experience you won't want to miss. Does learning new songs, dances, and games sound fun? How about exploring the great outdoors and creating new experiences while meeting new friends? How about all these things... but make it mermaids!? Well then, bring your leaders and your troop and join us for Brownie Magic!

Camp Robinwood #1, Willis – Oct. 19; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 Camp Casa Mare, Seabrook – Oct. 26; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 Camp Robinwood #2, Willis – Dec. 7; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
 Camp Pryor, Nada – Dec. 7; 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Who: (b) and adult chaperones to ratio
Cost: \$20/girl \$12/adults
Registration Opens: August 15 at 9 a.m.
Contact: Julia Noble, BrownieMagic@sjgs.org

Highest Awards

Highest Awards Online Community

Are you looking for more information on the Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award? Check out the Highest Awards Online Community, where you will find forms, guides, FAQs, tips and tricks, and more!



Older Girl Take-Action Workshop

Curious about how to start a Silver or Gold Award project or complete a Girl Scout Journey? Join us for a take-action workshop where we'll cover the differences between community service and take-action and how to best plan a take-action project. We'll also learn from each other by sharing examples and ideas! Come ready to brainstorm!

Who: (c) (s) (a) Adults
Where: Virtual
When: June 9 or Sept. 29, 3:30 – 5 p.m.
Cost: \$5/person
Contact: Alix Reilman at customerservice@sjgs.org



Silver Award Training for Cadettes

Silver Award training is now available on gsLearn! Girls and adults are invited to take GSUSA's new, self-directed Silver Award training for the Silver Award Suite (approximately two hours). This training offers girls and adults a comprehensive overview of the Silver Award steps, forms, and tools for identifying and developing Silver Award projects that fall within the national guidelines, and more. Keep Silver Award Suite materials, including the guides, forms, and Volunteer Toolkit meeting plans at hand as you go through the training. Taking Silver Award training prior to starting the Silver Award process is strongly recommended.

Note: Girls must access this training through a registered Girl Scout adult's MYGS account. Girls should watch this training along with their Silver Award adult volunteer.

Silver Award Training for Adults

This virtual webinar training is designed for troop leaders, advisors, and parents who are looking to support Cadettes through the Silver Award process. Topics to be covered include project guidelines, submission deadlines, coaching tips, and how to navigate pursuing the Silver Award despite the impacts of COVID-19. The webinar will include a presentation, service vs. take action activity and Q&A.

Who: Adults
Where: Virtual
When: Aug. 24, 10 – 11:30 a.m.
Cost: \$5/person
Contact: silveraward@sjgs.org



Highest Awards 101 and Q&A


Are you curious about the Highest Awards, just starting a Highest Awards adventure with your girls, or feel stuck along the way? Join us for this virtual Highest Awards Q&A session to learn more about the Highest Awards program at all levels—Bronze, Silver, and Gold—and get your questions answered. This session is for adults.

Who: Adults
Where: Virtual
When: June 20, July 18, 7 – 8 p.m.
Cost: \$3/person
Contact: Alix Reilman at customerservice@sjgs.org



Juniors Take-Action Workshop

Curious about how to start a Bronze Award project or complete a Girl Scout Journey? Join us for a take-action workshop where we'll cover the differences between community service and take-action and how to best plan a take-action project. We'll also learn from each other by sharing examples and ideas! Come ready to brainstorm!

Who:  adults
Where: Virtual
When: June 23 or Oct. 13, 3:30 – 5 p.m.
Cost: \$5/person
Contact: Alix Reilman at customerservice@sjgs.org



Summer of Highest Awards

Pre-Requisites	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete one Junior Journey and Take Action project.	<input type="checkbox"/> Complete one Cadette Journey and Take Action project.	<p>Note: Completion of two Journeys OR one Journey and the Silver Award is required for Gold. This timeline covers one Journey.</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Complete two Senior/Ambassador Journeys and Take Action projects OR the Silver Award and one Senior/Ambassador Journey and Take Action project.
June	<input type="checkbox"/> Review all Bronze Award material on the Highest Awards Online Community. <input type="checkbox"/> Brainstorm a Bronze Award Take Action project. Contact local community experts to refine your project.	<input type="checkbox"/> Review all Silver Award material on the Highest Awards Online Community. <input type="checkbox"/> Brainstorm a Silver Award Take Action project. Contact local community experts to refine your project and identify a project advisor and partnering organization (optional). <input type="checkbox"/> Complete and submit the Silver Award Project Proposal via Jotform. July 1 ~ Project proposal first submission DEADLINE (graduated eighth graders ONLY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Choose and contact a Gold Award Mentor from the Gold Award Mentor Lookbook found at the end of Gold Award Orientation. <input type="checkbox"/> Review all Gold Award material on the Highest Awards Online Community. <input type="checkbox"/> Partner with your Gold Award Mentor to brainstorm a Gold Award Take Action project. Contact local community experts to refine your project and identify a project advisor and partnering organization. <input type="checkbox"/> Complete and submit the Gold Award Project Proposal via GoGold. July 1 ~ Project proposal first submission DEADLINE (graduated 12th graders ONLY)
July	<input type="checkbox"/> Implement your Bronze Award project.	<input type="checkbox"/> Receive Project Proposal approval from the Silver Award Review Board. Revise project, if requested. <input type="checkbox"/> Implement your Silver Award project.	<input type="checkbox"/> Receive Project Proposal approval from the Gold Award Review Board. Revise project, if requested. <input type="checkbox"/> Implement your Gold Award project.
August	<input type="checkbox"/> Implement your Bronze Award project.	<input type="checkbox"/> Implement your Silver Award project	<input type="checkbox"/> Implement your Gold Award project.
September	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit the F-483 Bronze Award Reporting Form via Jotform. Sept. 30 ~ Reporting form submission DEADLINE (current sixth graders in Fall 2024 ONLY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit the F-486 Silver Award Final Report via Jotform. Sept. 30 ~ Final Report submission DEADLINE (current ninth graders in Fall 2024 ONLY)	<input type="checkbox"/> Submit the Gold Award Final Report via GoGold. Sept. 30 ~ Final Report submission DEADLINE (graduated 12th graders in Fall 2024 ONLY)

History

Juliette Chronicles: “Girl Scouting through Time”

Take a trip back in time and view Girl Scouting through the decades. Girls will participate in a variety of indoor and outdoor activities that their grandmothers and mothers did in their Girl Scout meetings, such as communicating before cellphones and identifying plants and animals. Girls will get to make crafts, go on hikes, and spend the day at camp. We will end the day by learning about a modern scouting activity – letterboxing. Girls will make their own stamp to take home. Each girl is to bring their own lunch and enjoy picnicking. A fun patch is included so do not miss all the fun at camp. Hosted by the Council History Program Committee. This event is for Juniors and Brownies who have completed second grade in 2024.

Who: (b) (j)
When: Conroe Area, June 15 or Camp Pryor, July 13
Time: 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Cost: \$20/girl
Contact: Shannon Crider at customerservice@sjgs.org

STEM

For all STEM events, contact Rachel Archer, rarcher@sjgs.org, or registrars at customerservice@sjgs.org for more information.

Think Like an Engineer for Juniors Camp Weekend

Learn to think like an engineer during this weekend at camp! Join other Juniors and learn how to utilize your construction skills as you work as a team to solve engineering challenges like building shelters and structures are to withstand the elements.

Who: (j)
Where: Camp Agnes Arnold, Conroe
When: Registration opens Sept. 1; Event Dec. 13 – 15
Cost: \$65/girl

Think Like an Engineer Camp Weekend Team Captains

Would you like to help plan GSSJC’s annual Think Like an Engineer Camp Weekend event? Girls can plan this weekend that explores engineering principles through a theme of their choosing! Girls will need to attend planning/work meetings as well as be present the for the event.

Who: (c) (s) (a)
Where: Meetings at Girl Scout Center or virtual; Event at Camp Agnes Arnold, Conroe
When: Meeting(s) in fall; Event Dec. 13 – 15
Cost: \$35 (covers food and lodging for event)

Astronomy Special Interest Group

This group is for girls who want to have fun, learn, and teach! Girls plan their activities for the year and organize events that other Girl Scouts attend. The group also takes trips to discover the world around them – and beyond! This great group helps girls develop leadership skills and learn about themselves while becoming more acquainted with science and the field of astronomy.

Who: (c) (s) (a)
Where: Program Place for Girls, Houston
When: One Sunday afternoon each month
Cost: \$20

Forensics Weekend Girl Planning Board

Would you like to help plan GSSJC’s annual Forensics Weekend event? Girls will need to attend planning/work meetings as well as be present the for the event.

Who: (c) (s) (a)
Where: Meetings at Girl Scout Center or Virtual; Event at Camp Casa Mare
When: Meetings will be at the Girl Scout Center; Event Jan. 24 – 26; Application due: Aug. 1

Robotics Team Interest Virtual Social

Interested in having your Girl Scout or troop join or start a robotics team but need more connections? Sign up to attend this virtual social with other coaches, troop leaders, and parents. This opportunity will help you find a complete team before robotics season starts. Perfect for unplaced girls, partial troops, and teams needing another coach, and more! Interested potential coaches/mentors unconnected to a current team are welcome. We recommend attending a robotics competition teams informational meeting first.

Who: Adults
When: July 27, 5 – 6 p.m.
Where: Virtual
Cost: Free



Blanket Drive

Cozy Up with Kindness: Donate Blankets for our Seniors. Troops looking for a fun and much appreciated service project can make blankets for Meals on Wheels Seniors. Our seniors always find comfort in a cozy blanket, no matter the season! (Don’t forget to keep track of your service hours!)

Who: Daisies and up, and Volunteers
When: Blankets may be dropped off year round; please call or email to schedule a time.
Location: 3202 San Jacinto St. | Houston, TX 77004
Contact: Taylor Plata, 713-533-4944, TPlata@imgh.org
 (General) Kathy Elliott, kelliott@sjgs.org

Robotics Competition Team Informational Meeting for Adults

This informational meeting is for adults and troop leaders of girls who have not competed in a Girl Scout robotics competition team before, or who are progressing a level. Competing on a robotics team is a fantastic way for girls to explore collaboration and fun science topics while honing their engineering and coding skills.

Although we will form teams from girls whose parents don't attend this meeting, it is recommended and highly encouraged for parents or leaders to attend this meeting to understand the commitment and content of the program. This meeting will go over timing, commitment, content, what girls do, what a typical season looks like, and more! We ask that no girls attend, as this is strictly informational.

Who: Adults/leaders of all levels (no girls, please)
Where: Virtual
When: June 23, 1 – 2 p.m.; July 16, 7 – 9 p.m.
Cost: Free (all adults must register)



Robotics Trial Day

Interested in robotics, but want a sneak peak into what it's like? Come to GSSJC and try it out! Girls can explore the Lego Robotics kits, come up with a team name, and learn a little bit about what being on a robotics team means!

Who: (b) (j) (c) (s) (a)
Where: GSSJC, Central Houston
When: July 13, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Cost: \$7

Robotics Competition

GSSJC's robotics teams compete through the international FIRST organization where girls build and code models and robots that compete against other teams in the area. Competition begins in September and will end between December and March, depending on the level and success of the team. Please review the online sign-up page for detailed information about what girls do during the competition season.

Who: All levels
Cost: price varies by level
Note: Separate sign-ups will be available for the informational sessions and the teams.



Important Dates:

- May – Aug. 11: Team sign-up period. Signing up toward the end of the sign-up period leaves placement subject to available team spots which may not be in your geographic area.
- May – Aug. 11: Teams, once full, begin meeting on a TBD-by-team schedule over the summer. Location, day of week, and time of meetings are set by coaches and will vary by team.
- Aug. 11 – Aug. 31: Team registration will be wrapping up (registration ends Aug. 13) and teams will be finalized through August.
- Team formation – end of season Teams meet weekly; location, day of week, and time of meetings are set by coaches and will vary by team. Teams may meet less often over the summer if the team is formed early. Girls and parents should expect that teams will meet at least once a week (typically on a weekend) for one to four hours depending on the level.

Intro-to-Robotics Club

Collaborate with other girls your age to learn and expand your knowledge of how robots are built and how they work. This is a year-round, non-competitive opportunity where girls get the chance to build robots, discover how to code them, and potentially prepare to join a robotics competition team of their own! Girls will work with different equipment based on their experience; girls can explore WeDo Lego kits and investigate Mindstorms Lego kits.

Who: (b) (j) (c) (s) (a) wanted as program aides (see below)
Where: Girl Scout Center, Houston
When: Meets monthly, normally on the first Sunday of the month from 2 – 3:45 p.m.
Cost: \$30
Contact: Rachel Archer, 713-292-0300, customerservice@sjgs.org

Program Aid: Intro-to-Robotics Club

Already know you love robotics and want to share your knowledge with the next generation of competitors? Unsure if you're ready for the commitment of being on a team without firsthand experience? Sign up to be a program aide for the new Intro-to-Robotics Club! Gain volunteer hours and help your fellow Girl Scouts expand their horizons.

Note: Prior robotics knowledge not required. Training will be provided.

Who: (c) (s) (a)
Where: Girl Scout Center, Houston
When: Meets monthly, normally on the first Sunday of the month at 2 – 3:45 p.m.
Cost: \$10
Contact: Rachel Archer, 713-292-0300, customerservice@sjgs.org

Splash Splash! Subsea STEM: Junior Double Badge Workshop

Come celebrate Women in Engineering Day at OneSubsea! We'll be learning about the world of engineering under the sea as we complete the Coding Basics and Paddle Boat Design Challenge. This event is lead by real women engineers at their facility. Both badges and a snack are included in this event.

Who: (j)
When: June 22, 1 – 4 p.m.
Where: OneSubsea, Westchase
Cost: \$12

Travel

Contact: Kathy Elliott, customerservice@sjgs.org
Adults: If you are interested in being a chaperone for any trip, please email travel@sjgs.org for details.

2025 Council Trip to New Orleans

Delve into Creole and Cajun culture in the diverse and vibrant New Orleans. Stroll through the famous French Quarter, try your hand at Creole cooking, see how the floats are made for the world-famous Mardi Gras festival, visit the Whitney Plantation, and cruise down the Mississippi River with a live jazz band. This trip is open to individual girls as well as groups.

This trip will depart from the Program Place for Girls and includes ground transportation, accommodations, meals, and admission to all activities. Registration is open to girls who will be entering the fourth grade and up in 2025. Participants on this trip will have monthly Zoom meetings starting in the fall and have the opportunity to help choose some of the final activities. Girl Scouts on this trip may also participate in the fall product sale, cookie sale, and other money earning activities to help fund the trip.

Who: (J) (C) (S) (A) volunteers
When: June 12-16, 2025
Cost: \$1,350 per person (payment plan available)

2025 Trip to Nuestra Cabaña, Mexico

Visit one of the WAGGGS World Centre! Embark on an extraordinary journey to Las Estacas, a breathtaking natural park. Prepare to be mesmerized by the crystal-clear turquoise waters of the river, engage in thrilling adventures like snorkeling and river rafting, or simply find tranquility on the picturesque bank. You'll discover the power of nature in fostering personal reflection and growth.

This event embraces the spirit of camaraderie as you engage in cultural exchanges and sharing traditions and stories with fellow adventurers from around the globe. Get ready to unveil the beauty of nature, forge unforgettable friendships, connect with the locals in a community action activity and create lasting memories in this remarkable journey of adventure and connection.

This trip will depart from Houston Intercontinental Airport and includes airfare, ground transportation in Mexico, and accommodations and meals at Nuestra Cabaña. Registration is open to girls aged 13-18 at the time of the trip. Participants on this trip will have monthly Zoom meetings starting in the fall. Girl Scouts on this trip may also participate in the fall product sale, cookie sale, and other money earning activities to help fund the trip. Depending on the airline schedule, this trip may depart one day earlier and/or return one day later and spend an extra night at Nuestra Cabaña.

Who: (C) (S) (A) volunteers
(girls 13 and up at time of trip)
When: August 3 – 10, 2025
Cost: \$2,300 per person (payment plan available)

2026 Culinary Tour through France

This tour will expand your mind and entice your tastebuds, unveiling the secrets of the highly regaled French cuisine to every cook and foodie on your tour. Once you've had your fill of crepes and escargot, take a break from gastronomical research to explore the number of historical and artistic pit stops throughout Paris and the countryside. Come prepared with your best French and chef hat – and of course, come with an appetite.

This trip will depart from Houston Intercontinental Airport and includes airfare, transportation in France, meals and accommodations in France, admission to all activities, and a dedicated tour guide for our group. Registration is open to girls who will be entering the seventh grade and up in 2026. Participants on this trip will have monthly Zoom meetings starting in the fall. Girl Scouts on this trip may also participate in the fall product sale, cookie sale, and other money-earning activities to help fund the trip. Hosted by: GSSJC, through Explorica Tours

Who: (C) (S) (A) volunteers
When: June 12 – 21, 2026
Cost: \$5,500 – \$6,000 per person
(payment plans available)

2025 Council Trip to Savannah, Georgia

Join us for a special trip to Savannah, Georgia to learn about Juliette Gordon Low. Visit the Girl Scout first headquarters and Juliette Gordon Low's birthplace, enjoy strolling through beautiful historic Savannah, and have fun with a special Fourth of July celebration by the river! This trip is open to individual girls as well as groups.

This trip includes airfare from Houston, transportation in Savannah, accommodation, meals, and admission to all activities. Registration is open to girls who will be entering the sixth grade and up in 2025. Participants on this trip will have monthly Zoom meetings starting in the fall and have the opportunity to help choose some of the final activities. Girl Scouts on this trip may also participate in the fall product sale, cookie sale, and other money earning activities to help fund the trip.

Who: (C) (S) (A) volunteers
When: June 30 – July 5, 2025
Cost: \$1,600 per person (payment plan available)

Houston Astros Scout Day!

The first 1,500 Scouts to purchase through the link will receive a Houston Astros Scout Day patch! Each Scout and leader will also have the opportunity to participate in the pre-game parade around the warning track!

Who: All levels, families
When: Sunday, July 14 vs. Texas Rangers
Where: Minutemaid Stadium, Houston
1:10 p.m.
Register: <https://fevo-enterprise.com/event/Astrosscout>
Contact: Jacob Padelski – jpadelski@astros.com

Training

Troop Volunteer Trainings

We value our volunteers and know that providing great learning opportunities is key to your success in Girl Scouts. Here you will find a schedule of upcoming training opportunities, both in-person and virtual, as well as descriptions of self-paced training available to volunteers in gsLearn. For in-person and virtual training, registration end dates are final. For questions about troop volunteer training, please contact Dejah Covick, dcovick@sjgs.org or 713-292-0254.

Schedule at-a-Glance:

Date	Course	Registration Ends	Prerequisite	Location
Self-paced	Volunteer Basics			gsLearn
Self-paced	GSUSA's New Leader Onboarding Series			gsLearn
Self-paced	Youth Protection Training Level 1			gsLearn
Self-paced	Youth Protection Training Level 2		Youth Protection 1	gsLearn
Self-paced	Camping and Overnight Basics (COB)		Volunteer Basics	gsLearn
June 22	Summer Train-in	June 9		GSC
July 27	Summer Train-in VIRTUAL	July 21		Zoom

GSC: Girl Scout Center (Houston)

Camping and Overnight Basics (COB)

Camping and Overnight Basics is an online course that certifies, registered background checked adults to lead camping and overnight trips for their troop. After taking this course you'll be qualified to rent units at camp, lead overnight trips with the troop, and help your girls make the most out of their camp experience. Available online in gsLearn

GSUSA's New Leader Onboarding Series

In this series of self-paced trainings, learn what Girl Scouts do, how to engage families in troop activities and walks through your first troop meeting. Available online in gsLearn

Volunteer Basics

The "basics" of being a volunteer in Girl Scouts of San Jacinto. The four modules of this training cover Safety Basics, Troop/Group Basics, Financial Basics and DEIB. This training is required for all new leaders, and recommended for any volunteer. Available online in gsLearn

Youth Protection Level 1

Learn how to recognize the different signs of abuse and neglect, and how to be proactive to prevent child abuse. This course is required for ALL volunteers working with girls. Available online in gsLearn

Youth Protection Level 2

Overnight activities bring a new set of circumstances for youth protection. This course is a deeper dive into the definitions, signs and symptoms of abuse as well as reporting and protecting yourself while volunteering with youth. This course is required for all volunteers attending overnights and/or camping with girls. Available online in gsLearn

Administrative Trainings

For questions about administrative training, please contact Cassie Robinson at crobinson@sjgs.org.

Event Name	Dates	Time	Venue	Price
Recruitment Training Day	June 15	9 a.m. – 5 p.m.	GSC	\$15
Youth Mental health First Aid	August 17	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Virtual	\$10
Fall Volunteer Conference 2024	November 8 – 10	4 p.m. Friday – 11 a.m. Sunday	Camp Arnold	\$50 Early Bird, \$75 On Time

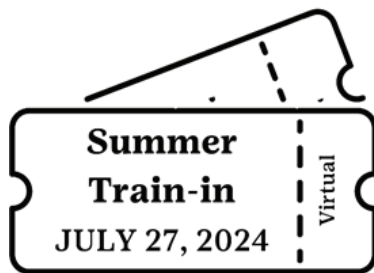
Youth Mental Health First Aid

Cost: \$10 **Date:** Aug. 17 **Zoom:** 10 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Youth Mental Health First Aid is designed to teach parents, family members, caregivers, teachers, school staff, peers, neighbors, health and human services workers, and other caring citizens how to help an adolescent (age 12-18) who is experiencing a mental health or addictions challenge or is in crisis. Youth Mental Health First Aid is primarily designed for adults who regularly interact with young people.

The course introduces common mental health challenges for youth, reviews typical adolescent development, and teaches a five-step action plan for how to help young people in both crisis and non-crisis situations. Topics covered include anxiety, depression, substance use, disorders in which psychosis may occur, disruptive behavior disorders (including AD/HD), and eating disorders.

Join Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council and become certified in Youth Mental Health First Aid. This program is sponsored in part by HCA. This training will cover a variety of sensitive topics. This is an all-day training session, but a break will be offered for lunch. Please note: There is required pre-work for this course that must be completed before the day of the training. This coursework is approximately two hours.



Summer Train-in VIRTUAL

We want to welcome you aboard the Summer Train-In from the comfort of your computer screen! Select the route that matches closest to the level your girls will be in the Fall. If you have a healthy mix of program levels, invite another volunteer from your troop to attend another route and get twice as much learning in! If you attended last summer and your girls aren't bridging this year, we invite you to join Route E for a day full of Enrichment classes.

Route Y: Younger Girls	Route J: Juniors	Route O: Older Girls	Route E: Enrichments Galore
Daisy Brownie Program Leadership 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Partnering with GS Juniors 9 – 11 a.m.	Partnering with Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Mental Health Matters 9 – 10:15 a.m.
	Journeys at the Speed of Girls 11:15 a.m. – noon		Girl Led Planning10:30 – a.m. noon
Lunch Break			
Camp for a Day 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.	VTK: Juniors 1 – 2:15 p.m.	What to do Instead of Banning Cell Phones 1 – 2:30 p.m.	Engaging Families 1:15 – 2 p.m.
VTK: Younger Girls 3 – 4:15 p.m.	Girl Progression in Troop Finances 2:30 – 4 p.m.	Mean Chicks and Dirty Tricks 2:45 – 4:15 p.m.	Keys to Leadership 2:15 – 3:45 p.m.

Daisy/Brownie Program Leadership (4 hours) Route Y

Designed for leaders who are new to the troop leadership role or new to working with girls in grades K-3. Participants can see the progression in characteristics of each age group and learn about earned awards; troop governance; field trips & service project readiness; ceremonies; the girl/adult partnership; tips on girl planning; and more - with the use of available badge and journey resources.

Partnering with Girl Scout Juniors (2 hours) Route J

Adults new to the Junior leadership role are encouraged to attend this course. It includes various forms of troop government, characteristics of the girls, the girl/adult partnership, tips on girl planning and more.

Partnering with Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors (2 hours) Route O

This training is highly recommended for NEW leaders working with Cadette, Senior and Ambassador program levels or leaders moving to Cadette leadership. Gain insight on how girls this age think, guide them in girl planning and when to step back so girls can develop leadership skills. Discover ways to become teen savvy, how to talk to girls about the 3T's (Touchy Teen Topics) and the importance of maintaining confidentiality with troop members.

Mental Health Matters (1.5 hours) Route E

High stress and feelings of frustration are signs of trouble for you and the girls you work with. Taking care of yourself is an important skill for all volunteers. Join us for reflection, assessment, and conversation as we take back control of our lives. Learn how to decompress and say, "no," without feeling guilty. Learn how to apply your new skills to your troop, family, and work. The work you begin in this class will be with you for a lifetime!

What to do Instead of Banning Phones (1.5 hours) Route O

This course is about strategies for getting Juniors through Ambassadors to own the expectations, behaviors, and discipline in their troop. Adults tend to get frustrated when girls miss planning meetings and come only to the fun, when girls appear to be texting during meetings instead of contributing and other older girl behavior. Discuss ideas to guide girls to create the behavior contract they want for full ownership of their troop as well as how to let go as a troop leader.

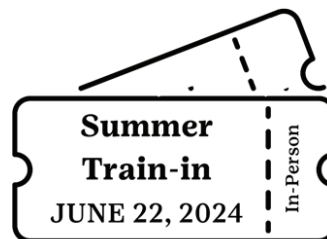
Camp for a Day (1.5 hours) Route Y

So, you think you are ready to take your troop to camp for the day. You might be asking yourself: Does the troop need to reserve a spot or just show up? What paperwork is required? Who and how many adults are needed to take the troop to camp? Do we need a camp trained adult to go to camp for the day? What do I need to bring? What is there to do at camp? Though the thought of finding the answers to all these questions can be mind boggling...RELAX!! The answers are at your fingertips.

Volunteer Toolkit: Year Plans for Younger Girls (1hour) Route Y

This course will feature a demonstration of the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) to include creating a Daisy/Brownie year plan, selecting pre-selected tracks, or creating a custom year plan. We will show you how to access council resources from one place, communication tools for your troop and review the Finance Tab as a refresher. A discussion of how troops are using VTK will finish out the time.

Sessions continued on next page



Summer Train-in IN PERSON

Registration closes June 9 for the in-person Summer Train-in on June 22 at the Girl Scout Center in Houston! Different enrichments will be offered in-person than for the Virtual session, and you're welcome to register for both!

Journeys at the Speed of Girls (45 min.) Route J

Journeys are the key component of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and a pre-requisite for higher awards. With endless possibilities for field trips, badges, and other stops along the way, each Journey should not only develop girl leadership but should also be enjoyable. This workshop focuses on how to get the girls involved in planning the Journeys.

Volunteer Toolkit: Setting up your Junior Year Plan (1 hour) Route J

This course will feature a demonstration of the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) to include creating a Junior year plan, selecting pre-selected tracks, or creating a custom year plan. We will show you how to access council resources from one place, inserting planned activities that are not badge meetings, and review the Finance Tab and council resource tab as a refresher.

Girl Progression in Troop Finances (1.5 hours) Route J

As girls progress in the program levels, finances are no exception. Discover ways to guide girls in the everyday workings of their troop finances, and how to budget for activities and their annual goals. Learn strategies for stepping back and letting the girls take the lead.

Mean Chicks Cliques and Dirty Tricks (1.5 hours) Route O

Let's face it, the girl world is tough! Cliques, snobs, Facebook stalkers, twitter twits, gossip, name-calling, showing off, and cyberbullying are issues girls face today. Learn "real world" tips and strategies to deal with these mean girls and bullies. This course is designed for you as the adult to learn strategies to take back to train your girls to take action!

Girl Led Program (1.5 hours) Route E

Looking for ways to get the girls to run their own troop meetings? Do you need some ideas on how girls can plan and organize troop activities? Learn some strategies for helping girls make what they choose to do a reality by incorporating girl-led concepts. Take the first step in letting go!

Engaging Families (45 min) Route E

Do you have very little or no parent participation in the troop? Learn how to nurture the right type of parent involvement and truly engage them in our organization.

Keys to Leadership (1.5 hours) Route E

This class is a foundational exploration of leadership for every adult volunteer who works with girls of all ages. Recognizing leadership in yourself and others can be a challenge, so we are here to help you unlock the mystery. Take action by participating in activities that will help you recognize the inner leader of every girl you know.

Save the Date: Fall Volunteer Conference 2024

Join us November 8 – 10 for the Fall Volunteer Conference at Camp Agnes Arnold! Journey with us to this all-in-one weekend will have enrichments you can take back to your troop as well as certifications over the weekend in:

- Adventure Park Aides
- Archery Certifications
- First Aid
- Volunteer Camper Certification
- ... and so much more!

Registration goes live August 1. Early Bird Pricing will be offered and is expected to fill up so register ASAP. We can't wait to take this adventure with you this Fall!



Membership Kickoff 2024 Launching Leadership

August 3, 2024

Must pre-register to attend

New this year - Pre-select workshops and new program partners
Returning – sessions appropriate for registered Girl Scouts 14 years and older
Member Meeting - 8:30 a.m. (no cost to attend, open to registered Girl Scouts 14 years and older)

Adult and girl learning sessions, program and member information booths, door prizes, and lunch begin at 10:45 a.m. for a cost of \$20

Philanthropy

Empowering Girls for a Lifetime

Girl Scout camp promises amazing adventures and transformative experiences this summer! It is a place where girls can unplug, experience the outdoors with guidance of strong female role models, and be exposed to fun and challenging new experiences in a safe, girl-led environment. More specifically, girls participating in outdoor programs:

- Learn how to stay both physically and emotionally healthy.
- Expand their understanding and appreciation of the natural world.
- Discover more about themselves and their potential.
- Try new experiences and challenges while taking a crucial break from screen time.
- Engage with peers of different ethnicities and backgrounds to build new friendships.
- Develop leadership skills and cultivate new interests and skills with girl-led programming.
- Grow more confident as they try new things and stretch their horizons.

GSSJC believes that every girl deserves the chance to explore the great outdoors, build lifelong friendships, and discover her inner strength. Our unwavering commitment is to make camp accessible to all girls, regardless of their economic background. Through camperships, we ensure that no girl misses out on the transformative experiences that camp offers.

Last year, 203 camperships enabled Girl Scouts to embark on unforgettable camp adventures. Today you can help send more girls to camp where they can discover themselves and become leaders.

A gift of any amount can help a girl attend camp but a gift of \$750 will give a girl access to an entire week of overnight camp, and \$300 will provide one girl a week of day camp.

With your generous support, GSSJC can ensure that every girl has access to camp and outdoor experiences that are engaging, enriching, and enhance every girl's skills.

Donate now at www.gssjc.org/donate or scan the QR code. For additional information, please contact Diane Likeness at dlikeness@sjgs.org.



Success to
Significance

Save the Date! Success to Significance Luncheon

Tuesday, October 8, 2024
Hilton Americas Houston

Featuring guest speaker and Girl Scout alumna

Karen Walrond



Karen, a Houstonian and Girl Scout mom, authored *Radiant Rebellion*, where she investigates how we can resist ageism and live a gratifying, meaningful life along the way. Her earlier work, *The Lightmaker's Manifesto*, beckons readers towards lives of integrity, advocacy, conviction, and joy.

A panel of Girl Scouts will join Karen to share how they are making the world a better place!

EVENT CHAIRS

Mel
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Kirsten
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Thank You, GSSJC Donors!

For any questions about the donor list, contact Suzanne Carmona at 713-292-0334 or scarmona@sjgs.org. Memorials and Honorariums listed are \$25 and above.

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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 25 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.

Scrapbook

Send your photos to communications@sjgs.org. Put your troop number in the subject line.



Troop 136001 went to the Adventure Park at Camp Agnes Arnold, and loved it! Other fall activities included their annual "Scoutsgiving," painting ornaments for the GSSJC tree at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, and completing their American Red Cross First Aid/CPR/AED certification course.



Troop 147085 was led by Bellaire Bells cheerleaders from Bellaire High School girls to earn the Dancer badge. In October the Brownies brought up their creativity, and designed ornaments for Houston Museum of Natural Science GSSJC tree. They have also gone letterboxing and did caroling.



At their holiday party, Troop 134107 decorated holiday cards to send to the troops.



Their former leader, Mrs. Nicole, camp back to help Troop 150245 finish their Coding patch.

Send your photos to
communications@sjgs.org.
Be sure to include
your troop number
in the subject line.

*Troop 114202
got together for
a Christmas
party.*





Troop 27081 participated in the Pearland Hometown Parade as a walking group for the first time.



Girls from Troops 6215, 130337, 130054, and 130333 participated in the Nederland Lighted Christmas Parade.



GS Mariners Troop 12996 participated in their 30th year of the Christmas Boat Lane Parade on December 9th. This year was the 62nd Anniversary of the Christmas Boat Lane Parade produced by the Clear Lake Area Chamber of Commerce.



Brownie Troop 143194 of the Shooting Stars Community participated in the Pearland Christmas parade on Dec. 2. The parade float featured 11 adorable elves on the shelf! The girls made the giant letters to Santa during a troop meeting and had a fantastic time!



Troop 138009 constructed a float and passed out cups, candy and koozies while also blowing bubbles. Their theme was "Unicorn Christmas."



Troop 155091 (Wharton County Community) won 1st place in the marching division of the Wharton Chamber of Commerce Christmas Holiday Parade. This year's theme was Christmas traditions. The troop recited the Girl Scout Promise and sang "We Wish You a Merry Christmas" before the judges while dressed like Christmas presents. The troop also went Christmas caroling down the halls of their local nursing home. The girls wore their festive costumes from the Christmas Holiday Parade to bring in some extra Christmas joy. Each resident received a throw blanket as a gift from the troop.



Daisy Troop 126044 at their meeting on Cyber security.



The 121035 Troop visited Casa de Esperanza and donated toys for the children as Christmas gifts. Casa de Esperanza's mission is to break the cycle of child abuse and neglect for at-risk infants, children, and their families by providing comprehensive residential and family support programs that transform individuals and communities.



At their holiday party, Troop 142147 wrote Christmas cards for a Pearland long term care residents.

Troop 21721 volunteered to assist Grace Place with set-up and decoration for their annual fundraiser Haus of Gingerbread.



As a way to give back to our community and to say 'thank you' to everyone that has supported Troop 138009 with both cookie and Fall Product sales, our girls used their very own Troop funds to fill a shopping basket with toys. They then donated the items to the Friendswood Police Department toy drive with Officer Barry.



In the spirit of kindness and community, Girl Scout troops 124195, 124019, 124021, 124183 from across Spring Branch ISD joined forces to volunteer and make a significant impact this holiday season. Families in need were not only gifted with toys, but also experienced the warmth and compassion of the Girl Scout community. Beyond the immediate impact on recipients, this collective volunteer effort exemplifies the Girl Scouts' commitment to making a positive difference in the world. Through teamwork and a passion for community service, these young leaders are shaping a better future and leaving an indelible mark on the lives they touch.



Troop 157152 worked on the Democracy for Juniors badge where they met Mayor Zimmerman, celebrated his birthday, and led the pledge before the City Council meeting.



Troop 143133 took a self defense class at Premier Martial Arts. They did amazing and learned so much.



Troops 130337, 130407, and 6484 participated in Wreaths Across America.



Troop 101151 had a great trip to Lake Livingston State Park.



Cadette Troop 126166 braving the cold on MLK day for a day of service in trash pick up along the bayou!



Daisy Troop 126044 visited Houston Humane Society Wildlife Center and learned what to do about cold stunned bats just before the freeze.



Troop 143133 planned an amazing time stepping back into history at George Ranch.



Troop 27081 donated over 120 pairs of fingerless mittens and gloves to residents at The Colannades at Reflection Bay nursing home in Pearland. Senior Citizens used these items to assist in maneuvering their canes, walkers and wheelchairs. Congratulations to this troop for also earning the Silver Award by working with young children who have learning disabilities at Pearland day care.



Troop 27081 has volunteered to clean the neighborhood streets of Pearland since 2011.



Troop 149058 had a book drive for their community service project last fall and donated around 300 new and used books to Memorial Hermann Pediatric Hospital and Literacy Now!

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