

The Golden Link

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Get Ready for the 2024
Cookie Program!





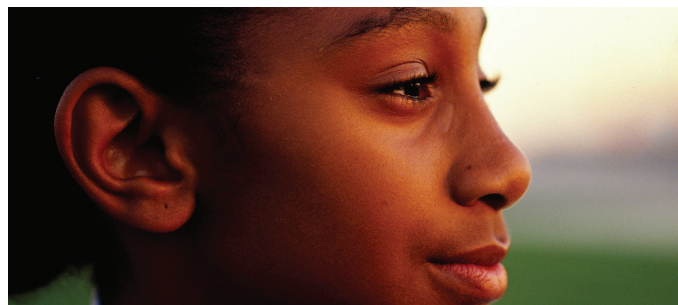
Raising Awesome Girls

Teach Her to Shut Down Haters With Confidence

We're all working to create a more peaceful world, where people are respectful of each other and bullying is a thing in the past, but in the meantime, there's a good chance your daughter will encounter at least one instance of someone talking behind her back or hurting her feelings at school. Hearing that your girl is going through a hard time can be heartbreaking, but instead of immediately stepping in and trying to fix the situation for her, Girl Scouts Developmental Psychologist Andrea Bastiani Archibald says it's better to arm her with ways to handle the situation herself if possible. "You won't always be there to help her get through these kinds of situations," she says, "so giving her the skills to both cope and make a situation better on her own will truly help her in life."

Your daughter might think she's dealing with a hater, but the truth is that neither she nor you know what's actually going on in this other girl's life, or what her motivations are for her behavior. "Listen to your daughter, and take her emotions seriously," Dr. Bastiani Archibald says, "but also take a step back to determine how serious the situation really is. Is this a case of a girl your daughter wants to be friends with not wanting to be besties with her? A situation like that can be hurtful, but as long as the other girl is being respectful, there's nothing inherently wrong with that behavior." Explain to your daughter that different personalities sometimes just aren't a natural match—but that this one girl's lack of interest in friendship doesn't mean she won't find other girls who want to be friends in her class or on the playground. Encourage her to stop wasting energy on the one girl who doesn't want to team up, and to instead focus on all the other potential friends she could be making. Just sitting at a different lunch table or trying out a different game at recess could open her world to a whole new group of kids.

That said, if what's bothering her goes beyond a personality mismatch, to the point where another child is spreading rumors or purposefully doing things to humiliate your daughter or hurt her feelings, she might need some help on how to handle the situation. "It's almost always effective to simply act as though the actions of the hater or bully don't affect you, since usually the person in question wants a reaction and will get bored if nothing happens," says Dr. Bastiani Archibald, but that's often easier said than done."



If your daughter wants to take action, urge her to resist the temptation to throw insults back at her bully or to say nasty things about her to others. That will only escalate the situation and bring your daughter down to the mean girl's level. Instead, suggest that she ignore the taunts or mean behavior while others are around, and instead wait for a moment alone with the other person to bring up what's been going on. "She can say something like 'I've heard you're saying these things about me—is that true?' or 'I've noticed you doing X, Y, Z' and then ask the other girl why she's been behaving that way," says Dr. Bastiani Archibald, as it's possible there's been a misunderstanding between the two girls that could be cleared up in a one-on-one, non-accusatory conversation. If that's not the case, and it's clear the other girl simply doesn't like your daughter, she can follow up by saying, "It's okay if you don't want to be friends, but I'd like to think we could at least be respectful of each other." Help her practice using "I" statements like "When you _____, I feel _____." Communicating her feelings clearly is a skill that will help your girl in situations throughout her life!

If none of this makes a difference, and your daughter is truly being tormented—or if there is a threat of violence—it's time for you to step in. Talk to the parents of the girl in question and/or get a hold of school authorities who can help keep your daughter safe and help work out any conflicts that could be putting your daughter at risk.

We want every girl to succeed. That's why GSSJC is happy to bring you Girl Scouts of the U.S.A.'s Raising Awesome Girls, an online publication to help you and your Girl Scout answer questions, face challenges and find solutions to daily life. For more articles like this, visit www.girlscouts.org and find Raising Awesome Girls under the "For Adults" tab.





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and Chair of the Board**
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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 108001 visited Camp Silver Springs this weekend! We did archery, geocached, hiked and hid a new letterbox! Our Juniors were inspired with a Bronze Award idea and our Brownies cannot wait to join AIM next year! See more Scrapbook photos on page 40.

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**Need help finding food, transportation,
child care, or other social services?**

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.



Betsy Kamin
President of the Council
and Chair of the Board

From the TOP



Our council recently hosted Success to Significance, our annual fundraising luncheon attended by more than 600 Girl Scout supporters and guests. Every year, this event raises critical funds to help make Girl Scouting a reality in our community. It is a delightful affirmation of the Girl Scout Movement, which focuses on building girls of courage, confidence, and character. I love attending this gathering every year because it is always so inspirational.

At the event, board member and luncheon co-chair Mel Reeves asked the audience if any of them had been Girl Scouts, and a wave of hands rose to the ceiling. As a Girl Scout alum, to see so many women from such diverse backgrounds touched by such a phenomenal organization was heartwarming.

The guest speaker, Katherine Center, a New York Times bestselling author of nine novels, is also a Girl Scout alum. She shared her story with the audience, describing how Girl Scouts helped her overcome challenges and taught her the perseverance that eventually led to finding an agent and getting a dream-come-true book deal. Thanks to the three Cs she developed as a Girl Scout, her novel, "The Lost Husband," was a bestseller made into a movie that reached No. 1 on Netflix. Another bestselling novel, "Happiness for Beginners," is now on Netflix too. Katherine Center certainly shared a fantastic success-to-significance story!

Girl Scouts has helped many girls realize their dreams. Did you know that more than half of the women in business are Girl Scout alums, that 75% of current female senators are Girl Scout alums, and that 100 percent of female secretaries of state in U.S. history are former Girl Scouts? These are incredible statistics that only improve year after year. As the president of the council and chair of the board of directors, I am proud and honored to be part of an organization that has developed legions of women leaders over the past century and continues to do so.

The council is now gearing up for its annual Girl Scout Cookie Program, starting in January. The program provides girls with hands-on learning experiences that help them develop and sharpen their entrepreneurial skills. They learn 5 essential life skills - goal setting, decision-making, money management, people skills, and business ethics.

While selling Girl Scout cookies teaches girls life lessons, it is also fun! According to a Girl Scout study, 96% of girls surveyed described the cookie program as fun. Additionally, they learn by earning, which makes it even more enjoyable. They can use their cookie earnings to offset costs for troop activities, outings, or even an event like overnight camping.

I strongly encourage every Girl Scout to get involved in the largest girl-led business. It is an opportunity to discover more about yourself and what you can achieve. In this issue, you will read why several Girl Scouts like participating in the Cookie Program.

The Cookie Program would never succeed without our dedicated troop leaders and volunteers who support our Girl Scouts and cookie entrepreneurs. These volunteers help our girls develop skills that will set them up for success today and in the future. Let the cookie sales begin!

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.

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

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.

Clip these dates and save!

Important Cookie Dates

In December, the "Be a Digital Cookie Rock Star!" girl/parent webinar will be available to watch on demand

- Jan. 12 Troops place orders
- Jan. 29 "Be a Digital Cookie Rock Star!" Q&A. Scan the QR Code to register!
- Jan. 31 Cookie Delivery starts
- Feb. 10 Cookie Program starts
- Feb. 16 Cookie Booths start
- March 24 Cookie Program ends





Meet the Cookie Mascot, the Axolotl!

The axolotl (ACK-suh-LAH-tuhl) is the Peter Pan of salamanders. While most amphibians grow out of their aquatic phase to begin their lives on land, the axolotl largely retains its larval characteristics and spends its adult life in the water. It does, however, get bigger—up to a foot long. They live in southern part of Mexico City and live up to 15 years. They eat worms, small crustaceans, and fish.

Why is Participating in the Cookie Program a Magical Idea?

Did you know the Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world? We are excited about this year's program, and we hope you are too. Let's own our magic in the 2024 Cookie Program! Here are the top five reasons your daughter should participate:

1. **Life skills:** The Cookie Program helps girls develop unparalleled leadership skills that will stay with them for life, including goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics.
2. **It's easy to participate:** Digital Cookie, our cookie site, will offer girls web- and mobile-based resources to track and manage their business on a digital platform.
3. **Financial benefits:** Troops will earn money to help offset the cost of activities, outings, program supplies, and so much more. Individually, girls can even use their Cookie Dough to visit a GSSJC shop or to use towards a cool event, including overnight camp!
4. **Earn rewards:** There's a special theme for the Cookie Program every year, and girls can work towards earning special rewards that now include experiences which inspire goal setting!
5. **Girls will thank you for it:** Nearly 80% of all women business owners were Girl Scouts, and many successful businesswomen say they got their start selling Girl Scout Cookies. Thanks to caring volunteers and parents, like you, girls who participate in the Cookie Program gain courage, confidence, and character to pursue their dreams.

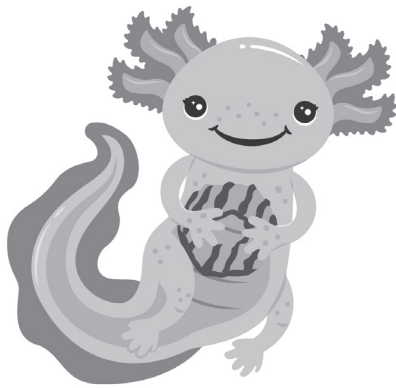


Meet the 5 Skills

Build a Lifetime of Skills and Confidence

- **Goal Setting:** Setting important goals inspires a girl to better herself and exceed limitations.
- **Decision Making:** Smarter decision-making empowers a girl to excel and trust her instincts.
- **Money Management:** A girl learns the importance of good money management such as budgeting and funding activities.
- **People Skills:** Confidence in dealing with others helps a girl reach her goals and develop leadership skills.
- **Business Ethics:** A girl learns the value of running a business with honesty and integrity.





Did You Know ALL Proceeds From Girl Scout Cookies Stay Local?

1. Proceeds cover the cost of running the Girl Scout Cookie Program, including the cost of cookies, materials, and logistics.
2. Proceeds fund Take Action projects for the community and amazing girl-led adventures for troops.
3. Proceeds help Council provide Girl Scout programs in STEM, the outdoors, life skills, and entrepreneurship, as well as camps, leadership training, and more!

How does a Package of Cookies Support Girl Scouts?

- 60% supports local programs like horseback riding, STEM programs, camps, and so much more.
- 21% covers the costs of the cookie program and vendor costs.
- 19% goes to troop proceeds and girl recognitions.

Troop Proceeds

Girl Scouts in each troop decide how to use the proceeds earned from participating in the Cookie Program.

Below is a sample of how a troop of 12 Girl Scouts might budget the \$2,603 they earned in troop proceeds during the cookie sale based on a per girl average of 241 packages of cookies:

• Intro to Sailing (\$60 per girl or adult)	\$720
• Attend Camping Under the Stars (\$35/girl)	\$420
• Brownie Art and Design (Maker) Badge, UHCL's Art School for Children (\$32 per girl)	\$384
• SPURS Training (\$30 per girl)	\$360
• Attend Backpacking Orientation (\$25 per girl)	\$300
• Space Out! Telescope Night at Camp (\$22 per girl)	\$264
• Add to travel fund for trip next year	\$155



Cookie Prices

The price of cookies will increase from \$5 to \$6 per package in the 2024 Cookie Program. To ensure our Girl Scouts are considered in the price increase, we will also increase the amount of troop proceeds earned per package of cookies sold. It is important our girls have the funding they need to support their Girl Scout experience.

Proceed Plan	Proceeds	Last Year's Proceeds
Standard Troop Plan (All levels)	\$0.90	\$0.75
Older Girl Plan (Optional for Cadette – Ambassador)	\$1.00	\$0.83
Community Bonus	\$0.06	\$0.05

Digital Cookie

GSUSA is introducing Digital Cookie®, a new cookie platform for girls and parents to use in the 2024 Cookie Program. Digital Cookie is a unified online selling platform that allows Girl Scouts to sell cookies through their personalized storefront or by using a mobile app. Girls and parents/caregivers will have fun navigating this user-friendly, colorful new site to help their Girl Scout boost her sales, sharpen her entrepreneurial skills, and power unique adventures with her troop year-round! Watch gssjc.org for Digital Cookie tutorials, videos, and tip sheets to prepare for your Girl Scout's best cookie season yet!

Starting Inventory Order

The Starting Inventory Order (SIO) troop reward program is getting an upgrade. Check the Online Community for an exciting announcement about our SIO reward and how to earn it! You can prepare to send your troop cookie manager your daughter's cookie order. Work with your daughter to calculate how many cookies she should order using the SIO Parent Worksheet available on the GSSJC cookies webpage (gssjc.org).



How to Help Your Girl Scout Participate

- ❑ Make sure your Girl Scout is registered for the 2024 membership year.
- ❑ Review the 2024 Cookie Family Guide. (mailed to households in January and available online in January.)
- ❑ Attend your troop's cookie meeting. Get important information about the opportunities and responsibilities of the Cookie Program.
- ❑ Complete the Parent Permission and Responsibility form. Scan the QR Code to complete.
- ❑ Join the Cookie Program team. Volunteer! Whether you can spare a little or a lot of time, there is a place for you. The Cookie Program couldn't happen without the time and talent parents and other volunteers give to support girl success at the troop and council level.



Ways to Sell Cookies in 2024



Door to door

Girls go door to door to homes in their neighborhood selling packages in hand. You can also gather with troopmates and take their neighborhoods by storm in a Walkabout.



Digital selling

Use Smart Cookie e-cards, social media links, QR codes, and more.



Cookie booths

Your troop cookie manager can reserve cookie booths at businesses where girls can set up a table to sell their cookies.



Lemonade stands

Parents and girls can set up a table to sell cookies at their home like a lemonade stand.

Cookies4Heroes

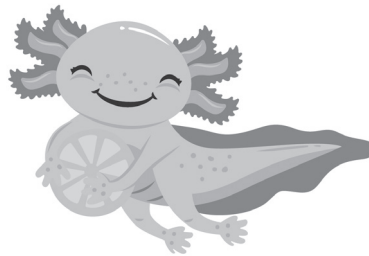
Cookies4Heroes is a program where customers can donate cookie packages to first responders, military, and law enforcement. Girls can earn a Cookies4Heroes patch and theme socks for supporting our heroes through our virtual cookie share or Cookies4Heroes program. Girls may also earn eligibility to deliver these cookies when selling 30-plus cookie shares.



Scan the QR code to access our GSSJC Cookie website! This will be your go to for all things cookies including forms, guides, and details about the program.

We Would Love to Have You!

Our Product Program team is looking for engaged and helpful volunteers to help make the Cookie Program run smoothly. The more help, the better. Scan the QR code to gain access to our sign-up sheets to help at our Mega Drops, cookie cupboards or to be a cookie booth liaison.



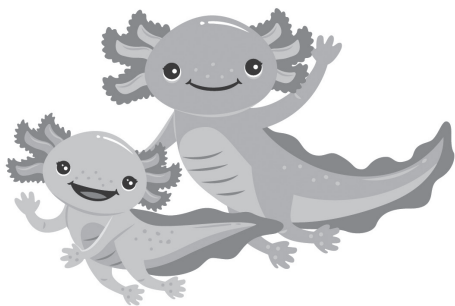
How to Help Your Girl Scout Succeed

Now that you know more about the 5 Skills and what they can do for your Girl Scout, here are a few simple ways you can help her get ready for the Cookie Program now:

- Listen to her practice her sales pitch.
- Review cookie materials and visit ABC Smart Cookies with her to help her learn more about her product.
- Ask her questions – even pretend to be a potential customer.
- Guide her to set practical and useful goals about what she wants to learn and earn.
- Listen to her describe what her goals are for the money earned through the sale.
- Be a role model for business ethics and safety rules.
- Have fun with her!

Remember that the Girl Scout Cookie Program is a part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, which is girl driven. Let your Girl Scout take the lead in selling cookies and reaching goals. Your encouragement, coaching and guidance will be key ingredients to a successful Cookie Program experience for her.





National Cookie Weekend

Keep the fun going all Cookie Season and celebrate National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend, Feb. 16 – 18! This weekend Girl Scouts around the country celebrate the Girl Scout Cookie Program, the largest girl-led business in the world! Decorate your yard or car, prep for booth sales, send e-cards, customize a shirt to promote your girl business, or throw a party to celebrate the 2024 Cookie Program!

Walkabout Weekend

A Walkabout is a great way to celebrate National Cookie Weekend! Who can resist our esteemed sweet treats when a Girl Scout is at their front door with their favorite cookies? Not us! Door-to-door sales remains one of the most effective ways to sell cookies. In a recent national study, 78% of those customers who were not approached during a cookie sale stated they would have purchased two to four packages if asked.

Go door to door in your neighborhood and visit cookie customers you may have missed or who might want to restock their favorites! Follow all safety guidelines.

When you participate in our 2024 Walkabout Weekend, you will receive a special Walkabout patch.

Why I Sell Girl Scout Cookies!

Girl Scout Cookie season is the best time of the year because you learn how to become more independent, build your social abilities, and improve your business skills. It's rewarding to set goals, meet them, and then exceed them. You get to meet exciting people, hear stories from women who sold cookies when they were girls, hang out with your Girl Scout sisters, and make experiences that will last a lifetime. I think every Girl Scout should sell cookies because it's fun and it allows your troop to have experiences it may not have been able to do before. The money can be used for things like my favorite activity, camping with my troop.



Danika C.
Troop 107113, Lone Star Trails
Cadette

I'm going to tell you what I love about selling cookies! One of my favorite things is working on my business skills. Selling cookies teaches me about advertisement skills, handling money, and working with people I don't tend to know. Plus, selling cookies gives me a boost of confidence when it comes to public speaking.

I'm totally an introvert, but selling cookies helps me break out of my shell when I knock on my neighbors' doors, especially the ones I don't know, and at cookie booths when I have to call attention to my booth. I know if I don't call, customers might not come over.

There is one more thing I'll share. It is the feeling of rejection. When a customer says no, it makes me feel more like an adult because real life isn't the perfect world where everyone will say yes and buy cookies.

I think I've developed many more real-world skills that I'll need in life than some of the things I've learned in school, like what a standard equation is – just saying.

Madison B.
Troop 109059, Heart of Texas Community
Cadette



Bling Your Booth Contest

We want to see your creative cookie booths!

Decorate and host a cookie booth anytime between Feb. 16 – March 24 to participate in this fun contest!

To qualify for prizes, your creative booth **MUST** include:

- Your Troop Sales Goal
- Show what you plan to do with proceeds earned
- Display the 5 Skills girls learn in the Cookie Program: goal setting, decision-making, money management, business ethics and people skills.

What you could win:

- The winning troop will win a weekend getaway at the Galveston Bay House on July 26-28, 2024!
- All participating troops will receive a Bling Your Booth patch for every member.

Visit gssjc.org/blingyourbooth for more information about contest guidelines, deadlines, and entry instructions.



Last year's winners!

Troop Builds Garden to Help Students Learn Life Sciences

The students at Canyon Pointe Elementary School in Tomball are fortunate to have a beautiful garden at their school, thanks to the efforts of Troop 111039. Troop members are Allie S., Bhawyanjani S., Meganne W., and Tori P. The troop designed and built 10 wooden planters that decorate the cement breezeway between the first-grade and kindergarten classrooms. Their sustainable project earned them a Silver Award.

The girls created the garden to help the younger students learn about life sciences. They also designed it to engage the senses as students learn about plants and flowers. "We researched basil, tomatoes, squash, cucumbers, and a variety of flowers to attract butterflies and pollinators," said Meganne. "We wanted the garden to be bright and colorful so the kids would enjoy it."

The Silver Award is the highest award that Cadettes can earn. Girls are required to spend up to 50 hours working on their projects. They identify an issue in their community, plan and implement their project, and then reflect on what they accomplished.

The girls said the new garden will help all students at the school, but it will be particularly beneficial for those who learn better through hands-on activities. "You can't learn from just seeing and hearing. It helps to better understand (the subject) when you are touching and doing," said Tori, who is a hands-on learner.

To start the project, the troop met with the principal to get approval and the school's guidelines for creating a garden. The

PTO loved the idea so much that it sponsored several events to help raise money for the materials the troop needed for the garden, including soil, plants, and wood to build 6-foot by 3-foot planters.



The girls designed the planters and then constructed them in the garage belonging to a troopmate's uncle, who let the girls use his power tools.

The troop also made booklets for each grade level with information about the garden's plants to help students care for them. The content also complements the life science curriculum. Additionally, the troop formed a fourth-grade garden club that will tend to the garden regularly to keep it thriving.

The girls agreed the most challenging part of the project was finding time when they all were available to work on the project. "We go to three different schools, and we all have different schedules with sports and other activities," Bhawyanjani said. "We worked effectively and overcame the challenge."

In the end, the troop achieved their goal of creating a beautiful garden for the school and learned valuable lessons. The project taught them how to collaborate, communicate, and budget money - and how expensive wood, specifically cedar, can be.

"It was fascinating to see how much time, work, and dedication it takes to do something like this and make such a difference," Allie said. "When we drove by and could see kids in the garden, it gave me a surge of pride. It was so special. Words can't describe it."

Troop Makes Video to Help Prevent Bullying

Kaitlyn and Faith of Troop 139113 took it upon themselves to raise awareness about bullying in their elementary school and its effects on students. They created a video to help educate students about ways to prevent this harmful behavior for their Bronze Award project.

To achieve this, the girls interviewed fellow students and teachers to gain their perspectives on bullying and its impact on them. The girls recorded the interviews and used some footage in their video, along with skits demonstrating how to identify and correct bullying behavior. During the interviews, they discovered that some students were unaware of how their actions impacted others, either positively or negatively.

To earn a Bronze Award, Girl Scouts are required to work up to 20 hours on a community issue that's important to them. The girls develop a plan, carry it out, and then share it with others. The Bronze Award is the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn.

While interviewing students, Kaitlyn and Faith also researched the topic and learned about several types of bullying. "When kids get bullied, it can have lasting effects as long as 25 years," Faith said. "The kinds of bullying are verbal, social, physical, cyber, and mental."

The girls said they have witnessed bullying at their school. They made some of those real-life scenarios into skits for their

video. In one of the skits, a girl walks past two students who push her, knocking her backpack off her shoulder. Then, two other concerned students check on the girl and pick up her backpack. Faith and Kaitlyn enlisted their siblings as actors in their video skits.

Faith said she has experienced bullying, and it made her feel bad about herself for a little while, but she took steps to stop it. "I got an adult and told the bully they weren't being nice," she said.

The girls plan to share their completed video with fifth-grade classes and the school's Gator Leadership program, hoping to raise awareness on the issue and prevent other children from experiencing emotional harm caused by bullying in their school. Kaitlyn and Faith said they targeted fifth graders because they have more experience, either directly or indirectly, with bullying than the younger students. If fifth graders learn ways to stop bullying, they can prevent it from happening as sixth graders in middle school, Kaitlyn said.

The girls said working on their Bronze Award project was fun. They learned how to make and edit a video while helping others. "It makes me feel good that people won't be bullied," Kaitlyn said.

Both girls said they look forward to working on their Silver and Gold Award projects.

Gold Award Project to Inspire More Girls to Pursue STEM

Danielle Burke has seen firsthand the stark difference in the number of male and female students in STEM classes at her Sugar Land high school. She was one of only five female students in her computer science class of 30 students. To address this gender gap, Danielle created a mentorship program for middle-school girls to provide them with resources and encouragement to pursue STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) classes and careers.

Danielle designed the afterschool program after interviewing her peers and researching the topic. She discovered that many girls lacked support and encouragement to enroll in STEM classes in middle school. She decided to use her Gold Award project as a tool to break down barriers. Her program, Inspiring STEM-inism, focuses on girls from underserved neighborhoods and helps them build confidence to follow their interests in STEM.

The Gold Award is the highest award a Girl Scout can earn. To be eligible to earn the award, girls must be an Ambassador or Senior Girl Scout. Girls choose a community issue dear to them and spend up to 80 hours planning, implementing, and sharing their projects with others as required.

“My goal as I began my project was to transform this situation and uplift marginalized youth, and being able to bring new opportunities and resources to my local community gave me great passion for my project,” she said. Danielle worked with her project mentor Katie Spicer, a NASA professional, and other STEM professional women to build a curriculum for the program. They also collaborated on a booklet with personal stories and information about STEM careers. Additionally, Danielle recruited 10 peers to mentor the 25 middle school girls who attended the program’s six workshops. She and her team then launched a STEM club at the middle school, Girls Who Code, like the club Danielle joined at her high school.



Danielle said when she joined the high school club, she discovered the power of using her voice to inspire other girls, which inspired her to find a solution to the gender barriers in STEM. She chose to help girls at the Sugar Land middle school she attended, where 1 in 3 students come from economically challenged backgrounds. The girls in her mentorship program were all first-generation U.S. citizens, and 75% of them did not personally know a woman in a STEM profession before joining the program, Danielle said.

During the afterschool workshops, girls heard from guest speakers who work in STEM, worked on a coding project, and learned about the various STEM classes and pathways they can take to achieve a STEM career. Danielle said the girls enjoyed the program and she remembered one student who was super shy at

the beginning of the program. But, by the end of the program, she was outspoken and excited about exploring a career in STEM. “Her progression and dream of wanting to pursue stuck with me,” she said.

Danielle’s main challenge while completing her project was generating enough interest among the middle school students to join the program. With the help of teachers, she was able to advertise her program and attract more students.

Danielle plans to continue the program through the end of the year before handing the reins over to another student. She will graduate from William B. Travis High School in Sugar Land in the spring and plans to attend college to study political science.

Juliette Gordon Low Featured on 2025 Quarter

GSUSA is proud to announce that our founder Juliette Gordon Low has been named an honoree of the 2025 American Women Quarters™ Program. In its fourth and final year, the program features the accomplishments and contributions of trailblazing American women.

Low founded Girl Scouts on March 12, 1912 and created a Movement that prepared girls for leadership eight years before women gained the right to vote in the U.S. and emphasized civic responsibility, motivating girls to make their communities better places through service. Low sowed seeds of empowerment that would help the Girl Scout Movement grow to a remarkable reach and impact—with millions of adult and girl members and volunteers worldwide and a vast web of accomplished alums leading in nearly every community and at every level of government, business, arts, media, science, and technology.

The American Women Quarters Program began in 2022 and is continuing through 2025. The U.S. Mint is issuing five quarters in each of these years. The ethnically, racially, and geographically diverse group of individuals honored through this program reflects a wide range of accomplishments and fields, including suffrage, civil rights, abolition, government, humanities, science, space, and the arts. Low joins an impressive list of women being honored as part of the Mint’s historic program, including Ida B. Wells, Dr. Vera Rubin, Stacey Park Milbern, and Althea Gibson.

The Secretary of the Treasury selected the women to be honored following consultation with the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum, the National Women’s History Museum, and the Congressional Bipartisan Women’s Caucus.

Success to Significance 2023

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

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

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



Above, Co-chairs of the event, Mel Reeves and Cassandra Mott

Left, Keynote speaker Katherine Center

Thank You, Sponsors!



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Thank you, 2022-2023 Day and Twilight Camp Directors and Co-directors!

As we say goodbye to summer, GSSJC wants to thank the many volunteers who worked so hard to offer day and twilight camps in throughout the council. These summer programs served more than 800 girls. Planning and offering an awesome summer program doesn't just happen - these camps required the talents of unit leaders, first aiders, safety volunteers, lifeguards, archery instructors, and so many more people.

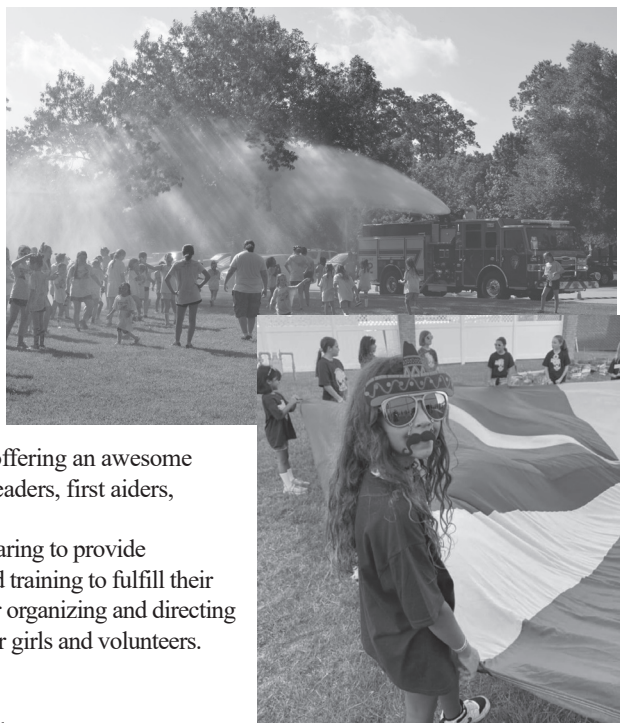
Day and twilight camp directors work throughout the year planning and preparing to provide affordable programs to their communities. They undergo vetting, appointment, and training to fulfill their important role. The volunteers below are worthy of an exceptional "thank you" for organizing and directing programs in the intense summer heat and bringing valuable new experiences to our girls and volunteers.

Camp

Camp Colony Creek
Camp Happy
Lone Stars Twilight Camp
Jersey Village Twilight Camp
Northampton Day Camp
Outta This World Twilight Camp
Silver Springs II

Director & Co-director

BJ Bonner and Megan Hickel
Nicole Matthys, Beth Hall, Kim Evans, and Barbra Mathys
Christina Hurd and Natalia Montanez
Judy Harris, Lynda Starbuck, and Brenda Wong
Jenna Knight and Carrie Campbell
Cerissa Abbott and Stacey Kim-Harvey
Tami Folk and Dawn Mayhall



The day and twilight camp program is a great way to keep girls engaged over the summer break. If you are interested in offering a volunteer camp in your area, please contact Natalie Jares at njares@sjgs.org for more information. If you are interested in getting a camp started in your area, council staff and volunteers will provide training and assistance in starting a camp.

Adult Recognition Event and Annual Meeting Will be April 20 at Camp Agnes Arnold!

Join us on April 20 to recognize and thank the wonderful volunteers and community members who make GSSJC special and conduct council's required business. Registration goes live Dec. 1 for the Adult Recognition event. For information about the Adult Recognition event, contact Cassie Robinson at crobinson@sjgs.org or for annual meeting, contact Robin Brown at rbrown@sjgs.org.

Thank Your Volunteers This Spring!

Girl Scout volunteers participate in Girl Scouting because they believe in our mission. They want to feel valued as well with a heartfelt "thank you." There are many informal ways to demonstrate appreciation to our volunteers. Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council has formal awards for volunteers who go above and beyond, who exceed expectations, whose contributions are significant and whose performance is outstanding. These volunteers whose efforts are sincerely focused on making the Girl Scout experience impactful for girls are people to appreciate and recognize.

First collect Volunteer Service Records (F-122) for each volunteer in your troop every year. This will help you and your local recognition team when it comes time to nominate someone who has been outstanding!

Nominate your volunteers locally by submitting forms to your local Region or Community Leadership Team **no later than March 1**. No late nominations or partial nominations will be accepted.

- Outstanding Volunteer form F-59
- Outstanding Leadership Team (Troops/Special Interest Groups) form F-335
- Fearless Leader Patch – available for purchase in GSSJC shops, usually purchased by Community

NEW THIS YEAR: Order forms for Years of Membership, Years of Service and Continuing Leader Rockers are now one online form.

Get inspired by council-wide recognitions by attending the Adult Recognition Event on April 20!
Registration is required. Deadline for ALL nominations is March 1.

Community-based Awards
Outstanding Volunteer Pin
(F-59) on the GSSJC website under Forms.



Outstanding Leadership Team Pin
(F-335) on the GSSJC website under Forms.



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.



Anusha Adusumilli raised awareness about how people should interact with special needs students and decrease the stigma surrounding them. For her project, she created a mural at her high school in the special education hallway. She also hosted an educational workshop for the public and created a website to share her project with others.



Jessica Barnett addressed bullying and discrimination in elementary schools for her project. She authored a book, "The Duck and the Bullfrog," to teach children about being kind to others. She used the book for presentations at five local schools, which included a group of Spanish-speaking children. All the schools have copies of her book to continue efforts to inspire youngsters to be kind.



Ellison Albright created resources for immigrants wishing to become citizens. She built upon the official citizenship study guide by creating a version with detailed explanations, six different practice tests, and a Q&A section. To assist new arrivals to Houston, she designed an interactive map of Houston that highlights its parks, hospitals, schools, libraries, community centers, and migrant resource centers.



Cortlyn Burke focused her project on educating teenagers on the benefits of reading to help improve literacy rates that fell due to COVID. She also shared information on why reading is important and provided the teenagers with reading resources. She held reading workshops at black-owned bookstores, a culture club, and for a Girl Scout troop. Additionally, she created a website to reach out to other teens around the world.



Allison Alderman created a recycling program at her school to teach younger students about the importance of recycling. Through the club, students learned about the impact they can have on the world by collecting over 300 pounds of paper for recycling. The school's National Honor Society will keep the recycling going.



Danielle Burke created an after-school mentorship program for female middle school students from underserved areas to combat the gender disparity in STEM industries. With her high school volunteers, she recruited a team of women in STEM careers to contribute to curriculum, lesson materials, and mentoring during six workshops. Her Inspiring STEM-inism booklets will be available at her school for future middle schoolers.



Isabelle Alvarado used her project to combat beach toy pollution that litters Galveston beaches by raising awareness about the issue. She created handmade baskets that beachgoers can put beach toys in, making the toys available to other beachgoers. She also placed a QR code on each basket to lead the public to her website, where they can learn more about her project, the environmental impact of beach pollution, and how to make baskets.



Charlotte Charlton built, stocked, and placed Story Swap Libraries at seven Title 1 public elementary schools and at a health clinic for the medically underserved. To generate excitement about the libraries, she hosted red ribbon cutting ceremonies and gave away goodies to children. She then saw about 740 children pick out books to take home. Her book collection focused on culturally diverse stories, which the schools will continue to re-stock while promoting their library via social media.



Annabelle Euker used her project to help special needs students feel more included in student life at school. She created a curriculum for her dance team to turn dance sessions into learning opportunities. She designed 28 lesson plans and used four with her dance team and special-needs teenagers. The dance team leadership at her school and the dance team leadership at another high school have agreed to continue using her curriculum.



Sofia Forcella focused her project on addressing the lack of networking opportunities for female entrepreneurs. Since statistics show that 48% of businesswomen lack competent advisors, she and her team created a toolkit of resources to build networking skills. They also created an Instagram page and hosted two virtual networking calls with female entrepreneurs, resulting in incredibly positive survey responses.



Vaishnavi Girish's project raised awareness about STEM at Towne West Elementary School. Her workshops for students and teachers included STEM kits for hands-on learning. The school was so appreciative that the principal started a Eureka Club to encourage STEM explorations throughout their school.



Jillian Greely designed her project to halt the decline of the butterfly population and decrease runoff due to flooding in the creek at Dennis Johnston Park. She and her volunteer team planted 109 plants of nine varieties, sowed 3,000 milkweed seeds, and added 13 bags of mulch to the garden. She also created a pamphlet about the butterfly garden to continue to engage visitors and the whole community.



Kami Hamilton partnered with Inner Fire Martial Arts and its owner to bring awareness about the importance of self-defense to elementary school children. Her project included free self-defense classes in person and through a YouTube channel. The classes encouraged many attendees to continue to learn more about self-defense.



Audrey Hanan collaborated with the National Art Honor Society at her school to create a mural highlighting the diverse student body and activities at the school. Her project also included workshops that led to her volunteers creating art that included STEM, music, sports, and the arts not represented in other murals. Her project was featured in the school's weekly digital newsletter and posts on social media.



Sonia Harper created the Loads of Care program, a laundry service, within her local school district with assistance from a local business. School counselors, parents, and teachers can recommend students who need laundry services. The program can serve 20 students who can bring 40 pounds of laundry and clean it for free. Willis ISD and Xpress Washateria are prepared for this program to grow and have committed to continue it indefinitely.



Nora Hayes used her project to teach students about seizure disorders and seizure safety. She created and presented an informational PowerPoint to five clubs at her high school and provided each club with a binder of seizure action plan forms for students to fill out. Her website summarized her project with pictures from the presentations and was featured on project posters throughout her school to continue to raise awareness of seizures.



Kassidy Hook helped more than 1,000 people by hosting 17 blood drives at three separate locations. With a team of volunteers at each location, they advertised, set up, and supported each blood drive while inspiring the community to make a change, speak up, and be service minded.



Kenney Hoyt noticed there were not ample resources on nutrition explicitly created for disabled individuals. She hosted three workshops covering the importance of moderation, eating whole foods to fuel your body correctly, and how to incorporate easy and fun exercises. Her website explained how others can spread awareness in their communities.



Madeleine Hugel designed workshops to help with the mental health of teenage girls. In collaboration with From the Vine Ministries, she planned and hosted seven workshops to teach yoga and coping mechanisms. She also connected specific Bible verses with parts of the Girl Scout Law. Her project advisor will continue to use these video workshops with her clients at her Light My Way Ministries.



Reagan Litts helped homeless new mothers eat healthy for her project. Reagan surveyed the mothers at LifeHouse, that provides housing, help, and hope for women during their pregnancies and beyond, and then created healthy recipes with common ingredients. She recorded videos as she made the meals and then posted them on a Meals for Mothers website. LifeHouse will continue to share her website within and outside their community.



Audrey Hughes designed her project to bring awareness about how exercise and mental health are linked. She prepared a weeklong, fun-filled movement program with elementary-aged children with the goal of inspiring them to keep moving. Working with Camp Invention, she hosted 110 children who learned six original games and finished with a field day. She shared the program curriculum with local schools and their PE departments.



Anna Loe chose to fill the gap in the record history of her neighborhood. Her project included researching 32 years of newsletters, interviewing 15 original homeowners, and reviewing photos and advertisements from over 50 years ago. She placed this history on the neighborhood's website and displayed it on a tri-fold board at city hall. She and her volunteer team also rejuvenated the public areas by trimming the trees at the main entry, replanting a flowerbed, and repainting a bike rack.



Crystal Huynh partnered with the Fort Bend County Parks and Recreation Department to provide houses for bats impacted by habitat loss due to deforestation. She gave bat presentations and created a QR code and placed it near the bat houses so people can scan it to learn more about helping bat populations.



Morgan Matherene focused her project on addressing language barriers and safety resources along Matagorda Beach. She installed bilingual signs emphasizing the importance of wearing life jackets and safety guidance for rip currents at the beach entrance. With the support of local officials, she collected 200 life jackets of all sizes and placed them in the bin at the beach entrance, along with clear instructions for their use and return.



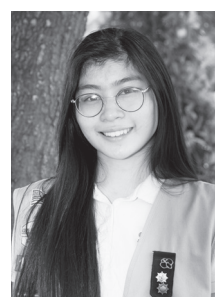
Kassandra Kee partnered with the George Ranch Animal Science Department and her volunteers to research, create, and publish five videos (on YouTube) and a flyer dedicated to animal first aid. She also emailed it to multiple clinics and shelters across the United States. Her high school veterinary science teacher will use these videos during their small animal segment at the beginning of every year.



Sabrina Nader discovered that many seniors who need assistance from Meals on Wheels also needed help getting dog food for their pets. For her project she spent every Saturday for three months at her local PetsMart raising awareness and collecting dog food. The store now has a relationship with Meals on Wheels and continues to host a donation box. Her school's PAWS club will continue to hold annual targeted food drives.



Kushi Kolli, an aspiring physician, designed her project to support and raise awareness for The Ballard House, where patients can stay free while receiving medical treatment. She partnered with the National Honor Society at her school to plan a consumables drive, which the NHS members will continue to hold annually. They added a segment about this project to the NHS video meetings, which will continue to be used to raise awareness about The Ballard House.



Patrice Nguyen addressed the misconceptions of recycling with elementary children and focused on how this contributes to pollution in our ecosystem and introduced them to upcycling. She partnered with the Cy-Hope After School Center to host two arts and crafts workshops for education, create and donate an upcycled picnic table, and videotape two DIY upcycled crafts for YouTube.



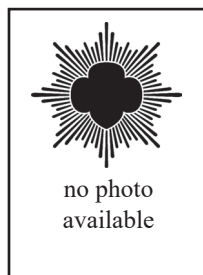
Alexis Norman focused her project on saving pollinators after discovering that populations of many pollinator species are declining due to habitat loss, global warming, and pesticide use. She designed and planted a pollinator garden with native flowering perennials at Willow Waterhole. A sign with a QR code draws visitors to the related website she and her team created to educate people about the importance of pollinators to all life on this earth.



Payton Ohler educated teenagers about fast fashion and how it fills landfills and increases carbon emissions for her project. She designed, photographed, and published the “Shift to Thrift” magazine. She also created a public website with all the research, tips, influencers, and videos used for the magazine. Next, she presented the magazine to clubs at her school. She handed out 200 magazines, spoke to two Girl Scout troops, and hosted a booth at a festival.



Lilly Poe focused her project on Monarch butterflies. She installed five planter beds at a local church. The beds enclosed 135 square feet of pollinator garden, which qualified it to be an official, registered Waystation by Monarch Watch, a group dedicated to protecting pollinators. The garden is marked on their map and has a QR code so visitors can add monarch sightings to Monarch Watch, which will assist biologists in monitoring.



Zaniya Prasla created a podcast that incorporated interviews with professionals in mental health for her project. The podcast presented a basic introduction to Adderall and discussed why it is used, and how its use has spread, causing addiction. She and her guest speakers provided a coping mechanism that can replace Adderall. She also built a website and promoted it through a private counselor and an organization called Catalyst Collective,



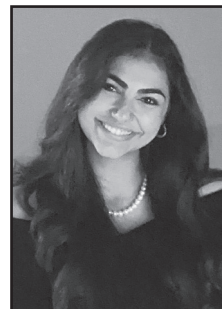
Sophia Prill had concerns about elementary school students having low confidence and self-esteem. For her project, she partnered with her Jiu Jitsu academy to host three self-defense workshops for these children and their parents. With one of her volunteers, she created a video with all the self-defense techniques from their lessons. Cantu’s Self-Defense Jiu Jitsu Academy will continue to use the video.



Vivienne Roselius noticed that women's sports are underrepresented at her school. She began with an article about her project in the school's magazine and then created a female sports calendar with their sport schedules and QR codes to encourage attendance. Her school is promoting the games on social media and adding them to morning announcements, plus girls' sports are getting more workout time, and cheerleaders are attending girls' games.



Maria Saghbini addressed women's battles with disability issues, education, mental and physical health, healthy relationships, and human rights. She created and installed meaningful messages in the girls' restrooms at her high school. She also designed a website, The Amelioration, that discusses problems women face today, why they may think unfavorably of themselves, and what they can do to alter this mindset.



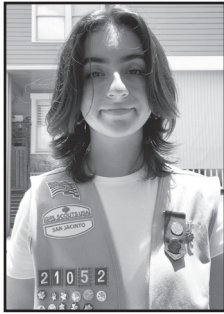
Aishwarya Sastry wrote a children's book about embracing cultural differences and taking pride in your uniqueness while telling the story of a young Indian girl who has just moved to America. Her presentation of the book to a class included initial questions, activities to help the children talk with each other, and a follow-up survey. She gave the school counselor the activity plan for future use, and the book is in the school library.



Stacey Smith educated young children about the importance of snakes, their role in the ecosystem and how to handle them safely. She partnered with Long Acres Ranch to build a new enclosure for one of their snakes, created an infographic with tips on how to quickly identify a venomous snake, and wrote a short story. Long Acres Ranch will continue to use her project to educate home-schooled and public-school students when they visit the ranch.



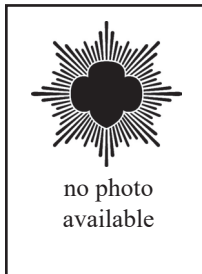
Amanda Sobrinho focused her project on raising awareness and preventing the decline of children’s reading skills when not in school. She created a free library for the Mamie George Community Center, a website, and held parent presentations on the importance of reading during the summer. She also held three book drives, which brought in a little over a thousand books for the free library.



Hannah Richard created an organization called STEM + to target STEM clubs at all-girl high schools to create a community that shares resources, encourages collaborative meetings, and provides opportunities for all girls. She designed a website to connect these clubs and provide research about STEM opportunities for girls. Social media posts will be used to continue to inform and reach out to girls to encourage learning about STEM careers.



Ava Winn educated women about the mental and physical benefits of exercising by hosting three yoga classes followed by a health seminar. She live-streamed these classes and posted them on the Mind Over MATter (MOM) Instagram page. She created a resource guide that she shared with participants and is available on the MOM docking page, along with links to the social media pages and session information.



Emily Speer created three Little Free libraries to improve literacy rates in her community. She designed the libraries for these locations. The libraries are outside a school, health center, and local coffee shop. Ribbon-cutting ceremonies opened the libraries and attracted the public. Each location has committed to maintaining their libraries.



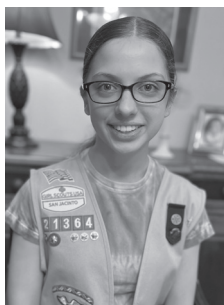
Caroline Woods partnered with the Homemade Hope Charity to hold creative writing workshops which include fostering artistic expression, stimulating imagination, clarifying thinking, and searching for identity. They were held over four days for elementary school-aged children. They created a website to store these lesson plans, and Homemade Hope will use her plans to continue to host these classes.



Lauren Spencer partnered with a nonprofit organization, Hearing the Call, and a local clinic, Fort Bend Hearing, to start the first branch of Hearing the Call in Texas. Hearing loss can cause cognitive decline, social isolation, depression, and much more. Fort Bend Hearing has committed to continuing her clinics, which, so far, have provided seven people with the hearing devices and care they need.



Erin York increased awareness about the conservation of endangered species by partnering with the Mercer Botanical Gardens. She designed an educational, self-guided walking tour pamphlet highlighting native flora and fauna and includes QR codes for a website with in-depth information. The garden's 250,000 annual visitors will receive accessible knowledge and engaging experiences through the continued distribution of this pamphlet.



Emily Vanlandingham worked with the City of Houston's Solid Waste Management Department to survey seven recycling bins and note what items people recycled incorrectly. She educated her community by hosting booths with posters, creating a slideshow, and hosting a recycling game at three local community centers. She received an invitation to bring her project to the Earth Day Event at Discovery Green.



Lewen Zhao sought to improve new driver safety with her project. She collaborated with the health teachers at her high school to create a website with modules that synthesized information from online sources about safe driving. The teachers included her project in the health curriculum for freshmen to attend before learning to establish a solid foundation for driver training. The health teachers will continue to use the website in their classes, and she has shared it with the whole school.



Caroline Vestal addressed the issue of period poverty and held a product drive that resulted in 100 care bags donated to the Star of Hope. She also held a workshop at her church where attendees were educated about period poverty and learned how to make reusable pads, which were donated to a women's center in Uganda. With the advice of the school nurse, she created a factual card with encouraging quotes that she gave to 60 fifth graders after their "talk."

Discover Galveston Island Patch

What's your island time? Discover a variety of activities for your trip to Galveston - from iconic beaches to historic sights. Have fun earning the Discover Galveston Island patch while you enjoy some of what this laid-back island has to offer!

Daisies and Brownies - Complete an activity from at least three sections to earn this patch.
Juniors and Cadettes - Complete an activity from at least four sections to earn this patch.
Seniors and Ambassadors - Complete an activity from at least five sections to earn this patch.

SECTION 1: HISTORY OF GALVESTON

Uncover Galveston's rich history, from its early beginnings to modern, family-oriented efforts to keep Galveston's history alive.

Activity 1 – The Great Storm

Learn about the history and aftermath of The Great Storm, which struck Galveston on Sept. 8, 1900, claiming the lives of more than 10,000 and taking its place in infamy. Discover how Galveston responded to make itself one of the world's most resilient cities, and ways you can explore and honor its victims and survivors today. Some options to explore include the exhibit about the storm at the Rosenberg Library, the Great Storm of 1900 movie at the Pier 21 Theater, the 1900 Storm Memorial on the Seawall at 47th Street, the Seawall & Grade Raising Markers between Murdochs and Pleasure Pier, The Bryan Museum, and the mosaic benches of the Seawall Interpretive Trail from 6th to 61st street. Alternatively, take a guided Hurricane tour.

Activity 2 – Seawolf Park

Check out the Galveston Naval Museum at Seawolf Park. Here, you can explore the USS Cavalla Submarine & USS Stewart Destroyer Escort. The USS Cavalla Gato-class fleet submarine was commissioned in February 1944 by the Electric Boat Company and is known for sinking Shokaku, a 30,000-ton aircraft carrier and Pearl Harbor veteran. The USS Stewart is one of only two surviving destroyer escorts in the country.

Activity 3 – Historic Sites

Explore the beautiful nineteenth-century mansions and homes that have preserved Galveston's architectural legacy. Visit the Bishop's Palace, Moody Mansion, Ashton Villa, the Grand Opera House, the Grand Galvez, the Star Drug Store, or the East End Historic District.

Activity 4 – Visit the ELISSA

The Tall Ship ELISSA was built in the year 1877 towards the end of the 'Age of Sail' to transport cargo. She is classified as a baroque sailing ship because she has three masts. This fully functioning sailing vessel is in an elite group of ships; she is not a replica. She lives on due to the generosity of the Galveston Historical Foundation donors and can be seen today at the Texas Seaport Museum.

Activity 5 – Immigration Experiences

The Port of Galveston is the second biggest immigrant ports of the 19th and 20th centuries. An estimated 300,000 immigrants entered the U.S. through the Port of Galveston between 1846-1948. Visit the Texas Seaport Museum at Pier 21 and see the exhibition about the immigrants who entered through the port. Use the database located in the museum to look up people who may have come through the port. Visit the Pier 21 Theater and watch Galveston - Gateway on the Gulf movie.

Activity 6 – Visit a Museum

Visit the Bryan Museum. Their mission is to bring the history of Texas and the American West to life. Girl Scouts can experience the stories of yesterday and write the stories of tomorrow. OR Visit the Galveston County Historical Museum inside the Court House at 722 21st Street.

Activity 7 – Texas Heroes

Visit the Texas Heroes Monument at 25th and Broadway. This monument was dedicated to the people who fought in the Texas Revolution of 1836. Take a look at the different sides of the monument – can you identify any symbolism?

Activity 8 – Other History Tours

Galveston has a variety of local tour options. Find one that sounds interesting and learn about some of the island's rich history. (Try visitgalveston.com to find local guides.) NOTE: Segway tours are prohibited by Safety Activity Checkpoints because they are on roadways.

SECTION 2: GALVESTON'S AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY

The richness of this island's history goes well beyond celebrating Emancipation. From being home to the first African American high school and public library in Texas to being the hometown of World Heavyweight Champ Jack Johnson, Galveston has long fought to preserve the knowledge of African American accomplishments and heritage on the island, holding dear the many historic sites and monuments that live on to tell the story.

Activity 1 – Learn about Emancipation

Visit the statue of Al Edwards and/or visit the Old Central Cultural Center. Perhaps the island's most profound connection to African American history is as the birthplace of the Juneteenth holiday. The history behind this holiday is that even though President Abraham Lincoln had already outlawed slavery, the last American slaves were not freed from remote areas of the south (including parts of Texas) until June 19, 1865.

Following emancipation, in 1885, Galvestonians established the Central School, the first Texas school for African Americans. The old school's annex is now part of the museum at the Old Central Cultural Center, at 2627 Avenue M.

Activity 2 – Take the Freedom Walk

Take the self-guided Freedom Walk to learn about 5 historic sites and their importance to Juneteenth.

Activity 3 – Juneteenth Celebration

Attend a Juneteenth event in Galveston. The Birthplace of Juneteenth, Galveston Island holds a special place in United States and African American history. Attend an annual event celebrating this holiday.

Activity 4 – Absolute Equality

Visit the Juneteenth Mural "Absolute Equality" at 22nd and Strand. Download the Uncover Everything app to scan this and other murals and monuments.

Activity 4 – Do Your Own Research

Research an area of the island's African American history that interests you, and plan a visit to that location, attend an event or lecture about the topic, or create a presentation to teach other Girl Scouts about it. Some options include the Middle Passage Marker at the Texas Seaport Museum, Reedy Chapel AME Church, Jack Johnson Park, Old Central High School, Cotton Jammers' Park, or the African American Museum – and there are many more options!

SECTION 3: ENJOY THE BEACH

Activity 1 – Find Your Favorite Beach

There are lots of beaches to explore on Galveston Island like Stewart Beach, Seawall, Pocket Park 2, or "Babe's Beach."



Activity 2 – Learn about the Flag Warning System

Different colored flags are flown at the beach to signify different things. Find out what a Green Flag, Yellow Flag, Red Flag, Purple Flag, and Orange Flag mean. Is there any way to find out the weather conditions before heading to the beach?

Activity 3 – Take an Interpretive Beach Tour

Explore the creatures and features that make Galveston beaches unique! There is more to the Sargassum and turbid water than many people think, and there is much more to be found on the beach than just sand. Tours are educational and fun for ocean lovers of all ages. Sign up for a free tour with the Artist Boat Bucket Brigade during summer months to learn to dig for clams, find seashells and explore tiny creatures. (www.artistboat.org/bucket-brigade) Guided nature tours may also be scheduled at the Galveston State Park.

Activity 4 – Get Hooked

Go fishing or crabbing at the beach! Youth under 17 years old do not require a fishing license in Texas; and no one requires a license to fish or crab at the Galveston Island State Park. Look online to learn about required gear, minimum size requirements and protected species, then head out to catch a seafood dinner (or catch and release)!

Activity 5 – Participate in a Beach Event

Attend a special event that takes place along Galveston's beaches. Every summer at the AIA Sandcastle Competition, you can browse extravagant sand sculptures along East Beach. Other beach events include the Galveston Family Beach Challenge at Stewart Beach, Ohana Surf Dog Competition at the Seawall beach, and many others. Check online to find one to attend www.visitgalveston.com/things-to-do/beaches/

SECTION 4: CONSERVATION AND ANIMAL SIGHTINGS

Activity 1 – Take a Dolphin Tour

Narrated dolphin tours offer a fun boat ride with historical facts of the harbor and interesting facts about our common and local Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins. Try Bay Watch Dolphin Tours (baywatchdolphintours.com) or research your own qualified tour company. Just make sure the provider is licensed through the US Coast Guard and follow all Safety Activity Checkpoints.

Activity 2 – Learn About Stranded Marine Mammals

Visit the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network to learn about the threats facing marine mammals on our coast and how to respond to marine mammal strandings. www.dolphinrescue.org

Activity 3 – Nurdles and Turtles

Learn about beach and ocean pollution, Nurdle Patrols, and the impact of plastic waste on wildlife. Participate in a beach clean-up with the Turtle Island Restoration Network (<https://seaturtles.org/>), Texas General Land Office Beach Cleanups in September and April, or another organization of your choice. If participating with the Turtle Island Restoration Network, coordinate with the organization to ensure the wrap up meeting is held at their office and not at the Galveston Island Brewing Company.

Activity 4 – Participate in a Conservation Event

There are a variety of conservation events and activities offered on Galveston Island throughout the year. Either participate in a event of your choice, or create your own conservation activity to help make the world a better place.

Activity 5 – Visit a Nature Preserve

Walk the Laffite's Cove Nature Preserve located at 3503 Eckert Drive. There is a gazebo to have lunch. OR Walk the East End Lagoon Nature Preserve trails on Boddeker Road. There are signs with pictures of birds, butterflies, and wildflowers. OR Visit the Edward and Helen Oppenheimer Bird Observatory at 13102 Stewart Road.

SECTION 5: ART & CULTURE

Activity 1 – See a Show

Watch a live performance on the island. Check out the Island ETC (East End Theater Company), the Grand 1894 Opera House, the Galveston Ballet, the Galveston Symphony Orchestra, or the Galveston Theater & Arts Partnership. Or research and visit a live performance at another local venue.

Activity 2 – Attend an Event

Galveston Island is home to several annual events. Learn about why some of them were founded and attend an event. You may choose the Shrimp Festival, FeatherFest, BooFest, ARToberFEST, the Greek Festival, the Festival of Lights, Dickens on the Strand, Mardi Gras, or any other annual event on the island.

Activity 3 – Visit a Museum or Attraction

Visit one of the many museums in Galveston, and experience the rich history of Texas. Or visit one of Galveston's many attractions such as Moody Gardens, Schlitterbahn Water Park, the Pleasure Pier, or any other of the island's many attractions. Or, take the self-guided Tree Sculpture tour in the East End. Pick up an online map from galveston.com.

Activity 4 – Make Art

Create your own island-inspired artwork! Whether you choose to create a song or story, paint a picture, recreate a historic scene, develop an interpretive dance, or craft something – make a unique work of art that celebrates your time spent in Galveston.

SECTION 6: SIGHTSEEING

Activity 1 – Go Kayaking

Book a kayaking trip with Artist Boat or a similar group. Artist Boat is an organization dedicated to the preservation of marine environments. (Be sure to check Safety Activity Checkpoints and remember that all girls must have the GSSJC Proficient Swimmer card to use a sit-on-top kayak and GSSJC Advanced Swimmer Proficiency to kayak in a closed cockpit kayak.)

Activity 2 – Escape!

Galveston is home to a number of escape rooms! Check out the one at the Pirate Museum or research and find your own adventure! Can you make it out in time?

Activity 3 – Tasty Treats

Stop in for a sweet treat at La King's, featuring a working 1920's soda fountain serving malts, shakes, ice cream sodas, sundaes, splits, floats, and your favorite fountain treats. If you're lucky, you'll see a master candy maker delighting the crowds by making their famous Saltwater Taffy, right before your eyes, on antique equipment!

Activity 4 – Support Local Farmers

Galveston's Own Farmers Market brings locally grown produce, prepared foods and edible farm products to residents of Galveston and the surrounding areas to provide a direct connection to vendors creating and growing fresh whole foods.

Activity 5 – Ferry Ride

Walk onto the ferry to ride both ways and look for the USS Selma (concrete ship), dolphins and seabirds. Drive down the right lane on Ferry Road and park in the lot at the end of the road. Walk to the staging area for walk-ons to board the vessel.

Activity 6 – Check Out the Fishing Fleet

Walk Pier 19 and observe the Mosquito Fleet fishing vessels - one of the few non-corporate fishing fleets left in the USA. If you are early enough in the morning you may be able to watch them sort their catch and see some interesting creatures.

Activity 7 – Visitor Center

Not sure where to go or what to do? Stop by the Galveston Visitor Center! Check out the current attractions, and take a snapshot in the photo booth! It's a perfect way to start off your island adventure!

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 in the spring. You can find more information on the referenced pages.

Art and Design Badge: Ceramics	BJ	Jan 13	Page 28
Medical Day	SA	Jan 20	Page 22
Daisy Think Like an Engineer Badge Workshop with SWE	D	Jan 20 or March 23	Page 34
Cookie College	DB	Jan 27	Page 22
Junior Scribe Badge Workshop	J	Feb 3	Page 28
Silver Award Trainings for Adults	Adults	Feb 3	Page 29
Senior and Ambassador Weekend	SA	Feb 3-4	Page 21
Astronomy SIG hosting Astronomy Carousel	JSCA	Feb 10	Page 21
Cookie University	JC	Feb 10	Page 22
Law Day	CSA	Feb 10	Page 22
Girl Scout Leadership Institute	SA	Feb 10	Page 24
Black History Celebration	DBJ	Feb 17	Page 21
Brownie Think Like an Engineer Badge Workshop with SWE	B	March 2	Page 34
Taste of History	BJ	March 2 or April 4	Page 30
Girl Scout Birthday – Cake Decorating Workshop	DBJCSA	March 9	Page 28
Space Fever!	BJ	March 9	Page 33
Gratitude Art Journaling	DBJ	March 30	Page 27
String Art Workshop	BJ	April 13	Page 28
Junior Think Like an Engineer Badge Workshop with SWE	J	April 20	Page 34
Cadette Weekend	C	April 26-28	Page 24
Heart to Art	CSA	May 4	Page 27

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.



General Activities

Adventure Park

If you are taking your troop camping and need an activity to do, we have just that. Climb high among the trees while having fun in our impressive Adventure Park and possibly end your climb with a ride down our zip line! The possibilities are endless at our beautiful Adventure Park!

Who: For Cadettes (girls in sixth grade) and up. Participants must weigh at least 70 pounds and no more than 250 pounds.
When: Dec. 16, Jan. 13, Jan. 27, Feb. 10, Feb. 11, Feb. 24
Where: Camp Agnes Arnold
Cost: \$35

See the Events page for the most up to date information on available times and dates.

Senior and Ambassador Weekend – Slumber Party at Camp!

Senior and Ambassador weekend is an event designed by older girls for older girls. It's time to treat them to a girls' night at Camp Casa Mare with karaoke, boardgames, midnight snacks, and more. Girls will be able to choose which activities they'd like to attend for a relaxing fun overnight camp experience. Lunch, dinner, and Sunday breakfast will be provided.

Who: (S) (a) adults
Where: Camp Casa Mare
When: Feb. 3 – 4
Cost: \$60/Girl Scout or adult
Contact: Natalie Jares, 713-292-0386, njares@sjgs.org

Family Camp - Fishing Rodeo

Join us for archery, games, crafts, canoeing, and competitions. Earn points for your family throughout the weekend and win unique trophies and bragging rights! Let's see who can make the most bullseyes at archery. Enjoy cornhole and wacky field games to see who can win the most points. Bring your fishing gear, and let's see who can catch the biggest fish with your Girl Scout. Or join us at the campfire on Saturday night, and let's see which parent/guardian and Girl Scout pair can tell the best dad joke! Saturday night dinner is included.

When: March 29 – 30
Where: Camp Robinwood
Cost: Overnight - \$60/person; day only - \$40/person
Contact: Natalie Jares, njares@sjgs.org

Carousel Host Troops Needed!

Calling all Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador troops and groups! Are you interested in earning leadership and service hours and raising funds for your troop by planning and hosting an AWESOME event for younger girls? Carousel weekends are an introductory camp weekend experience for many troops held at Camps Pryor, Robinwood, or Whispering Pines. Each Carousel Weekend has a unique theme planned and executed by the host troop. Past themes have included Westward Ho, Holiday Candyland, Princesses Around the World, Hawaiian Adventure, Wizard of Oz, Lost Leprechauns, Willy Wonka's Chocolate Carousel, Haunted Forest, Fall Harvest, Scooby Doo Mystery Camp, and more!

If you are interested in hosting a Carousel Weekend, but these dates don't work for your troop or group, please let us know! For more information or to sign up as a host troop, contact Natalie Jares at njares@sjgs.org

Black History Celebration

Join GSSJC in a fun-filled celebration of Black Americans' history, culture, and contributions at the historic Camp Robinwood. At this celebration, Daisies through Juniors will explore the history of Camp Robinwood and its trailblazing donors J.H. Jemison, Carter Wesley, C.A. Dupree, and Hobart Taylor. Additionally, girls will celebrate through exciting games, stories, and art activities inspired by Black Americans contributions, past and present. Attendees will receive lunch, an event fun patch, and a Black History Month Fun Patch. Older girls (Cadettes and up) are invited to volunteer and receive council volunteer hours. Interested girl volunteers should email Shannon Crider at scrider@sjgs.org to volunteer.

Who: (b) (j)
Where: Camp Robinwood
When: Saturday, Feb. 17, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Cost: \$20 girls/ \$15 adults
Contact: Shannon Crider at scrider@sjgs.org
 Registrars at 713-292-0370 or registration@sjgs.org

Astronomy Special Interest Group (SIG) Hosts Astronomy Carousel

This girl-led event will cover several steps in the Junior Space Science Investigator Badge. Girls will learn about our solar system, stars, and more at beautiful Camp Robinwood. The event will wrap up with a visit to the mobile planetarium and stargazing. This event is hosted by the Astronomy SIG.

Who: (j) (c) (s) (a) adults
Where: Camp Robinwood
When: Saturday, Feb. 10
Contact: Natalie Jares, 713-292-0386, njares@sjgs.org



Career Barbie Campout – Citizen Science Carousel Weekend

Come to Camp Pryor for Citizen Science Carousel weekend. Barbie and Cadette friends will guide you through learning how citizen scientists make observations and collect data, and how scientists receive feedback. Learn how you can become a citizen scientist, too, and complete your journey and start on a TAP!

Who: (b) (j) adults
Where: Camp Pryor
When: March 23 – 25
Cost: Girl \$35 Adults \$20
Contact: Natalie Jares, 713-292-0386, njares@sjgs.org

On Demand: Financial Literacy Badge Event

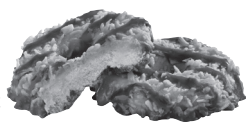
Girl Scouts from all grade levels are invited to complete VicTreeFi's on-demand financial literacy badge courses! Courses complete all badge steps and include fun projects and interesting games. Courses are created by experts! Badge options include Daisy Money Explorer, Brownie Budget Builder, Junior Budget Maker, Cadette Budget Manager, Senior Savvy Saver, and Ambassador Financial Planner.

Who: All Levels
Where: Virtual via Zoom
When: Jan. 12 – 14
Cost: \$10/girl
Contact: Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org



Cookie College

Calling all registered Daisies and Brownies! It's time to get excited about cookies! Use your entrepreneurial skills to set yourself up for success during the upcoming cookie season. Attend this in person event where girls will get to put their cookie selling skills to the test while completing all the steps to earn the newly released Cookie Business Badges.



Who: (d) (b)
Where: GSSJC Program Place
When: Jan 27, 8 – 11:30 a.m. or noon – 3:30 p.m.
Cost: \$14/girl; \$3/adult
Contact: Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org



Cookie University

Calling all registered Junior and Cadettes Girl Scouts! It's time to get excited about cookies! Use your entrepreneurial skills to set yourself up for success during the upcoming cookie season. Attend this in-person event where girls will get to put their cookie selling skills to the test while completing all the steps to earn the newly released Cookie Business badges.

Who: (j) (c)
Where: GSSJC Program Place, Houston
When: Feb. 10, 9 – 11:30 a.m.
Cost: \$15/girl; \$3/adult
Contact: Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org

Girl Scout Day at Houston Texans

Join us for Girl Scout Day as the Houston Texans play the Cleveland Browns! Tickets include a special pre-game activity!

Who: All levels and families
When: December 24, 11 a.m. (Game starts at noon)
Cost: \$30/person (children age 2+ and adults)
Contact: Kathy Elliott, kelliott@sjgs.org;
 Registrars, 713-292-0370, registration@sjgs.org

First National Girl Scout Bank

Girl Scouts will serve on the Board of Directors of First National Girl Scout Bank. Girl Scouts will create a virtual community and work together to run the bank. As members of the directorate, Girl Scouts will also learn how to run a business successfully. This series will span four meetings and will include learning about lending and deposits. The series will conclude with Girl Scouts discovering bank fraud and confronting the accused bank employee!

Who: (j) (c)
Where: Virtual via Zoom
When: Starting Jan. 21, 4 p.m.
Cost: \$55
Contact: Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org
Note: This is a four-week program held on Sundays starting Jan 21. Juniors will earn the My Money Plan and Digital Leadership badges. Cadettes will earn the My Money Habits and Digital Leadership badges.



Law Day

Tour the courthouse and meet the judges and attorneys. Learn about contracts, jobs, and taxes taken from paychecks and credit cards. You also will learn about the educational requirements for a job in the law field, available scholarships, and the variety of law jobs.

Who: (c) (s) (a)
Where: Richmond
When: Feb. 10, 9:30 a.m. – noon
Cost: \$10/girl
Contact: Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org
Note: This is a business casual event. No shorts or flip flops will be allowed. An exclusive Law Day Fun patch will be given at the end of this event.

Medical Day

Tour a hospital and meet a plethora of medical professionals. Explore medicine, surgery, radiology, and laboratories while learning about the educational requirements, scholarships, and the variety of jobs in the medical field.



Who: (s) (a)
Where: Houston
When: Jan. 20, 9:30 a.m. – noon
Cost: \$10/girl
Contact: Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org
Note: An exclusive fun patch will be given at this event.

Use QR Code
to go directly
to events page.



Journey in a Day – Justice Journey Workshop for Ambassadors

It's your planet, love It. Ambassadors will be introduced to a self-paced, fun, and interactive way to explore environmental issues and complete the journey requirements, except the Take Action project. Registered adults are required to assist in running the stations. Journey patch and lunch included for attendees.

Who: (a)
Where: Friendswood, 77546
When: Jan. 20, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Cost: \$25/girl; \$10/adult
Contact: Linda Carrington, lmc62@att.net; Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org

Ambassador Bliss Journey in a Day

Join Region 4 for a fun day at Camp Casa Mare and earn your Girl Scout Journey, minus the Take Action Project, at the same time.

Who: (a)
Where: Casa Mare
When: Jan 20, 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Cost: \$45/girl \$25/adult
Contact: Lynda Starbuck cyfairregion4@gmail.com
Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org
Note: Badges, lunch, and dinner will be included

"SOW WHAT" Journey Workshop for Seniors

It's your planet, love It. Seniors will be introduced to a self-paced, fun, and interactive way to explore the topics Eating Right, Feel Amazing, and Save the Planet. The girls will complete all the journey requirements, except the Take Action project. Registered adults are required to assist in running the stations. Journey patch and lunch included for attendees.

Who: (S)
Where: Friendswood
When: Jan. 20, 9:30 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Cost: \$25/girl; \$10/adult
Contact: Celina Recalde – celina.recalde@gmail.com
Stacey Perez – Staceydperez@gmail.com Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org

Senior Mission Sisterhood Journey in a Day

Join Region 4 for a fun day at Camp Casa Mare and earn your Girl Scout Journey, minus the Take Action Project, at the same time.

Who: (S)
Where: Camp Casa Mare, Seabrook
When: Jan. 20, 8:30 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Cost: \$45/girl \$25/adult
Contact: Lynda Starbuck cyfairregion4@gmail.com
Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org
Note: Badges, lunch, and dinner will be included

Senior Mission Sisterhood Journey

Join Region 4 for a fun day at Camp Casa Mare and earn your Girl Scout Journey at the same time minus the Take Action project.

Who: (S)
Where: Camp Casa Mare, Seabrook
When: Jan. 19, 6 p.m. – Jan. 21, 11 a.m.
Cost: \$50/girl; \$30/adult
Contact: Lynda Starbuck, cyfairregion4@gmail.com;
Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org

Ambassador Bliss Journey

Join Region 4 for a fun day at Camp Casa Mare and earn your Girl Scout Journey at the same time minus the Take Action project,

Who: (a)
Where: Camp Casa Mare, Seabrook
When: Jan. 19, 6 p.m. – Jan. 21, 11 a.m.
Cost: \$50/girl; \$30/adult
Contact: Lynda Starbuck, cyfairregion4@gmail.com;
Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org

Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest and Party

Participants will engage in an ugly Christmas sweater contest, crafts, games, and songs while enjoying some yummy holiday treats. They will be asked to bring canned goods/non-perishable food items as a service project. In addition to receiving a fun patch, contest winners will be awarded prizes.

Who: (C) (S) (a)
Where: Cornerstone Methodist Church, Houston
When: Dec. 15, 6 – 9 p.m.
Cost: \$20/girl
Contact: Renota Shepherd, renotashepherd@gmail.com;
Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org

Financing Your Future Badge Workshop

Join Region 3 as you learn how to finance your future and learn about budgeting via Zoom. Participants will engage in the activities and requirements to complete the badge. In-addition, pre-work will be sent via mail to be completed prior to the workshop.

Who: ©
Where: Virtual via Zoom
When: Jan. 13, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Cost: \$20/girl
Contact: Renota Shepherd, renotashepherd@gmail.com;
 Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org



Girl Scout Leadership Institute

Join professionals from around Houston for an all-day, hands-on professional skills development day. Try your hand at networking, public speaking, resume writing, building a professional wardrobe, and more! Go home with your own inspiration board and lots of new skills to try out in your budding professional life. Lunch and snacks will be provided.

Who: (S) (A)
Where: Girl Scout Center, Houston
When: Feb. 10, 9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Cost: \$35/girl
Contact: Alix Reilman, areilman@sjgs.org

Girl Scout Day at Ellen Trout Zoo

Join your Girl Scout Sisters and their families at this day exclusively for Girl Scouts.

Who: All levels and families
Where: Lufkin
When: Saturday, April 13, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Cost: \$4/person (children age 4+ and adults);
 Includes a patch for Girl Scouts
Bring: Lunch and drinks
Contact: Kathy Elliott, kelliott@sjgs.org

Girl Scout Day at the Harlem Globetrotters

The Harlem Globetrotters represent 90-plus years of breaking down barriers, acts of goodwill and a commitment to fans that goes beyond the game. Tickets include a patch and a special pre-game activity!

Who: Girl Scouts and families
Where: NRG Stadium, Houston
When: Feb. 3, 1 p.m. (Game starts at 2 p.m.)
Cost: \$30/person (children age 3+ and adults)
Contact: Kathy Elliott, kelliott@sjgs.org

Outdoor Adventure Club is Back

GSSJC is so excited to invite Seniors and Ambassador girls to join us for exciting monthly adventures to make new friends and try new things. Whether you like rock climbing, hiking, or simply meeting new people your age, this club has something for everyone! Check out the events tab for the most up to date listings. We can't wait to share fun adventures with you! For more information, contact Ashlie Yarborough at ayarborough@sjgs.org.

Cadette Weekend Carnival Messtrosity

Sign up for the most epic event of the season. Get ready to have fun, get messy, and participate in an entire weekend of fun events planned by girls like you!

Registration Tip: If you are registering as a troop, have one leader register the whole group. This will ensure that your troop is placed in a unit together. All adults attending need to have a current membership, background check, and Youth Protection Training on file.

Ratio: Each troop or group must have a ratio of one adult for every 10 girls, with a minimum of two adults. Please limit extra adults to those that are required for special accommodations only.

Who: © adult volunteers
Where: Camp Agnes Arnold
When: April 26-28, (weekend) OR April 27, (Day Only)
Cost: Weekend: \$75 girls / \$45 adults
 Saturday Only: \$45 girls / \$30 adults
Registration opens: Jan. 8, at 9 a.m. No early registrations.
Contact: 713-292-0300, cadetteweekend@sjgs.org
 Registrars, 713-292-0370, registration@sjgs.org

All adults will be assigned to at least one volunteer shift. Information about available shifts will be sent with the confirmation letter. The weekend event fee includes meals on Saturday and breakfast on Sunday, event patch, and a T-shirt. Please eat dinner before you arrive on Friday night. The Day Only event fee includes lunch on Saturday, an event patch and T-shirt. Troops are required to bring a Camping and Overnight Basics (COB) or legacy camp trained adult.

Girls - don't have a troop? Sign up to stay in the IRG (individually registered girl) unit!

Limited dietary restrictions can be accommodated, including vegetarians. Contact us at cadetteweekend@sjgs.org by March 1 with any questions.

Event Housing: Weekend participants will be assigned either a cabin or platform tent unit, with either latrines or a bath house. If your group has any medical needs that necessitate a particular type of unit (ie accessibility issues or a medical need for electricity), please email cadetteweekend@sjgs.org by March 1. No primitive units will be assigned.

Green Starlettes Spring Registration 2024

The Green Starlettes Dance Team is offering one more opportunity to join! Whether you missed the registration deadline, or you just weren't sure yet about joining, here's another chance to check out this exciting program without the financial commitment of uniforms and performance fees. Girls will have the opportunity to participate in the annual Spring Show dance recital with the division in your area! Division practices will start in January and extend through the beginning of May. Weekly attendance is required. For further questions, please contact GreenStarlettes@sjgs.org. Registration is open to 4th graders and above who are not already registered for the Green Starlettes.

Who: (j) (c) (s) (a)
When: Registration is open now through Jan. 22
Cost: \$20/girl
Contact: GreenStarlettes@sjgs.org

Discover Aviation!

Are you interested in flight? A new GSSJC "Discover Aviation" Patch is taking off this spring! Look for details and patch requirements, as well as new aviation themed events soon! Volunteers - If you are involved in the aviation field and are interested in helping with this program, please contact Kathy Elliott at 713-292-0257 or email kelliott@sjgs.org.



Archery and Rifle

Archers in Motion (AIM) Special Interest Group

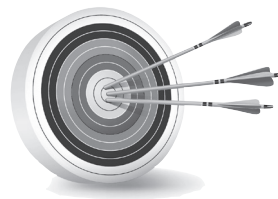
Hone your archery skills and have some fun! Participate in the Girl Scout USA Archery JOAD team as you work to move that target back. This is a year-round opportunity. Practices are held at least once a month. Participation in this group is from September 2023–May 2024. Girls will be required to shoot a score of 100 on the small range before moving to the larger AIM range and beginning the JOAD pin program. Due to the rigor of our practice sessions and restrictions by USA Archery, this special interest group is for Juniors and Ambassadors.

Separate registration will be required for each monthly practice or AIM event. Please check the events page for the most updated list of AIM practice openings. Practices are typically the first Sunday of the month.

Who: Juniors and up
When: First Sunday of the month
Where: Camp Robinwood- Willis
Cost: \$30 annual SIG membership fee; \$10 monthly practice registration fee.
Contact: [Ashlie Yarborough at ayarborough@sjgs.org](mailto:AshlieYarborough@sjgs.org)

Archery

Are you interested in trying archery for the first time or just getting in some range time? Our archery sessions are open for girls to register as individuals or as a group with their friends. During this time, girls will learn the basics of archery and have plenty time to perfect their shooting skills! This activity does not earn the archery badge.



Who: Girls in second grade and up
Cost: \$10/girl
Time: Sessions run at 9 a.m., 10:45 a.m., 1p.m., and 2:45 p.m. on each of the following days:
Where/When:

Camp Arnold	Feb. 3
Camp Silver Springs	Jan. 20
Camp Misty Meadows Ranch	Dec. 9, Feb. 17
Camp Casa Mare	Dec. 16, Jan. 13
Camp Robinwood	Jan. 6
Camp Pryor	Feb. 24

Contact: For information or to volunteer to instruct, contact Ashlie Yarborough at ayarborough@sjgs.org.

GRIT (Girl Rifle Instruction & Training) Special Interest Group/ Rifle Programs

Interested in learning the sport of rifle shooting? Under the supervision of a trained instructor, Girl Scouts ages 12-18 can attend the council's introductory rifle session where they learn basic safety and one shooting position with an air rifle. If they enjoy the sport, they can progress to the marksmanship session to learn additional shooting positions and how to shoot at different distances. From there, girls are able to join the special interest group. As a GRIT member, they will continue to practice their skills and even have the chance to attend competitions.

This is a year-round opportunity through monthly meetings. Sign up represents participation in the group from August 2023–July 2024.

Registration will be required for each practice or GRIT event. Please check the events page for the most updated list of GRIT practice openings. For more information about rifle programs, please contact Ashlie Yarborough at ayarborough@sjgs.org.

GRIT:
Cost: \$20 annual SIG membership fee; \$10 monthly practice registration fee.
When: Second Saturday of the month at 9 a.m.
 Must have completed Intro to Rifle and Rifle Marksmanship in order to join GRIT.

Intro to Rifle:
Cost: \$10
When: Second Saturday of the month at 10:45 a.m. and 1:45 p.m.

Rifle Marksmanship:
Cost: \$10
When: Second Saturday of the month at 12:45 p.m. and 3:15 p.m.

Backpacking

Backpacking Orientation

If you love hiking or are ready to take it to the next level with backpacking, join the Backpacking Special Interest Group for a fun weekend learning how to pack a backpack, care for a tent, and cook on your own personal stove. You will hike two miles to the campsite with your gear and set up your tent, where you will spend the evening on a mini backpacking adventure! Girls and adults interested in backpacking are welcome to attend.

Who: (C) (S) (A) adults
Where: Camp Agnes Arnold
When: March 2 –3
Cost: \$25/Girl Scout or adult
Bring: Packing list and instructions will be included in the event confirmation.
Contact: Natalie Jares, 713-292-0386, njares@sjgs.org

Environmental

Houston Arboretum Badge Workshops

Girl Scouts can work towards a variety of badges or journeys while they investigate the fascinating ecosystems at the Houston Arboretum. Badge workshops are conducted by staff naturalists and use their nature sanctuary as a field laboratory for hands-on experience.

Who: (b) (j) (C)
Where: Houston Arboretum
Cost: (2 hour workshops) \$23/girl
 (3 hour workshops) \$28/girl
Contact: Rachel Archer, 713-292-0300, customerservice@sjgs.org

Workshop	Date	Time
Brownie Hiker	Jan. 13	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Junior Geocacher	Jan. 13	1 – 4 p.m.
Brownie Outdoor Adventurer	Jan. 27	9:30 – 11:30 a.m.
Cadette Trees	Jan. 27	1 – 4 p.m.
Brownie WOW Journey	Feb. 3	9:30 a.m. – noon
Brownie Hiker	Feb. 3	1:30 – 3:30 p.m.
Junior Outdoor Art Explorer	Feb. 17	noon – 3 p.m.
Cadette Night Owls	Feb. 17	5 – 8 p.m.
Junior Geocacher	March 9	9:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Brownie Outdoor Adventurer	March 9	2 – 4 p.m.

Keep an Eye on gsEvents for Upcoming Nature Center Event

Facilitated Nature Center programming is coming soon! If your girls have a love for animals, plants, or nature in general, they are going to LOVE what we have planned for them! Keep an eye on our events tab for upcoming Nature Center events and activities! For more information or to request a specific program, please contact Ashlie Yarborough at ayardborough@sjgs.org.

Fine Arts

For more information, contact Julia Noble, 713-292-0300, customerservice@sjgs.org

Camp Obscura GSSJC Camps Photography Contest

GSSJC is home to some of the most excellent camps in the country, with many different properties, 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!

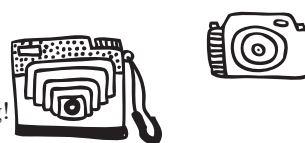
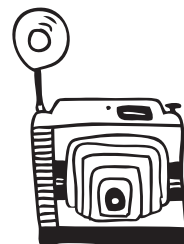


Photo Requirements

- 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 August 30, 2024.
- To participate in the contest, you must first register on the GSSJC Events page. A link for submission will be sent out.
- To enter, use the link to submit your most captivating camp photo and let us know what struck you most about the image you captured.
- Only one entry per girl!
- Must agree to GSSJC Media Release policy

Contest Results

- The contest consists of two rounds: One winning photograph per level will be chosen by a team of judges. These photos will then be featured on our Facebook and eligible for online voting for the final round, where one Overall Winner will be awarded the Grand Prize!
- All Level Winners of the Camp Obscura contest will have their photos framed and displayed, as well as published in the Golden Link magazine.
- All Participants will receive a fun patch for their submission!

Who: All levels
When: Now through August 30, 2024
Where: GSSJC Camps
Cost: \$5/girl
Contact: Julia Noble, JNoble@sjgs.org



Cinderella Workshop & Show Houston Ballet

Make no mistake, this is not your childhood Cinderella! More tomboy than princess, Stanton Welch's title character is a striking woman of substance, determination, and spunk. Not waiting on a prince to rescue her, Cinderella is in control, fighting the will of her evil stepmother with wit and vigor. And when she finds true love she grabs it – and holds on with both hands. Set to Prokofiev's classic score with spectacular set and costume design by Kristian Frederickson, Welch's unique spin on the storied classic brings the work into modern times, with a twist to suit the 21st century. Join Houston Ballet for a special workshop beforehand!

Please Note: The workshop is a drop off event, but the show is not. Adults MUST purchase tickets in the same section as their Girl Scout – the system does not allow us to transfer between sections. Tickets are limited; please only register the number of adults necessary for your girl or group. Prices are based on seating area. Workshop is included in girl ticket. Houston Ballet recommends this show for ages 8 and up.

Who: ① ② (Workshop);
③ ④ ⑤ ⑥ Adults (Show)
When: March 3, Workshop 9 – 11:30 a.m.; Show 2 – 4:30 p.m.
Where: Houston Ballet
Cost: \$23 (Balcony) and \$48 (Grand Tier)/Girls and Adults

Girl Planning Board and Adult Volunteers needed! Heart to Art

An artist's retreat for self-expression, self-exploration, inspiration, growth, mindfulness, and gratitude as a way to higher creativity. Unplug and step away from your busy day-to-day life by retreating into nature and immersing yourself in artistic experiences to nourish and reinvigorate your creative spark. We all have artists within us; come uncover yours! This day-only event could include activities like outdoor yoga, name drumming, a giant sculpture garden, art journaling, music lyric collages, scream boxes, graffiti tags, a photography scavenger hunt, food art challenge, meditative beading, an ongoing group mural, an open mic session and more!

Who: ③ ⑤ ⑥
When: May 4
Where: Misty Meadows Ranch

Girls - Want to be part of the planning process in creating a brand new GSSJC event for Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors? This is a super exciting opportunity to leave your mark by shaping an event in its first year! For more information, contact our GSLE manager, Julia Noble, jnoble@sjgs.org!

Adults - Interested in being on the committee or just volunteering for the day? We'll need both! Please reach out to GE volunteer coordinator, Corrie Jenkins, or GSLE manager, Julia Noble, jnoble@sjgs.org!

Photography Workshops

Self-Paced Photography

Vine Images, INC. (Virtual)

Learn how to capture your vision of the world in photographs. This hands-on photography course includes 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 ② ③ ④
When: Every month, on your own time.
Where: Virtual
Cost: \$18/girl



Principles of Photography

University of Houston-Clear Lake's Art School for Children
In this workshop, photography principles and image editing techniques are used to assist students in capturing their vision of the world in photographs! Learn the basics of photography through focusing on composition, light, motion, and telling a story. Learn the basics of digital camera use by speaking with an expert, taking tons of photos, learning how to edit, and putting together a project. Workshops available for every level! Juniors and Ambassadors will earn their Photographer badges.

Who: All Levels
When: 9 a.m. – 2 p.m. (with a break for lunch)
④ ⑤ June 8
① ② Jan. 20, April 20, Aug. 17
③ ④ Feb. 17, July 13
Where: University of Houston-Clear Lake
Cost: \$47



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 ⑤ ①
When: March 30; 10 – 11:30 a.m.
Where: Program Place for Girls
Cost: \$25

Use QR Code
to go directly
to events page.



Brownie & Junior Art and Design Badge: Ceramics

In this new badge workshop, you will find out how to be a maker! You'll discover art and design, learn how to turn ideas into art, learn how to solve problems with design, experiment with your medium, and be inspired by a subject. When you've earned this badge, you'll know how makers create art and designs through mediums like ceramics. All badge steps are completed during the workshop and the badge will be provided.

Who: (b) (j)
When: January 13; 10 a.m. – noon
Where: Program Place for Girls
Cost: \$25

Junior Scribe Badge Workshop

Explore what you can do with words! Find out how you can express yourself, as well as encourage, entertain, and excite people with your writing. Become a poet, create a short story, put your feelings in a journal, write an article and tell the world what you think in an essay! You don't want to miss this opportunity to bring your stories to life! All badge steps are completed during the workshop and the badge will be provided.

Who: (j)
When: February 3; 10 a.m. – noon
Where: Program Place for Girls
Cost: \$25

Girl Scout Birthday - Cake Decorating Workshop

Have your cake and eat it too, as you celebrate the Girl Scout Birthday! Come brush up on your pastry art skills in this sweet, fun, and creative workshop! Girls will learn how to design and decorate beautiful works of delicious art with a Girl Scout twist!



Who: All levels
When: March 9; (D, B, J) 10 a.m. – noon;
(C, S, A) 1 – 3 p.m.
Where: Program Place for Girls
Cost: \$25

Brownie Snacks - Mother's Day Tea!

Calling all Brownie chefs! Earn your badges in this fun, hands-on, Mother's Day workshop and event! Girls will learn how to brew a pot and make yummy tea snacks! Parents will be invited back at the end of the workshop, to sit and enjoy the afternoon delights with their girls. Badge is included! There is no additional cost for adults, but those attending must register.

Who: (b) adults
When: May 11; 10 a.m. – noon and 1 – 3 p.m.
Where: Program Place for Girls
Cost: \$25/girl; Adults free



String Art Workshop

Get hands-on with mixed media and create a unique piece of painting on wood or cardboard, forming the outlines with hammer and nails, then weaving the string(s). All tools/materials provided.

Who: (b) (j)
When: April 13, Brownies 10 a.m. – noon;
Juniors 1 – 3 p.m.
Where: Program Place for Girls
Cost: \$25

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!



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: Feb. 15 and March 21, 7 – 8 p.m.
Cost: \$3/person
Contact: Alix Reilman, areilman@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: (j) Adults
Where: Virtual
When: Jan. 14; 2 – 3:30 p.m.
Cost: \$5/person
Contact: Alix Reilman, areilman@sjgs.org



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: Feb. 3; 10 – 11:30 a.m.
Cost: \$5/person **Max.:** 50
Contact: silveraward@sjgs.org



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: Jan. 14, 3:30 – 5 p.m.
Cost: \$5/person
Contact: Alix Reilman at areilman@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.

Silver Award Celebration

Did you earn your Silver Award during the 2023 Girl Scout year (Oct. 1, 2022–Sept. 30, 2023)? If so, join us at GSSJC's first Silver Award Celebration at Agnes Arnold Lodge in honor of your extraordinary achievement! Join the 2023 Silver Award class photo, receive the 2023 Silver Award Girl Scout gift, meet and take pictures with council VIPs, and, most importantly, start your journey to Go Gold!

Who: 2023 Silver Award recipients, adults
Where: Agnes Arnold Lodge, Conroe
When: Jan. 28
Cost: \$10/girl
Contact: Alix Reilman, silveraward@sjgs.org

History

Juliette Low Tea Party

A touch of history in your teacup. The girls will learn how to brew the perfect cup of tea, table manners, tea sandwich tips, and a favorite of Juliette Low's — fan etiquette. You may wear your favorite tea party dress or hat and join this unforgettable afternoon hosted by the Council History Committee Program team in partnership with the Kappa Delta Sorority. A fun patch and special token are included. This is a girl only event.

Where: Program Place for Girls, Houston
Price: \$20/girl
Contact: Shannon Crider, customerservice@sjgs.org

Who	Date	Time
(d) (b)	Feb. 22	4:30 – 6 p.m.
(d) (b)	March 21	4:30 – 6 p.m.
(d) (b)	March 23	1:30 – 3 p.m.
(d) (b)	May 4	1:30 – 3 p.m.



DIY Tea Party!

If you want to plan a troop tea party, the Council History Committee is here to assist. Make it extra special and host your tea party in GSSJC's Goody Koontz Girl Scout Museum/Program Place for girls. You will be provided:

- Set up provided in room #104, Program Place for Girls.
- Five child-size round tables with four chairs per table. (Total 20 child-sized chairs.)
- Small floral centerpieces per table. (Total five and not to be taken home.)
- Decorative doily for tables.
- One large size adult table.

Who: (d) (b)
Where: Program Place for Girls, Houston
When: Three DIY Tea Party slots:
 Saturday, Feb. 24, noon – 3 p.m.
 Saturday, March 30, noon – 3 p.m.
 Saturday, April 27, noon – 3 p.m.

Limit: 20 girls
Cost: \$20 for room reservation
Contact: Shannon Crider, customerservice@sjgs.org



Taste of History

Learn about cooking while exploring the tastes and recipes of the past in this exciting NEW program at camp! Girls will try out tasty treats from the past while learning more about our shared history, including uncovering some special delicacies from Girl Scout history. Hint, it has been said Juliette Low as a child, enjoyed sweets, especially taffy. This program includes a fun patch.

Who: (b) (j)
Where/When: Camp Robinwood, Sat., March 2, 9:30 a.m. – noon
 Camp Pryor, Sat., April 6, 9:30 a.m. – noon
Cost: \$20/girl
Contact: Shannon Crider at scrider@sjgs.org
 Registrars at 713-292-0370 or registration@sjgs.org

Horseback Riding

SPURS Training

Learn the theories and hands-on skills needed to join the SPURS (Super People Using Riding Skills) special interest group at Misty Meadows Ranch. Girls will receive their level one SPURS scarf and be ready to work with the weekend riding program during the school year. Adults will receive training as an Assistant Riding Instructor. Registration will open about two months prior to event start date.

Who: (C) (S) (A) and Adults
Where: Misty Meadows Ranch
Cost: \$30/girl and adult
Contact: Mariah Balmer, 731-292-0332, mbalmer@sigs.org
When: Feb. 2 – 4

Pony Rides

This one-hour session combines the best of riding, love, hug, and groom, and pasture portraits! The rides are for 15 minutes and take place in the arena. Fifteen minutes of the session include hands-on grooming with camp horses. The remaining 15 minutes gives participants an opportunity to take pictures with their favorite horses! Girls must arrive 30 minutes before their scheduled time to be fitted for boots and helmets. Appropriate attire includes long pants and boots with a smooth sole and half-inch heels. Boots and helmets are provided. Limit of 20 girls per session.

Who: All levels
Where: Camp Misty Meadows Ranch
When: Feb. 11 and April 21 at 9 a.m. or 10 a.m.
Cost: \$35/girl

Junior Horseback Riding Badge Workshop

You will learn horse safety, parts of the saddle and bridle, how to groom and tack, ride in the arena, and go on a trail ride! All steps of the Junior Horseback Riding badge will be completed during the workshop and girls will go home with their new badge. Limit of 32 girls per workshop.

Who: (J)
Where: Camp Misty Meadows Ranch
When: Feb. 10, 9 a.m.
Cost: \$40/girl

Use QR Code
to go directly
to events page.



Pony Rides (Brownie +)

This one-hour session combines the best of both riding and love, hug, and groom! The rides are for 30 minutes and take place in the arena. The remaining 30 minutes of the session include hands-on grooming with camp horses. Girls must arrive 30 minutes before their scheduled time to be fitted for boots and helmets. Appropriate attire includes long pants and boots with a smooth sole and half-inch heels. Boots and helmets are provided. Limit of 20 girls per session.

Who: (b) (J) (C) (S) (A)
Where: Camp Misty Meadows Ranch
When: March 2, 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m.
 March 3, 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 April 6, 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m.
 April 7, 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 April 27, 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m.
 April 28, 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
Cost: \$35 per girl

Love, Hug, Groom

Love, Hug, and Groom is a non-riding activity to introduce girls of all ages to horse care. In this one-hour session, girls will receive a barn tour, introduction to horse care, and participate in hands-on grooming with camp horses. Don't forget the opportunity to take lots of pictures! Limit of 24 girls per session.



Who: All levels
Where: Camp Misty Meadows Ranch
When: Dec. 16 – 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 Dec. 17 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 Feb. 10 – 3 p.m.
 Feb. 17 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 Feb. 1 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 Feb. 24 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 Feb. 25 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 March 2 – 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 March 9 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 March 10 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 March 16 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 March 17 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 March 23 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 March 24 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 April 6 – 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 April 13 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 April 14 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 April 20 – 3 p.m.
 April 27 – 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 May 4 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 May 5 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 May 11 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 May 12 – 9 a.m., 10 a.m.
Cost: \$10/girl

Horseback Riding

This session is for Juniors and above! Demonstrations and rides last one hour and take place in either the arena or on a trail touring the Camp Misty Meadows ranch, depending on the skill of the riders and/or the weather. Girls must arrive 30 minutes before their scheduled ride time to be fitted for boots and helmets. Appropriate attire includes long pants and boots with a smooth sole and half-inch heels. Boots and helmets are provided. Limit of 12 girls per session.

Where: Camp Misty Meadows Ranch
When: Dec. 16–9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 Dec. 17–9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 Feb. 17–9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 Feb. 18–9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 Feb. 25–9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 March 2–2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 March 9–9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 March 10–9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 March 16–9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 March 17–9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 March 23–9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 March 24–9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 April 6–2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 April 7–2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 April 13–3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 April 14–9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 May 4–3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 May 5–9 a.m., 10 a.m.
 May 11–9 a.m., 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 2 p.m., 3 p.m., 4 p.m.
 May 12–9 a.m., 10 a.m.
Cost: \$35/girl

Misty Ranch Hand: A SPARK Event

SPARK your homesteading interests at Camp Misty Meadows Ranch! Come spend the day experiencing all the best things Misty Ranch has to offer. You'll ride in the arena, learn about the chickens and goats, help tend Misty's brand-new vegetable and flower garden, and make a ranch-themed craft to take home! Lunch and dinner are provided, and you'll get to finish a fun-filled day with a campfire, s'more, and your favorite camp songs! Limit of 60 girls per event.

Note: A camp reservation is required for troops that wish to stay overnight at an additional fee and is not included in this event. Troops attending for only the day are NOT required to make a day-only camp reservation. The camp units at Misty Meadows Ranch will be held this weekend for troops attending this event.

Who: Juniors and up
Where: Camp Misty Meadows Ranch
When: Jan. 23, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
 Jan. 13, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
 Jan. 20, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
 Jan. 27, 9 a.m. – 8 p.m.
Cost: \$90/girl; \$30/adult

Vaulting

If you love gymnastics and horses, this 1.5-hour session is for you! Vaulters will learn compulsories on a barrel before trying them out on a horse! Appropriate attire includes legging-type pants and water shoes/swim socks. Vaulting shows will be available for the session. Limit of 12 girls per session.

Where: Camp Misty Meadows Ranch
Who: © © ©
Cost: \$40/girl
When: Feb. 10, 3 p.m.; April 13, 9 a.m., 10 a.m.;
 April 20, 3 p.m.; May 4, 9 a.m., 10 a.m.

Just Horsin' Around Badge Workshop

This is an all-day session geared for Brownies! You will learn horse safety, parts of the saddle and bridle, how to groom and tack, take a horseback ride, make a stick horse, and do an obstacle course! Girls who complete the workshop will go home with a horse fun patch for their uniform! Limit of 32 girls per workshop.

Who: ©
Where: Camp Misty Meadows Ranch
When: April 20, 9 a.m.
Cost: \$40/girl

Sailing

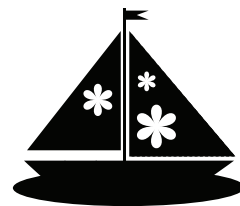
For all sailing activities, please contact Jason Eiermann at jeiermann@sigs.org for more information. **Registrations open January 1.**

Intro to Sailing

Are you curious about sailing? Do you want to feel the wind on your face and hear the water splashing around you? You will work alongside our Mariners Special Interest Group as they ready the boats to take you on a sailing adventure on the open seas! Sign up to be a "sailor" for the weekend. You must attend the entire weekend. Introduction to Sailing is a general sailing activity and is not a prerequisite to the Mariner program.

Must pass the GSSJC Proficient Swimmer and Advanced Swimmer Test. Requirements are available on gssjc.org. Please see section on swim test requirements. Cards can be submitted to sailing.coordinator@gmail.com. Girls without cards will not be allowed to remain at camp.

Who: Girls 11 and older
When: May 3–5
Where: Casa Mare, Seabrook
Cost: \$75



How Do I Obtain my GSSJC Proficient and Advanced Swimmer Card?

We have made it really simple!

All you will need to do is go to our website, www.gssjc.org. Once on the site, you will find the form needed under the "Members" tab. When you click on "Forms and Documents," you can search "Swim test" and the form will appear. Print that form out and take it to your local community pool, recreation center, or swimming pool for the required professionals to administer the test. Please note that girls will still be re-tested at the time of the activity and could be requested to leave if they do not pass the test. If your Girl Scout has participated in American Red Cross swim lessons in the past and has obtained a Level 4 swim card, she can still use that as the requirement.



We Need Dorm Moms!

To help our program to be fun and safe, we need your help! Dorm Moms are an awesome group of women that assist with meals, serve as watchers during sailing, and ensure the girls are having fun during their weekend stay. Because the Mariners are girl-led, most of the activities will be led by our older girls. Consider this a small weekend getaway with some supervision! Enjoy a stress-and worry-free stay for the weekend by the bay helping girls have their best time sailing! All dorm moms are required to complete Youth Protection Training Level 1 and Level 2, found in gsLearn. Contact sailing.coordinator@gmail.com for additional details!

Instruction and Mariner Weekends

Some courses are held over two weekends. Girls must attend both. Due to the commitment and nature of the courses, we cannot make special schedule adjustments or accommodations. If a girl is unable to attend both weekends in their entirety, she will be encouraged to enroll at another time. Please note that the success of sailing is based on the weather. Although we will do our best to ensure girls get as much sailing time as they can, sometimes weather simply will not allow it. Because of this, girls may not meet the requirements of completion and will be asked to repeat the course. There are opportunities to enroll in sailing during summer overnight camp or to try again in the upcoming season.

Basic Sailing

Want to learn how to sail the open seas? Are you interested in being a Mariner? This is the activity for you! Learn how to rig and sail a Sunfish sailboat. You will learn boat safety, injury prevention, knot tying, and more. This is a physically and mentally demanding activity. Be prepared to be challenged and have fun. Basic Sailing is a two-weekend course, and you must attend both weekends, no exceptions. Girl Scouts must be at least 11 years old. Also, they need to successfully pass the GSSJC Proficient Swimmer and Advanced Swimmer Test. Please see section on previous page on swim test requirements.

When: April 26 -April 28 and May 10-May 12
Both weekends are required attendance

Cost: \$150

Where: Casa Mare, Seabrook

Use QR Code
to go directly
to events page.



Mariner and Mariner Weekends

If you have completed Basic Sailing and you want more sailing with like-minded girls, then the Mariners Special Interest Group is for you! What is the benefit of being a Mariner? You will learn leadership through instructing others, gain the experience to advance your sailing skills, and acquire service hours that can go towards school and troop requirements. Not to mention, it is a wonderful opportunity to meet new friends and tell them all about how awesome it is to go sailing. Register as a Mariner today! Adult volunteers must register as well.

Mariner Special Interest Group Fee: \$10

Where: Casa Mare, Seabrook

Prerequisite: Must have successfully completed and passed Basic Sailing

Mariner Weekends

You have completed Basic Sailing, registered as a Mariner, and now you are officially a Mariner! Part of being in this awesome special interest group is you will have the opportunity to hang out with other girls on weekends just for Mariners. You will have the chance to practice your sailing skills in a relaxed and fun environment. These weekends are typically themed, which adds to the fun! Mariners head to Casa Mare where they eat, sleep, and sail. You must already be a registered Mariner to attend and have successfully completed and passed Basic Sailing. Please reach out to our Mariner coordinator at mariner coordinators@gmail.com for additional information. Adult volunteers must register as well.

When: April 19 – April 21 or May 17 – May 19

Two different weekends

Cost: \$50 (meals included)

Where: Casa Mare, Seabrook

Small Craft Special Interest Group

A new SIG is coming, and we need you! We are excited to announce that we are starting a new Special Interest Group that is all about canoeing, kayaking, and stand-up paddle boarding.

Do you love the outdoors and open water? Are you a Cadette and up? Do you love being involved in planning? We are inviting all future small craft adventurers to be our Girl Leadership. Our pilot meeting will be Jan. 20 at Camp Robinwood at 10 a.m. – 6 p.m. Sign up in GSevents. Join us for the day as we plan the next great special interest group to hit GSSJC!

In the meantime, we want to hear from you! Scan the QR code to tell us about yourself, why you want to be in our SIG, and stay informed about information leading up to our meeting. You can also register on our GSSJC event page as well. See you in January!



STEM

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

Think Like a Citizen Scientist Team Captains

Do you want to work on your leadership skills? Do you want to earn your Think Like a Citizen Scientist badge? Are you interested in helping Brownies? Do you like to spend time at camp?

Join us for this two-part event. For Part 1, Older Girl Scouts will earn their Think Like a Citizen Scientist badge and learn how to teach younger girls. Then, they will return to camp for Part 2 to act as Team Captains and help Brownies earn their Think Like a Citizen Scientist badge. Team captains must attend both camp weekends. Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors will earn their Think Like a Citizen Scientist badge during Part 1. Cadettes will also earn their Leader in Action (LiA) for Part 2. Seniors and Ambassadors will earn their Service to Girl Scouting award, Torch Award, or plan a Take Action Project for Part 2.

Who: (C) (S) (A)
When: (Part 1) Febr. 3 – 25
(Part 2) March 22– 24
Where: Camp Agnes Arnold, Conroe
Cost: \$35/girl, \$10/adult

Think Like a Citizen Scientist Brownie Camp Weekend

Join our Older Girl Team Captains to earn your Think Like a Citizen Scientist badge. Learn what is citizen science, how to make observations, participate in a citizen science project and have a great time at camp! There are two options for this event: (1) Saturday overnight stay or (2) Saturday day only. Older Girl Scouts will serve as team captains for each group. Program materials and the earned badge are provided. All participants will receive Saturday lunch and dinner plus an afternoon snack. Overnight participants will also receive Sunday breakfast and s'mores supplies.

Who: (B)
When: March 23 – 24
(Day Only) Sat., 9:30 a.m. – 6 p.m.
(Overnight) 9 a.m. Sat. – 10 a.m. Sun.
Where: Camp Agnes Arnold, Conroe
Cost: (Day Only) \$30/girl, \$10/adult
(Overnight) \$60/girl, \$35/adult

Space Fever!

Telescope Night at Camp

Join our Astronomy Special Interest Group and learn about space, telescopes, and all the adventures that await beyond the atmosphere through fun, girl-led activities. Whether you've searched for shooting stars or found shapes in the clouds, you've probably already spent some time looking at the sky. Now's your chance to see the sky in a new way - like a space scientist does by participating in hands-on activities and through GSSJC's telescopes. Patch/badge included.



Who: (B) (J)
When: March 9
Where: Misty Meadows Ranch, Conroe
Cost: \$22/girl

Rock Stars – Geology Day at Camp

Join us at camp for a rockin' day filled with hands on learning lead by real geologists, physicists and planetary scientists from Houston! Explore geology, minerals, earth science, earthquakes and more!

Who: (J)
When: April 20, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m.
Where: Misty Meadows Ranch
Cost: \$40/girl, \$10/adult

Rock Stars Team Captains

Rock Stars is a day only event for Juniors to learn about Geology at camp. It is led by Geologists and other Planetary Scientists/Physicists. We are bringing this Program Back for the first time in 5 years! Team Captains will attend a Prep Meeting and assist our volunteers in leading sessions at camp.

Who: (C) (S) (A)
When: March 23 for pre-meeting
April 20 Event Day
Cost: \$40/girl, \$10/adult

Journey to Highest Award

Join a multi-journey event that will help you take the steps to earning your Highest Awards! This event will offer several choices for each grade level including: Junior Get Moving, Junior aMuse, Cadette Media, Cadette Breathe, Senior Girltopia, and Ambassador Bliss Journey. Don't miss out on this special event!

Who: (J) (C) (S) (A)
Where: Program Place and Girl Scout Center
When: January 6, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Cost: \$30-35/girl, \$15/adult; lunch provided
Contact: Jasmine Green, customerservice@sjgs.org



Training

Administrative Training

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

Schedule at-a-Glance:

Date	Time	Course	Location	Price
Dec. 2	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Event Basics	Zoom	\$6
Dec. 2	2 – 4 p.m.	Weekend Events	Zoom	\$6
Jan. 27	9 a.m. – 1 p.m.	Event Basics	Zoom	\$6
Jan. 27	2 – 4 p.m.	Weekend Events	Zoom	\$6
Feb. 10	noon – 2:30 p.m.	Community Financial Specialist	Zoom	\$6
Feb. 10	9 – 11 a.m.	Community/ Region Treasurer	Zoom	\$6
Feb. 24	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Facilitator Essentials	GSC	\$15
April 6	9 a.m. – 4 p.m.	Facilitator Essentials	GSC	\$15

What can YOU gsLearn?

GSUSA has provided a wealth of new resources for troop volunteers! Dive into topics for all Girl Scout level volunteers. We've provided a summary of offerings below – take one or take them all. Be sure to update your Adult Training Record when you complete new trainings!

For All Volunteers:

GSUSA Mental Wellness 101
 GSUSA Delivering Inclusive Program
 GSUSA Preparing Safe and Encouraging Environments
 GSUSA World Thinking Day 101: An Overview for Volunteers

For Troop Leadership Teams:

GSUSA Managing My Troops from My Account
 GSUSA Volunteer Toolkit – Troop Leader View
 GSUSA New Leader Onboarding

- What Girls Do
- Family Engagement – the Key to Success
- The Girl Scout Cookie Program
 GSUSA Successful Leader Learning Series
- Foundation 1: The Girl Scout Way
- Foundation 2: The Girl Scout Leadership Experience
- Foundation 3: Well-Being and Development
- Foundation 4: Understanding Troop Operations
- Getting Your Troop Outdoors

For DAISY Leaders

GSUSA Daisy Grade Level Essentials
 GSUSA Daisy Petal Badge Series

For BROWNIE Leaders

GSUSA Brownie Grade Level Essentials

For JUNIOR Leaders

GSUSA Junior Grade Level Essentials

Troop “To-Do’s” – Winter 2023

Check out this handy list of Winter “to-do” and “to-don’t” for troop team members!

To DO:

- ☐ Submit troop volunteers’ F-122 Volunteer Service Records to Community leadership team for Spring recognition
- ☐ Ensure all girls attending meetings are registered members so they will be ready for Cookie Season!
- ☐ Have a family meeting in January! Share cookie program plans, secure cookie drop support, update F-185 Medical forms as needed and plan the rest of your troop year and sign permission slips for your new plans!
- ☐ Celebrate World Thinking Day on February 22!
- ☐ Incorporate a service project into your winter/spring plans.

To DON’T:

- ☐ Don’t wait until the cookie program deadlines to get started!
 Ensure your troop bank account is registered, your troop cookie manger(s) has the official role and training, and families are involved in goal setting for starting inventory orders.

Facilitator Essentials

Do you have a passion for Girl Scouting and want to share your experience and knowledge with other volunteers? Facilitator Essentials is a workshop that will help you develop your skills so that you can do just that. This course will be held in person!

The workshop will cover the following topics:

- The adult learning cycle and principles
- Managing group and individual behaviors
- Tips and techniques for both classroom and virtual learning
- The art of asking questions and facilitating discussions

This is a great opportunity for those who want to lead New Leader Cafés, Community Cafés, and Green Apples in their Communities, to gain some strategies and tips.

Checkout the administrative calendar for dates to attend Facilitator Essentials training. Contact Cassie Robinson, crobinson@sjgs.org, if you have any questions.

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
Jan 11	First Aid CPR/AED BLENDED	Dec 28	Online Coursework	GSC
Jan 13	Volunteer Camper Certification	Dec 29	COB	ATC
Jan 28	Daisy Brownie Program Leadership	Jan. 21	Volunteer Basics	VIRTUAL
Feb 10	Volunteer Camper Certification	Jan 26	COB	ATC
Feb 17	First Aid CPR/AED BLENDED	Feb 3	Online Coursework	GSC
Feb 18	Partnering with Girl Scout Juniors VIRTUAL	Feb 11	Volunteer Basics	Zoom
Feb 18	Partnering with Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors	Feb. 11	Volunteer Basics	VIRTUAL
Mar 7	First Aid CPR/AED BLENDED	Feb 22	Online Coursework	GSC
Mar 2	Daisy Brownie Program Leadership	Feb 18	Volunteer Basics	GSC
Mar 9	Volunteer Camper Certification	Feb 23	COB	WAM
Mar 23	Volunteer Camper Certification	Mar 10	COB	ATC
Apr 6	Volunteer Camper Certification	Mar 22	COB	ATC
Apr 13	First Aid CPR/AED BLENDED	Mar 30	Online Coursework	GSC
May 11	First Aid CPR/AED BLENDED	Apr 27	Online Coursework	GSC
May 18	Volunteer Camper Certification	May 5	COB	ATC

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

Daisy Brownie Program Leadership

This course is designed for leaders who are new to the troop leadership role working or new to working with girls grades K-3 (in the Daisy or Brownie program levels). 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. Registration available in gsEvents

First Aid CPR/AED Blended

Blended Learning First Aid/AED/CPR training comprises both online study and in-person skills demonstration. This Red Cross training certifies for infant through adult. Participants must complete both parts to receive their certification. You must complete the online portion, approximately 5-7 hours of training prior to attending the in-person skills demonstration. There are videos to complete and an online manual. Registration available in gsEvents

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

New Leader Sundaes: Café's 1-3

Get a jump start on your next learning level as a new leader with these three trainings, all in one afternoon: Welcome to Our Community, Troop Finances 101 and Recruiting a Troop Committee. You'll be ready for your first meeting with Girl Scout families after this virtual meeting with other leaders who are just getting started, and our experienced facilitators, there to answer your questions. Registration available in gsEvents

Partnering with Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors

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. Registration available in gsEvents

Partnering with Girl Scout Juniors

Adults new to the Junior leadership role are encouraged to attend this course. This course is designated to provide specifics on working with girls in grades 4-5. It includes various forms of troop government, characteristics of the girls, the girl/adult partnership, tips on girl planning and more. Registration available in gsEvents

Volunteer Basics

The "basics" of being a volunteer in GSSJC. 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

Continued next page

Training Overview for Girl Scouts of San Jacinto

Troop Level	Community Level	Council Level Trainings and Events
Volunteer Basics- gsLearn; on demand	Community Leadership Training- Zoom or in person; 3-4x each summer; MUST be appointed to role	Facilitator Essentials: Required for all council level facilitators; Zoom or In person- offered once a year
New Leader Cafes- In Person or Zoom; hosted as needed basis; 5 required classes for new troop leaders	Event Basics- Zoom or In Person; offered 4-6x per year; required for day-only events-	Council Cook Certification: Required for reserving camp kitchen facilities; offered 2-3x per year
Troop Cookie Manager Training-hosted online; 1-2x per year; required training for Troop Cookie Managers	Weekend Events- Zoom or In Person; offered 4-6x per year; required for weekend or overnight events	Fall Volunteer Conference: Happens Annually every Fall (usually November) at Camp Arnold. Troop leaders spend a weekend at camp where supplemental and required training classes are offered
Fall Product Manager- hosted online; 1-2x per year; required training for Fall Product Managers	Roster Specialist- Zoom or In Person; offered 4-6x per year; suggested for roster specialist role	Membership Kickoff: Happens Annually in August over Zoom or in person. Supplemental classes offered in afternoon sessions
Camping and Overnight Basics (COB)- gsLearn; on demand- required for overnight trips and camping trips with no fire	Renewal Specialist- Zoom or In Person; offered 4-6x per year; recommended for renewal specialist role	Recruitment Event Series: Offered over Zoom, 2-3x per year. Multiple recruitment trainings are offered over 1 day
Troop First Aider- In person/online hybrid; 6-10x per year; required anytime troop leaves meeting site	Community Product Manager Training- webinar; offered 4-6x per year -*must be appointed*	Summer Train-In: Happens annually in June and July over Zoom and/ or in person. Provides program level trainings and enrichments for troop volunteers.
Volunteer Camper Certification (VCC)- In Person; 1-2x per month; Required for campfire	Thanks a Million- MyGS Event, zoom or in person; offered 4-6x per year; recommended for community recognition lead;	
Daisy/ Brownie Program Level Training (PLT)- Zoom or In Person; 4-6x per year; Recommended for new daisy and brownie troop leaders	Community Financial Specialist- zoom or in person- required for CFS; offered 2-3x per year usually in the summer *Must be Appointed*	
Partnering with Juniors- Zoom or In Person; 4-6x per year; Recommended for new Junior troop leaders	Community / Region Treasurer: zoom or in person- required for CFS offered 2-3x per year usually in the summer *Must be Appointed*	

591 Youth Protection Training 1 - gsLearn; on demand, Required for all volunteers interacting with girl members.

591 Youth Protection Training 2 - gsLearn; on demand, Required for all volunteers serving on overnight and camp activities.

Volunteer Camper Certification (VCC)

After this hands-on learning experience you'll be ready to get your girls outdoors and be able to support their camp planning activities safely and confidently. Participate in four different outdoor cooking methods, outdoor ceremonies, campfire basics and more. It also prepares you for cooking in a safe, efficient way and develop other basic outdoor skills. Most importantly, you will leave ready to apply what you have learned in both courses (this and the prerequisite) to help the girls plan camping activities. Prerequisite: Camping and Overnight Basics (COB). Registration available in gsEvents.

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

Around Camp

Fire circles and campfires

Fire circles come in different shapes and sizes depending on the camp location. We want you and your Girl Scout friends to have fun and be safe around fires. Here's a few basic procedures we'd like you to follow while at camp:

- Campers may gather dead wood found on the ground or low-hanging dead tree branches. Dead wood is called tinder. Our camp units have a fire circle and surrounding benches for seating.
- Rake/clear the area around the fire circle before setting up a new fire. There's no magic distance to rake back the leaves and tinder, but it's best to remove them from the area of the fire circle seating.
- You may find some unburned wood or charcoal left in the fire circle from previous campers and if it can be used, please do so. If you plan to make a wood fire, you can throw away any unused charcoal in the trashcan. If you plan to make a charcoal fire, set the unused wood aside for another time. The reason for throwing away unused charcoal is that it may have been rained on or too moist to burn effectively.
- If using charcoal, instant lighting charcoal products are not recommended on council property. Using standard quality charcoal briquettes with fire starters as trained in Camp Certification is preferred. Liquid fuels are prohibited on council property.
- Campfires serve two purposes in our camps—for fellowship and for cooking.
- A good campfire is NOT a bonfire. Large fires are never appropriate in a campsite and may too easily get out of control no matter how experienced the camper may be in building them.

- NEVER leave a fire unattended in a fire circle. If the fire is still going and it's bedtime, make sure to DROWN IT out with plenty of water so that it no longer glows or radiates any heat at all.
- Fire circles that have free-standing iron grates (grill on four legs) can be placed on the fire circle bench with the legs pointing skyward before going home. This keeps the legs off the ground and keeps them dry, thus prolonging their useful life. If the grate can be placed on the bench with the legs down but not touching the ground, that's fine as well.
- When the camp experience is over and you're preparing to go home, be sure to leave all partially burned charcoal or wood in the center of the fire circle. DO NOT throw any of it in the woods, garbage cans, or dumpsters with other trash. The next troop that comes into the unit will sort out what is useful to them. If the fire is warm—DROWN IT with buckets of water.
- If a fire ban is in effect, only propane stoves will be allowed for outdoor cooking. No groundfires or charcoal grills may be used. In some severe fire bans, even propane stoves will not be allowed. Check with the camp registrar or on our council's website for the fire ban status so your troop can plan meals accordingly.

We have many fine camps and setups for campfires. A ranger or reserve ranger can answer any questions you have about fire circles and campfires. Volunteers must have Volunteer Camp Certification (VCC) or be Troop Camp Certified prior to May 2020. Be safe and have fun!



Troop 136001 spent time at the beautiful Galveston Bay house, as well as a separate end of year cookie rewards trip to the Moody Gardens Aquarium where they got to sleep next to the tanks in the Aquarium. It was educational and tons of fun!



Troop 134119 had a fun time at Robinwood doing camp activities! Girls had a blast with Melissa Page teaching them how to paddle board.

Philanthropy

Planned Giving and the Juliette Gordon Low Society

You can create a lasting legacy by making a planned gift. Easy ways to leave a legacy can include:

- Naming Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council as a partial beneficiary in your will.
- Leaving a flat amount or a percentage of a specific asset.

There is no minimum requirement and everyone who makes a planned gift to GSSJC is automatically a member of the Juliette Gordon Low Society. To make your planned gift intention known, contact Susan Thraen at sthraen@sjgs.org or 713-292-0331. Every planned gift, no matter the amount, will have a positive impact on our girls for generations to come.

Make Your Year-End Gift Today

We know that year-end is a time when many consider their charitable giving. We ask that you include Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council in your year-end giving plan. Show your support for tomorrow's leaders by investing in girls today.

GSSJC believes every girl should have the opportunity to be a Girl Scout.

You can help girls thrive as they develop a strong sense of self, display positive values, seek challenges and learn from setbacks, form and maintain healthy relationships, and identify and solve problems in the community. All this is possible through the best leadership development experience for girls in the world – Girl Scouts.

See how your gifts help Girl Scouts:

- \$52 - Five girls can learn archery basics from a certified instructor. Girls will learn how to load a bow, aim, and practice hitting targets at the range.
- \$260 - Twenty girls can attend a three-part Nature Center workshop at Camp Agnes Arnold Nature Center. Girls will learn about different varieties of trees, the importance of Texas native flowers, and even about the huge bay colony in Houston.
- \$520 - Seventeen Daisy Girl Scouts can attend a robotics retreat where they will learn about robots and design their own. Girls will learn to work in teams (like engineers do) and design a robot to solve an everyday problem. They will build a prototype and test it to share this with other participants for ideas on how to make it even better.
- \$1,040 - Six girls in socioeconomically challenged communities can experience Girl Scouts through a school-based, staff-led, educational community outreach program.



Thank You, GSSJC Donors!

For any questions about the donor list, contact Suzanne Carmona at 713-292-0334 or scarmona@sjgs.org. Honorariums listed are \$250 and above.

\$25,000-\$49,999 – Ambassador

Texas Parks and Wildlife

\$10,000-\$24,999 – Senior

Girl Scouts of the USA
Fred and Mabel R. Parks Foundation
SheSpace

\$5,000-\$9,999 – Cadette

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In Honor of the GSSJC History Committee
Saundra N. Kuykendall

In Honor of Mary Ryder
Ruth S. Darling

In Honor of Angela Vabulas
Heather McConnell

In Honor of Genevieve Walls
Nancy Lee G. Peterson

Scrapbook

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



Karter Diaz Troop 115051 enjoyed selling cookies.



Brownie Troop 108001 celebrated Earth Day by making seed bombs, learning about native bees from Cadette Lily R., and cleaning up trash from local trails.



Troop 136001 took time from their Spring Break to serve at the Houston Food Bank.



New Faith Girl Scout Ministry presented the flag at the 2023 Court of Awards Ceremony. Participating were Troops 4591, 4023, 4203, 4020, and 4343.



Troop 4343 at the Court of Awards Ceremony along with speaker Ms. Kala Dillard - Ms. Latina Texas.



After several successful cookie seasons, gaining entrepreneurial skills, donating cookies to their heroes, completing a water slide STEM challenge, and more, Troop 152069 visited Kalahari in Rock Round, Texas, for fun and to strengthen friendships.



Thanks to generous donations received during the 2023 cookie season, Troop 152069 donated cookies to heroes at Memorial Hermann-Katy, where they also learned about LifeFlight. The girls continued to spread the love by donating 80 pounds of cookies to Richmond-Rosenberg Helping Hands.



Troop 127018 Brownies completed their WOW Journey. For the Journey they also toured and learned about the water cycle from a the Richmond water treatment facility.



Lone Star Trails and Tannybo hosted Girl Scouts Love State Parks weekend at Huntsville State Park. This was their third year to host the event with the help of Ranger John Herron from Texas State Parks. This year the event has grown to over 150 Girl Scouts! They had yoga, hiking and plant identification, crafts, angler program from Texas State Parks, s'mores and campfire singing, stargazing, and light painting. Fishing's Future helped put on the fishing program.



Magnolia Blossom Hill Community enjoyed their time at the pool during their super great day camp!



Girls from Troop 153093 partnered with Jenni's Rescue Ranch for their Bronze Award with the goal of improving the lives of animals in the rescue and helping adopting families be successful with their new pet. The girls made 12 wooden treat spinner enrichment toys and a variety of handmade dog toys (which the cats enjoyed too!). To improve pet adoptions they made a booklet about successful dog adoption which is on the rescue website and printed copies will be included in their adoption bags.



Brownie Troop 152998 of Lone Star Treasures Community collected pet food and supplies for Houston Humane Society, as well as donated cookies! They also earned their Pets Badge, made cat houses from cardboard boxes, and played with the cats.

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Yard Signs



See page 4 for shop locations.




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