Success to Significance 2017: Women in Medicine

Girl Scouts has invested more than 100 years in teaching girls how to be go-getters, innovators, risk-takers and leaders. When you’re a Girl Scout, you don’t earn a badge - you master a new set of skills. You don’t assist with a problem in your community - you solve it. The Girl Scout experience prepares girls to empower themselves, to take on new challenges and to make the world a better place.

When you join us for Success to Significance 2017, you are supporting Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council in providing that Girl Scout experience to more than 58,000 girls across 26 counties in southeast Texas. (Look at you, go-getter!)

Serving as the 2017 Honorary Co-Chairs are the Sheena Family, Drs. Ronnie and Helene Sheena, and their daughters Michelle, Brittney and Erin. The Sheena family, who truly exemplify what it means to be a Girl Scout, has supported the Girl Scout movement in countless ways at the troop, Council and national levels.

This year’s signature fundraiser has a special focus on women in the medical field who exemplify being go-getters, innovators, risk-takers and leaders every single day and will feature a panel including Dr. Karen E. Johnson of Baylor College of Medicine, Dr. Karen H. Lu of the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Dr. Dianna M. Milewicz of Memorial Hermann. These three medical professionals will discuss the most pressing issues in women’s health and share their thoughts on what it means to be a leader, both as a female and in the medical community.

To join us at Success to Significance, visit s2s.gssjc.org and click on Join Us at S2S to purchase your ticket or table.
Thanks for joining us at Just Desserts

Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council (GSSJC) hosted its annual dessert competition, Just Desserts, at the Junior League of Houston Thursday, January 19. Half-a-dozen pastry chefs from across Houston “battled” it out in this Super Bowl LI-themed event to create delicious desserts using Girl Scout Cookies. Smallcakes Houston was selected as the People’s Choice winner.

This year’s event celebrated 100 years of Girl Scouts selling cookies. A century ago, girls started participating in what would evolve into the largest entrepreneurial training program for girls in the world: the Girl Scout Cookie Program. Through this financial literacy program girls learn the essential skills they need to become effective leaders, manage finances and gain self-sufficiency and confidence in handling money.

More than 100 guests enjoyed the palate-pleasing event as celebrity chefs vied for the best in a variety of categories. Our 2017 winners included:

- Best Table Display: Maine-Ly Sandwiches, Peanut Butter Sandwich
- Best Theme Interpretation: Gigi’s Cupcakes – Post Oak, Thin Mints
- Best Use of Cookie: Smallcakes Houston, Lemonades
- Celebrity Judges Favorite: Ooh La La: The Dessert Boutique, Caramel DeLites
- Most Delicious: Michael’s Cookie Jar, Shortbread
- Most Creative Recipe: The Cupcake Cowgirls, Peanut Butter Patties
- The People’s Choice: Smallcakes Houston, Lemonades

Girl Scouts were paired with chefs and members of the media who served as judges. Media judges included: Patricia Lopez of KTRK Ch. 13; Amy Davis of KPRC Ch. 2; Katharine Shilcutt of Houstonia Magazine; Tiffany Craig of KHOU Ch. 11; and Lizzet Lopez of Univision.

Donors who give $500 or more annually receive a pair of complimentary tickets to this event. We hope to see you at Just Desserts 2018! Keep an eye on our website justdesserts.gssjc.org for event details and ticket information next fall.

Send a girl to camp this summer

Girl Scouts has a long tradition of getting girls into nature, whether they’re learning basic survival skills, going on a hike or swimming in a lake. Every girl deserves the opportunity to explore the wonders of nature and the thrill of going away to summer camp.

Camperships, or camp scholarships, offer financial support to girls who want to attend resident camp but have limited resources. For many girls throughout our Council, a Campership is critical to making camp a reality.

You can help send girls to camp by donating to Camperships. While any amount is appreciated, a gift of $385 will fund one week of camp for one girl.

GSSJC relies on contributions to make Camperships possible. Through generous gifts last year, we were able to send 260 girls to camp who would not have been able to attend otherwise. To fund a Campership, visit donate.gssjc.org or contact Council at 713-292-0236 or donate@sjgs.org.
Lake Site opens at Camp Myra S. Pryor

County Road 475, a winding gravel road lined with wire ranch fencing and grazing cattle, runs through the heart of Nada, Texas. Around the corner you’ll find farm homes built in the early 1900s. In many ways, Nada fits right in with other quaint ranch towns in Texas.

But while many parts of the town remain unchanged, five years ago Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council (GSSJC) led a campaign to enhance Camp Myra S. Pryor, a 277-acre property originally founded in 1911 as a working cattle ranch.

In 2012, GSSJC’s Board of Directors launched a building campaign to grow camp resources and programming. The reasons behind this decision were the growing girl population and the lack of adequate resources coupled with the strong belief that outdoor experiences can impact a girl’s life. With the support of many funding partners, the Camp Myra S. Pryor Ranch Site was completed in 2014. This phase included a new auditorium, five classrooms, an indoor kitchen, refreshed cabins and kitchen shelters, as well as an outdoor pavilion and bridge.

It wasn’t long when the Lake Site component was initiated, resulting in a late 2016 completion. The new six-acre lake, four birdhouse cabins with an overnight capacity of 48, a canoe dock, amphitheater and kitchen shelter now welcome girl campers from throughout GSSJC. As with the Ranch Site, funding partners made the Lake Site a reality. “It’s amazing to see our donors’ collective impact. There are so many heroes,” said GSSJC CEO Mary Vitek.

When GSSJC’s funding partners saw a need for a growing camp experience for girls, they wanted to resolve that need. “This is a way for us to become more connected to our youth and to support a camp project that will make a difference today and for future generations of girls,” said George Foundation Grant Officer Quynh-Anh McMahan. “We are proud to be included with other area funders helping the Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council make a difference for girls today and tomorrow.”

The refreshed Camp Myra S. Pryor has served girls from throughout GSSJC, including girls participating in Girl Scouts through community outreach programs in Fort Bend who had never camped before. “In our Community Outreach program, we provide transportation, programming and a unique outdoor experience for area girls at Camp Pryor and this experience enriches their lives,” said GSSJC Community Outreach Manager Alicia Rushing.

Girls visiting the Ranch Site explain what this camping experience has meant for them. One third grader stated she liked the independence as it was her first time away from home. She said it made her feel more confident about herself, being able to function without her mom. Walking in the woods was the highlight for another girl as she said she had never done this before. Yet a third camper noted she could not believe she cooked her own food!

In January 2017, the new Lake Site began welcoming campers. Troop #129017 was one of the first to enjoy the new Lake Site accommodations and raved about their experience. “Our girls loved it!” said Troop Leader Debby Fredrickson. “They loved everything about the cabins.”

This land has been operating over a century, first as a cattle ranch founded in 1911 and now as a revered camp ground. “Let’s make sure we continue this extraordinary camping tradition in historic Nada for the next 100 years and beyond as we introduce girls to new outdoor experiences and grow their courage, confidence and character to make the world a better place,” said Mary.
Why I wish I was a Girl Scout

By Katia Cordova

During the summer of 2016, Katia served as an intern for GSSJC. She did not have the opportunity to be a Girl Scout growing up, and after observing the power of Girl Scouting, she asked to share her experience.

Growing up I only had my brother to play with because my family didn't live close. I didn't mind playing with him, but at times I wanted to be with someone my own age. My childhood was not a typical one because my parents are pastors and I had to be with them all times and be an example to others. To this day, I still have to be an example for others-just like how Girl Scouts is an example for younger girls.

Girl Scouts is an outstanding program that provides skills that might not be taught at home. Being an intern at GSSJC has allowed me to learn more about the program and how it affects lives. For example, I learned when comparing Girl Scout alumnae with non-alumnae, Girl Scout alumnae learn to solve difficulties, challenge themselves more, have more exposure in their community, have an increased level of engagement, discover their unknown talents and try new things.

I wish I was part of the Girl Scout community because they learn to be prepared at a younger age. If I was a Girl Scout, I probably never would have experienced low self-esteem, and I could have built more friendships with girls at camp and sold cookies. When [participating in] Girl Scouting, girls learn business management at a young age when selling cookies. If I was a participant of that event, it would have helped me know if I am certain about studying business and accounting in college. Girl Scouts try new things every day and if I did this in the past, then I could have learned to not avoid new experiences.

Your support of Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council helps make experiences like the one Katia has described possible. Please give generously-while Girl Scouting only costs $15, it costs $292 to make the experience a reality for each of the 58,000+ girls in our Council. To donate, visit donate.gssjc.org.
Introducing the 1912 Club

Honoring the legacy of Juliette Gordon Low, the 1912 Club is a monthly giving program where you can set up a donation that will be automatically charged each month. By making a monthly recurring gift of $19.12 to Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council, you honor the past and shape the future for local Girl Scouts today and tomorrow. Recurring gifts are an opportunity to make a bigger impact by allowing you to give more than you otherwise may through a one-time gift. Every family that signs up by June 30 will receive a charter member patch and recognition in The Golden Link.

What does a donation to GSSJC do for girls?
- Provides life-changing programs to more than 21,000 girls in outreach offerings throughout our Council
- Gives Girl Scout training to over 18,000 volunteers that lead our girls
- Maintains our beloved camp properties for girls to explore
- Offers research based curriculum to each girl in our Council
- Cares for our herd of treasured horses that provide girl program
And so much more...

Please join 1912 Club today by visiting 1912club.gssjc.org. For more information, contact Anissa Cordova at acordova@sgs.org or 713-292-0346.

Thank you, donors!

Great care has been exercised to ensure the proper recognition of our donors. If an error or omission does occur, we apologize and hope you will bring it to our attention. Contact 713-292-0273 or sboak@gssjc.org. Honorariums listed are $250 and above.

(Contributions made Sept. 1 to Nov 30, 2016)

Honorariums
In Honor of Liliana and Juliette Billings Cindy Richardson
In Honor of Camp Robinwood Staff 1978 Janet McMasters
In Honor of Jean Madden Chapin Jay B. Chapin
In Honor of Louisa Glinski Corrie J. Glinski
In Honor of Sue Kean Lisa Walker
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In Memory of Iris Bullard Foster Jill Almaguer
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Make a recurring donation
Recurring donations are a convenient and easy way to help support Girl Scouts. Donations made online with either a credit or direct debit card can be automatically deducted from your account monthly, quarterly or semiannually. Recurring donations allow you to increase your impact in helping to build girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.
Why I Give

Barbara Barnes

Once a Girl Scout, always a Girl Scout. It’s a phrase that certainly sums up Barbara Barnes’ Girl Scout experience. As a young girl living in Australia, she joined the Girl Guides. When she and her family moved back to the United States, she and her four sisters immediately joined Girl Scouts. Their mother, Margaret Sheriff, agreed to be troop leader for the two youngest girls, Barbara and Linda. The girls enjoyed years of friendship, camping and even earning Girl Scouting’s highest honor, then called the First Class.

“Girl Scouting in general, and GSSJC in particular, hold a special place in my heart because of the impact I feel Girl Scouting had on my life,” says Barbara. “Not only do I have cherished memories of wonderful camping and service activities I participated in as a youth; I feel I am a stronger person because of the lessons I learned and experiences I had in Girl Scouts.”

It was camp that kept Barbara coming back. After graduating from high school, she spent her summer unexpectedly leading a group of girls at a local day camp after her volunteer partner left after just one day. Her love for Girl Scouting led to volunteering with a Junior troop near Trinity University in San Antonio her first year at school.

She became a camp counselor at Camp Casa Mare in 1980 after graduating from college. Barbara worked as the camp’s sailing director – a program she had enjoyed as a camper herself.

“I whole-heartedly believe in the mission of Girl Scouting,” she says. “Girl Scouting had such a positive impact on my life as it does on the lives of thousands of girls and women. GSSJC has such a vibrant and active program for girls that I know our legacy gift will be wisely used to serve girls.”

Make a gift to GSSJC in your will. One of the simplest ways for you to make a future contribution is to include Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council in your will. If you have already made GSSJC one of your nonprofit beneficiaries, please share this with us.

For more information, contact Diane Pavey at dpavey@sjgs.org or 713-292-0277.