

GREATER

pull-out poster inside!

In This Issue

Program & Events Guide, August-December

Gabbing with Girl Scouts

GSGLA News

What's your DOMINANT

G.I.R.L. trait?

Take the quiz to find out!



THE ULTIMATE FITNESS + WELLNESS
EVENT FOR GIRL SCOUTS & FAMILIES!



5K & 2K RUN/WALK

ALL PARTICIPANTS RECEIVE A MEDAL AND PATCH!

SATURDAY
OCTOBER 7, 2017
10AM - 2PM

EL DORADO PARK
LONG BEACH
(PARKING \$7)

REGISTER BY
JULY 31

ONLY \$20
PER PERSON!

\$20 per person now through July 31.
\$25 per person now Aug. 1 - Sept. 21.

NEW!

This year Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors will have an opportunity to race for a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd place title.

To be included, select the "Race" option when you register.

visit girlscoutsla.org for details.

Headquarters

801 S. Grand Avenue, Suite 300
Los Angeles, CA 90017

Business hours:

Mon—Fri, 8:30 a.m.—5 p.m.

*GSGLA offices are
closed on the second
and fourth Monday
of each month.*

*GSGLA is committed to the
extraordinary legacy of
Girl Scouts and its mission
to build girls of courage,
confidence, and character,
who make the world a
better place.*

*For more information on
how to join, volunteer,
reconnect, or donate,
call 213-213-0123
or visit girlscoutsla.org.*

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Dear GSGLA Girl Scouts and Girl Scout Families:

Summer is calling us to the beach and to the mountains, but here at Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles, we're already thinking about fall—"back-to-troop" time! We have so many fun and energizing programs planned to help bring out your inner Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, and Leader (G.I.R.L.)!

Which events will you choose to attend and celebrate the beginning of a new Girl Scout year? I personally hope to see you all at our fourth annual Family Fit Fair 5K & 2K Run/Walk in Long Beach on Oct. 7. Last year, more than 1,000 Girl Scouts and their families gathered—many wearing awesome Girl Scout spirit costumes!—for a day of exercise, laughs, and making new friends. It's the perfect fall kick-off event.

I hope this guide helps you plan an eventful year of learning, growing, and making memories. And don't forget to check out our GSGLA News and Gabbing with Girl Scouts sections. Upholding our "girl-led" ethos, now more than ever girls are submitting their own tales of triumph and exploration. This is your council and these are your stories.

Yours in Girl Scouting,



Lise L. Luttgens
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. Don't forget to find out what kind of G.I.R.L. you are by taking our quiz featured on this issue's pull-out poster!



PROGRAM GUIDE



General Information

Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles non-camp programs August through December 2017 are listed in this program guide section—as well as ongoing leadership trainings. Registration open and close dates all vary per program. You must register at least two weeks prior to each event. Registration is available through the online events list and calendar unless otherwise noted.

Find details at girlscoutsla.org under the "Events" tab. Check the events list or calendar frequently, as pop-up programs are often added throughout the year. Stay up to date on the latest program information by signing up for GSGLA's various monthly e-newsletters.

For questions or assistance, please call the Customer Care Line, 213-213-0123.

GS LEVEL KEY

- D** DAISY
- B** BROWNIE
- J** JUNIOR
- C** CADETTE
- S** SENIOR
- A** AMBASSADOR
- FF** FAMILY FRIENDLY



August

NIKE 3 ON 3:



PRIVATE GIRL SCOUT CLINIC

Aug. 5, 8 a.m.-11 p.m.
All Grades (\$35 per ticket)
L.A. LIVE, Los Angeles

California's biggest basketball tournament, Nike 3-on-3, is hitting the streets of Downtown LA for the 9th year! The busiest streets of LA will be completely shut down by nearly one hundred basketball courts to be played on by all ages, heights, and skill levels—and we've set aside courts just for Girl Scouts to take part in a clinic with the LA Sparks to help earn part of their Athlete badges. This year the clinic will be put on by staff from the Los Angeles Sparks! No experience is necessary! All girls will receive a T-shirt, swag bag, promotional giveaways, and a photo. Register by July 27.

GOLD AWARD BOOTCAMP



Aug. 10, 12-5 p.m.
Grades 9-12 (\$10 registered girl)
Marina Del Rey Service Center

Want to earn your Gold Award but have no idea where to begin? Unsure about what world issues resonate with you? Nervous about creating a Gold Award proposal that will be approved? Gold Award Bootcamp will help you find your passion and outline a project to address a community issue. In just five hours, go from zero to proposal! You'll participate in reflective and engaging activities to:

- Find your purpose
- Prepare to work with your community partner
- Outline your Go Gold Online proposal
- Get advice directly from Gold Award staff and committee members
- Participate in a mock proposal interview

This event is for girls who are starting from scratch. If you already have a Gold Award project idea, the Bootcamp is likely too detailed for you. The Gold Award Workshop is a pre-requisite to bootcamp.

ROCK 'N' ROLL ROBOTS WEEKEND SUMMER CAMP



Aug. 11, 5 p.m.-Aug. 13, 5 p.m.
Grades 6-12 (\$135 registered girl, \$55 adult)
Montrose Program Center

A weekend overnigher with everything you love about Girl Scouts, plus robots! Game strategy, robot design, building, re-building, programming, re-programming, competition, judging—the RobotGirls have seen it all. And they've created a camp for girls curious about robotics or joining a FIRST Tech Challenge robotics team. Campers will build and program robots and compete in a FIRST Tech Challenge-style mini-tournament. Hosted by the RobotGirls—GSGLA robotics teams #25 Rock N' Roll Robots and #5218 Javabots—this camp gives girls the opportunity to join one of these teams for the fall competition season, space permitting.

"THE COMIC BUG" MINI COMIC CON



Aug. 26, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
All grades (\$25 registered girl)
The Comic Bug, Manhattan Beach

Girl Scouts, get ready for your own private Comic Con! Join us as we take over The Comic Bug, a Manhattan Beach comic book store, and learn from professionals. Each girl will attend a specific workshop and have time to explore the comic book store as well as take pictures in our fun comic photo booth! Daisies and Brownies will learn how to make costumes to use for cosplay. Juniors will learn about video game design and earn a patch. Cadettes will meet professional comic artists and can earn their Comic Artist badge. Seniors and Ambassadors will take part in a special journaling workshop to learn how to tell compelling stories like all great comic book authors!

LOS ANGELES SPARKS GIRL SCOUT FAMILY DAY



Aug. 27, 2-6 p.m.
All Grades (\$30 section 113, \$18 section 115)
STAPLES Center, Los Angeles

See some of the best women's basketball players in the country during the Sparks' annual #WeAreWomen #WeAreGirls night celebrating girl power. The Sparks are coming off of a WNBA Championship in 2016, and are looking to win another. The first 50 girls to purchase tickets will participate in a pre-game dance clinic and will perform the routine on the court for all of the fans. All girls will receive a commemorative Sparks patch. Plus, don't miss other special opportunities at the game with High Five Line, and more.



VIDEO GAME DESIGNER WORKSHOP J C

Date and Time TBA
Grades 4-8 (\$15 registered girl)
Location TBA

Join GSGLA and Women in Gaming International (WIGI) and learn how to create video games from development to design to execution. Be inspired by professionals in the field as they share their knowledge and experience working in the gaming industry! Earn a special Video Game Designer patch where you learn on a platform called Gamestar Mechanic, specifically designed to teach girls how to make their own video games.

CITY GOVERNMENT INTENSIVE WITH THE CITY OF PALMDALE S A

Five Tuesday Nights Starting Sept. 5
Grades 9-12 (\$5 registered girl)
Location TBA

Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts will attend four meetings with City of Palmdale Community Programs Coordinator Trish Jones. They will learn about logistics, rules, and forms, as well as have an opportunity to view prior recorded meetings, study upcoming reports, and really understand their local government. This workshop series will culminate with attending a city council meeting on Oct. 3 where they will meet the members of the city council. Girls will earn the Behind the Ballot and Public Policy badges.

LOS ANGELES GALAXY D B J C S A FF

GIRL SCOUT FAMILY DAY
Sept. 30, 4:30 p.m.-9:30 p.m.
All Grades (\$28.35 Sideline, \$28.35 Endline)
STUBHUB Center, Carson

Get ready to kick off the new Girl Scout year with the Galaxy as they take on Western Conference rival Real Salt Lake. The first 200 girls to purchase tickets will be able to participate in a fun soccer clinic put on by Galaxy coaches and trainers (from 4:30 to approximately 6 p.m.)! All attendees will receive a commemorative Galaxy patch. For tickets, email Rashid Dadashi at rdadashi@lagalaxy.com.

WHERE IN THE WORLD IS JULIETTE GORDON LOW? J C S A

Sept. 30, Time TBA
Oct. 15, Time TBA
Grades 4-12 (\$5 registered girl)
Location TBA

Join us for a fun exploration of all the travel opportunities you have as a Girl Scout! Your sister Girl Scouts will talk about the amazing adventures that await you when you travel as a troop or as an individual Girl Scout to places you've only ever seen on the internet or in books! We will provide you with the resources to plan your next excursion and also guide you through leveraging your Girl Scout travel experience as a way to apply for scholarships and college when the time is right. This fun and informational program will be capped off with an ice cream social. Troop leaders and parents are encouraged to attend.





October

DREAM IT, BE IT! S A

Date and Time TBA

Grades 9-12 (\$5 registered girl)

Location TBA

Dare to dream BIG! Join us for a one-day conference of leadership- and dream-building with the Soroptimist International Club of Los Angeles. This career-support workshop will help girls grow up to be strong, successful, happy adults by providing girls' access to professional role models, career education, and the resources to live their dreams. Breakout sessions include discovering your dreams, exploring career opportunities, creating achievable goals, balancing stress, and putting your dreams into action! You will walk away from the day ready to do what it takes to achieve your dreams!

GO FOR THE GOLD! C S A

Date and Time TBA

Grades 6-12 (\$5 registered girl)

Location TBA

Unsure whether or not you should pursue the highest award in Girl Scouting? Join us at the first "Go for the Gold!" panel to learn the answers to these questions from Gold Awardees themselves! The event will provide a brief, official overview of the Gold Award. Recent Gold Awardee panelists will then take time to reflect on their projects, including lessons they learned and advice they would give girls. The panel will be followed by a reception at which attendees can ask questions of the panelists and members of the Gold Award committee. This event is open to all levels but is aimed at Cadettes and older. It is recommended for new Senior Girl Scouts who want to learn about the Gold Award but for whom it is too early to take the official workshop. Note: This event does not fulfill the Gold Award prerequisite to attend a workshop.

ROCKET WHIZ D B J

Date and Time TBA

Grades 2-5 (\$25 registered girl)

Location TBD

The sky is the limit as Girl Scouts experience rocketry firsthand. Have a blast building and decorating your own model rocket! Participation in this build workshop qualifies each girl to launch her own rocket during a launch event at the Santa Fe Dam in November (date and time TBA).

ROCK IT! C S A

Date and Time TBA

Grades 6 - 12 (\$30 registered girl)

Location TBD

Push your construction skills to the limit and rock your rocket! Build your own advanced-level model rocket! Participation in this build workshop qualifies each girl to launch her own rocket during a launch event at the Santa Fe Dam in November (date and time TBA).

FOURTH ANNUAL D B J C S A FF

FAMILY FIT FAIR 5K & RUN/WALK

Oct. 7, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Grades K-12, Tagalongs welcome

Early Registration: \$20 (June 23-July 31)

General Registration: \$25 (Aug. 1-Sept. 21)

El Dorado East Regional Park (Golden Grove Picnic Area)

Girl Scouts and their families are invited to come dressed in a creative costume and run or walk the 5K/2K challenge course, which includes fun obstacles, like a jump-rope, hula-hoop, and endurance stations! Enjoy troop-led activities run by your sister Girl Scouts while completing steps toward the Healthy Living badges. Get your rhythm going at the center stage, then visit the exhibitor area where community organizations will share healthy-living options at interactive and informational booths. All participants will receive a commemorative medal and patch. New this year: Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors will have an opportunity to race for a first-, second-, or third-place title. To be included, select the "race" option when you register.

October (Cont'd)

USC FOOTBALL



GIRL SCOUT FAMILY DAY

Oct. 14, Time TBA

All Grades (\$35 per ticket)

Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum, Los Angeles

The college football season is upon us. Bring your troop, family, and friends to the Coliseum for a great day of football. Pre-game girls will have a special on-field experience high-fiving the players as they enter the stadium. Then, after a short break, come back to watch the USC Trojans battle PAC12 rival the Utah Utes. Girls will also receive a commemorative USC patch.

ANTELOPE VALLEY



SOCIETY OF WOMEN ENGINEERS TEENS, ROCKETS, AND LEADERSHIP

Oct. 20, 5 p.m.–Oct. 22, 12 p.m.

Grades 8–12 (\$70 registered girl, \$50 adult)

Friends of the Amateur Rocketry Launch Site/Campground,
Mojave, CA

This is a special opportunity for teens to participate in a collaborative camp weekend at the Friends of Amateur Rocketry camp site (near Red Rock Canyon State Park, Mojave Desert) featuring the Antelope Valley, Society of Women Engineering (AV SWE). Girls will attend mentoring sessions with SWE to build leadership and interest in STEM careers. The event also features old-fashioned Girl Scout Engineering: lashing, old-school “texting” using flags and Morse Code, astronomy talks by campfire with the local astronomy club members, and rocket launching! Your experience will culminate with a Scouts Own Ceremony along with AV SWE.

THE ENGINEER FACTORY



Oct. 28, Time TBA

Grades 2–5 (\$20 registered girl)

Location TBD

Join The Engineer Factory in building hands-on projects with your fellow Girl Scouts! Build, test, experiment, and solve problems like an engineer. Come explore electricity, electric circuits, batteries, and how it can all be used to create art. More workshops and builds to come.



November

FITNESS TO THE MAX!



Nov. 11, 10 a.m.–2 p.m.

Grades 6–12 (\$25 registered girl)

Montrose Program Center, Montrose

Fitness to the Max is a fun, interactive, dynamic workshop that empowers girls with the information and tools they need to be healthy, fit, and confident leaders. Find out how the media and society influences your perception of reality, and participate in fitness activities, fun, food, and games. This is a day to celebrate girls and everything they can and will accomplish. Cadettes will earn the Eating for Beauty badge and Seniors will earn the Women’s Health badge.





December

BROWNIE OUTDOOR SKILL BUILDER

Dec. 2, 10 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

Grades 2–3 (\$25 registered girl, \$15 adult)

Mariposa Program Center, Altadena

Adventure is out there! Are you ready? Join us for a day of outdoor skill-building for Brownies and their leaders. Girls will learn about packing, planning, pitching a tent, outdoor cooking, and more. Leaders and adults will come away with a camping trip planning template, recipe ideas, and a list of local resources to make the most of their adventures. Note: This program is meant as a skill enrichment opportunity and does not take the place of Camping Skills Training for leaders.

FUNTASTIC FLOATS

Date and Time TBA

Grades 2–12 (\$16 registered girl, \$5 adult)

Brookside Pavilion Tent Located in Lot 1, Pasadena

Meet many of the requirements for the Tournament of Roses Patch Program while exploring the story of how floats are planned, designed, and built with designers, builders, and volunteers; designing your own float drawing and choosing materials for decoration; and much more!

Coming soon!

- Techbridge-to-Go (STEM program in a box) - September
- GRAMMY Museum Day – September
- LA Kings Game 1 – October/November
- Anaheim Ducks Game – October/November
- *Wonder* (movie screening) – November
- *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* (movie screening) – December
- Disney on Ice – December
- Cadette Field Day Badge Program – December





Ongoing Programs

SILVER AWARD WORKSHOPS **C**

Various dates, locations, & times

Grades 6–8 (\$10 registered girl, \$25 non-registered girl, \$5 adult)

Please consult the website program calendar for the most updated list of workshops.

Join us for a fun and interactive workshop where you will discover what is necessary to create an amazing Silver Award Take Action project. Learn how to identify a community need and how to address that need by sharing your skills and passions to help make the world a better place! This workshop is not required to achieve your Silver Award; however, it is very useful in learning the steps, how to submit your final report, and addressing any questions. This workshop is for Cadette Girl Scouts and their leaders. (The Silver Award is a troop leader-approved award program.)

GOLD AWARD WORKSHOP **S A**

Various dates, locations, & times

Grades 9–12 (\$12 registered girl, \$25 non-registered girl, \$7 adult)

Please consult the website program calendar for the most updated list of workshops.

Prerequisite for the Gold Award. Trainers will guide you through an interactive workshop that covers the requirements for a Gold-worthy project, selecting a project, and ensuring measurability and sustainability of your project. The workshop further covers the online Go Gold submittal process, the interview process, and tips for successful project execution. Girls attending the workshop should be within three months of completing their prerequisites and should be planning to submit their Gold Award proposal within the program year (Oct. 1, 2017–Sept. 30, 2018). Leaders, advisors, and parents are encouraged to attend. Note: Girls may not begin work on their Gold Award prerequisites prior to Oct. 1 of their ninth-grade year. Girls may not submit their Gold Award proposal until April 1 of their ninth-grade year.

PROGRAM AIDE (PA) TRAINING **C S A**

Various dates, locations, & times

Grades 6–12 (\$25 registered girl, \$35 non-registered girl)

Please consult the website program calendar for the most updated list of workshops.

Be a role model and deepen your understanding of leadership development! Program aides guide younger girls to be leaders in their own lives and in the world. The training helps girls gain skills needed to work with younger girls, peers, and adult volunteers. Program aides may put their skills into practice working at council programs, summer programs, and at troop- and service unit-led events. It is strongly recommended that girls complete the Leader in Action award (LiA) Leader in Action Award (LiA) prior to this training.

PA-TO-GO **C S A** (A RENTAL PROGRAM-IN-A-BOX WITH ADULT FACILITATOR GUIDE)

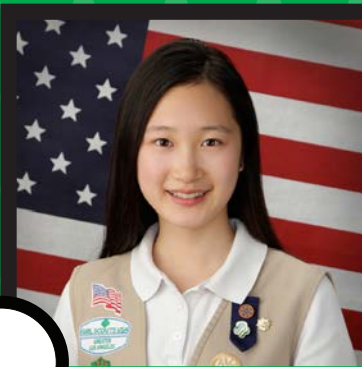
\$10 per girl, \$20 non-registered girl, with a 10-girl minimum

Our new PA-to-Go or Program Aide-To-Go is a “program-in-a-box” that adult volunteers may rent from GSGLA service centers. Complete with an easy-to-follow adult facilitator guide, the box gives a volunteer all the tools she/he needs to deliver program aide training to as few as 10 girls at a time. Program aides are role models for younger Girl Scouts. This training gives them the opportunity to deepen their understanding of what leadership means to them and simultaneously to get excited about guiding younger girls to be leaders in their own lives and in the world. Program aide training teaches Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors the skills they need to work with younger girls, peers, and adult volunteers. Program aides may put their skills into practice working with younger Girl Scouts at council programs, camps, and troop and service unit events. This training is a prerequisite for all Cadette Girl Scouts wishing to complete the Program Aide award.

GSGLA NEWS

2017 NATIONAL YOUNG WOMEN OF DISTINCTION NOMINEES

Each year, Girl Scouts of the USA selects 10 exceptional Gold Award Girl Scouts as National Young Women of Distinction—girls whose projects demonstrated extraordinary leadership and addressed a local challenge related to a national (or even global) issue. Every council submits nominees for the national distinction. Read about the projects led by GSGLA's 2017 nominees below—in their own words.



LEADER

**Cherry
Ying**

Troop 2935
Ambassador

“Growing up in Ningbo, China, I’d never seen a hospital with hand sanitizer; quite frankly, I didn’t even know hand sanitizer existed. During my years in the U.S., I interned for a pediatrician, where I was amazed by the amount of hand sanitizer everywhere. This really motivated me to bring Americans’ strong health awareness to my hometown. My project, ‘Hand in Hand,’ took place in both the U.S. and China. I fundraised and brought 90 bottles of hand sanitizer to community hospitals in Ningbo, created brochures and posters, hosted school lectures, and taught residents in the hospitals how to properly use hand sanitizer. My project even helped jumpstart a government-sponsored program to distribute hand sanitizer every month to community hospitals.”



“I work at Glendale Adventist Medical Center in the pediatric occupational therapy unit. I help get kids in and out of their jackets and coats because they do not have fine motor skills. The existing tools [for teaching the kids] were not engaging and very repetitive. I wanted to combine teaching dressing skills with playing dress-up, so I made sensory integration dressing vests. After sewing the vests by myself, I taught therapists about them and showed them how they can be used. Also, I created a website, dresswithoutstress.help,

where adults can go and learn about my project and how sensory integration therapy works.

My project helped improve the lives of the children who use the vests since they can learn the skills they need faster. Also, other individuals who read my website will learn about fine motor therapy and different ways for dressing assistance.”



I.

INNOVATOR

Ellie Fausett

Troop 1751
Ambassador



L.

LEADER

Bridget Gehan

Troop 1912
Ambassador

“Empowering Teenagers Against Alzheimer’s (ETAA)’ was inspired by my grandpa’s diagnosis of Alzheimer’s in 2014 and the heartbreaking journey that I went through afterwards. I looked for something to help me understand what was happening to Pop Pop and how I could help, but everything available was for small children who couldn’t comprehend the disease or for adults focusing on medical, financial, and insurance issues. ETAA is an internet-based educational outreach program for teenagers and young adults who have been touched by this disease in one way or another. In creating this program, I had to do in-depth research about Alzheimer’s, interview scientists, social workers, and countless teenagers to get an accurate perspective of the entire problem. I then spent months storyboarding, filming, interviewing, and editing until my project was perfect. Since the official induction of ETAA into the Alzheimer’s Greater Los Angeles program, more than 800 people have been reached and learned from my work!”



GSGLA Service by the Numbers

Local Girl Scouts make a huge difference in our Greater LA region! Send your #ServiceStats to communications@girlscoutsla.org—you may be featured in an upcoming *Greater* magazine or on social media!



- Troop 2016 provided warm clothing and school supplies to 9 homeless children.
- Troop 6041 made 22 pet adoption kits to a local no-kill animal shelter, which helped to save 22 cats' lives and get their new owners started on the right feet.
- Troop 3225 stuffed 100 backpacks filled with “comfort bags” for girls at a transitional home.
- Troops donated 10,204 lbs. of goods to local organizations for Feed Your Neighbor Service Month.
- Gold Award Girl Scouts contributed nearly 21,000 hours of community service for their projects.
- Feed Your Neighbor Service Squad sorted 35,797 lbs. of food at the LA Regional Food Bank (the equivalent of 29,711 meals).
- Girl Scouts joined Boy Scouts and other groups in honoring fallen military men and women by placing more than 88,000 flags at Los Angeles National Cemetery.
- GSGLA Girl Scouts donated more than 100,000 cookie boxes to Gift of Caring.



THERE IS POWER IN EVERY G.I.R.L.

Unleash it at Girl Scouts.

A Girl Scout is a **G.I.R.L.** (**Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader**)™

At Girl Scouts, girls *discover* who they are, where their talents lie, and what they care the most about. They *connect* with people in their communities. And they take *action* to change the world. Through our program, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, girls develop a **strong sense of self, display positive values**, and **seek challenges**. They learn from setbacks, form **healthy relationships**, and identify and **solve problems in their communities**—unleashing their inner G.I.R.L. every step of the way.

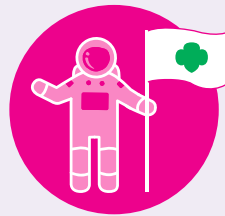
How does she find the power of G.I.R.L. in her?

Girl Scouts teaches girls to empower themselves by engaging in girl-led, collaborative, and hands-on experiences. Guided by supportive adults who help girls pursue their goals, girls participate in a variety of fun and challenging activities. Here, girls will:

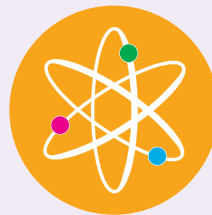
- Engage in healthy activities!
- Find her entrepreneurial spirit and learn financial literacy!
- Explore the great outdoors!
- Participate in hands-on STEM skill-building!
- Connect with girls around the world!
- Take on meaningful community service projects!

Did you know?

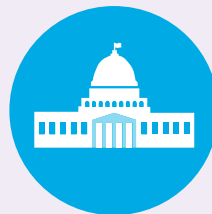
Girl Scouts are prepared for a lifetime of leadership.



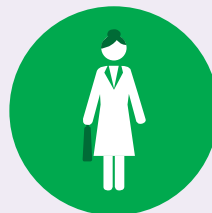
90%
OF ALL FEMALE
U.S. ASTRONAUTS



80%
OF ALL FEMALE
TECH LEADERS



76%
OF FEMALE
U.S. SENATORS



100%
OF FEMALE
U.S. SECRETARIES
OF STATE



gabbing with *girl scouts*



BEING A SISTER TO EVERY GIRL SCOUT

Remember when you were “the new girl”? Just in time for “back-to-troop” season (August–October), here are some tips and stories all about making new friends, as submitted by GSGLA’s own Girl Advisory Bureau (GAB).

FOUR WAYS TO WELCOME A NEW TROOP MEMBER

Being a new girl is tough. As Girl Scouts, it's important to give her the right impression. Breaking the ice and getting to know her is one of the first steps in welcoming her. Here are four ways to connect with a newcomer and make her feel part of the family.



By Gabriella W.,
Cadette Girl Scout

1 Talk about her interests

Talk about her interests, and ask how she thinks Girl Scouts will affect her life. Hopefully, your friendships with new troop members will go beyond Girl Scouts. Talk to your new troop member about her personal life, hobbies, pets, etc. You might have something in common, like a favorite sports team. When you can relate to your new friend, it'll make conversations easier. You can also tell her about all the great opportunities you've been given in Girl Scouts and how they've impacted your future choices.

2 Celebrate her with a special ceremony

Every girl is special and should be recognized for her talents and dreams. My troop created a "tunnel" by making two vertical lines, facing each other and raising our hands. The newest troop members then paraded through to the other side where they received a troop jacket, shirt, and patches. We wanted to show the girls that they were important to us, and that this transition from normal life to Girl Scout life would be amazing for them.

3 Include her in a planning meeting

Include her in a planning meeting for your next event. It's important your new troop member understands the ropes of planning something. Plus, she'll feel great about the contributions she made to the project. Adding ideas and creative perspectives will give her a taste of leadership.

4 Have her participate in a fun activity

Have her participate in a fun activity that encourages her to be herself around the troop. When a few new members joined my troop, we played Human Knot. Our girls were split into two groups, racing to untangle ourselves. This inspired group communication and exciting vibes. In the end, we were all laughing and hugging each other. The newcomers realized they could be themselves around the troop, no matter how crazy and fun that may be.



These tips have made my troop a family. Our four recently-added members were welcomed with warm hugs, a taste of responsibilities, and fun activities. Any mixture of these tips will certainly make your new troop member feel welcome!



more advice from GAB girls:

“Some girls can be a little shy, so you might have to keep the conversation going. You could talk about school, home, hobbies, and Girl Scouts of course! ... Share your past Girl Scout experiences with her. You can tell her about badges you have earned, places you have gone, or community service you have done. Sharing what you have learned in Girl Scouts will encourage her to participate in troop events throughout the year.”

-Olivia R., Cadette

“The easiest way to make a new girl feel welcome is to say hello. Although it may seem a simple gesture, to someone who is new it means the world. It means that someone wants to be there with them and wants to get to know them. You don't know anything about them and they are probably afraid to talk, so get the ball rolling by also asking questions. Ask them what school they go to, where they live, their favorite color.”

- Alexandria S., Senior

“Have a Welcome to Girl Scouts/Welcome Back to Girl Scout event! The girls can share their favorite thing or activity they have done as a Girl Scout and what they want to do this year. The event will be the perfect time to earn the Girl Scout Way badge and show new girls how your troop is awesome. You can also decorate troop T-shirts, play games, and bond with new sisters. At the end, the new girls get a certificate, welcoming them to your troop!”

-Brooklyn H., Junior

“Introduce her to the others, so she does not feel lonely. Ask her friendly questions and tell her positive things. For example, “What inspired you to become a Girl Scout?” or “I really like the dress that you're wearing. It makes you look pretty.” When we are doing activities, make sure to include her and let her enjoy herself. Finally, the most important thing, is to stand up for her. If someone is bullying your new sister Girl Scout, calling her names, or laughing at her, tell them to stop doing it and tell an adult.”

-Camilla C., Junior



Being the “New Girl”



By Kelia L., Ambassador Girl Scout

When I joined my Senior troop, I was the only one in my grade. Although several girls from my Cadette troop had bridged in before me, I was nervous knowing that 21 of them had a whole year to bond together while I was entering so alone and new. The girls were warm and welcoming but a little overwhelming in their attempts to teach me first aid, lashing, and new songs all in the same meeting. That's when I met my Big Sister.

In my troop, every new girl is assigned an older sister, someone who will answer questions and make sure she's comfortable in our loud, fun troop. I simply never guessed I would get the best Big Sister possible.

Melanie laughed with me, studied for Tambu and GAM with me (two older-Girl Scout competitions), and taught girls how to kayak with me. Through all that, she always made sure I had a friend. It became a lot easier to understand the older girls' excitement about Girl Scout events like Wilderness Survival at Tambu or developing our younger girl badge workshops when my Big Sister was there. We even had a special tradition for only the two of us: On the way home from competition, we would always somehow snag a table in an overcrowded In-N-Out.

This year was the first year my Big Sister and I didn't get to share our small tradition. Because she was graduating she couldn't come to competition, but we did not miss out on our last chance to sit, eat, and talk together. In June we had our troop's Court of Awards, and my newly-graduated Big Sister bridged to a Girl Scout Adult.

I felt a deep sadness but also overwhelming happiness as I watched her and 16 other girls bridge. I will never forget the moment I first felt like one of them: I arrived to my third or fourth meeting when all the girls chimed in to welcome me, and all of me chimed in to form unique relationships with each girl in the three years we had together.

My Big Sister is a treasured role model to me. My only hope is that someday I, too, will have the opportunity to be an older sister to another girl and share those feelings of sisterhood and belonging.



Small gestures make a difference

“When joining Troop 12345, I didn't know what to expect. The troop has more than 100 Girl Scouts! That was crazy to wrap my head around. I walked through the heavy gym doors and found the room filled with so many girls, all with smiling faces. I was overwhelmed by how many people there were and, despite usually being a bold person, I felt lost. I walked around aimlessly and confused on where to go, but there was a girl who caught me by the arm and pulled me over to talk with her. She could tell I was new, and she introduced me to people and told me where to go. Now, I look forward to each Girl Scout meeting.”

—Sarah R., Senior

Using the Girl Scout Law as Your Guide

By Gabriella M., Brownie



Welcoming a new girl to my troop is always fun and exciting. When the new school year starts, one of my friends from school will be joining my troop. Instead of being just my friend from school, she will also be one of my Girl Scout sisters.

My troop meetings always start off with the girls in my troop reciting the Girl Scout Law after reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. My friend and new sister to my troop will not know the Girl Scout Law yet, but I will help her to learn what it means by showing her:

- ◆ I will be honest and fair by making sure I speak truthfully and take turns.
- ◆ I will be friendly and helpful by introducing her to the other girls in my troop and showing her what we do at our meetings.
- ◆ I will be considerate and caring by making sure she does not feel left out.
- ◆ I will be courageous and strong by not being afraid to speak up if I see another member in my troop not treating her well.
- ◆ I will also be responsible for what I say and do, and I will be respectful to her and my troop leaders.
- ◆ I will show her how to use resources wisely by not wasting snacks or supplies.
- ◆ I will show her that she is my Girl Scout sister.



STEM SISTERHOOD— IT'S ABOUT TEAMWORK!

By Elizabeth L., Cadette



Are you a little competitive? Like to be creative, work as a team, and have fun? Well, I do! Now, imagine combining that with a favorite childhood toy—LEGOs—and a little (maybe a lot) of STEM magic, and then you have a great picture of my experience on First LEGO League's (FLL) Girl Scout Troop 7352 - Master Buildettes team!

Girl Scouts is a big supporter of FLL (for Juniors and Cadettes) and for good reason. Each year, FLL creates a challenge that relates to real-world problems. Using LEGO Mindstorms, teams design, build, and program LEGO robots that compete to accomplish missions on a playing field. Teams are also given a separate project that requires using the scientific method to create solutions. To foster team-building skills, the program's established Core Values serve as the foundation for the entire program to make sure that everyone participates, learns, and most importantly, feels part of the team.

In our first year competing in FLL, we had to learn a lot and it was all pretty overwhelming. But, with help from local GSGLA staff and FLL, we made it through a mock competition and learned quite a bit. We had a simple robot and our team worked really hard to make it work. We were passionate and had no problems with upholding the Core Values. Even though we didn't qualify for regionals, we learned a lot and decided we would compete again the following year.

We made some big improvements in our second year. We figured out what our robot would and wouldn't do well, and completely rebuilt its design. In our local competition, we actually won first place in robot design and scored enough points to move on to the regional competition. Though we came in second to last at the regional competition, once again, our team was convinced we could do better and committed to compete again!

Our third year was by far the best. We had some tough competition, but took first place in Core Values and second place for our project! Once again, we moved on to the regional competition and came in 7th out of more than 45 other teams in the robot competition! Not only did we have fun, but we really did our best work and showed the value of our Girl Scouts background in competition.

This next year will be the last year my team, the Master Buildettes, can compete in FLL, and I'm so excited. We have a really strong team assembled for this year and two of us will be three-year returning veterans. I am so proud of our accomplishments and I owe a lot of that to Girl Scouts for this opportunity—plus, I'm thankful to my dad for being the team coach and my mom for being a mentor. I encourage all Girl Scouts to get involved. Visit girlscoutsla.org for more information.



Thanks to member and donor support, GSGLA continues to move forward with the board-approved properties recommendations, ratified by GSGLA voting members in April 2015.

Here's the progress we've made since our last update in February 2017:

- Upland Service Center is currently under construction, with an estimated completion and move from Montclair Service Center at the end of the year.
- Preliminary designs have been prepared for the new property in Inglewood, which is to be called GSGLA Leadership Center.
- A new property has been secured to replace and relocate the Santa Clarita Service Center in the fall.
- The restoration of the pool at Camp Lakota is complete and operational, thanks to the generous funding received from the Don & Lorraine Freeberg Foundation. The Bill Mingus Ropes Course, featuring high and low ropes courses, is also complete, and a dedication ceremony with the Mingus family and donors took place on July 8, 2017. A master plan, including a new dining hall and cabins, is being developed and the camp is estimated to be complete in 2020.
- At Camp Osito Rancho, many new capital improvements are either complete or in the works, including a new science pavilion, pond enlargement with island, new Manzanita cabins, Big Tree tent platform refurbishments, and updated dining hall bathrooms.
- The La Casita Program Center has had new features added this year, including an archery range and high-ropes course. Long-term plans are now being developed to align additional features and amenities with programmatic outdoor opportunities for girls.
- A new roof was installed on both buildings at Johnstone Program Center.
- Marine Landing Program Center has been improved with new fencing, paving, vinyl flooring, and kitchen upgrades.
- The Long Beach Service Center now has new fencing, lighting, and an automatic gate.

This progress means greater opportunities to empower and encourage more girls in a myriad of ways. Thank you to everyone who has participated in this process—including those involved in the three-year analysis, data collection, and member feedback regarding the future of our camps and program centers. For more information, email propertyplanning@girlscoutsla.org.



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ADULT TRAININGS



CAMPING SKILLS TRAINING SCHEDULE

Visit the event calendar at girlscoutsla.org for details and to register for the following in-person camping skills trainings. Dates are subject to change.

SEPTEMBER

9/9 Saturday | **Camping Skills @ Anderson Scout House, Redondo Beach**

9/16 Saturday | **Camping Skills @ Camp Lakota, Frazier Park**

OCTOBER

10/14-10/15 Saturday–Sunday | **Indoor Overnight & Camping Skills @ El Ranchito, Long Beach**

10/21-10/22 Saturday–Sunday | **Indoor Overnight & Camping Skills @ La Casita, Claremont**

NOVEMBER

11/4-11/5 Saturday–Sunday | **Indoor Overnight & Camping Skills @ Camp Mariposa, Altadena**

DECEMBER

12/2 Saturday | **Camping Skills @ El Ranchito, Long Beach**

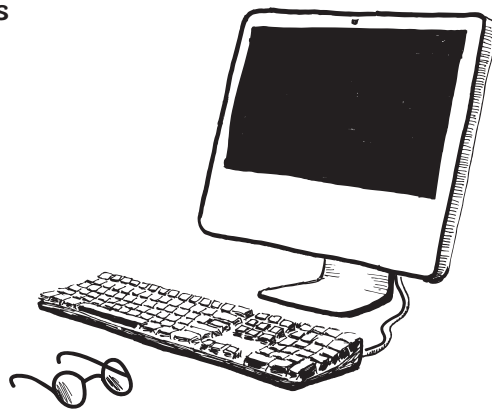
12/9 Saturday | **Camping Skills @ Anderson Scout House, Redondo Beach**

GSGLA Training Website—do it yourself online

In addition to live webinars or face-to-face trainings, volunteers have the option to take part in online trainings via our online training website at GSGLAOnlineTraining.org. Find training and resources based on your volunteer role—e.g., Daisy troop leader, troop treasurer, service unit manager, etc. You are also able to track the trainings you have completed and earn virtual badges. Learn about Girl Scouting at every level, in your home or on the go!

Check out some of our newest courses!

- Money Matters
- Service Unit Team Intro
- Service Unit Communication Coordinator
- Service Unit Public Relations Facilitator



LEADER SKILL BUILDERS

Visit the event calendar at girlscoutsla.org for details and to register for in-person Leader Skill Builders, which take place at every service center in October, December, and March. At these workshops, a volunteer mentor leads a specific focus and answers questions about troop leadership.



**LET'S
CHAT**

LET'S CHAT WEBINARS

Let's Chat Webinars are topic-specific and will be hosted in November, February, and April. The interactive webinars cover a range of topics and are recorded for viewing at a later date. All webinar dates are listed in the troop level newsletters and are included on the events list and calendar at girlscoutsla.org. For more information, email support@girlscoutsla.org

MyGS Member Community & Volunteer Toolkit: Live Aug. 1!



Girl Scouts is investing in shared tools and technology that will improve the volunteer and girl experience. From joining and getting oriented, to managing a troop and renewing membership—becoming a member and being a volunteer will be easier, more manageable, and more enjoyable. **Are you ready for MyGS?**

Preparing for Launch:

- 1. Keep your eyes peeled for an important email arriving in your inbox before Aug. 1!** This email from gsusacustomer@girlscouts.org will include your unique log-in and password for the Member Community (where you can manage your membership and renewals) and also grants you access to the must-have, free Volunteer Toolkit.
- 2. Using your new unique log-in information, log in to the Member Community (MyGS tab) to verify that all of your account information is correct**—this includes troop leaders, who must verify that their troop information is correct. Need to correct something? Contact Customer Care: 213-213-0123 or customer@girlscouts.org.
- 3. Renew your membership by mid-September 2017.** After "Go Live" on Aug. 1, if you haven't already done so, make sure to renew your membership in our new Member Community (MyGS tab).

*Note: eBiz will still be used for program/events registration.



The Volunteer Toolkit: Your Digital Troop Assistant!

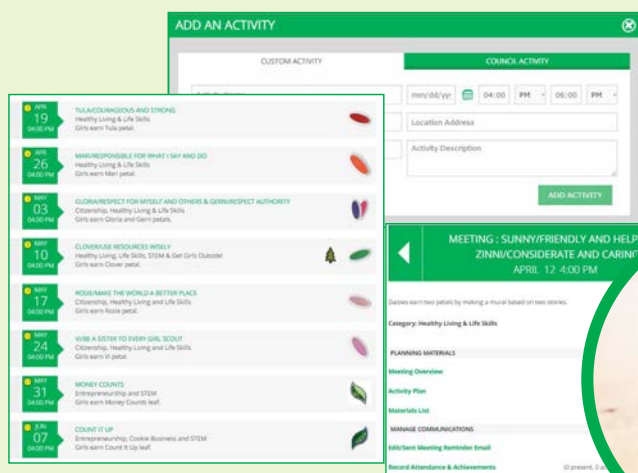
The free Volunteer Toolkit (VTK) gives troop leaders program content and other resources to manage your troop planning all year long—and keep it going smoothly!

You can:

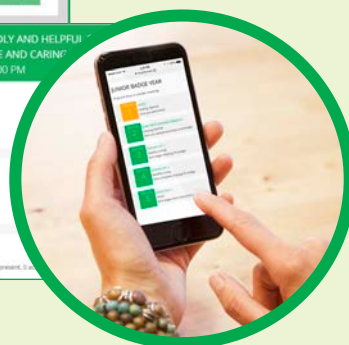
- Access Journey and petal and badge troop meeting plans
- See step-by-step activity guides for each troop meeting
- View and edit your troop roster
- Manage renewals for both girls and adults
- Email parents with a single click
- Share troop meeting activities with parents
- Record troop finances and girls' meeting attendance
- Log girls' petal/badge and Journey achievements
- Add events and your own troop activities



The Volunteer Toolkit now offers multi-level troop access—and coming Aug. 1, 2017, all-new program content for STEM and Outdoors, plus Welcome to the Daisy Flower Garden!



Fully customizable, the Volunteer Toolkit is digitally responsive so you can plan and prepare practically anywhere.



What troop leaders are saying:

“I like that there are **meeting plans and schedules to follow**. I also like being able to **keep track of the patches my girls earn**. The **‘my troop’ feature that allows me to email all of the parents at once is great, too—I use that a lot.**”

**WANT TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE VOLUNTEER TOOLKIT?
SIGN IN AFTER AUG. 1 AT WWW.GIRLSCOUTSLA.ORG, CLICK MY GS AND CHECK IT OUT!**

The Volunteer Toolkit contains program and meeting plans for K-5 (Daisy, Brownie, Junior and K-5 multi-level). Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador troops have access to features including the troop roster, troop finances, national resources, and all K-5 program content (if needed for working with younger troops).

A young girl with long dark hair, wearing a bright blue jacket, is smiling and painting a red stripe on a metal pole. In the background, another person in a blue jacket is visible, and the setting appears to be outdoors with greenery and a brick wall.

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GIRLS' CHOICE BADGES

FOR TROOP CAMPING

ARE HERE!

Troop Camping is the third outdoor experience theme in the Girls' Choice series. It's the first time a Daisy badge was a part of Girls' Choice.

- Buddy Camper (Daisy)
- Cabin Camper (Brownie)
- Eco Camper (Junior)
- Primitive Camper (Cadette)
- Adventure Camper (Senior)
- Survival Camper (Ambassador)

Badge requirements for each will all be available in our GSGLA stores in July.

girlscoutsla.org/shop



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