Your Support Makes Robotics a Huge Success for Girls

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council’s robotics program celebrated a huge milestone during the 2018-19 membership year. Our total teams grew to 33, with about 200 girls and more than 60 coaches participating in the program. This follows a year where competition teams doubled and the Robotics special interest group (SIG) was revitalized.

Robotics consists of three different engagement opportunities: competition teams (primarily active August-February); the SIG, which is active year-round and focuses on leadership and non-competitive skill-building; and robotics workshops, hosted by the SIG during select months as a council-wide activity or completed independently by troops.

Each opportunity is unique and allows members to grow into G.I.R.L.s (Go-getters, Innovators, Risk-takers and Leaders). The skills girls gain in innovation, leadership, coding, engineering and beyond have translated into tangible changes over the course of their participation. The program continues to be fast-growing! In just five years, the council has expanded our competition teams from four teams at one level of competition to 30+ teams across three competitive levels, re-launched the SIG and expanded workshop opportunities. Each year, we are amazed and humbled by the outstanding girls that participate in our program as well as the everlasting dedication and support of our robotics volunteers.

In April, three of the seven Texas-based robotics teams that competed in the FIRST World Championship were from GSSJC, and each received an award for their work. The Lunacorns received the Explore and Design Award. The UNibots received the Cooperative Model Award and the Sonic Leopards of the Galaxy received the Discover and Program Award. These awards show the breadth of the program, as they showcase the inquisitiveness, sportsmanship and technical skills of the teams.

We are lucky to be able to facilitate this program through generous assistance from corporate supporters, as well as a dedicated and passionate volunteer corps who make it possible for us to make a lasting difference in the lives of hundreds of girls. Each year, girls gain invaluable skills and most teams typically do well in competition. In the past few years, we have had teams advance all the way to the world championship, where they have been granted awards for the past two years.

Success to Significance
Rescheduled for the Fall 2019

Our annual Success to Significance luncheon may have been postponed in May due to inclement weather, but our Girl Scouts brightened the day of patients at Ben Taub Hospital by delivering the beautiful flower centerpieces from the event on Mother’s Day. Contact Princess Zambrano at pzambrano@sjgs.org for information on the luncheon.

Sponsorships are still available for the previously sold out event.
Girl Scouts and Pink Petro

Special thanks to Katie Mehnert and Pink Petro for inviting GSSJC to host a booth during the Pink Petro HERWorld Conference on March 6 and 7. The event allowed us to share the Girl Scout story and connect with female leaders who are blazing trails in the energy sector. It came as no surprise that when the audience was asked to raise their hand if they were once Girl Scouts, most women raised their hands.

Girl Scouts prepares girls with experiences and leadership skills to enter and successfully navigate fields where women are traditionally underrepresented – like energy. But when it came to the cookie booth hosted by Girl Scout Troop #126146 at the conference, women and men alike raised their hand to support our cookie entrepreneurs. After all, who can resist a Girl Scout with cookies?

RSM Gives Girls a Dream Life

About 200 girls attended the My Dream Life program in February presented by GSSJC and RSM US LLP, a global financial firm.

Girl Scouts enjoyed being adults for one day as they tried out different careers like a NASA employee who works on the space station, a TV meteorologist, a food supply chain manager or zoo veterinarian. The girls experienced earning a paycheck, saving, and spending “money” on a dream vacation all in the Dream Life world we created! Fortunately, the line for girls to obtain an RSM driver’s license was short that day. Thank you, RSM, for investing in girls’ futures through Girl Scouting!
Thank You, Donors!

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Jennifer Arnold Speaks at Girl Scout Center

Jennifer Arnold, MD, from TLC’s “The Little Couple” reality TV series, visited GSSJC in mid-May to give a talk called “Think Big”. Girl Scout alum Dr. Arnold inspired an audience of Girl Scout donors, sharing her fascinating life story and encouraging us to reach for our dreams, no matter what obstacles we may face. Dr. Arnold is currently an attending neonatologist and Medical Director of the Simulation Center at Johns Hopkins All Children’s Hospital.

To learn about upcoming donor events, email Princess Zambrano at pzambrano@sjgs.org.

Memorials

In Memory of Penny Harp
Terrie Bean-Miner
Barbara S. Story

In Memory of Judy Kunkel
Terry E. Kite

In Memory of Anjanette Seipel
Troop #11205

In Memory of Kimberly Vaughan
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Honorariums

In Honor of Katie Berend
Vincent Berend and Rene Bozak

In Honor of Dee Hinkle
Charlene Pate

In Honor of Leslie Siegel Lejmer
Steve Jackson

In Honor of Troop #142147,
Sunshine Stars Community
Lisa Hasch

In Honor of Isabel Smith
Willhouse
Ida Pearl McDonald
Great care has been exercised to ensure the proper recognition of our donors. If an error or omission does occur, we apologize and hope you will bring it to our attention. Contact Suzanne Book at 713-292-0273 or sbook@sjgs.org. Honorariums listed are $250 and above. (Contributions made March 1 – May 31, 2019)
Thank You, ExxonMobil!

ExxonMobil received the Walnut Plaque at GSSJC’s Adult Recognition Event on April 6. This award is given to businesses to recognize them for several years of service to Girl Scouting. ExxonMobil received the Walnut Plaque for the 2,600 volunteer hours more than 380 employees gave to complete 35 projects in October 2018 at Camp Agnes Arnold and Misty Meadows Ranch.

GSSJC Hosts Day Camp Through Education Collaboration with United Way of Greater Houston

Thanks to a $25,000 grant from the United Way of Greater Houston, Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council was able to provide a week of day camp experiences to more than 50 girls in the Houston area served by other United Way agencies who would not otherwise have had access to day camp.

The focus of this education collaboration was STEM, or science, technology, engineering and math. This is a space where Girl Scouts have had a heavy focus in recent years, including the introduction of several new badges in areas such as engineering and space science. During the day camp, girls designed and built their own race cars in pairs or small teams, experimented with making silly putty, engineered ways to cross the Grand Canyon, used forensic skills and explored outer space by learning about constellations.

Girls also enjoyed traditional day camp activities, such as field trips to the Children’s Museum of Houston and Levy Park, an introduction to the traditions of Girl Scouting and the opportunity to make new friends.

“We know that summer camp is beneficial for all girls,” said GSSJC CEO Mary Vitek. “Recognizing the uniqueness of every girl, camp gives girls a chance to discover more about who they are and what they can become. In the camp environment, girls are encouraged to take healthy risks and experience new things as they build essential life skills, such as interpersonal and social skills, conflict resolution and collaborative teamwork, critical thinking and problem solving and a sense of confidence and independence.”

To learn how you can give to camp initiatives, visit gssjc.org/donate.