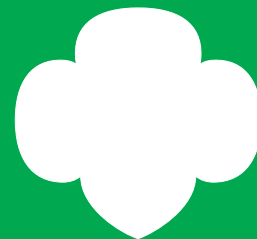




Connections

NEWS FOR GIRL SCOUTS OF SAN JACINTO COUNCIL SUPPORTERS



Winter 2018

Local Alumna Angela Shipman named National Young Woman of Distinction

GSSJC Alumna Angela Shipman, currently a student at the University of Houston, was named a National Young Woman of Distinction (NYWOD) by Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) in early October 2017. GSUSA only selects 10 NYWOD annually among candidates who have earned their Girl Scout Gold Award, which represents the highest achievement in Girl Scouts.

For her Gold Award project, Angela launched Rewire Society, an ongoing movement to help eliminate stereotypes and embrace diversity. Angela, who overcame crippling insecurity for most of her adolescence, was excited to incorporate her love of film and photography into her project which she continues to lead today. As part of her Gold Award project, she asked members of her community, friends and family a question about beauty standards. She took their responses and interpreted them through photography and created a video that provided an overview of her project. Learn more at rewiresociety.com.

“Growing up as a Girl Scout enabled me to think critically about world problems; it showed me how to use my strengths to make an impact and how to work on my weaknesses to make me a better person,” says Angela. “It gave me a platform to follow my passion and my dream that was my Gold Award project, Rewire Society, and ultimately led me down the path to being honored as a National Young Woman of Distinction.”

As a female leader, Angela will join GSSJC at our eighth annual Success to Significance luncheon which will focus on women in leadership. Angela will share how her Girl Scout experience transformed her into a female leader and why she believes Girl Scouting is essential for all girls. She will be joined by top female leaders, including Andrea Bastiani Archibald, PhD, a developmental psychologist and chief girl and family engagement office at GSUSA, as they explore what it takes to be a trailblazer for women, lessons they’ve learned and the power and promise within female leaders. This year’s event chair is Jamie Vazquez.



GSSJC Alumna Angela Shipman, with Girl Scouts of the USA CEO Sylvia Acevedo.

Join us at Success to Significance 2018

We invite you to join GSSJC at our eighth annual Success to Significance luncheon on May 3 at Hilton Americas in downtown Houston. Tickets are available at \$150 and up, and tables and sponsorships are available starting at \$2,500.

Visit gssjc.org/s2s for details.



Just Desserts January 18

There is much debate about who is the ultimate superhero, but at Girl Scouts we believe that G.I.R.L.s (Go-Getters, Innovators, Risk Taskers and Leaders)™ are true superheroes. Dust off your cape, mask, hammer or shield and join us Thursday, January 18 for the ultimate culinary mission: taste-testing desserts made from Girl Scout Cookies!

Donors who give \$250 and up are invited to attend with a guest. Look for your invitation in the mail. Please note this is an adult-only event. Event details are available at gssjc.org/justdesserts. RSVP no later than Friday, Jan. 12 to devrsvp@sjcs.org.

Tickets are also available for purchase at gssjc.org/justdesserts.



The Girl Scout experience is powered by cookies – how you can support girls

Girl Scout Brownie Isabel Herrera wrote us this letter after last year's Cookie Program, and it warmed our hearts. The Cookie Program isn't really about the cookies – it's about teaching girls leadership skills that will help them make the world a better place.

"When you grow up, tell everyone that you were a Girl Scout because you are going to be successful. All girls who have been Girl Scouts are successful."

Your support of the Cookie Program is always appreciated. Be sure to visit with your favorite Girl Scout by Jan. 19 to place an order, then look for cookie booths at your favorite stores beginning Friday, Feb. 23. Not sure where to find a cookie booth? Search "cookie finder" in the app store on your smartphone or visit girlscoutcookies.org and search based on your ZIP code.



Hi! My name is Isabel Herrera. I'm 9 years old. I'm in third grade. I'm a Girl Scout in Houston, TX. This is my second year as a Brownie. I speak English and Spanish.

Since becoming a Girl Scout I have had very nice experiences, but this year something happened that I liked. Every year I sell cookies. This year I took the basket that my mom uses to take the clothes to the laundry. I cleaned it very well, I decorated it with paper flowers, and I put my cookies inside. I went out to sell cookies in the neighborhood with my mom and my sister – she is also a Girl Scout.

I also took the city metro rail, and a man who was there bought cookies from me and told me, "You are doing something good for this

country. You are making it big and better. When you grow up, tell everyone that you were a Girl Scout because you are going to be successful. All girls who have been Girl Scouts are successful."

I liked that a lot, and it made me feel important. My mom is part of Girl Scouts. She started as a volunteer and now is my troop leader. I think that helped me to achieve things. Without my mom, I don't think I could do it. She is my leader and my guide. I like to be a Girl Scout because I have fun and learn. One day I will be a leader just like my mom.

Isabella Herrera, Girl Scout Brownie – Troop #22256



Reliant funds solar power at Camp Agnes Arnold

While time at camp is usually an opportunity for Girl Scouts to step away from technology, GSSJC is working with incredible partners, like Reliant, to teach girls how technology and the outdoors can work together to make our world a better place. The most recent example of this partnership are the solar panels installed this fall at the Nature Center in Camp Agnes Arnold thanks to a \$30,000 gift from Reliant.

"At Reliant, we believe in supporting and empowering our communities, and we get to do some really great work when we partner with local organizations like Girl Scouts," says Elizabeth Killinger, president, Reliant. "Not only does solar power add an element of STEM programming to nature activities, it'll also help reduce the organization's operational costs and support their sustainability goals."

A total of 44 solar panels were installed at the Nature Center, which will help the council reduce its electricity bills by 36 percent. Utilizing this type of energy also helps GSSJC reduce its carbon footprint. Approximately 361 tons of carbon dioxide output will be eliminated thanks to this project, which is the equivalent of planting 8,411 trees or recycling 1,141 tons of waste.

"This is our first opportunity to harvest the sun's energy to offset our energy consumption at a camp, and we were excited to have this opportunity within the Council," says GSSJC Facilities Director Jon Maxwell. "Installing a solar array at the Nature Center was the perfect fit. It gives us the ability to showcase our commitment to using our natural resources wisely to a broader audience of girls and adults."

The installation included a digital monitor which can be viewed at the Nature Center which displays how much solar power has been produced and how it is offsetting the council's energy consumption. The information also displays on a second monitor at Program Place for Girls entrance, located on the GSSJC campus in Houston, so visitors can get a live look at this data offsite too.

The project also opens the door to GSSJC and Reliant educating girls about the benefits of solar power. The solar array will help teach girls how solar energy works, the impact it can have on energy consumption and costs, the environmental benefits and most importantly, inspire innovation. Electricity is a resource we often overlook, but it's a necessity for our everyday lives. By understanding how electricity works, GSSJC and Reliant can inspire girls to look for new ways to produce, use and manage energy consumption.

You can support girls like Isabel by purchasing cookies Jan. 6 – March 25. Find cookies by visiting with your favorite Girl Scout or visit girlscoutcookies.org to locate cookie booths starting Feb. 23.

Girl Scout experience helps girl overcome unexpected illness

Elena Welsh has been a Girl Scout for 10 years, and she credits Girl Scouting with motivating her in ways she never thought that it could. A year ago, she was faced with an abrupt and frightening change. She developed a limp in her left leg which, after three days, became numb and immobile. Her arm soon followed suit, curling her hand into a fist. Over the next few months the numbness spread, and she had no feeling or movement from her jaw to her foot. Her parents and doctors tried to get to the bottom of the unexpected illness, and she went through months of tests, hospital visits and grueling rehabilitation.

But her Girl Scout experience, which taught her perseverance and to stay positive, gave her the courage and strength to focus on functioning again. "Girl Scouts gave me the motivation to go out and live my life even though I was struggling," says Elena. "It helped me to develop the courage I needed to move again, the confidence I needed to literally climb a mountain and the character to gain from my struggle. You just need to push, and Girl Scouts helped me to do just that."

The year before her medical issue, Elena was a top cookie seller in San Jacinto Council, selling more than 5,000 boxes. When she was unable to walk, she was determined to sell as much as she could even with her limitations. She returned from a month of therapy having already missed more than a month of the program, but she wanted to prove to herself that she could still reach her goal. With the aid of a medical scooter, she sold Girl Scout Cookies and reached that goal. (Talk about a go-getter!)

She wasn't done there. Six months after relearning how to walk, Elena boarded a plane on her first international trip to Costa Rica through Girl Scout's Destinations travel program. It included physically challenging activities such as a multi-day hike through the Costa Rican rainforest.

"I wanted to prove to myself that I could do the physically exerting activities that I had been unable to do for a year," says Elena. "It was extremely difficult and I had my highs and lows, but it feels amazing to have completed it."



After a debilitating illness that left Girl Scout Elena Welsh unable to move an entire side of her body, she found the courage to regain her strength thanks to skills she learned in Girl Scouts.

Your continued support of Girl Scouts helps make success stories like Elena's possible. Please give generously. Visit gssjc.org/donate to make a gift.

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 – Nov. 30, 2017.)

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Thank you, ExxonMobil!

In early October, 187 volunteers from ExxonMobil held a Day of Caring event at Camps Agnes Arnold and Misty Meadows in Conroe. Volunteers built a new cart barn, painted 400 feet of barn fencing, replaced the top cap at the horse riding area and cleared trails at Camp Misty Meadows. Others cleaned and painted kitchen shelters and cleared trails at Camp Agnes Arnold. Their combined hours of work totaled 1,122 – or six-and-a-half months' worth of work for one camp ranger.

Troop #639 creates travel scholarship to honor leader

In memory of Doris Partin, a beloved troop leader and volunteer, several of the members of Troop #639 created the Doris Partin Troop Travel Scholarship to support troops who love to travel.

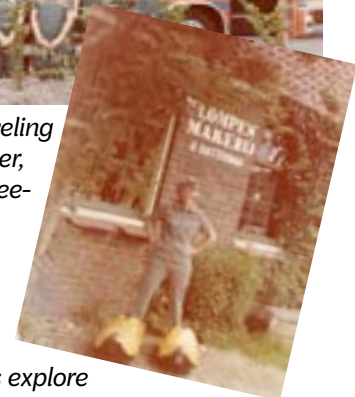
Doris loved the Girl Scouts. Not only was she a troop leader but also the neighborhood chairman where she developed interest groups for canoeing and hiking. Girl members had the opportunity to enjoy these activities monthly under Doris' guidance. At the end of the year, the groups went on a 50-mile hike in Arkansas and a canoe trip to the White River.

Anytime Troop #639 wanted to have an adventure, like visiting Our Chalet in Switzerland, Doris always said "Why not?" That go-getter attitude is what led her to take 18 teenage girls to Europe for three weeks. The troop set goals and worked for almost five years raising money any way possible: sugar eggs, beef raffle, circulars and newspaper recycling. Through all the fundraisers, the badges, the camping, the adventures and the life-long friendships, Doris enabled all the girls to make precious memories of their teen years and, truly, to survive the teen years. She made whomever she was with feel like they were special and accepted the girls for who they were, bringing out the best parts of each one.

As Girl Scouts, we are charged with making this world a better place. There is absolutely no question that Doris succeeded. Do you have a passion to help Girl Scouts experience more amazing things in the world? Contact Anissa Cordova at 713-292-0346 or acordova@sjs.org to discuss how you can make this possible for girls.



Troop #639 enjoyed traveling all over the world together, including an exciting three-week trip to Europe.



The Doris Partin Troop Travel Scholarship has been established to help today's Girl Scout troops explore the world, just like Troop #639. Doris is pictured here during the troop's three-week trip to Europe.



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