Celebrating Girl Scouting's Highest Awards
Raising Awesome Girls

6 People You Want on Your Team This School Year (Besides Her Teacher)

Meeting your girl’s teacher is a big deal–your girl will be spending a lot of time with this person, and what they say will make a big impact on her in the months, and possibly even years, to come.

But this year’s teacher isn’t the only person you should get to know during the school year. You know how they say it takes a village to raise a child? Turns out, it takes a whole school of caring adults to support your girl, and the more of them you know, the more you and she can benefit from the year ahead!

Here’s your guide to the six people you might want to win over in the next few weeks.

The Front Office Manager
The principal is the one with the big office and the shiny desk, but at almost every school, the person who keeps the trains running and truly knows what’s what is the front office manager–and having a good relationship with her can make your life about a thousand times easier when it comes to anything from replacing a lost permission slip to getting access to special support your girl might need. The front office manager has a lot of power, but she’s also got a lot of weight on her shoulders. Being the calm, patient parent in a room full of exasperated moms and dads will go a long way. A plate of cookies at the holidays can’t hurt, either!

The Vice Principal
Of course you’d never think of your girl as a troublemaker, but everybody messes up sometimes. If she’s ever involved in a disciplinary situation, chances are she and you will be head to head with the vice principal. Standing with your daughter will be a lot easier if the person in charge already knows you and isn’t seeing your face for the first time. A little goodwill could make a big difference here.

The Cafeteria Manager
Kids are smarter than most people give them credit for, which is why most bullying takes place at lunch, away from the teacher’s watchful eyes. But that doesn’t mean no one’s paying attention–in fact, cafeteria workers are often the eyes and ears who know what’s really going on when the new kid has no one to sit with or when there’s drama between different sets of kids. We’re in no way suggesting that you crash your girl’s lunch period, but catching the food services manager before or after their shift to introduce yourself could open up a whole new world.

The PTA President
Tired of the annual pancake breakfast fundraiser, and hoping to switch it up with something more exciting? Wishing the school talent show could be after school or on a weekend instead of smack in the middle of the workday? The PTA president is your best bet for all of the above. Even if you can’t make it to regular PTA meetings, reach out to see if there are ways you can help make a positive change in the school’s community. They’ll be a lot more likely to adopt your pet project half way through the year if you’ve been a helpful presence since day one.

The School Nurse
Whether your girl needs to have special medication kept at school or is typically in perfect health, you never know when she might skin her knee on the playground or suddenly come down with a case of it’s-test-day-so-my-tummy-hurts syndrome. Plus, the school nurse is the one who often conducts screenings for visual and hearing impairments, which, if undiagnosed, could affect your girl’s grades. In short, the school nurse is an invaluable resource and will be your girl’s ally in case her stomach or her ankle goes sideways. You want this person on your team.

Another Parent from Her Class
Think of it this way: when your girl is insisting for the third night in a row that there was no homework, you’ll want another grown-up you can text immediately to compare notes with. Bonus? You’ll have someone cool to sit with at the annual holiday concert and might even get a carpool buddy out of the bargain. Win-win!

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.
Troop 124019 delivered cookies as part of the Cookies4Heroes program to Fire Station 49. See more Cookies4Heroes photos on page 15.

Misty Meadows Named One of Top Summer Camps of 2023! See more on page 17.

Learn how to earn a Highest Award. pages 4 – 15
Hello, Girl Scout family! As incoming president of the council and chair of the board of directors, I’m honored to partner with CEO Mary Vitek, her team and our amazing volunteers to continue the work of our mission. Like many of you, I started my Girl Scout journey as a Brownie and have now served as a Girl Scout volunteer for over twenty years. I have seen firsthand how our program has grown and evolved through the years while continuing to be a safe place for girls to build courage, confidence, and character.

Our unique activities and programs focus on helping girls develop leadership and life skills that enable them to create their own paths. From cookie sales and summer camp to highest award projects and special interest groups, our girls have endless opportunities to explore, grow, and become the best person they can be. And we, as volunteers, have the privilege of nurturing and watching them as they transform into young women who are fearless and ready to change the world. That’s what I love most about Girl Scouts.

As I prepared to assume my new role, I reflected on how wonderful it is to be a Girl Scout. Girls not only learn about themselves and what they can achieve but also learn how to connect with people, have compassion for others, serve their communities, and find solutions to problems. They grasp all these things in an environment where they can have fun, be creative, and make mistakes without judgment. The icing on the proverbial cake is that our girls have ongoing support from dedicated volunteers who care about them, encourage them, and want to see them succeed. Where else can girls go and reap so many lifelong benefits?

Speaking of benefits, our Girl Scouts recently finished the annual cookie program and sold even more cookies than last year! Thank you, volunteers and parents, for supporting girls as they participated in this iconic program. Thanks to YOU, girls learned 5 essential skills - planning, goal setting, money management, communication, and decision-making. The girls also donated 3,600 cases of sold cookies to local first responders and military personnel as part of the council’s Cookie Share program, Cookie4Heroes. They put into action the Girl Scout Promise to help people, learning the importance of giving back to the community. The cookie program is just one example of how Girl Scouting makes a difference in girls’ lives.

Our Girl Scouts are now preparing for summer camp. Our council has some of the best camp facilities, including Camp Agnes Arnold and Misty Meadows Ranch in Conroe and Casa Mare in Seabrook, where girls can get away from busy schedules, relax, and enjoy nature. While there, girls will experience all sorts of fun adventures. They will also have a chance to make new friends and learn new things like how to cook over a campfire, make crafts, identify the stars at night, or complete an obstacle course. In the process of all this activity, they will create memories that will last a lifetime. This experience is also what makes Girl Scouting so special. And we’re not the only ones who think so. Earlier this year, Newsweek named Misty Meadows Ranch as one of the America’s Best Camps in 2023!

Girl Scouts is near and dear to my heart and always will be. We are in the business of developing future business and community leaders who will make the world a better place. What other organization can say they’ve been doing this for more than 100 years? I look forward to working with you over the next three years to build on the movement’s established foundation and to advance our mission.

### Shop Hours

**PP 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 – 5 p.m.
- Lufkin will be closed June 13-Aug. 15

**Beaumont**
700 North Street, Suite F, Beaumont
409-832-0556 Ext. 1500

- Tues. to Thurs. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Beaumont will be closed June 13-Aug. 15

**Westside**
Wednesday pickup only:
- 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- No in-person shopping. Please provide minimum 24 hour notice on orders by email to shop@sjgs.org or by calling 713-292-0247

**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
281-818-3227

- Tues. – Thurs. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Fri. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Sat. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

**Cypress/Jersey Village**
19708 Northwest Freeway, Suite 100, Jersey Village
346-818-3227

- Tues. – Thurs. 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.
- Fri. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
- Sat. 10 a.m. – 3 p.m.

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**New Leader Must-Knows!**

Are you a new troop leader? Here are some things you need to know for the next few months:

1. Early Bird Renewel ends June 30! Renewing your troop early helps ensure a smooth start to the next membership year. See www.gssjc.org/renew for details.

2. Sign up now for Summer Camp 2023! Week-long day camp and overnight camp sessions are available through August. Visit www.gssjc.org/summercamp for details.

3. Summer is a great time to take a training you may have been too busy for during the school year. Look for information on gssjc.org under the Events tab.

4. The Fall Product Program is an easy way to earn money for your troop. Troop Fall Product manager trainings start in August. Keep an eye on www.gssjc.org/fallproduct for complete program details soon.

5. Keep in touch with your troop through the summer so your girls stay engaged with Girl Scouting. Some troops meet just once a month over the summer or gather for one or two fun activities, like a day of water games or participating in a neighborhood Fourth of July parade.
Distinguish Yourself!
Earn Girl Scout Highest Awards

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

Distinguish Yourself with the Highest Awards by:
• Developing advanced leadership skills like communication skills, adaptability, responsibility, time management, and project management.
• Demonstrating self-motivation and commitment in an area that excites you.
• Stepping outside your comfort zone to work with adult experts in the community.
• Earning scholarships and having a stand-out college/career resume!

You don’t have to wait until you’re older to make a difference in the world. Be empowered to make the world a better place today by earning a Girl Scout Highest Award.

Breaking News!
2023 GSUSA Gold Award Girl Scout Scholarship winners will receive a $10,000 scholarship for college! This is a 400% increase over last year! Every year one GSSJC Gold Award Girl Scout earns the honor of being selected as our council’s GSUSA Gold Award Girl Scout. It’s never been a better time to Go Gold!

We are excited to announce that GSSJC will be adopting GSUSA’s brand new Silver Award materials – including new forms, guides, and trainings – by Oct. 1, 2023. Stay tuned! In the meantime, join us for our “Summer of Silver”! Check the new Highest Awards Online Community for more information.

Questions?
Join us for a virtual Q&A about the Highest Awards. Ask us anything!
Highest Awards Q&A
Thursday, June 15 from 7 – 8 p.m.
Virtual on Zoom
Register on the Events page.

Are you passionate about helping girls change our world for the better?
Join the Highest Awards Committee!
Join our marketing team, Community/Region Highest Awards experts, mentors, review boards, facilitators, and more! Do you have a specific specialty or interest? We will work with you to find the right place for YOU! Reach out to Highest Awards Manager, Alix Reilman, at areilman@sjgs.org to explore the possibilities!

Advice on Leading Your Girls Through a Highest Award

I’ve worked with a lot of adults who are starting the Highest Awards process with their girls. My first piece of advice is always to really understand how to work with girls at their level. If you haven’t had the opportunity yet, I recommend that you take the training Partnering with Juniors or Partnering with Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts, where you will gain insight on how girls think, how to guide them in girl planning, and when to step back so girls can develop leadership skills.

My second piece of advice is to learn about the Journey and Take Action Project process. Highest Awards projects are Take Action Projects where girls:
1) Identify an issue/concern in their community,
2) Identify one root cause of their issue/concern, and
3) Develop a sustainable solution to address the root cause of their issue/concern.

If you need assistance with leading a Journey and Take Action Project for your girls, you can find great resources on the Volunteer Toolkit (VTK). My final piece of advice is to read the Project Guide for your Highest Award all the way through to understand the process. If you have additional questions, seek out related trainings. A trained adult works best with the girls to develop their highest potential.

~Magna Cayll, Highest Award Committee, Facilitator
Highest Awards FAQ

Where can I learn more about Highest Awards at GSSJC?
Each council has its own guidelines and procedures for Highest Awards. To ensure you are getting the correct and most up-to-date information, visit GSSJC’s Highest Awards Online Community or Highest Awards webpage at https://www.gssjc.org/en/about/our-program/highest-awards.html. Be sure to read all information carefully, especially the individual Project Guides provided for each award level.

Search GSSJC’s Events page and gsLearn using the keywords Bronze, Silver, or Gold to find additional trainings for GSSJC Highest Awards, including Take Action Workshops, Silver Award Training, Gold Award Orientation, and more.

Once you have carefully reviewed all information provided on the Online Community and website, and taken the relevant trainings, please reach out with any additional questions to the appropriate Highest Awards email.

What are the deadlines for the Highest Awards?
The only deadlines for Highest Awards apply to girls who have completed the final grade of their Girl Scout level. For example, Juniors have until September 30 of the year they complete 5th grade (in other words, the fall of their 6th grade year) to submit their Bronze Award Final Report. Considering this, please see the previous page for all applicable deadlines by award.

Do I have to earn the previous Highest Award/s to be eligible to earn the one at my level?
No, you do not need to earn the Bronze Award to earn the Silver Award. You do not need to earn the Bronze or Silver Award to earn the Gold Award.

Note: At the Gold Award level ONLY, completion of the Silver Award alters the pre-requisites of the Gold Award. If you have completed the Silver Award, you must complete one Senior or Ambassador Journey. If you have not completed the Silver Award, you have to complete two Senior or Ambassador Journeys.

Do I have to participate in the Fall Product or Cookie Program to earn a Highest Award?
No. Any Girl Scout of the appropriate level is eligible to earn a Highest Award. The only time a girl must have participated in Product Sales is if she would like to explore additional funding options beyond self-funding (receiving funds/supplies from her troop, family, or friends) to fund her project. These additional funding options include additional money-earning activities, soliciting for donations, or raising money (Gold Award only). Please note that most projects do not require additional funding options.

Is it true that a girl must complete a Highest Award without any adult support?
No, adult support is integral to earning the Highest Awards. As with all Girl Scout programming, the Highest Awards constitute a leadership progression where girls expand their comfort zone and ability to take the lead with each step. Learn more about adult roles for Highest Awards on the Online Community.

Can girls with special needs earn the Highest Awards?
Yes, absolutely! All girls, including those with special needs, are encouraged to complete the Highest Awards at the level they are at. Please reach out to the appropriate Highest Awards email with any questions about how to support a girl with special needs in earning her Highest Awards.

What do I do if I want to complete a Highest Awards project on a GSSJC property?
First consider: is a GSSJC property the very best place to do your project? There are often many other worthy organizations and locations where your project might be most appropriate. We highly encourage you to use this opportunity to step outside your comfort zone. If you believe a GSSJC property is the best place for your project, please submit an F-208 Request to Conduct a Project on GSSJC Property form to the appropriate Highest Awards email.

What's the Difference Between a Service Project and a Take Action Project?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Community Service Project</th>
<th>Take Action Project</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A short-term (often one-time) effort that helps something or someone fulfill an immediate need.</td>
<td>A long-term project with ongoing influence that continues beyond your involvement.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Addresses the result/outcome of an issue.</td>
<td>Addresses the root cause of an issue.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Done FOR a community.</td>
<td>Done WITH a community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joining an existing effort to address an issue.</td>
<td>Creating a unique initiative to address an issue.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Working toward a goal set by others.</td>
<td>Setting the goals and leading a team to achieve them.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Done as part of an existing team (usually as a volunteer).</td>
<td>Creating and leading your own team of volunteers – this is GIRL LED!</td>
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As a little girl riding in the backseat of her parents’ car, Dylan always noticed homeless people on the side of the road and would ask her mother if she could help them in some way. Dylan’s compassion for others is what inspired her to focus on helping the homeless for her Bronze Award project.

Now that she is older and a Girl Scout in Troop 113116, Dylan stepped up to make a difference on her own. She made toiletry kits for the homeless. She purchased enough items to fill 50 kits, which she donated to Cy-Fair Helping Hands, a nonprofit that helps homeless people. Each kit contained a washcloth, two containers of shampoo and conditioner, two bars of soap, lotion, Chapstick, a comb, and a toothbrush. The organization featured the kits on its website. Dylan also made a video to teach others how to make a kit.
Juniors’ Trip to Farm Inspires Bronze Award

Troop 143007 enjoyed visiting a nonprofit farm so much that they created an activity book to share their learnings about healthy plants with other children. Troop 143007 members are Eleanor P., Ella S., Lily W., Paige A., Peighton B., Penelope P., McKenna B., and Kendall C.

During their troop trip to Camp OTA in Alvin, the girls discovered that microgreens - or baby vegetables – have more nutrients than their full-grown counterparts, making them a healthier choice. The activity book they created, available digitally and in print, earned the troop a Bronze Award. Camp OTA specializes in growing microgreens and sells them at farmer’s markets and to local restaurants. Microgreens are vegetables and herbs such as beets, Swiss chard, mustard, arugula, and peas. They can help lower blood pressure and cholesterol levels and support gut health.

The farm’s mission is to promote sustainable living and community health. The troop’s activity book is a fun way to make the farm’s mission more relatable to children. The book has plenty of educational activities such as coloring pages, crosswords, word scrambles, and word searches – all created by the girls. The girls debuted their book at their bridging ceremony, and their Girl Scout Community recognized them for earning the Bronze Award.

After visiting the farm, the eight Girl Scouts went to the library to research microgreens and then brainstormed ideas for the Bronze Award project, said Eleanor. They took a vote and agreed on creating an activity book, she said. However, it was Peighton who initially introduced the book idea. Ella said the girls then researched how microgreens grow, what they look like, how they taste, and how people can eat them to be healthier. The girls also watched videos and revisited the farm while creating the activity book.

Each girl contributed several pages to the book. McKenna designed a crossword puzzle, word search, and mad libs. She made hand sketches and then recreated them digitally for the digital book. “It was fun because we got to choose an activity that we were interested in and use our creativity,” she said.

Lilly wrote a short story in a comic book page format and created cutout characters that she layered for a 3D look. She said she enjoyed working on the project. “I like how it was girl-led. It was overall a fun project, and I can't wait to do Silver and Gold award projects.” Paige also liked doing the project, but her favorite part was visiting the farm where the girls saw chickens, a large microgreen garden, flowers, and the farm’s pet German Shepard mix, Cooper.

Penelope and McKenna both said they loved being able to help the community through the project. Copies of the print version of the activity book are available at local farmers markets where Camp OTA sells its microgreens. “I was happy to work with the nonprofit to help the community eat healthier,” McKenna said.

Before Bronze

Learning About the Bronze Award:

- Review all materials on the Highest Awards Online Community.
- Carefully read the GSSJC Bronze Award Project Guide.
- Girls can take the Junior Take Action Workshop to learn more about Take Action.

Prerequisites: Complete one Junior Journey, including the Take Action Project.

Steps to the Bronze Award:

- Project: Utilize the GSSJC Bronze Award Project Guide to plan and implement your project. Make sure your project meets Take Action (as opposed to community service) guidelines.
- Submission: Submit your troop/group’s Bronze Award project by filling out the following online form: https://gssjc.me/bronzeaward.
- Review: Council will review and grant final approval for your troop/group’s Bronze Award project. To ensure approval, please be sure to follow all Council regulations related to the project concept, including those outlined in Volunteer Essentials, Safety Activity Checkpoints, and Policies and Procedures, and GSSJC Ways of Work.
- Approval: After submission, you will receive a congratulations email within three weeks. Please reach out to bronzeaward@sjgs.org if you have not received your email within that timeframe.

Take Note:

- One Bronze Award certificate per project will be mailed to the troop/group leader from Council. If you would like each girl to have an individual certificate, you can purchase additional blank certificates at the Girl Scout Shop.
- Check the Online Community for more details about what to expect after earning the Bronze Award (how to purchase pins, how to promote and celebrate your project, etc.)
Best Friends Build Gardens to Produce Clean Air at School

Like true Girl Scouts, Caroline and Trinity approached their Silver Award project with confidence, ready to do their part to help fight air pollution in their community and have fun with their best friend – each other. The girls built two vertical gardens filled with plants that help purify the air and donated it to a Fort Bend County elementary school, where they are stationed outside the science lab.

The girls decided to make a vertical garden after learning about how they benefit the environment. The gardens not only filter indoor and outdoor air, but they also help offset the carbon footprint of both people and fuel emissions. The girls have actor Zac Efron to thank for inspiring their project idea. They discovered vertical gardens while watching the Netflix documentary Down to Earth with Zac Efron.

Caroline and Trinity are members of Troop 152012. They have been the same troop since they were Brownies. The girls attend different schools, so working together on a Silver Award project allowed them to spend more time with each other. “I like that I got to see Trinity, one of my best friends,” Caroline said. “It was fun working with her.”

Each girl used their strengths to complete the project. Caroline likes to crunch numbers. She calculated all the building materials during their shopping trip to the hardware store to ensure they stayed within their $200 budget from their troop funds. Trinity, who enjoys being creative, focused on the design and building of the 4-foot-tall gardens. The girls said the project took a lot of planning and research. They had to figure out the measurements, choose a sturdy wood, and find the best plants to use for the gardens.

Trinity’s dad helped the girls select the materials and supervised the building process. After building the gardens, the girls painted them and added self-watering pots that contain aloe vera, philodendrons, Gerber daisies, and chrysanthemums – all air purifying plants. The girls donated the gardens to Frost Elementary School in Richmond, where Trinity attended school.

Caroline and Trinity also created a booklet to help the students learn facts about the plants in the gardens. The science teacher has incorporated the booklet and the vertical gardens into the science curriculum.

The girls said they learned about budgeting and time management while working on the project. They also said they felt a sense of accomplishment after completing the project. “Although it took a lot of time, the gardens were simple to make, and other Girl Scouts can do it to help purify the air,” Trinity said. “It’s doing one small thing, but if everyone does it, there will be a change.”
2023 GSUSA Gold Award Girl Scout Scholarship winners will receive a $10,000 scholarship to college!

This is a 400% increase over last year! Every year one GSSJC Gold Award Girl Scout earns the honor of being selected as our council’s GSUSA Gold Award Girl Scout.

It’s never been a better time to Go Gold!

Before Gold

Learning About the Gold Award:
• Review all materials provided on the Highest Awards Online Community.
• Carefully read the GSSJC Gold Award Project Guide.
• Girls can take the Older Girl Take Action Workshop to learn more about Take Action.

Prerequisites:
• Complete either: the Silver Award and one Senior or Ambassador Journey (including the Take Action Project) OR two Senior or Ambassador Journeys (including the two Take Action Projects).
• Take Gold Award Orientation. Girls sign up for access to Gold Award Orientation on gsLearn by filling out this online form: https://gssjc.me/gaorientation. Be sure to submit a unique, girl (not parent) email address. Once the form is submitted, you will receive an access email within 3 to 5 business days.

Steps to the Gold Award

Choosing a Gold Award Mentor: Once you complete Gold Award Orientation, a document called the Gold Award Mentor Lookbook will unlock at the end of training. This document has the bios and contact information of the approved Council-wide Gold Award Mentors. Choose one and contact them to see if they are available to take new girls at this time.

Project Proposal:
• Sign up for GoGold Online.
• Work with your Gold Award Mentor and utilize the GSSJC Gold Award Project Guide to plan your project. Make sure your project meets Take Action (as opposed to community service) guidelines.
• Submit your project proposal via GoGold Online with all required supplemental documents and Gold Award Mentor signatures.
• Ask your Gold Award Mentor to add you to the next Gold Award Review Board agenda. Review Board meetings usually occur every two weeks.
• You will receive an email with your results within one week.

Project:
• After completing your project, work with your Gold Award Mentor to fill out and submit your Final Report with all required supplemental documents and Gold Award Mentor signatures.
• Ask your Gold Award Mentor to add you to the next Gold Award Review Board agenda.
• You will receive an email with your results within one week.

Take Note!
• Girls working on their Gold Award will be supported through the process by two adults: the Gold Award Mentor and the Project Advisor. The Gold Award Mentor supports the girl through the process of designing her project and getting her project proposal and final report approved by the Gold Award Review Board. The Project Advisor is an expert in the girl’s Gold Award project topic and/or is a representative of her partnering organization.
• Girls must work with a GSSJC-approved Gold Award Mentor. A project cannot be added to the Gold Award Review Board meeting agenda without the approval of a Gold Award Mentor. Girls choose a Gold Award Mentor from the Gold Award Mentor Lookbook document which is available at the end of Gold Award Orientation on gsLearn.
• Check the Online Community for more details about what to expect after earning the Gold Award (how to pick up a pin, attending Gold Award Ceremony, Gold Award scholarships, etc).

How To Sign Up For Gold Award Orientation and find a Gold Award Mentor

Gold Award Orientation is automatically available to all registered ADULTS on gsLearn; however, GIRLS must complete Gold Award Orientation on their own accounts, which must be manually created for them by Council. Sign up to receive gsLearn access as a girl here: https://gssjc.me/gaorientation.
Be sure to provide a unique, girl (not parent) email address on the form.

Once you complete Gold Award Orientation, a document will unlock at the end of training called the Gold Award Mentor Lookbook. Read through the bios of GSSJC’s Gold Award Mentors and contact the one you would like to work with.
Girl Scout Helps Homeless Women with Feminine Products

While working on a school project, Girl Scout Ellen Ward stumbled upon a YouTube video about homeless women in New York. The video captured her attention because it highlighted a problem that, as a young woman, she has never had to face. Moved by the stories of these homeless women, Ellen decided to focus on period poverty for her Gold Award project.

Period poverty is the inability to afford or access feminine products used for menstrual cycles. Ellen made about 70 feminine product kits and donated them to a Houston-area homeless shelter to distribute to homeless women. Ellen also created a presentation educating her peers and others about the hardship these women endure every month. In many cases, these women must choose between scraping up enough money to eat or to buy feminine products, Ellen said.

Ellen organized a collection drive for feminine products. She received hundreds of donations from student organizations at her school and led a team of four students as they packaged the kits. She donated the kits to Star of Hope, a homeless shelter in Houston, which distributed them to homeless women. She also created a PowerPoint presentation to explain period poverty and why it is important to help homeless women with this issue. She shared the presentation with several student organizations.

“We have the luxury of having products and bathrooms to use. It’s about understanding that these homeless women are still women, and they have a desire to feel feminine and clean,” Ellen said. “I’m big on supporting people and helping them feel confident with themselves.”

Ellen, now a first-year student at Howard University, said completing her Gold Award project earlier this year helped her become more introspective and see the world from an unfamiliar perspective that requires looking beyond the surface and asking questions. She said she is happy she could help women in her community by shedding light on an issue that affects so many homeless women.

Gold Award Alumna Mentors Current Girl Scouts

Ashley Crouch had a mentor who guided her through the Gold Award process when she earned her highest award in June 2011, and she now provides the same support to girls in the same council - the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council. She recalls that her mentor believed in her and wanted to see her succeed in making a difference in the community.

Today, Crouch is a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist in Internal Medicine at MD Anderson Cancer Center, where she makes significant contributions to the Houston region and beyond. She credits Girl Scouts for helping her develop the leadership, communication, and organizational skills that have benefited her in college and her career. She said she would not have gained these skills outside of Girl Scouts.

Crouch became a Gold Award mentor in the fall of 2021. She has mentored 10 Girl Scouts so far. One of the inspirational anecdotes Crouch likes to share with her mentees is her Gold Award experience. Pursuing the award was challenging, but she preserved and completed her project. Her mentor supported and encouraged her to take the next step when things became difficult. “I let them know that I understand and that I’m a support system for them,” she said.

Recently, her first two Girl Scout mentees received approval for their Gold Award. “I’m very proud of them and all the time and work they put into it,” said an elated Crouch. “Hearing the review board discuss how impressed they were with their projects was gratifying.”

For her highest award, Crouch taught weekend STEM classes to children at Bay Area Turning Point, a shelter for domestic violence victims and their children. Through her project, she discovered her ability to teach. The experience contributed to her decision to enter the healthcare field. In her role as a Clinical Pharmacy Specialist, she teaches patients and other medical professionals about medications.

Crouch said she enjoyed being a Girl Scout and participating in badge workshops and the opportunities to lead her peers. Girl Scouts gave her the confidence to take on leadership roles in college - including as president of a professional fraternity, student liaison for the Austin Area Society of Health-System Pharmacists - and pursue her doctorate in pharmacy. In addition to her job, she also serves in an adjunct faculty role at the University of Texas at Austin College of Pharmacy, where she organizes clinical rotations for fourth-year pharmacy doctoral students.

“For me, going through Girl Scouts, the adults there made such an impact. I wanted to stay involved and succeed,” she said. “I want to give back to help Girl Scouts in any way I can.”

Ashley Cubley Crouch

Education: Doctor of Pharmacy Degree and Bachelor of Science in Psychology from the University of Texas at Austin; Graduate of Clear Lake High School in Houston.

Interests: Gardening, cooking, baking, BBQ (eating and cooking it!), cats, healthcare education, and healthcare equity.

Volunteer Organizations: Texas Exes, Girl Scouts, Texas Society of Health-System Pharmacists

Girl Scout Experience: Girl Scout from Brownie through Ambassador; Bronze, Silver, and Gold awards.
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.

Kate Alley is passionate about increasing civic engagement in her community. Kate and her team created two educational murals that provided resources for potential voters about voter registration and general election information. She worked with the City of Baytown and the Harris County Public Library System to install murals that include links to voter information. She also organized a voter registration drive.

Ella Daley addressed the decline of the Bluebird population due to the limited amount of nesting cavities available at Armand Bayou Nature Center. She prepped and gave presentations and her team built five nesting boxes and placed them at the Armand Bayou Nature Center. Plus, she created an educational video which was posted on YouTube for global access.

Oksana Arevalo educated 800 people on the harmful effects of urbanization, pesticides, non-native plants, and invasive species on the disappearing Texas prairies. She and 40 volunteers restored a prairie at the Houston Arboretum and hosted many information sessions there and in the energy corridor. Her online outreach has the potential to reach 10,000 members of various groups.

Katherine Edmonds worked with Texas Children’s NICU to introduce their new mothers to the importance of early reading while their preemies are hospitalized. In addition to providing books for the library, she created bookmarks linking to a website where early reading benefits are highlighted and a log for reading hours is available to parents.

Megan Carson designed her project to educate elementary students about other people’s cultures, religions, and races. With her team, she researched and chose a variety of books, created related activities, and linked it all to a website for educators and students. Initially, one elementary school agreed to work with her, and she took her project to an additional 12 schools and reached more than 1,500 students.

Kristin Geczik and her team made 50 bilingual kits to educate third through fifth graders about health and nutrition. Each kit had a theme: food groups, nutrition labels, and energizing the brain and heart. The kits were distributed at Family Point Resources and its staff was trained in how to use the kits with the children and create more kits.

Alexandra Hayden chose to design her project to address the gender barrier in the engineering field - 73% of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) employees are male. She organized and hosted a presentation for middle school girls and Girl Scout troops and gave them STEM kits. She also researched, scripted, and recorded a public service announcement video to raise interest in engineering. The video was shared with a variety of people, groups, and websites.
Elizabeth Johnson designed and delivered a dance curriculum for first- through third-grade students at a small private school and guided them toward an end of semester performance for their parents and families. She also led a short summer dance clinic to interest additional girls to sign up for the class during the school year. The varsity dance team at Duchesne has committed to continue this outreach program.

Isabelle Lust created a digital guide to bring awareness about future endeavors in college athletic programs and to establish confidence in younger female student athletes. She hopes to inspire a new generation of girls to pursue their passions and to strive for the equality that Title IX provides. Isabelle’s project has been digitally posted on several platforms such as YouTube and Clements High School’s twitter page.

Sarah Hennig saw the inequality in literature for both women and other cultures and chose to educate youngsters, so she wrote a children’s book “Girls Around the World.” She interviewed girls from six countries about their life, hobbies, and interests. She presented her ideas to some Daisy troops and to Tom Wilson Elementary, where a copy of the book is in the library. The book is available on Amazon, and her website seeks feedback and discussion of the book.

Sophia Hunt increased awareness of anxiety disorders in children and teens through educational pamphlets and presentations that explained the causes, symptoms, and treatments. She reached her goal of educating at least 75 students and parents through the Fairbanks Library, where her pamphlets continue to be available, and by presenting her slide presentation to several Girl Scout troops.

Skylar Jones realized there were insufficient resources for grieving teens after her grandmother’s death. This inspired her to create a grief journal aimed at guiding teenagers through grieving. Skylar also taught her school’s mental health awareness club and Girl Scout troop about how to support others experiencing grief. A PDF of her book has been shared with Bo’s Place, an organization that assists children with loss, for continued use.

Reeda Karowadia coordinated with three dental offices to gather information on dental hygiene habits. She then analyzed and organized the information on a website. She used an infographic, a website, and a slide presentation to educate a group of fourth-grade students and the clients of the three dental offices. About 250 people learned about dental hygiene through her project.

Anna Mae Kurtz noticed math scores declined during COVID and wanted to get younger students interested in the subject she loves. She created a math coloring workbook for kindergarten through second-grade students. She interacted with more than 100 students at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, which uses her workbook and shared her project with teachers at Sinclair Elementary.

Anna Mae Kurtz noticed math scores declined during COVID and wanted to get younger students interested in the subject she loves. She created a math coloring workbook for kindergarten through second-grade students. She interacted with more than 100 students at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, which uses her workbook and shared her project with teachers at Sinclair Elementary.

Myana Libbett and her team designed and held 13 stress relief workshops during C.E. King High School’s after school program. Attendees participated in stress relief exercises such as yoga, origami, making face masks, and more. Forty teens learned to identify what causes stress in their lives and how to combat it. Surveys of the teens and their parents showed the workshops helped lower their stress levels. The afterschool program will continue to present these workshops.

Victoria Lust educated her community about the dangers of walking dogs on hot pavement. She installed permanent signage on local walking paths, set up a booth to distribute flyers, held an educational presentation for a younger Girl Scout troop, and distributed flyers at local businesses and animal shelters. She emailed her flyer to shelters across the southern U.S. and received many postings and shares.

Zia Manasia designed a project to bring awareness to her community about the harm being done by improper disposal of outdated electronic devices. Audiences at her two workshops learned about this issue and received resources regarding proper disposal. She collaborated with the Women in STEM board at her school to design activities and incorporate them into the curriculum in time for Earth Day and for all future such events.
Amelia Martin created a journal for teen girls called 101 Daily Affirmations with the goal of improving their self-esteem and self-love. She gave out print versions during her school’s Mental Health Walk and started an Instagram account where she posts her daily affirmations and makes the book available online, which increases the positive content seen on social media. Her high school counselors have printed copies for students who may benefit.

Ryleigh Thomas transformed a bird viewing wall into a permanent educational display in partnership with the Joe Turner Nature Center to provide easily accessible information to people of all ages. The project highlighted a variety of native birds of the Piney Woods and included facts on human interactive elements that impact native bird populations.

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Keely Sterling, inspired by a family friend lost to domestic violence, worked to raise awareness of the ongoing needs of families in domestic violence shelters. She created an educational campaign about domestic violence and organized a supply drive for much needed but often overlooked items for Bay Area Turning Point clients.

Connie Sun initiated the Candor Hearts Club at her school to give teenagers a safe place where they can fight depression through shared connections. Club members extended the project beyond their school by donating goodie bags to a local mental hospital’s adolescent unit. She impacted about 50 teens and created a website of the same name with information on mental health.

Ria Panjwani chose to educate peers and people in the South Asian community about the custom of child and forced marriages. During her podcasts, she interviewed girls and adults about their views about the topic, how they could stop it in the future, and the long-term implications on families and women. By teaming up with Save the Children and the Pakistani Student Association, she collected many more personal anecdotes and in-depth facts to share on her podcasts.

Abigail Patton created four homemade outdoor yard games for the Ballard House, temporary housing for patients and their families who come to Houston for medical treatment. In collaboration with the organization, she planned and hosted an outside luncheon to promote social connections and community for the current clients. Future events, at least eight each year, will be supported by the National Charity League Star Chapter with donations of snacks, prizes, and volunteers.

Victoria Vasquez had concerns about the insufficient knowledge her fellow students had about the medical field opportunities available for them to pursue, so she and her team researched pathways for specific roles and interviewed five medical professionals. She put all this information into a pamphlet and video, which was shared with the students at her school.

Caroline Salinas addressed the issue of low self-esteem by writing a children’s book that teaches lessons in self-confidence and sticking up for oneself. In addition to visiting classrooms to share her book, she and her team created corresponding activity plans and a video to share the story virtually. Her book is available to students at her local elementary school and pre-school.

Ryleigh Thomas transformed a bird viewing wall into a permanent educational display in partnership with the Joe Turner Nature Center to provide easily accessible information to people of all ages. The project highlighted a variety of native birds of the Piney Woods and included facts on human interactive elements that impact native bird populations.

Chloe Schueppert educated children and their families about conservation and the environment. She designed a junior conservationist program for her local Nature Discovery Center that uses hands-on activities to engage her audience and encourage them in ways to take care of our planet. The junior conservationist guide was tested on two focus groups then given with five coordinating backpacks to the center to continue using.

Taryn Williams created a project to increase awareness of potential future careers for teenagers. She hosted a virtual panel with more than 16 speakers from different career fields and backgrounds. She recorded the panel discussion, and it is available on her related website. This video is still used by the three organizations she worked with, her school, her church, and Jack and Jill of America.
Ideas for Highest Awards

Don’t know where to start looking for ideas for your Highest Awards project? Check out GSUSA’s Highest Awards main theme list to help you brainstorm possible issues to address. Read GSSJC’s Highest Awards project guides to find more details on each main theme.

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Grants Available for Environmental Projects

GSSJC offers troops and individuals a chance to apply for a mini grant to complete environmental projects. This could be a service project, Take Action project associated with a Journey, or even a Bronze, Silver or Gold Award project. The amounts awarded depend on the number of girls involved and the nature of the project. If interested, contact Rachel Archer (rarcher@sjgs.org) for more information or to receive an application. Projects must not be completed yet. This is not a reimbursement fund.

Cookies4Heroes Deliveries

Through this program, our Girl Scouts and community gift donated boxes of Girl Scout cookies to heroes near and far. From our brave military around the globe, as well as our own hometown heroes, a box of Girl Scout cookies can lift their spirits and bring a welcome taste of home wherever they may be. These are just a few of the hundreds of deliveries that were made around the council.

Troop 138109 delivered to League City Fire Station 6.

Troop 117171 delivered to Kingwood HPD.

Troop 144026 delivered to Lake Jackson Police Department.

Troop 123272 delivered to North Channel EMS.

Troop 114182 delivered to Spring Fire Station 72.
Girl Scout Surprises Cancer Patients With Girl Scout Cookies

Nine-year-old Reilly has been selling Girl Scout cookies ever since she was a Daisy, but this year the Junior Girl Scout made a personal pledge to sell enough cookies to gift to cancer patients at Memorial Hermann Cancer Center - Texas Medical Center. She topped her goal, selling 72 boxes that customers donated to her cause.

Reilly’s mom, Judith, an oncology pharmacist at the hospital, delivered the cookies to the patients on Valentine’s Day. Each box came with a handwritten note penned by Reilly that read, “I hope you have a great Valentine’s Day.” Reilly said she wanted to make the patients smile on Valentine’s Day. She accomplished her mission.

“It made their day. They were so touched by the gesture,” said her mother, Judith. “Some of them said, ‘Are these for me?’ They were surprised and thankful.”

Reilly is aware of the patients because she has visited the hospital with her mother who also runs a research lab there. She met one of the patients and they developed a friendship based on their fondness for unicorns. Though she does not know them personally, Reilly often asks her mom how the patients are doing. She said it makes her feel happy that all her hard work getting donations paid off.

Besides asking customers to donate cookies at her cookie booth, Reilly spent the weekend of Feb. 11-12 walking door to door to get her neighbors’ support. She even learned that some of them were cancer survivors. Family and friends also pitched in by donating cookies. The motivation behind her good deed? “I wanted to help people feel better and make a difference in their lives by helping them.”

Reilly is a member of Troop 109147 and has been the troop’s cookie CEO every year. Her mom is the co-troop leader. Reilly said she wants to follow her mom’s footsteps in the medical world. She wants to be a doctor when she grows up.

Robotics at GSSJC

Are you interested in participating in robotics? There are two ways to get involved: robotics competition teams and Intro to Robotics Club.

Robotics competition teams work in a typical troop structure with weekly meetings of similarly aged girls, but instead of doing badge work, Girl Scouts build a robot or develop a project in the fall to compete or display in winter events.

Our teams compete through FIRST® at three levels, depending on the age/skill level of the girls. The first two levels are for ages 6-16 and the girls use LEGO robotics kits. The youngest level (FLL-E), ages 6-10, is non-competitive. The girls explore real-world problems, learn to design, code, and create unique solutions. The mid-level (FLL-C), ages 9-16, allows Girl Scouts, through friendly competition, to engage in research, problem-solving, coding, and engineering. Both competitive teams build a LEGO robot to complete the year’s challenges and prepare an innovation project. The highest level we offer, FIRST Tech Challenge (FTC), is for grades 7-12, and they use more advanced robotics equipment to meet the program requirements.

While robotics competition teams may seem intimidating, FIRST®, like Girl Scouts, is girl-led! Troop leaders/coaches will be shocked at how quickly their Girl Scouts take control and figure out things they’ve never tried before!

Intro to Robotics Club is another option for Brownies and Juniors who may need a little more encouragement in STEM before taking the jump into starting a team. It is a council-hosted group that meets once a month for a couple hours to introduce coding, LEGO kits, and STEM thinking to younger Girl Scouts. This group provides girls with a year of preparation and offers a networking opportunity for Girl Scouts who are interested in starting their own team, but don’t feel quite ready. Spots are limited for this group, so sign up fast!
Is Your Troop/Group Planning a Trip?

Juniors and up can expand their horizons as they explore places far and wide, and experience life-changing adventures!

Short troop/group trips are any trip that lasts four or fewer nights to locations in the state of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, or Oklahoma.

- Local short troop/group trips are appropriate for all ages! Try starting with a sleepover!
- Regional short troop/group trips are appropriate for Juniors and up.
- One month before your trip, submit the F-413 Short Troop Group Trip Form with certifications, itinerary, budget, and rosters.

Extended troop/group trips are any trip that lasts four nights or longer, and/or any trip outside of Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, or Oklahoma.

- Three forms need to be submitted. Each should be approved before the next one is submitted.
- Regional extended troop/group trips are appropriate for Juniors and up.
- National and international extended troop/group trips are appropriate for Cadettes and up.
- Troops/groups must submit three forms:
  - O-883 Initial Plan - Submit at least a year before the trip, before making deposits.
  - O-884 Final Application - Submit three to four months before the trip, with certifications, itinerary, budget, and rosters.
  - O-927 Evaluation - Submit within two weeks after the trip. And don’t forget to send in pictures for The Golden Link!
- Some scholarships are also available for troops and groups planning international trips or trips to Savannah, Georgia. For more information, or to ask questions about the programs, contact travel@sjgs.org!
- Complete Form F-1155 if your trip includes an activity that requires council approval.

2024 Council Trips Sneak Peek! (shhhhh!)

Juniors & Cadettes – New Orleans!
Delve into Creole and Cajun culture in the diverse and vibrant New Orleans. Visit the French Market and historic Jackson Square, enjoy a dinner cruise on the Mississippi River, and embark on a guided swamp tour.

Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors – Los Angeles!
Mingle with famous stars at the Hollywood Wax Museum, stroll down the Walk of Fame and see the Hollywood sign perched high on the hills, go on a VIP tour of the Warner Bros studio, and go sightseeing on the celebrity home-dotted Beverly Hills.

Seniors, and Ambassadors – Puerto Rico!
Get a taste of Renaissance Spain in Puerto Rico’s capital city of San Juan’s 16th century historic district, explore El Morro, one of the oldest standing forts in the Caribbean, bask on Luquillo Beach and snorkel over reefs in the Spanish Virgin Islands.

Look for information meetings in September!

Misty Meadows Named One of Top Summer Camps of 2023

We are thrilled to announce that Misty Meadows Ranch has been named as one of the top Summer Camps of 2023 by Newsweek! This recognition is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the camp staff, who strive to provide a memorable and rewarding experience for every camper.

Misty Meadows Ranch offers a unique opportunity for girls to connect with nature, build new friendships, and develop their leadership skills. The camp features a variety of activities, such as horseback riding, archery, hiking, swimming, and art.

What sets Misty Meadows Ranch apart from other summer camps is its focus on instilling confidence and independence in young girls. The camp staff encourages campers to step out of their comfort zones and try new things, whether it's learning to ride a horse or leading a group activity. Girls are empowered to take on leadership roles and make decisions for themselves, helping them develop the skills they need to succeed in life.

The Newsweek recognition is a reflection of the camp's commitment to providing a safe and inclusive environment for girls to learn, grow, and have fun. The camp staff works tirelessly to ensure that every camper feels valued and supported, regardless of their background or experience. They are dedicated to helping girls realize their full potential.

Misty Meadows Ranch is a shining example of what a summer camp should be - a place where girls can challenge themselves, build confidence, and make memories that will last a lifetime. Congratulations to the staff and campers at Misty Meadows Ranch for this well-deserved recognition.

Discover Galveston!

Do you love Galveston Island? We are developing a new patch for Girl Scouts of all levels to earn as the Discover Galveston - and we need YOUR help developing the patch requirements! What are your troop’s or group’s favorite activities to do on the island and why? What activities help Girl Scouts learn about Galveston’s rich history, explore its diverse culture, or engage in unique opportunities?

Email your suggestions to travel@sjgs.org by Sept. 1!
Become a Lifetime Member!
Special discount for GSSJC members! EBLIFETIME20

You’ll be a champion of the next generation of changemakers by investing in Girl Scouts and becoming a member for life. Your contribution will support Girl Scouts, which gives girls a place to prepare for a lifetime of leadership. And, by becoming a lifetime member, you're joining a group of like-minded supporters of and contributors to Girl Scouts’ mission.

There are more great benefits!
• Lifetime membership card and pin.
• Invitation to an annual call for lifetime members hosted by Girl Scouts of the USA's CEO.
• Invitations to memorable events, both national and local.
• Monthly Girl Scout Network digital newsletter.
• Ten percent off Girl Scout merchandise purchased online.
• Discounts at Joann stores, Trust and Will, and Edith Macy Center.

Lifetime members are also welcome to purchase the exclusive official lifetime membership scarf.

There are two pricing options for lifetime memberships: The cost is $400 for alums under age 30 and currently registered volunteers with 10 or more years of service and $200 for Girl Scouts graduating from high school. Your lifetime membership donation is tax-deductible as allowed by law. If purchasing a lifetime membership before June 30, enter code EBLIFETIME20 at checkout and receive a $20 discount. Need assistance, please contact customerservice@sjgs.org or call us at 713-292-0300 or 800-392-4340.

Are you a lifetime member?

One of the benefits of being a lifetime member is that there is no need to renew your membership annually. However, we ask that all lifetime members log into myAccount during Early Bird and renew any volunteer roles they might currently hold.

Are you a troop leader AND a lifetime member? Just a reminder that while you don't need to renew your membership, you can:
• Renew girl and adult members in your troop.
• Renew any adult roles.
• Update your troop meeting information.
• Check for CBC (criminal background check) expiration dates for yourself and other adults.

Are you getting the most from your lifetime member benefits?
• Exclusive lifetime membership pin and scarf.
• Invitation to an annual call for lifetime members hosted by Girl Scouts of the USA’s CEO.
• Invitations to memorable events, both national and local.
• Monthly Girl Scout Network digital newsletter.
• Ten percent off Girl Scout merchandise purchased online.
• Discounts at Joann stores, Trust and Will, and Edith Macy Center.

The Okay to Say™ patch program helps girls develop greater social and emotional confidence. Through a series of hands-on activities, girls will increase their social awareness and interpersonal skills. Girls will also learn how to be more considerate and caring Girl Scouts as they explore the impact emotions and thoughts have on their own and others' behavior. Parents and volunteers will get helpful resources to support their girls’ mental health and wellness.

Girls will learn about emotions, empathy, the stigma of mental health, stress, learning to ask for help, how to create a mental health safety plan, and more.

Use this patch program as a resource all year long! This patch program was created in partnership with Okay to Say and the Meadows Mental Health Policy Institute.

Once girls have completed the requirements, please complete the online reporting form to be eligible for a FREE Okay to Say Patch. Only one entry per troop or Juliette is required. Online reporting form: www.gsnetx.org/patchform

Scan here to get the requirements for the patch.
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@gssjc.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.

General Activities

Day Camps and Twilight Camps

Katy Mills Day Camp (council-run)
Join us for a full-day, staff-led day camp at the Katy Mills Mall, GSSJC Resource Center. Work on badges, sing new songs, and make new friends. Camp sessions will focus on the arts, the outdoors, STEAM, and crafts. The camp will provide snacks daily, but attendees are required to bring a sack lunch and drink. Sessions are designed for the grade that girls will enter in fall 2023. Enrollment information is in the GSSJC Summer Camp community. Themes (changes weekly): Candyland, Ooey Gooey, The Play’s the Thing, Sisters Around the World, I Spy, Super Sheroes, Paint Masters, and Build it Up!

Where: Katy Mills Mall, GSSJC Resource Center
Who: -Daisy ⓑ ⓙ ⓒ ⓢ Spots still available
When: June 12 – Aug. 4, Monday – Friday, 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Register at gssjc.org/summercamp

Golden Coast Twilight Camp
Girls will enjoy a fun week of space-themed activities at this twilight camp hosted by Golden Coast community volunteers. Open to all girls.

Where: Grace Community Baptist Church
Who: All levels
When: July 24 – 27, 6 – 9 p.m.
Registration: Contact Kelsey Hurych at Klhurych@gmail.com by June 23
Cost: $35 (includes shirt and patch) /girl; $30/girl of volunteer (includes shirt and patch); $20/camp aide.

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Register at gssjc.org/summercamp

Golden Coast Twilight Camp
Girls will enjoy a fun week of space-themed activities at this twilight camp hosted by Golden Coast community volunteers. Open to all girls.

Where: Grace Community Baptist Church
Who: All levels
When: July 24 – 27, 6 – 9 p.m.
Registration: Contact Kelsey Hurych at Klhurych@gmail.com by June 23
Cost: $35 (includes shirt and patch) /girl; $30/girl of volunteer (includes shirt and patch); $20/camp aide.

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 Chocolaty Carousel, Haunted Forest, Fall Harvest, Scooby Doo Mystery Camp, and more!

We are looking for host troops for the following weekends: Oct. 14 – 15, Nov. 4 – 5, Feb. 24 – 25.

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

Wait! Look Here First!

How to Register for an Event

1. Go to www.gssjc.org and click on MyGS.
2. Login with your Girl Scout credentials when prompted.
3. Click on My Events and then Register for Another Event.
4. 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.
5. Click on the event you want. Add the appropriate number of girls and adults. Click Add Events.
6. 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.

On Demand: Democracy Badge Event
During this self-paced, digital course, Girl Scouts learn about local, state, and national government. Girl Scouts complete art projects related to the branches of government and presidential nominations. Girl Scouts will also research unique local laws. Girl Scouts will submit projects within the course and receive feedback from the VicTreeFi team. Expect to utilize videos, fillable forms, markers, and paper during this course. Girl Scouts can earn the following: Daisy Democracy, Brownie Democracy, Junior Democracy, Cadette Democracy, and Senior Democracy badges.

Who: -Daisy ⓑ ⓘ ⓙ ⓒ ⓢ
Where: Virtual On Demand
When: June 30 – July 2
Cost: $20/girl
Contact: Customer Service at 713-292-0300 or customerservice@sjgs.org; Victree Financial contact@victreefi.com
On Demand: Digital Leadership Badge Event
Learn how to use technology for good and how to safely interact online. During this self-paced, digital course, Girl Scouts will follow along with VicTreeFi’s founder Chrissy as she discusses the online world. Expect to complete fun projects and submit them to the VicTreeFi team for review. Girls can earn the following: Daisy Digital Leadership, Brownie Digital Leadership, Junior Digital Leadership, Cadette Digital Leadership, and Senior Digital Leadership badges.

Who: ③⑤
Where: Virtual on Demand
When: July 7 – July 9 or Aug. 11 – 13
Cost: $10/girl
Contact: Customer Service at 713-292-0300 or customerservice@sjgs.org;
VicTree Financial contact@victreefi.com

On Demand: Financial Literacy Badge Event
Girl Scouts earn Financial Literacy badges using virtual courses! Complete all badge steps by following along with Chrissy from VicTreeFi. During this self-paced, digital course, Girl Scouts will follow along with VicTreeFi’s founder Chrissy as she discusses smart financial practices. Expect to complete fun projects and submit them to the VicTreeFi team for review.

Girls can earn the following: Daisy Money Explorer, Brownie Budget Builder, Junior Budget Maker, Cadette Budget Manager, Senior Savvy Saver, and Ambassador Financial Planner badges.

Who: All levels
Where: Virtual on Demand
When: July 21 – July 23
Cost: $10/girl
Contact: Customer Service at 713-292-0300 or customerservice@sjgs.org;
VicTree Financial contact@victreefi.com

Live Event: Moneyville Summer Camp, Multi-Badge Event
As summer ends, join VicTreeFi’s Moneyville Team for our Moneyville Summer Camp for Girl Scouts! During this five-day camp, we will meet daily on Zoom. Each day Girl Scouts will earn a new badge! On the final day, Girl Scouts will create their own patch to commemorate their time at Moneyville Summer Camp! This camp is open to Junior, Cadette, and Senior Girl Scouts. Ms. Chrissy and Ms. Hannah will host the camp with a few guests!

Schedule as follows: Monday - Acting Famous; Tuesday - Coding 4-1-1; Wednesday - Create a Comic Book; Thursday - Oyster Art; Friday - Create your own patch.

Who: ①⑤
Where: Live via Zoom
When: July 24 – July 28, 10:30 a.m. – 11:30 p.m.
Cost: $150/girl
Contact: Customer Service at 713-292-0300 or customerservice@sjgs.org;
VicTree Financial contact@victreefi.com

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

Who: ③⑤⑧
When: Registration is open now through Oct. 1
Cost: $40/girl
Contact: greenstarlettes@sjgs.org

GSSJC Gay Straight Alliance Interest Group
GSSJC’s Gay-Straight Alliance serves to empower and educate Girl Scouts surrounding LGBTQ+ issues. We will lead inclusive, engaging, and educational programming. This could include a History of Pride patch, troop leader training, and teaching Girl Scouts how to confront homophobia.

ADULT VOLUNTEERS NEEDED to help get this group off the ground and running! We have several potential members eagerly awaiting the opportunity to meet with one another and bring their ideas to the table!

If this group interests you, as a member or volunteer, we would love to have you! Contact Julia Noble at jnoble@sjgs.org or Natalie Jares at njares@sjgs.org

Older Girls R Electric!
Learn all the extraordinary things offered beyond the troop for older Girl Scouts! This annual event is virtual so we can reach girls from across our 26 counties! Learn about unique older-girl programming and more. Hear some information about our Special Interest Groups (astronomy, robotics competitions, horseback riding, sailing, archery, dance, riflery, backpacking and more). Enter breakout rooms and participate in activities, or see awesome demos for specific topics like an interest group, how to take leadership of your Girl Scout experience, Highest Awards, or other engaging topics and activities.

Who: ③⑤⑧
When: Sept. 23, 9:30 a.m. – noon
Where: Virtual
Cost: Free; plus, free swag bags!
Contact: Rachel Archer at 713-292-0300 or customerservice@sjgs.org

Babysitting Certification
Join Region 14 in a Babysitting Certification course where you will become certified by American Red Cross.

Who: ③⑤⑧
Where: Bellaire Aquatic Center- CenterPoint Energy Community Center, 7008 S. Rice Bellaire
When: Saturday, July 15, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.
Cost: $65/girl
Contact: Customerservice@sjgs.org
College Knowledge: Virtual Summer Series
Join experts from colleges and universities around San Jacinto Council to learn all about college preparation, college admissions, and college life. This is a multi-day series for three Mondays in July. Sessions will be recorded and shared after the series is complete. Supplies will be mailed in advance. Ambassadors will earn the College Knowledge badge.

Who: $ $  
Where: Online  
When: July 17, 24, 31; 6:30 – 8 p.m.  
Cost: $20/girl  
Contact: Alix Reilman, areilman@sjgs.org

Moneyville Town Council
Serve on the Town Council of Moneyville, a fictional Girl Scout-led town. Over four meetings, the town council will make all fiscal and policy decisions for the town. Working together, Girls will respond to letters from concerned citizens, plan and budget for major city projects, and more! Girls will learn about how municipalities spend and earn money. Juniors will earn the Democracy, Digital Leadership, and My Money Plan badges. Cadettes will earn the Democracy, Digital Leadership, and My Money Habits badges. All Girl Scouts will earn the Moneyville patch.

Who: ♂ ♂  
Where: Online  
When: July 17, 24, 31, 6:30 – 8 p.m.  
Cost: $40/girl  
Contact: Alix Reilman, areilman@sjgs.org

Equitation (SPURS/STARS) Special Interest Group (SIG)
This group is for girls who want to have fun, learn, and teach! Girls will build their riding and leadership ability by having the opportunity to instruct other Girl Scouts about horses and horseback riding, while also taking time to develop their own progressive riding skills. Before registering for the Equitation SIG in the fall, girls and adults must first successfully complete either SPURS training or STARS Program Aide (PA) training. SPURS training takes place three times a year: during the fall and winter, and during the STARS training session at summer camp (attending any other session at camp cannot substitute the training requirement). STARS PA training takes place twice a year: one weekend in October and one weekend in April. STARS PAs must first complete levels 1-3 of STARS at Camp Pryor. Training requires a separate registration than the SIG registration. Keep an eye out for training dates in upcoming issues of The Golden Link to secure your spot!

Calling all Cadettes!
It’s that time again! We are starting to plan everyone’s favorite event - Cadette Weekend! If you are a girl with some amazing ideas for the next Cadette Weekend event, now is your chance to put your stamp on the fun and join our Girl Planning Board. We need to set a theme and plan all the fun activities, and we can’t do that without you! If you are interested in participating on the Girl Planning Board or an adult interested in being a member of the event committee, please contact Ashlie Yarborough at ayarborough@sjgs.org, and we will make sure to include you in the fun.

Arts Badge Workshops
Join Izzie’s Jewels at our Girl Scout locations for these fun, in-person workshops! Badge is included, so do not miss out on all the fun!

Cost: $25

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cadette Screenwriter</td>
<td>June 17</td>
<td>10 a.m. – noon</td>
<td>PPFG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Scribe</td>
<td>July 8</td>
<td>10 a.m. – noon</td>
<td>PPFG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brownie Painter</td>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>10 a.m. – noon</td>
<td>PPFG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Junior Jeweler</td>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>10 a.m. – noon</td>
<td>PPFG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brownie Potter</td>
<td>Aug. 5</td>
<td>10 a.m. – noon</td>
<td>PPFG</td>
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<tr>
<td>Brownie Snacks</td>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td>10 a.m. – noon</td>
<td>PPFG</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Junior Simple Meals</td>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td>1 – 3 p.m.</td>
<td>PPFG</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Brownie Potter badge workshop - Learn to make pottery of your very own as you work your way through the steps to becoming a clay artist in this fun, hands-on workshop!

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

Brownie Potter badge workshop - Learn to make pottery of your very own as you work your way through the steps to becoming a clay artist in this fun, hands-on workshop!

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

Cadette Screenwriter badge workshop - Are you ready for the big screen? Let’s explore what makes great scripts and how you can create your very own. You have what it takes to be a great screenwriter, so let’s get started!

Junior Scribe badge workshop - Your writing is powerful. Create characters, plots, and settings for your very own story. Learn about different story techniques and exercise your imagination by putting your thoughts down on paper in this fun and imaginative workshop!

Pride Flag Arts and Crafts
Join us for an arts and crafts workshop filled with both fun and learning. Girls will make their own mini pride flag as they learn the meanings behind each of the colors and the history of the LGBTQ movement. Girl Scouts from GSSJC’s Gay Straight Alliance will host this event. Patch included! Don’t miss the fun!

Who: ♂ ♂  
When: June 24  
Where: GSSJC  
Cost: $10
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: June 23, Sept. 9; 10 – 11:30 a.m.
Cost: $5/person  Max.: 50
Contact: silveraward@sjgs.org

Gold Award Orientation
The self-directed online Gold Award Orientation provides girls and adults with a comprehensive overview of the Gold Award steps and forms, tools for identifying and developing Gold Award projects that fall within the national guidelines, and GSSJC’s process for Gold Award applicants. Orientation is required for all girls who plan to earn their Gold Award and must be completed prior to submitting their Gold Award Project Proposal. The online orientation is broken into sections, takes approximately 90 minutes to complete but does not need to be finished in one sitting. Girls may also refer to it after it’s been completed.

Who: Adults
Where/When: Online
Contact: goldaward@sjgs.org

Silver Award Training for Cadettes
Silver Award training is now available on gsLearn! If you are not able to attend one of our Silver Award trainings live online, you can now take it as a self-directed training on gsLearn. Silver Award training offers girls and adults a comprehensive overview of the Silver Award steps and forms, tools for identifying and developing Silver Award projects that fall within the national guidelines, and GSSJC’s process for Silver Award applicants. The training takes approximately 90 minutes to complete but does not need to be finished in one sitting. Taking Silver Award training prior to starting the Silver Award process is strongly recommended.

Who: Adults
Where: Online
Contact: silveraward@sjgs.org

President’s Volunteer Service Award
Did you know that GSSJC is a granting organization for the President’s Volunteer Service Award? Girls and adult volunteers are eligible to earn this prestigious community award for any service hours completed in service in GSSJC. Hours must be completed between Sept. 1 and Aug. 31 of any given year.

Learn more by reading the following guidelines and application documents.
• F-123A President’s Volunteer Service Award Guidelines
• F-123B President’s Volunteer Service Application

Questions?
• Girls: Alix Reilman, gscommserv@sjgs.org
Jewelry Badge Workshop for Juniors
Learn to make several different kinds of jewelry using baked clay and different kinds of beads including ones made from paper. Complete the requirements for the Jewelry Badge (badge is included). Hosted by the council’s History Committee.

Who: ①
Where: Program Place for Girls
When: Wednesday, June 14, 1 – 4 p.m.
Cost: $18 per girl
Contact: Shannon Crider for general information; for registration, contact Registrars at 713-292-0370 or registration@sjgs.org

Juliette Chronicles
“Dabble in Art”
Calling all Brownies and Juniors! Juliette Chronicles is back offering a new workshop. Each girl will step back in time and earn an authentic badge from 1953. Girls will earn the Dabbler Badge by dabbling in six different types of arts and crafts. Each girl will take home an authentic vintage badge to wear and a bag full of crafts! Hosted by the council’s History Committee.

Who: ⓑ ①
Where: Camp Robinwood, June 17
        Camp Pryor, July 15
Time: 9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Cost: $20/girl
Contact: Shannon Crider for general information; for registration, contact Registrars at 713-292-0370 or registration@sjgs.org

Room Box Decorating
Workshop for Juniors
Design your own miniature room with a shoe box and recycled materials. This class is for creative Juniors who are into design. There is no badge work; this is strictly for fun. All materials provided. Hosted by the council’s History Committee.

Who: ①
Where: Program Place for Girls
When: July 26, 1 – 4 p.m.
Cost: $18/girl
Contact: Shannon Crider for general information; for registration, contact Registrars at 713-292-0370 or registration@sjgs.org

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 “Volunteer Hub” 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. Please contact sailing.coordinator@gmail.com or Stephanie Moore at smoore@sjgs.org for additional details!

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: Sept. 8 – 10 and Oct. 6 – 8 (Two separate weekends)
Where: Casa Mare, Seabrook
Cost: $60
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, 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 leadership through instructing others, gain the experience to advance your sailing skills, and acquire service hours that can go towards college 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!

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!

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.

When: Aug. 18 – 20, Sept. 22 – 24, Oct. 20 – 22
*three separate weekends*
Cost: $50 (meals included)
Where: Casa Mare, Seabrook

Mini Rock Stars
Are you ready to rock out? Professional geologists and other scientists will be on hand to take participants on a journey through time, allowing girls the chance to investigate how geology and earth science impact our daily lives and how Texas came to be. Get ready to rock out with your friends while exploring what makes Texas special at GSSJC’s ROCK STARS event!

Who: ♂ ♂ Volunteer
Where: GSSJC, Central Houston
When: July 8, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Cost: Free for girl and adult
Contact: 713-292-0230 or customerservice@sjgs.org

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

Who: ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ♂ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ ⿈ }
Forensics Weekend Girl Planning Board

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

Who: ⓑ ⓢ ⓣ
Where: Meetings at Girl Scout Center or Virtual; event at Casa Mare
When: Meetings will be at the Girl Scout Center; event is Jan. 26 – 28, 2024, Application due: Aug. 1.

Intro to Robotics Club

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

Who: ⓒ ⓢ ⓣ ⓤ
Where: GSSJC, Central Houston
When: Meets monthly, normally on the first Sunday of the month from 2 – 3:45 p.m.
Cost: $30

Program Aid: Intro to Robotics Club

Already know you love robotics and want to share your knowledge with the next generation of competitors? Unsure if you’re ready for the commitment of being on a team without hands-on experience and like helping younger girls? Sign up to be a Program Aid for the new Intro to Robotics Club! Gain volunteer hours and help your fellow Girl Scouts expand their horizons. Note: Prior robotics knowledge not required. Training will be provided.

Who: ⓢ ⓢ ⓢ
Where: Program Place for Girls
When: Monthly meetings
Cost: $10

Astronomy Special Interest Group

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

Who: ⓡ ⓢ ⓢ ⓢ
Where: Program Place for Girls
When: One Sunday afternoon each month
Cost: $20

Robotics Competition Team Informational Meeting for Adults

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

Although we will form teams from all girls, regardless of whether parents attend this meeting, it is recommended. This meeting will go over timing, commitment, content, what girls do, what a typical season looks like, and more! We ask that no girls attend, as this is strictly informational.

Who: Adults/Leaders of Daisies – Ambassadors
Where: Virtual
When: June 25, 1 – 2 p.m.; July 12, 7 – 9 p.m.
Cost: Free (all adults must register)

Robotics Competition

GSSJC’s robotics teams compete through the international FIRST organization where girls build and code models and robots that compete against other teams in the area. Competition begins in September and will end between December and March, depending on the level and success of the team. Please sign up for one of the information sessions listed for more information.

Who: ⓡ ⓢ ⓣ ⓤ ⓥ
Cost: Price varies by level
Note: Separate sign-ups will be available for the informational sessions and the teams.

Important Dates:

May – Aug 13 Team sign-up period. Signing up toward the end of the sign-up period leaves placement subject to available team spots, which may not be in your geographic area.

May – Aug 13 Teams, once full, may begin meeting on a TBD by team schedule over the summer. Location, day of week, and time of meetings are set by coaches and will vary by team.

Aug 13 – Aug 31 Team registration will be wrapping up (registration ends Aug. 13) and teams will be finalized through August.

Team formation – end of season: Teams meet weekly; location, day of week, and time of meetings are set by coaches and will vary by team. Teams may meet less often over the summer if the team is formed early. Girls and parents should expect that teams will meet at least once a week (typically on a weekend) for one to four hours depending on the level.

Book a workshop directly with our wonderful, GSSJC-approved vendors! Badges are not included but may be purchased at any Girl Scout Shop.

STEM
Offerings include robotics, coding, cybersecurity, engineering and space science.

Idea Lab – Central Houston, Woodlands, Pearland, Spring Branch
Mad Science of Houston
CodeNinjas
Think Like an Engineer
Learn to think like an engineer during this weekend at camp! Join other Juniors and learn how to utilize your construction skills as you work as a team to solve engineering challenges like building shelters and structures to withstand the elements.

Who: 
Where: Camp Agnes Arnold, Conroe
When: Registration opens Sept. 1.
   Event: Dec. 1 – 3
Cost: $65

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

Who: 
Where: Meetings at Girl Scout Center or Virtual; Event at Camp Agnes Arnold
When: Meeting(s) in fall; event is Dec. 1 – 3
Cost: $45 (covers food and lodging for event)
Apply: Fill out GPB application online via the GSSJC events page, due Aug. 1.

STEM VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!
For more information, contact Rachel Archer at rarcher@sjgs.org or 713-292-0233

Intro-to-Robotics Coordinators/ Mentors
We are looking for adult volunteers to help facilitate the new Intro to Robotics Club. Content expertise is not needed (training and assistance can be provided). The most important trait is an eagerness to help mentor young girls to carry out a plan that provides skill-building, leadership, and discovery!

When: Monthly meetings on Sundays at Program Place
Contact: Rachel Archer at rarcher@sjgs.org or 713-292-0233

Robotics Competition Team Coaches
Unfortunately, we were unable to serve girls who signed up last year because there were not enough coaches. While more coaches are desirable everywhere, North Houston (Spring, Humble, The Woodlands) and Southeast Houston currently have no teams due to insufficient volunteers. Related experience is helpful, but not required as we will provide training.

When: Weekly meetings, 2-4 hours depending on level.

General STEM Volunteers
Love the Girl Scout mission and volunteering? See the benefit STEM opportunities bring Girl Scouts in our community? Reach out to be a STEM volunteer! Having STEM expertise is not necessary if you have an open mind and are eager to learn! Help us bring more unique experiences to the Girl Scouts in our council starting today.

GSSJC Travel Page
The Travel section of the GSSJC website has been revamped! Your new “go-to” place for all info on Troop Travel guidelines/processes, Council Trips, Destinations, and more can be found at www.gssjc.org by clicking About > Our Program > Travel.

Phenom By Girl Scouts
The Girl Scout National Convention is slated to take over Walt Disney World Resort. The convention is where Girl Scouts embrace the grand sisterhood by convening with Girl Scouts from all over the country, and where delegates vote on issues in Girl Scouting. The convention will also host Phenom, the world’s largest girl-led event for girls. The mega event will provide attendees with unforgettable experiences as they gain inspiration, tools to empower themselves, and the know-how to lead change in their communities–connecting with some of the most influential women in the world along the way! Meet special guests, attend the National Bridging ceremony and Gold Award celebration, take part in amazing activities and demos in the Expo Hall, and much more. Visit the 2023 Girl Scout Convention page at www.girlscouts.org to get all of the details!

Council Trip to Germany and Switzerland 2024
From Munich and Montreux to Lucerne and Zurich, spend time at a W.A.G.G.G.S World Centre, Our Chalet, and take part in a pinning ceremony. Learn the art of fondue and Swiss chocolate making, scale snow-capped mountains, take a summer toboggan ride, join in on Bavarian music and dance, enjoy scenic train rides, experience charming villages, medieval castles, baroque architecture, high adventure, breathtaking views, and absorb rich history! The council trip to Germany and Switzerland is a weeklong travel opportunity for registered Seniors and older at the time of the trip. This trip is organized by World Strides tour company.

Who: Adults
When: June 6 – 14, 2024
Cost: $4,800 (approx)
Contact: Julia Noble, jnoble@sjgs.org

Girl Scout Destinations Program
Girl Scout Destinations are the ultimate adventure for individual Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors! Make friends from all over the country as you travel with Girl Scouts from different states. There’s a unique, life-changing experience for every girl. Please note: Early acceptance has ended and applications are open on a rolling basis until each Destination is full. For more information visit, www.girlscouts.org/destinations. Girls traveling on a Destination are eligible to receive a scholarship from GSSJC to assist with the cost of the Destination. For scholarship applications and more information, please contact Kathy Elliott at 713-292-0257 or kelliott@sjgs.org.
Training

Troop Volunteer Training
We value our volunteers and know that providing great learning opportunities is key to their success in Girl Scouts. Below is a schedule of upcoming in-person and virtual training opportunities and descriptions of self-paced training available to volunteers in gsLearn. For in-person and virtual training, registration end dates are final. Registration for most in-person training closes two weeks prior to the start date. Registration for most virtual training closes one week prior to the start date. For questions about troop volunteer training, please contact Dejah Covick at dcovick@sjgs.org or 713-292-0254.

Schedule at-a-Glance:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Registration Ends</th>
<th>Prerequisite</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>Summer Train-In</td>
<td>July 14</td>
<td></td>
<td>GSC, Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 26</td>
<td>Daisy/Brownie Program Leadership</td>
<td>Aug. 19</td>
<td></td>
<td>Virtual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td>Volunteer Camper Certification (VCC)</td>
<td>Sept. 2</td>
<td>COB (gsLearn)</td>
<td>ATC, Conroe</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Partnering with Girl Scout Juniors</td>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td></td>
<td>GSC, Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Partnering with C, S, A</td>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td></td>
<td>Virtual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>First Aid CPR/AED Blended</td>
<td>Sept. 23</td>
<td>Online coursework</td>
<td>GSC, Houston</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 24</td>
<td>New Leader Sundaes: Cafés 1-3</td>
<td>Sept. 9</td>
<td>Volunteer Basics</td>
<td>Virtual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 30</td>
<td>Project WILD</td>
<td>Sept. 16</td>
<td></td>
<td>ATC, Conroe</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

GSC-Girl Scout Center
ATC-Adult Training Center

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 and 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 training, 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: Cafés 1-3
Get a jump start on your next learning level as a new leader with these three training sessions - 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, who are 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 in this age group think, when to step back so girls can develop leadership skills, and how to guide them in girl planning. 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 designed 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.

Project WILD
The goal of Project WILD is to develop awareness, knowledge, skills, and commitment resulting in informed decisions, responsible behavior, and constructive actions concerning wildlife and the environment. In this in-person training, our certified facilitators will help you get comfortable leading STEM and conservation activities with girls, providing sample activity plans, and more. Registration available in gsEvents.

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

Volunteer Camper Certification (VCC)
After this hands-on learning experience, you’ll be ready to get your girls outdoors and 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 develops 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.

Summer Train-In
We want to welcome you aboard the Summer Train-In, with two options to attend! Select online or in person and the route that matches closest to the level your girls will be progressing to in the fall. If you have a healthy mix of program levels, invite another volunteer from your troop to attend another route and get twice as much learning in!

Who: Adult Volunteers
Contact: Dejah Covick, dcovick@sjgs.org or 713-292-0254

Route Y: Daisy and Brownie Leaders
Learn how to best lead Daisies and Brownies, take a troop to camp for a single day, hop over procrastination hurdles, and set up your new Year plan.

Route J: Junior Leaders
Learn how to keep up with their curiosity in finance, leverage Volunteer Toolkit for meeting plans, learn what behaviors to expect, and how to partner with preteens.

Route O: Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Leaders
Learn to partner with older girls to plan meetings, activities, and projects, and find new ways to explore with extended troop travel.

Ruta V: VEST Leaders
Juntos aprenderemos cómo planificar reuniones con las niñas, qué actividades podemos hacer, dónde buscar ayuda o encontrar ideas. Obtenga los conceptos básicos del liderazgo de tropas y amplíe sus oportunidades de Girl Scouts a través de Journeys.
Training Calendar June – July 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Training</th>
<th>Prerequisites</th>
<th>Where</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>Partnering with Cadette, Seniors, and Ambassadors</td>
<td></td>
<td>Zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>Partnering with Juniors</td>
<td></td>
<td>Zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>June 3</td>
<td>Daisy Brownie Program Leadership</td>
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<td>Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>June 7</td>
<td>MYGS - VTK -Online Community - gsLearn</td>
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<td>GSC</td>
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<tr>
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<td>June 10</td>
<td>Weekend Event Planning</td>
<td>Event Basics</td>
<td>Zoom</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
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<td>Community Mentoring Team Lead</td>
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<td>Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>June 17</td>
<td>Community/Region Treasurer</td>
<td></td>
<td>Zoom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>June 24</td>
<td>Community Leadership Team Training</td>
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<td></td>
<td>GSC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Community Mentoring Team Lead</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Community/Region Treasurer</td>
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<td>GSC</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Event Basics</td>
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<td>GSC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Community Renewal Specialist</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>July 15</td>
<td>Community Roster Specialist</td>
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<td>Event Basics</td>
<td>GSC</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>July 16</td>
<td>Community Leadership Team Training Part A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td>July 23</td>
<td>Community Leadership Team Training Part B</td>
<td></td>
<td>Zoom</td>
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<tr>
<td>Saturday</td>
<td>July 29</td>
<td>Partnering with Cadette, Seniors, and Ambassadors</td>
<td></td>
<td>GSC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key
GSC- Girl Scout Center, Houston

For administrative trainings information, contact Cassie Robinson at crobinson@sjgs.org or 713-292-0285.

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**Fall Volunteer Conference**

**Nov. 10 – 12 at Camp Agnes Arnold**

The Fall Volunteer Conference is back! Are you fired up for another year of fellowship, food, and friends all packed into one weekend? Come spend a weekend with other volunteers and reignite your passion for Girl Scouts. We’ll have more certifications, more enrichment opportunities, and more FUN than ever before. Look for more information later in the summer on the Events webpage and in the next Golden Link. We are so stoked to welcome you back for another year! Contact Cassie Robinson at crobinson@sjgs.org with any questions. Registration opens Aug. 1.

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**Summer Checklist for Troops**

- Renew your membership and volunteer roles during Early Bird renewal.
- Complete and submit your annual troop financial report by May 31 (Form F-31 or the Finance tab in your Volunteer Toolkit).
- Celebrate an amazing year and pat yourself on the back for a job well done!
- Plan for a great next year!
- Get feedback from your troop leadership team, the girls, and families for guidance in planning.
- Take a workshop or four – two full days of troop topics: June 3 online or July 29 in person (register in gsEvents).
- Attend membership kickoff with all the latest in new programs and activities on Aug. 12 (register in gsEvents).
- Mark your calendar and save the date for Fall Volunteer Conference, Nov. 10 – 12 (register in gsEvents).
- Recharge for a fun-filled year with Girl Scouts!
Be Careful When Playing In or Around a River, Lake, or Bay!

The council has many camps and each one is unique and special. You might have seen Lake Ann at Camp Robinwood, Shadow Lake at Camp Arnold, or Hamill Lake at Camp Pryor. The Colorado River borders Camp Pryor and Casa Mare and the Galveston Bay House shares Galveston Bay. While water is beautiful to watch, and if it is fun to walk along the water’s edge, it must always be respected.

Many of us have experienced playing, swimming, and cooling off in a pool. You can usually see what’s underneath the water in a clear pool. A river, lake or bay is much different. You can’t often see the bottom so it’s hard to know how deep the water is. Most rivers and bays have strong currents that cause the bottom to change from day to day. One day the water is calm with a shallow bottom and the next day the same spot may have a deep hole. Even experienced swimmers can get in trouble.

What should you do if you see someone in trouble? First, stop, think, and keep calm. Don't jump in after them - a drowning person is extraordinarily strong and will cling to anything that they can. They could quickly pull you underwater too! Shout for help and get someone to find an adult volunteer immediately. Shout to the person in trouble to keep their arms in the water and kick their legs.

Do not get into the water. Try to reach them from the bank using a rope, pole, tree branch, clothing tied together, or anything else that can extend your reach. When reaching from the bank, lie down to avoid being pulled into the water. If you cannot reach them, then throw something for them to hold onto to stay afloat such as a plastic container, life jacket, throwable floating device, or ball. If the person in trouble is too far away, do not attempt to rescue them. Wait for adult volunteers or emergency services while calming and reassuring the person in the water.

What should you do if you’re in trouble? Keep calm and call for help. Try to stand up. If the water is too deep but near land, try to swim to safety. If you can’t get to land, keep signaling for help while slowly treading water to preserve heat and energy. Once you’re safe, find an adult volunteer, and tell them what happened so they can check you out or take you for medical attention.

If you’re near rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, or the seaside, here are a few things you should remember:

- Always be accompanied by a friend and adult. Stay close to your group and always stay in sight.
- Don’t jump or dive in. You don’t know how deep the water will be, especially if the water is not clear.
- Wear something on your feet. There may be sharp rocks, shells, or broken glass under the water.
- Don’t splash water at other people or push them over - messing around can be dangerous.
- Cover any cuts and scratches with waterproof bandages.
- Follow the water safety rules that are posted and those you have learned in the past.
- Learn to swim. It could save your life.

Come check out the new archery range at Camp Pryor. It’s centrally located near the Bird House cabins.

More Air-Conditioned Units at Camp!

Camp Agnes Arnold now has even more climatized units from which to choose! Fishing Village cabins and Woodsong cabins are now air conditioned and heated!

Camp Obscura, GSSJC Camps Photography Contest Coming Soon!

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.

Look for more details in the fall issue of The Golden Link.
Commemorative Pavers at Camp

Are you between a “rock and a hard place” to find the perfect thank you gift?

The solution may be as simple a commemorative paver or plaque on the Promise Path at Camp Agnes Arnold! A commemorative paver is a way to remember and honor a special Girl Scout in your troop or service unit, say thank you to a troop leader or Girl Scout volunteer, highlight an event, or tangibly represent something meaningful in your life. These individually engraved bricks are a timeless tribute to those who believe in the values of Girl Scouting and are tax deductible. Every custom-designed paver tells a story, and we would like to add yours this spring. To order a commemorative paver, visit our website at www.gssjc.org/en/donate/ways-to-support.html, use the QR code, or contact Suzanne Carmona at 713-292-0334.

GSSJC 2023 Success to Significance

Tuesday, September 26, 2023 at the Hilton Americas Houston featuring guest speaker Katherine Center

Katherine Center, New York Times bestselling author of nine novels, is a Girl Scout alumna. The movie adaptation of Katherine’s novel The Lost Husband hit #1 on Netflix, and her novel Happiness for Beginners is in production now as a Netflix original.

Come hear Katherine’s inspiring story of overcoming challenges before finding a fairy-godmother-like agent and getting a dream-come-true book deal!

Find more information at www.gssjc.org/s2s.

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.

$500,000-$999,999 - Gold
The Hamill Foundation

$25,000+ - Ambassador
The Melbern G. and Susanne M. Glasscock Foundation
Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo
Valero Energy Corporation

$10,000-$24,999 - Senior
Harry E. Bovay Jr. Foundation
Harris and Eliza Kempner Fund
Kathy Sanders
Shell Oil Company
United Way of Galveston County Mainland

$5,000-$9,999 - Cadette
Erin Abbey
Baker Hughes
Shelly DeZevallos
Mary Louise Dobson Foundation
The Dow Chemical Company

$1,000-$4,999 - Junior
Craig B. Allen
Roberto J. Bayardo
Theresa M. Benson
Connie Chavez
Chevron Products Company
Ellen Chin
Debbie L. Clark
Rhonda L. Cobb
Kirsten A. Davenport
Julie M. Deeter
Kim K. Denney and Michael T. Doyle
David M. Doll
EC Specialists Inc.
Connie C. Eicher
ExxonMobil

$250-$999 - Brownie
AIG
Albertsons
Amazon Smile Foundation
Amanda Ardoin
Heather Arlt

AT&T
Marjorie Bell
Jo Blackburn
Melissa Carson
ConocoPhillips Company
Hilary G. Cooper
Dejah D. Covick
Brigitte A. Crofoot
Karen K. Davidson
Morven S. Edwards
Enbridge Inc.
Nancy C. Flatt
James Forde
Joan F. Gilliland
Melissa Hardy
Claudia W. Hayslip
The HCA Foundation
Texas Instruments
Honeywell International
Corrie B. Jenkins
Nancy B. Kral
The Kroger Company
David W. Krusleski
Donna Marshall
Elena M. McCready
Michele McNichol
Keith McPherson
Gina L. Murphy

Nacogdoches Area
United Way
Patricia Rodriguez
Stephen Sjoland
The Stewart Title Foundation, Inc.
Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board
United Way of Midland County
Danielle Ward
Kimberly A. Wilson
Ashlie Yarbrough
Richard Zembek

Memorials
In Memory of Norma Gist
Nancy Banasik
Sandy Beken
Joel Caldwell

In Memory of Yvonne Koch
Barbara Dampman

In Memory of Michelle Roenz
Kirsten A. Davenport
Troop 139149 made blessing bags for the homeless for Christmas.

Madeline M. was the winner of the GSUSA Entrepreneur Program. Alicia Rushing presented her the laptop at the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Houston – Wharton.

Troop 21721 held its annual troop holiday party.

Troop 130337 of Port Neches participated in a wreath laying ceremony for veterans at Oak Bluff Cemetery in Port Neches. They helped place over 100 wreaths on veterans’ graves.

Girl Scouts from different troops in the Golden Coast Community brought holiday cheer and promoted Girl Scouting at a parade. The girls entered the parade and decorated a trailer in a candy theme. They also passed out Girl Scouting information.
Hi troops! We are looking for pictures of your troop meetings. You might see them on this page or in other council materials. Please include your troop number and community name. Send them to communications@sjgs.org and put troop meetings in the subject line.
Cadette Troop 106234 used some of its hard earned cookie money and went to space! Well, actually, the troop spent time at Space Center Houston working on Space Science Researcher badges.

Cadette Troop 127119 collected more than 250 new and good-condition used books for Books Between Kids, a nonprofit organization that services Houston’s at-risk children. The organization provides the children with books to build their own libraries.

Troop 114185 went to Camp Agnes Arnold for the Klein Trails Community campout.

Troop 127001 visited the Community Volunteer Fire Department Station 2 as part of the First Aid Badge/Pin. The troop had a great time learning about fire and EMS response and meeting the team. Two members of the EMS team are former Girl Scouts!

Memories! These Girl Scout Daisies in this picture are now Juniors. This is their favorite Girl Scout memory - when they assembled and decorated rockets. Then they launched them with parental assistance, including a local NASA astronaut. After rocket launch, a parachute returned the rockets safely back to their owners. The girls had a blast bedazzling the rockets, launching them in the field, and running to catch them.

Troop 136001 went to Galveston to march in the Mardi Gras Galveston Funky Uptown Umbrella Brigade parade on opening night! They had a blast spreading joy to all while carrying their colorful handcrafted floral-themed umbrellas.
Highest Awards and Gifts
Available now at Girl Scout shops!

Silver Award Water Bottle 5045. $8.50

Silver Award * Pin – Sterling Silver 09904. $60
(not shown) Sliver-Plated 09903. $9

Silver Award Recognition Charm 14507 $7.99

Silver Award Emblem* 09905 $3.50

Bronze Award Pin* 09901 $9

Bronze Award Recognition Charm 14508 $7.99

Bronze Award Recognition Iron-On Patch 14500 $7.99

Trefoil Link Bracelet 12842 $20

Bronze Award Decal 35319 $5

Bronze Award Emblem* 09906 $3.50

Bronze Award Recognition Charm 14505 $7.99

Bronze Award Key Ring 11785 $16

Limited quantities available at certain shops.

Gold Award Emblem* 09907 $3.50

Gold Award Recognition Iron-On Patch 14506. $10

Gold Award and Trefoil Stud Earring Set 12386C $25

Gold Award Recognition Charm 14505. $10

Gold Award Recognition Stole 14502 $40

Official Gold Award Scarf 04543 $39

Miniature Gold Award Parent Pin* 09925 $22

Gold Award Recognition Charm 14505. $10

Gold Award Recognition Iron-On Patch 14506. $10

Gold Award Trinket Dish 11320. $12.75

Girl Scout Graduation Regalia Recognition Stole 14503 $15

Limited quantities available at certain shops.
SCOUTS Save up to $8 on Tickets!

**FREE** Commemorative Patch with Purchase of Each Scout Ticket.

For orders of 8 or less, visit Ticketmaster.com and use code **SCOUTS** by clicking the Unlock button. Restrictions, exclusions and additional charges may apply. Subject to availability. Tickets at market pricing.

**NRG STADIUM**  **AUG 4 – 6**

For more information or to order a group of 9 or more, call 281-367-9717 or email christina@texasgrouptickets.com. Contact Christina for patches. Deadline to purchase groups: **7/28/23**

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