Join us at our 9th Annual Success to Significance Luncheon celebrating those who exemplify the values of Girl Scouting and help raise tomorrow’s generation of women leaders. This year’s luncheon will feature keynote speaker Admiral Michelle J. Howard, the first woman to become a four-star general in the U.S. Navy, and special guest former U.S. Navy Reserve Officer and Texas Land Commissioner, the Honorable George P. Bush. Tables and sponsorships available starting at $2,500. Tickets available at $150 and up. For more details visit gssjc.org/s2s or contact Emily Kelley at ekelley@sjgs.org or 713-292-0358.

Women’s Leadership Network (WLN)
Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council recently created the Women’s Leadership Network (WLN) to bring women together to support future female leaders—today’s Girl Scouts. WLN provides members with the opportunity to expand their personal and professional networks, celebrate their accomplishments and mentor future leaders—all while supporting Girl Scouting in the community. Donors who make a personal gift of $1,000+ to the annual campaign are automatically considered members of WLN and are invited to attend the following events. Details about these and other events will be emailed to members. For questions about joining WLN or to RSVP for events, contact Diane Likeness at dlikeness@sjgs.org or 713-292-0346.

Upcoming events
February 12, 2019
Cybersecurity: Everything you need to know to keep you and your family safe
Program Place for Girls

May 4, 2019
Tea for Mom & Me, Mother’s Day Tea Party
McHugh’s Tea Room

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council launched a Raising Awesome Girls speaker series on Nov. 7. Guests heard from Dr. Helene Sheena as she presented on how to raise girls with healthy minds and bodies. For upcoming speaker topics, email dlikeness@sjgs.org.
Many Faces of Girl Scouts: Robert Rice

When asked why he first started volunteering with Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council, Robert Rice pointed to his daughter. Rice’s daughter joined the Mariners program, GSSJC’s sailing special interest group, at age 11. When her interest grew from a hobby to a passion, Rice felt compelled to follow her.

“I figured if she was coming all the time, I needed to do my part to support the effort,” Rice said. “I quickly discovered that there’s a great group of adults here, so I stayed involved and kept doing new things.”

Rice went above and beyond in his volunteering role with the Mariners program, graduating from dish duty to sailing instructor and instruction coordinator.

“The quality of what we do in terms of teaching, instructing and testing is really high level,” said Rice. “We do a lot of work on instructor development for the adults and for older girls as well, so older girls can qualify as sailing instructors.”

In addition to teaching sailing courses, Rice spearheaded new experiences for the Mariners, like getting them invited to Sea Star Base Galveston, a historical first for Girl Scouts.

“This was the first time they had a crew that was only girls, and definitely the first time they had a group of Girl Scouts,” said Rice. “I think the staff of Sea Star Base Galveston was universally surprised at the quality of their sailing skills.”

Rice worked for six months to get the Mariners invited to Sea Star Base Galveston, championing the girls’ knowledge and “seaworthiness” to participate. This determination to prove that women can do anything shines in all of Rice’s actions, especially his fostering of the relationship between the Mariners and the U.S. Coast Guard.

In addition to his volunteering roles with Girl Scouts, Rice is also a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, a uniformed volunteer component of the Coast Guard. Through his connections, Rice facilitated events for the Mariners such as tours of the U.S. Coast Guard Air Station and helicopter rescue demonstrations at Camp Casa Mare.

“I want the girls to see that there is this whole world of public service opportunities; that the Coast Guard does offer an opportunity for women to do exciting, adventurous, challenging things; that women do have leadership roles in the Coast Guard,” said Rice.

It came as no surprise that when asked for his opinion on the value of Girl Scouting, Rice gushed.

“People are surprised that there are these great adventurous things going on in Girl Scouts,” said Rice. “It’s an opportunity for girls to dare to do challenging, difficult things, and a safe place for things to not go well. The opportunity to try and to fail softly is incredibly important.”

Rice also harped on the importance of other adults, especially dads, to get involved and volunteer. “You only have so much time with your kids at home before they move on,” said Rice. “You have this opportunity to watch her grow and develop in a way that you would not otherwise. It’s a worthwhile investment as an adult – as a family.”

GSSJC provides many volunteering opportunities in unique capacities, and we bet you know a friend or two who might be interested in lending their talents. Encourage them to visit gssjc.org/makeadifference to begin the volunteer process!

To meet more of the Many Faces of Girl Scouts, visit manyfacesofgirlscouts.com.
How Camperships Impact Girls

Dear Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council,

Our daughters Micayla, a Junior, and Lazaria, a Brownie, just got home from their fun-filled week at Misty Meadows. Lazaria was in Mane Event, and Micayla was in Pony Tales. They talked non-stop about everything – their schedules, unit, counselors, eating with no hands and night swimming. The list/stories can go on forever.

I am writing to say thank you. Each year we apply for camperships, and we have been approved for full or partial funding. We are very grateful each year. Our daughters Micayla and Lazaria love being in Girl Scouts and love their troops. They look forward to resident camp every year. I forgot to write and say thank you in the past, and I will never forget again. Every year they come home a more confident G.I.R.L., and my husband and I truly appreciate it.

I recently started a new job this year and hope to finish my bachelor’s degree soon. We will no longer require camperships for our girls and be able to donate so that other children can have the amazing opportunity to experience camp. But until then we want to say thank you for being a part of our journey to create a fun-filled childhood for our children that they will never forget.

GSSJC will always be a part of the Phillips family.

With great appreciation,
MicTricetie and Leon Phillips

To help give a girl a camp experience, donate today at gssjc.org/donate.

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Thank you, donors! Great care has been exercised to ensure the proper recognition of our donors. If an error or omission does occur, we apologize and hope you will bring it to our attention. Contact Suzanne Boak at 713-292-0273 or sboak@sjgsc.org. Honorariums listed are $250 and above. (Contributions made Sept. 1 - Nov. 30, 2018.)
Join Your Friends at an Alumnae Event

Girl Scout alums joined us at The Pass & Provisions on Dec. 4 to celebrate the holiday season and end of another successful year. Alumnae Association members also contributed books to be shared with Girl Scouts in underserved troops which were delivered later that week.

Joining the alumnae association is free and offers fun and meaningful ways to stay connected and support the female leadership pipeline. Find out more about upcoming events like our Girl Scout Birthday Bash on March 7 by visiting gssjc.org/alum and clicking on Alum Events. See you there!

Thank You, ExxonMobil!

Special thanks to ExxonMobil and the nearly 400 employees who volunteered this fall to make improvements at Camps Agnes Arnold, Misty Meadows, Silver Springs and Robinwood as part of their Days of Caring. The volunteers - part of the largest Days of Caring efforts to date - made the world a better place by completing critical projects that will enhance girls’ experiences at camp. Together they completed more than 2,600 hours worth of work, which would have taken a camp ranger more than a year to complete.

At Camp Robinwood volunteers rebuilt the stargazing/nature platform and performed extensive work at the ‘Lil Cabin (interior/ exterior paint, install ceiling fans, lights, new switch, outlet plates and mural designed/painted). They also pressure washed and painted the exteriors of the ‘Lil Cabin latrine, boat house and Lone Pine shower. All beds now have stencil painted numbers on them.

At neighboring Camp Misty Meadows, volunteers rebuilt 250 feet of three-board horse fencing behind the barn. In addition, 888 beds across all three neighboring camps now have stenciled painted numbers.

Projects at Camp Agnes Arnold included the demolition and rebuilding of the Barnhill Fire Circle and War Canoe-shed. Volunteers extended the existing canoe rack and added a wood deck for Coed storage and additional racks for our newly purchased kayaks.

At neighboring Camp Misty Meadows, volunteers rebuilt 250 feet of three-board horse fencing behind the barn. In addition, 888 beds across all three neighboring camps now have stenciled painted numbers.

The extensive work didn’t take place in a single day, however. Planning meetings were held by ExxonMobil for six weeks to leading up to these projects, adding an additional 70+ hours of time donated to our council.

The time and volunteer hours ExxonMobil put into GSSJC camps truly make a difference for girls who utilize the camps. We couldn’t maintain our amazing camp properties without partners like ExxonMobil, and we are grateful for their support.