



The Golden Link

The official publication of Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council. | Volume 49 Issue 2 | Summer 2023



**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.





**President of the Council
and Chair of the Board**
Betsy Kamin

Chief Executive Officer
Mary Vitek

Chief External Affairs Officer
Connie Chavez

Marketing/Communications Director
Heather Ganucheau

Visual Brand Manager
Joanne Pastalaniec

Mission Statement

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

DEIB Statement

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

Circulation

The Golden Link is published four times a year. It has a circulation of more than 25,000. The Golden Link is also available online at www.gssjc.org. The Golden Link reaches 26 Texas counties: Angelina, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Hardin, Harris, Houston, Jasper, Jefferson, Liberty, Matagorda, Montgomery, Nacogdoches, Newton, Orange, Polk, Sabine, San Augustine, San Jacinto, Shelby, Trinity, Tyler, Walker, Waller and Wharton. To report address changes or if you have problems receiving The Golden Link call Customer Service at 713-292-0300.

Deadlines

Deadline for submitting items is the first of the month two months prior to publication. GSSJC does not accept responsibility for unsolicited materials. Send news and photographs and Scrapbook photos to communications@sjgs.org.

Advertisements

Advertising rates are available by calling 713-292-0314. Advertisements are accepted in good faith that all the information is correct. Acceptance of advertising does not reflect endorsement of services or goods by the Council.

The Golden Link is published by Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council, 3110 Southwest Freeway, Houston, TX 77098

The Golden Link is also available to read online at www.gssjc.org/publications
Copyright ©2023. All rights reserved.



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

Contents Summer 2023

- 3 From the Top
- 3 Shop News

Special Feature

- 4 Earn a Highest Award

Features

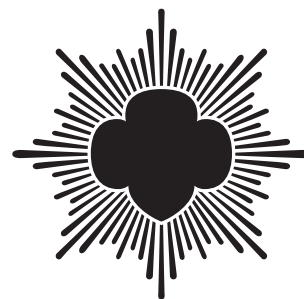
- 12 Gold Award Girl Scouts
- 15 Cookies4Heroes Deliveries
- 16 Girl Scout Surprises Cancer Patients With Girl Scout Cookies
- 16 Robotics at GSSJC
- 17 Council Trip Information
- 17 Misty Meadows Named One of Top Summer Camps of 2023
- 18 Become a Lifetime Member!
- 18 Okay To Say

Activities

- 19 General Activities
- 21 Fine Arts
- 22 Highest Awards
- 23 History
- 23 Sailing
- 23 STEM
- 26 Travel

Columns

- 27 Adult Trainings
- 30 Around Camp
- 31 Philanthropy
- 32 Scrapbook



Learn how to earn a Highest Award. pages 4 – 15



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





Betsy Kamin
President of the Council
and Chair of the Board

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

531 FM 359 South,

Brookshire

We're hiring!

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

Stafford

12300 Parc Crest, Ste 170, Stafford
281-670-5982

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

Bay Area

1300 A Bay Area Blvd., Ste. 106,
Houston

281-282-6077

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

Cypress/Jersey Village

19708 Northwest Freeway, Suite
100, Jersey Village

346-818-3227

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

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 Renewal 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

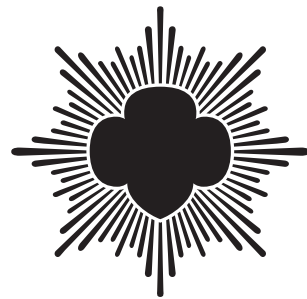
The Fall Product Program is an easy way to earn money for your troop. Troop Fall Product manager trainings start in August. Keep an eye on www.gssjc.org/fallproduct for complete program details soon.

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!

Highest Awards/ Medallas al mérito

Tu brillas cuando haces del mundo un lugar mejor. Las Medallas al mérito también pueden ser tuyas. El primer paso es desarrollar los Journeys. Si necesitas información en español, contacta a Augustina Ruiz, aruiz@sjgs.org.

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?

Community Service Project	Take Action Project
A <u>short-term</u> (often one-time) effort that helps something or someone fulfill an <u>immediate need</u> .	A <u>long-term</u> project with <u>ongoing influence that continues beyond your involvement</u> .
Addresses the <u>result/outcome</u> of an issue.	Addresses the <u>root cause</u> of an issue.
Done <u>FOR</u> a community.	Done <u>WITH</u> a community.
<u>Joining</u> an existing effort to address an issue.	<u>Creating</u> a unique initiative to address an issue.
Working toward <u>a goal set by others</u> .	<u>Setting the goals and leading a team</u> to achieve them.
Done as part of an <u>existing team</u> (usually as a volunteer).	<u>Creating and leading your own team</u> of volunteers – this is GIRL LED!

Highest Awards: Break it Down!

	Bronze Award	Silver Award	Gold Award
Eligibility	— Junior Girl Scouts — Complete as a Troop or Group	— Cadette Girl Scouts — Complete as an Individual or in a Group of 2 to 4 girls	— Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts — Complete as an Individual
Hours (PER GIRL)	20 hours	50 hours	80 hours
Prerequisites	Complete one Junior Journey (including the Take Action Project)	Complete one Cadette Journey (including the Take Action Project)	— Complete two Senior/Ambassador Journeys (including the Take Action Project) OR the Silver Award and one Senior/Ambassador Journey. — Complete Gold Award Orientation on gsLearn. (Sign up at this link: https://gssjc.me/gaorientation)
Approval Process	No Project Proposal required. Final Report submitted/initially approved by Troop Leader. Final approval from Council.	Required Project Proposal and Final Report approval from the Silver Award Committee. Responses typically take 2-3 weeks.	Required Project Proposal and Final Report approval from the Gold Award Committee. Review meetings typically occur every 2 weeks.
Deadlines	Girls who have <u>completed 5th grade</u> must submit their Final Report by September 30.	— Girls who have <u>completed 8th grade</u> must submit their Project Proposal by August 1. — Girls who have <u>completed 8th grade</u> must submit their Final Report by September 30.	— Girls who have <u>completed 12th grade</u> must submit their Project Proposal by July 1. — Girls who have <u>completed 12th grade</u> must submit their Final Report by September 30.
Where to Start	Visit GSSJC's Highest Awards Online Community and read all materials, especially the Bronze Award Project Guide.	Visit GSSJC's Highest Awards Online Community and read all materials, especially the Silver Award Project Guide. Take Silver Award Training on gsLearn or live on Zoom.	Visit GSSJC's Highest Awards Online Community and read all materials, especially the Gold Award Project Guide. Girls sign up for Gold Award Orientation on gsLearn at this link: https://gssjc.me/gaorientation .
Where to submit?	https://gssjc.me/bronzeaward	silveraward@sjgs.org	GoGold Online platform
<p style="text-align: center;">Questions?</p> <p>Explore all materials provided on the Highest Awards Online Community, especially the Project Guides. Seek out training live, on Zoom or on gsLearn. Most questions will be answered by reading the appropriate Project Guide and watching any relevant trainings.</p>			
Contact	bronzeaward@sjgs.org	silveraward@sjgs.org	goldaward@sjgs.org



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.

Bronze Award

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).

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., Lilly 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.



Silver Award

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” to get on track to earn the Silver Award this summer! Check the Online Community for more information.

Before Silver

Learning About the Silver Award:

- Review all materials on the Highest Awards Online Community.
- Carefully read the GSSJC Silver Award Project Guide.
- Take Silver Award Training live on Zoom or as a self-paced online training on gsLearn.
- Girls can take the Older Girl Take Action Workshop to learn more about Take Action.

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

Steps to the Silver Award

Project Proposal:

- Utilize the GSSJC Silver Award Project Guide to plan your project and fill out the F-485 Silver Award Project Proposal form. Make sure your project meets Take Action (as opposed to community service) guidelines.
- Submit your project proposal to silveraward@sjgs.org. If in a Project Team, all project proposals must be submitted together in the same email. You will receive approval or feedback within 2-3 weeks.
- If you receive feedback, please re-submit the F-485 Silver Award Project Proposal form or the Silver Award Supplemental Form as requested in your feedback email.

Project: Once approved, implement your project. If your project changes substantially, then submit the Silver Award Supplemental Form to silveraward@sjgs.org and wait for approval.

Final Report:

- After completing your project, fill out the F-486 Silver Award Final Report form and submit it to silveraward@sjgs.org. You will receive approval or feedback within 2-3 weeks.
- Once approved, you will receive a congratulations email within 3 weeks. Please reach out to silveraward@sjgs.org if you have not received your email within that timeframe.

Take Note!

- Girls must submit their project proposals and receive approval from the Silver Award Committee PRIOR to starting their project. Approval can sometimes take multiple rounds of review, so girls should plan a flexible start date for their projects.
- The Silver Award Committee strongly recommends girls complete the optional Silver Award Project Proposal Checklist. These are the most common reasons a project proposal is not approved.
- Multiple projects/Project Teams in the same troop must have different projects, especially if they plan to have the same Partnering Organization and/or Project Advisor. See the Online Community for more details.
- Check the Online Community for more details about what to expect after earning the Silver 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.”



Gold Award

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: Once approved, implement your project. If your project changes, then you must resubmit your project proposal for review by the Gold Award Review Board.

Final Report:

- 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 scrapping 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.

Gold Award Girl Scouts

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



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.



Grace Cowey partnered with a new maternity home in her community to educate new moms on birthing and parenting topics. She worked with healthcare professionals to develop seven classes covering these topics with the goal of increasing the numbers of strong, healthy babies. These classes were recorded and posted online for global access and the Hope House will continue to use her curriculum to educate future mothers.



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.



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.



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.



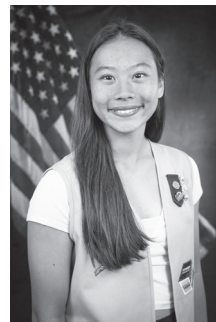
Sophia Hunt increased awareness of anxiety disorders in children and teens through educational pamphlets and presentations that explained the causes, symptoms, and treatments. She reached her goal of educating at least 75 students and parents through the Fairbanks Library, where her pamphlets continue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



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.



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.

Animals	Elderly Issues	Life Skills
Arts, Culture & Heritage	Entrepreneurship	Military/Veteran's Affairs
Children's Issues	Environment & Sustainability	Outdoors
Civic Engagement	Physical Health	Poverty
Disaster Relief	Mental Health	Public Safety
Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access and Racial Justice (DEIA-RJ)	Healthy Relationships	Sports
Education	Human Rights	STEM

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.



TEAM HIGHLIGHT: UNIBOTS!

At the Texas East Regionals Championships, GSSJC's Unibots won first Place in Robot Design, third place in the Overall Championship, and one of their coaches, Ben Davis, won the coaches award! They continued to represent our council at state!

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!

	Robotics Competition Teams	Intro to Robotics
Who	Daisy to Ambassador	Brownies and Juniors
When	Weekly meetings through fall and winter	Meet once a month for two hours
Where	Varies by team/troop	Girl Scout Center, Central Houston
Cost	Varies by level; \$70 to \$130 per girl	\$30 per girl

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/troop 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! (shh!!!)

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!



★ ★ ★ ★ ★
AMERICA'S
BEST
SUMMER
CAMPS
2023

Newsweek

PLANT-A
INSIGHTS GROUP

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.



Scan here
to get the
requirements
for the patch.

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

Girl and Troop Activities

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



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

Look for this symbol in indicate a virtual program offering.



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 Gooyey, 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: (b) (j) 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.

Wait! Look Here First!

How to Register for an Event

1. Go to www.gssjc.org and click on MyGS. Login with your Girl Scout credentials when prompted.
2. Click on My Events and then Register for Another Event.
3. To search, put in the ZIP code where the event is taking place. Move the search radius to 90 miles. Put the partial or whole title of the event in Keyword, using quotes. Click Search.
4. Click on the event you want. Add the appropriate number of girls and adults. Click Add Events.
5. Choose your registrants and check the credit card box. Follow check out instructions.



Tip: If you are a troop leader registering your group, be sure to toggle over to the Troop radio button FIRST when choosing registrants. This will guarantee you continue to see your troop drop-down list when registering a group.

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: (d) (b) (j) (c) (s)

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



Carousel Host Troops Needed!

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

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

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: (d) (b) (j) (c) (s)
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: (j) (c) (s)
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: (j) (c) (s) (a)
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: (c) (s) (a)
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: (c) (s) (a)
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: (S) (A)
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 the 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: (J) (C)
Where: Online
When: June 25, July 2, July 9, and July 16 at 4 p.m.
Cost: \$40/girl



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 SPURS 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.

Fine Arts

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

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

Workshop	Date	Time	Location
Cadette Screenwriter	June 17	10 a.m. – noon	PPFG
Junior Scribe	July 8	10 a.m. – noon	PPFG
Brownie Painter	July 15	10 a.m. – noon	PPFG
Junior Jeweler	July 29	10 a.m. – noon	PPFG
Brownie Potter	Aug. 5	10 a.m. – noon	PPFG
Brownie Snacks	Sept. 9	10 a.m. – noon	PPFG
Junior Simple Meals	Sept. 9	1 – 3 p.m.	PPFG

Brownie Painter badge workshop - Artists take what they see and make it beautiful. Learn to paint and color your world in super strokes and see what your imagination can do.

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: (C) (S) (A)
When: June 24
Where: GSSJC
Cost: \$10

Highest Awards

- Adults: Dejah Covick, adultrecognition@sjgs.org

Highest Awards Virtual Q&A

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

Who: Adults
Where: Online
When: June 15, 7 – 8 p.m.
Cost: \$3/person



Juniors Take-Action Workshop

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

Who: ⓙ Adults
Where: Online
When: June 25; 2 – 3:30 p.m.
Cost: \$5/person



Older Girl Take-Action Workshop

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

Who: Ⓒ Ⓢ Ⓐ Adults
Where: Online
When: July 23 3:30 – 5 p.m.
Cost: \$5/person
Contact: Alix Reilman at areilman@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

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



Use QR Code
to go directly
to events page.



History

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: ⑥ ①
When: 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

Sailing

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

Use QR Code
to go directly
to events page.



Instruction and Mariner Weekends

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

Basic Sailing

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

When: Aug. 25 – 27 and Sept. 15 – 17
Both weekends are required attendance
Cost: \$120
Where: Casa Mare, Seabrook

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

STEM

For all STEM events, contact Rachel Archer,
rarcher@sjgs.org, 713-292-0233 for more information.

The Marathon Refining STEM Day Program

The Marathon Refining STEM Day program is a wonderful opportunity for Cadettes and Seniors Girl Scouts to explore different energy subjects and to become interested in a STEM path that may develop into a career. Each girl will participate in a full day of hands-on activities led by women in the oil and gas industry at the Marathon Training Center. Experiences throughout the day include extracting product control samples, performing lab experiments, running instrument and electrical checks, and engineering solutions for today's energy needs. Lunch is provided. This is not a drop-off event. One adult per troop is required to stay with the girls for the day. Cadettes will complete the requirements for Career Exploration badge. A patch will be provided. Hosted by Marathon Petroleum and Region 12.

Who: © ⓘ Volunteer
Where: Marathon Petroleum Training Center
21 21st South, Texas City
When: Sept. 23, 9 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Cost: Free for girl and adult
Contact: 713-292-0300 or customerservice@sjgs.org

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: ⓘ
Where: GSSJC, Central Houston
When: July 8, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.
Cost: \$9

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: ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ ⓘ
Where: GSSJC, Central Houston
When: July 22, 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
Cost: \$7

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: (C) (S) (a)
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: (b) (j)
(C) (S) (a) wanted as Program Aides (see below)
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: (C) (S) (a)
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: (C) (S) (a)
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 (no girls, please)
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: (d) (b) (j) (C) (S)
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: ①
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: ③ ⑤ ⑥
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.

Travel

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!

Who: ③ ⑤ ⑥ Adults
When: July 20 – July 22
Contact: GSUSA, convention@girlscouts.org

Council Trip to Germany and Switzerland 2024

From Munich and Montreux to Lucerne and Zurich, spend time at a W.A.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: ⑤ ⑥ 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:

Date	Course	Registration Ends	Prerequisite	Location
Self-paced	Volunteer Basics			gsLearn
Self-paced	GSUSA's New Leader Onboarding Series			gsLearn
Self-paced	Youth Protection Training Level 1			gsLearn
Self-paced	Youth Protection Training Level 2		Youth Protection 1	gsLearn
Self-paced	Camping and Overnight Basics (COB)		Volunteer Basics	gsLearn
July 29	Summer Train-In	July 14		GSC, Houston
Aug. 26	Daisy/Brownie Program Leadership	Aug. 19		Virtual
Sept. 16	Volunteer Camper Certification (VCC)	Sept. 2	COB (gsLearn)	ATC, Conroe
Sept. 23	Partnering with Girl Scout Juniors	Sept. 9		GSC, Houston
Sept. 23	Partnering with C, S, A	Sept. 16		Virtual
Sept. 23	First Aid CPR/AED Blended	Sept. 23	Online coursework	GSC, Houston
Sept. 24	New Leader Sundaes: Cafés 1-3	Sept. 9	Volunteer Basics	Virtual
Sept. 30	Project WILD	Sept. 16		ATC, Conroe

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



Route Y: Daisy and Brownie Leaders

Learn how to best lead Daisies and Brownies, bring some Girl Scout traditions to your troop in a new way, and learn some fun crafts that are age-appropriate for your girls.

Route J: Junior Leaders

Discover the world of getting girls beyond service and into Taking Action, learn what behaviors to expect, how to partner with preteens, and amp up your troop time with activities beyond badges and journeys.

Route O: Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Leaders

Learn to partner with older girls to plan meetings, activities and projects, discover ways to work with girls without removing phones from your meetings, and amp up your troop time with activities beyond badges and journeys.

Training Calendar June – July 2023

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

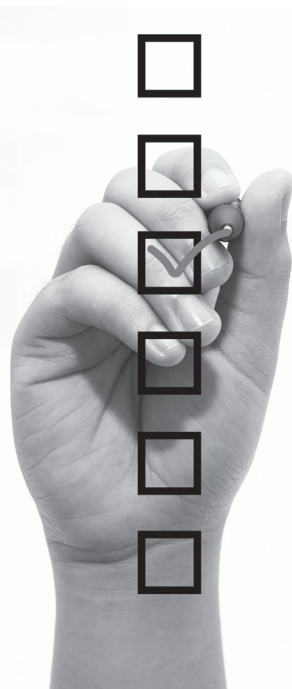
Key

GSC- Girl Scout Center, Houston

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

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.



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!

Around Camp

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.

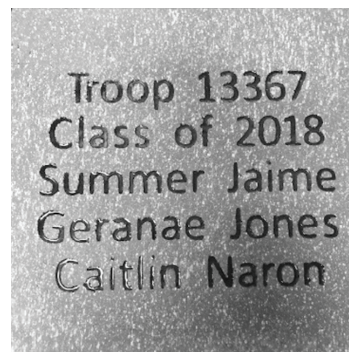
Look for more details in the fall issue of *The Golden Link*.

Philanthropy

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
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

Fort Bend Junior Service
League
Estate of Barbara S. Lee
OCuSOFT Inc.
Stephen M. Seay
Foundation
Texas Parks and Wildlife
United Way of Greater
Atlanta

\$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
Micheal T. Doyle
David M. Doll
EC Specialists Inc.
Connie C. Eicher
ExxonMobil

The M. Fabio
Jones Family Office Inc.
Leslie Lenser
James Lewis
Diane Likeness
Margaret Lincoln
Patti L. Massaro
Cassandra McZeal
Stacey P. Methvin
Judy Moses
Nancy Lee G. Peterson
Phillips 66 Company
Mary K. Ryder
Sewell Automotive
Companies
Smart Financial
Foundation
Victoria Smith
Kathy M. Tamer
Troop 728
Mary Zappone

\$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 Marhsall
Elena M. McCreery
Michele McNichol
Keith McPherson
Gina L. Murphy

Nacogdoches Area
United Way
Patricia Rodriguez
Stephen Sjolander
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 Koehn
Barbara Dampman

In Memory of Michelle Roenz
Kirsten A. Davenport

Scrapbook

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



Troop 139149 made blessing bags for the homeless for Christmas.



Troop 21721 held its annual troop holiday party.



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 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.



Troop 143027 sang Christmas carols to the residents at Village on the Park senior center.



Troop 3033 from the Brazos Valley Community rode on the Houston History Bus to learn about several well-known Houston figures while viewing the beautiful Christmas lights in River Oaks. They hope to take the bus for this tour during Women's History Month.



Troop 18963 voted to make 100 feminine hygiene packs for the GSSJC 100th Birthday Service Project Challenge. The packs, benefiting SEARCH Homeless Services, included 15 tampons and five overnight pads. The girls decorated brown paper bags and included inspirational messages. They also added other things to the packs such as non-perishable treats and travel-sized toiletry products.



Troop 130036 celebrated the winter holiday by participating in engineering and team building challenges. They also decorated bells and played games with their troop sisters.



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) Silver-Plated 09903. \$9



Silver Award Emblem*
09905 \$3.50



Silver Award Recognition Charm 14507 \$7.99



Bronze Award Pin*
09901 \$9



Trefoil Link Bracelet
12842 \$20



Bronze Award Decal
35319 \$5



Bronze Award Emblem*
09906 \$3.50



Bronze Award Recognition Charm
14508 \$7.99



Bronze Award Recognition Iron-On Patch 14500 \$7.99



Official Gold Award Scarf
04543 \$39



Miniature Gold Award Parent Pin* 09925 \$22



Gold Award Recognition Charm 14505.
\$10



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 Key Ring
11785 \$16



Girl Scout Graduation Regalia Recognition Stole 14502 \$40



Girl Scout Graduation Regalia Recognition Tassel 14503 \$15



Gold Award Trinket Dish 11320. \$12.75

Limited quantities available at certain shops.

girl scouts 
of san jacinto

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council
3110 Southwest Freeway
Houston, TX 77098-4508

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HOUSTON, TX
PERMIT NO. 6743



LIVE TOUR

Produced by Feld Entertainment

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](https://www.ticketmaster.com) and use code **SCOUT8** 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**

© 2023 Universal Studios and Amblin Entertainment, Inc. All Rights Reserved.