

A PUBLICATION OF GIRL SCOUTS OF GREATER LOS ANGELES

# YES, WE ARE



*Stronger  
Together*

✦ POWERED BY GIRL SCOUTS

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## YES, WE ARE



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Dear Girl Scouts, Families, and Friends,

We are very excited to bring you the inaugural edition of *Yes, We Are*—GSGLA’s newest publication about the positive impact our Movement and our Girl Scouts are making on the diverse communities of Greater Los Angeles and beyond. As members of the preeminent leadership organization for girls, Girl Scouts truly learn what it means to make a difference, while cultivating the values of a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader) and becoming their best selves.

That’s because Girl Scouts empowers girls to change the world, stemming from our long-standing tradition of progressive values. Over the last century, Girl Scouts has stood for inclusivity—a testament to our founder, Juliette Gordon “Daisy” Low, who envisioned an organization where all girls, no matter their race, ethnicity, ability, or income, had a safe place to grow and develop their leadership skills. Today, our girls uphold Daisy’s ideals, connecting with girls across class, cultural, and ethnic boundaries in pursuit of shared experiences and community-building.

While pushing the national conversation on important topics, our Girl Scouts also challenge themselves to learn more about the world, take risks, and ultimately become better citizens. Through our programs, Girl Scouts become stewards of the environment, champions of STE(A)M, and advocates of various causes close to their hearts. They motivate each other to new heights—literally and figuratively—while showing empathy, positivity, and kindness. As an organization, Girl Scouts prepares girls for a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success. Their journey begins here.

We hope you enjoy our girls’ stories of finding their passions and purpose and for many, a second home with their sister Girl Scouts. At GSGLA, we aspire to unlock the power and world-changing potential in every girl. “Yes, We Are” Girl Scouts; and we’re making the world a better place by building girls of courage, confidence, and character. The evidence is right here.

Yours in Girl Scouting,



Lise L. Luttgens  
Chief Executive Officer





**STRONGER  
TOGETHER**



“

**In Girl Scouts, I feel empowered to do what I love and to lead in what I believe, because I am surrounded by girls that appreciate one another. We encourage our sisters to keep on learning and exploring their inner talents.”**

Discussions on gender bias, sexism, self-esteem, and body confidence are at the forefront of a plethora of news stories, political debates, public exchanges, and dinner table conversations. Whether assessing the commentary of disgraced broadcasters, C-Suite and Hollywood executives, government officials and others in high-ranking leadership positions, or the slew of women’s rights advocates and media pundits holding those accused of bad behavior accountable for their actions, we consider how all of this affects children—particularly women and girls.

Since 1912, Girl Scouts has served as the preeminent leadership development organization for girls, offering programs that provide members a chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure, and success. When a girl joins Girl Scouts, she is joining a network of more than 60 million girls and women of different ages, ethnicities, interests, and life stages. In today’s polarizing social climate, we provide girls with gender-specific opportunities to lead, learn, stretch, and grow.

“In Girl Scouts, I feel empowered to do what I love and to lead in what I believe, because I am surrounded by girls that appreciate one another,” said Cadette Girl Scout Katelyn R. from La Verne. “We encourage our sisters to keep on learning and exploring their inner talents.”

Girl Scouts is all about providing empowered sisterhood. Let’s face it. Most of a girl’s life is co-ed, but certain emotional perks are gleaned from the girl-inclusive, safe spaces offered by Girl Scouts. The organization fosters collaboration rather than competition, and promotes mutual support among girls. Members reach beyond their limits and bring valuable knowledge and skills to any environment, both now and in their futures.

“No other group tries to build you up as much as your Girl Scout sisters,” said Ambassador Girl Scout Kelia L. from Woodland Hills. “In encouraging me to follow my dreams, my troop acts as a support system, network of opportunity, and set of role models. Maintaining a group of friends through high school may seem like hard work, but the troop offered me a spot that has outlasted all other high-school friendships. They motivated me in ways that my friends, my basketball team, my fellow school bloggers, couldn’t.”

Girl Scout programs are carefully researched and time-tested. Most importantly, they are specific to girls—created with and for girls. Single-gender girl experiences allow girls to step up, speak up, and lead in an environment where their voices are welcome. This allows girls to understand that they, indeed, can have a seat at the table—especially the head of the table. Girl Scout experiences inspire confidence and a readiness to thrive in the real world.



Girl Scouts from After-School All-Stars Los Angeles camp overnight at El Ranchito.

# FROM THE CLASSROOM TO THE CAMPFIRE

*How Girl Scouts is partnering with organizations to broaden horizons.*

Girl Scouts prepares girls for a lifetime of leadership, and equips them with the values, strength, and drive to make a difference and succeed. At GSGLA, we believe every girl should have access to our one-of-a-kind experiences and skill-building activities. Our community partnership program enables us to reach more girls throughout Greater Los Angeles, who otherwise might not have the opportunity to benefit from the Girl Scout mission.

Through this program, GSGLA meets girls right where they are. We partner with community-based organizations

-serving underrepresented areas, and train and support staff in facilitating the Girl Scout Leadership Experience year-round, just as troops do. One of those organizations is After-School All-Stars Los Angeles (ASAS-LA), with whom we have worked for more than two years to serve hundreds of girls in some of LA's most at-risk communities, including South LA, Boyle Heights, East LA, Bell Gardens, and Panorama City.

This year, GSGLA offered ASAS-LA participants—84 girls—the chance to participate in an overnight outdoor adventure. For most of the girls, it was their first overnight camp

experience. While some shared that a camping opportunity had seemed far-fetched due to economics, others shared that they simply could not picture themselves away from home.

“We come from a very low-income, high-risk community, [and with Girl Scouts] the girls are able to experience opportunities that their parents couldn't otherwise afford or simply just don't know about,” said Fatima Acuna, an ASAS-LA staff member. “For us, it's been very impactful.”

At the camp, girls tackled team challenges, took on new experiences like archery, learned to make snacks

over the campfire, faced their fears by rock-wall climbing, and led the evening with camp songs and cheers. Plus, the cell-phone-free, all-girl camp experience provided a safe space for girls to be present, engaged, and empowered.

“Something that I learned about myself in Girl Scouts is that I could do way more things than I thought I could... If you really put your heart into it, you can do it,” said Dani, one of the elementary-school aged campers.

Prior to the overnight camp adventure, most of the girls in ASAS-LA had participated in Girl Scout activities related to creative arts, self-esteem building, and STE(A) M. Each curriculum-based program encourages girls to think beyond a book and paper—activities are hands-on and challenge girls to Discover themselves and the world around them, Connect with others and issues they care about, and Take Action to make the world a better place. This is the Girl Scout model for building confidence, developing resiliency, and instilling lifelong leadership qualities in girls.

“[In Girl Scouts], we learn new things about each other. We learn what we’re good at or what we’re not good

at. It’s all about giving it a try,” said Esmeralda, an elementary school student who participates in Girl Scouts through ASAS-LA. “And we help each other and trust in each other, too.”

“It’s just brought in a whole different dynamic group of girls,” said Veronica Pagan, ASAS-LA staff member. “With our afterschool program, we provide a variety of enrichment programs, but not every girl wants to be in cheer or sports or theater. They want to be with their friends, but they don’t quite know where they fit in, and Girl Scouts has provided them with a space for them to fit in and be who they are.”

***Something that I learned about myself in Girl Scouts is that I could do way more things than I thought I could...If you really put your heart into it, you can do it.***

We’re thrilled to continue our partnership with ASAS-LA, and to continue to bring camping experiences to even more girls through our community partnerships in 2019. For more information, call us at 213-213-0123.

To see a video from their weekend, visit our YouTube channel: [www.youtube.com/GirlScoutsLA](http://www.youtube.com/GirlScoutsLA)



## INCLUSIVE NETWORK

**FACT: GSGLA partners with 65 community-based, youth-serving organizations, providing the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to more than 7,000 girls at more than 300 sites (schools, community housing, and more).**

***What our community partners say about the impact of Girl Scouting on the youth they serve.***

**98%**

of girls grow in confidence and working together to test new ideas.

**96%**

of girls demonstrate positive behavior outside of the Girl Scout meetings after having participated in the program.

**90%**

of girls in these programs say it’s where they get to be themselves.

**88%**

of girls say they like working together with other girls to solve problems.



## GIRL SCOUTS TAKING ACTION TO LEAD POSITIVE CHANGE

Girl Scouts has a long history of spurring civic action in girls: from hosting “Speak Out” conferences to fight for racial equality in the '60s, to forming Troop Capitol Hill in the '90s to champion policy issues important to girls. Today, the G.I.R.L. Agenda is GSUSA's nonpartisan initiative to inspire, prepare, and mobilize girls to continue blazing trails. Inspiring girls to lead the change they want to see in the world, the Girl Scout Leadership Experience encourages girls to discover themselves and explore the world around them, to connect to their communities and causes that resonate with them, and to take action to make the world a better place.

Pinned to the top of the @BurbankPHAT Twitter is their bold G.I.R.L. Agenda declaration: “Hello! We are the Planetary Hazard Awareness Team (PHAT) and Girl Scout Troops 2406 and 1726 from Burbank. Our mission is to spread awareness about the problem of plastic pollution and support the foam ban in Burbank.”

Their tweets over the last three years show their dedication to their mission. From coastal cleanups and Climate Reality conferences with Al Gore to Ocean Heroes Bootcamp in New Orleans, numerous meetings

with Burbank City and Chamber officials, and even successful conversations with Congressman Adam Schiff and Senator Dianne Feinstein’s staff, among other mobilization efforts—these girls are true activists for their cause!

Made up of 12 passionate middle-school and high-school Girl Scouts from different troops, the group came together after they met in GSGLA’s robotics and rocketry programs. Troop 2406 Leader David Andrews calls their G.I.R.L. Agenda an extension of projects and council

activities they worked on throughout the years.

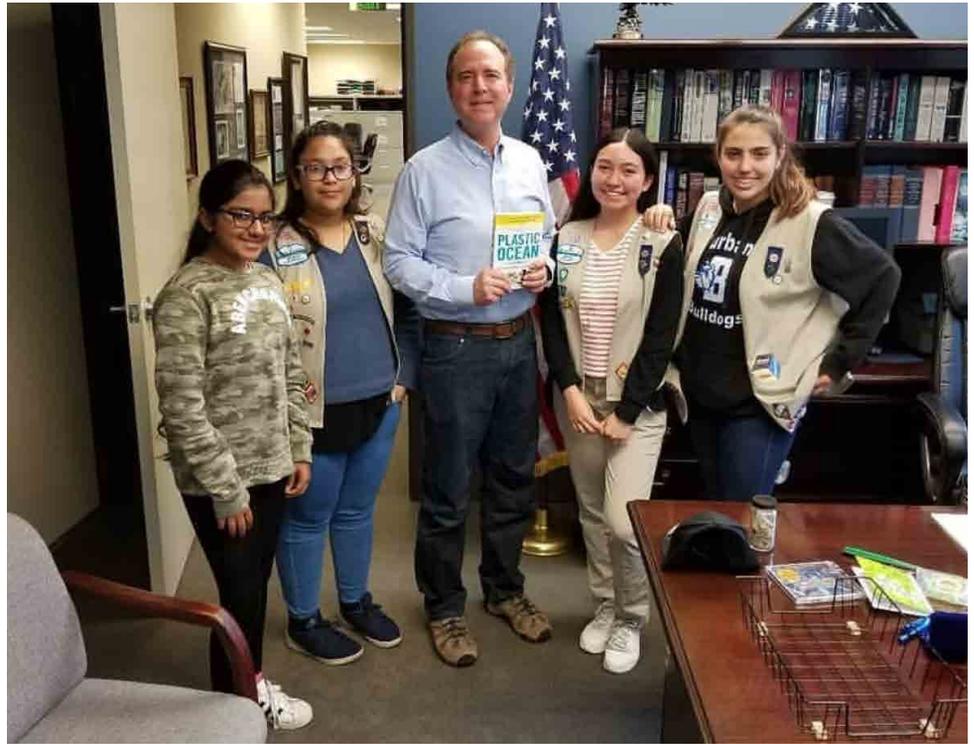
And their efforts are making headlines. Earlier this year, they were highlighted in *The Burbank Leader*, where they talked about how they sought out mentors fighting for the same cause and attended a plastic ocean pollution youth summit in Long Beach hosted by Algalita Marine Research Institute.

“A really important thing that our mentor told us was to start small—don't go straight for the government,”

Senior Girl Scout Kristen V. told the paper. "We need to start small, like with restaurants, and get them to start being plastic-free. They can be our trendsetters to help us move the whole campaign ahead."

These days the girls set up shop at their local farmer's market to educate community members and collect signatures to ban single-use polystyrene, or create fun videos promoting recycling. They have spoken at city council meetings and have listened to both sides of the issue—they explain that they do understand the challenges businesses may face if they are to eliminate polystyrene products.

"We want to make a change in our community so that we can show a good example to the younger kids and the next generation," said Ambassador Girl Scout Sarah A.



Girl Scouts of Troops 2406 and 1726 meet Rep. Adam Schiff.





Masha B., Reseda



Joy U., Redondo Beach

# youth HELPING YOUTH

Achieving the Girl Scout Gold Award, a national honor, is akin to graduating summa cum laude or earning a Ph.D. in Girl Scouting. The accolade is the Girl Scout's highest distinction, signifying the extraordinary leadership, innovation, planning, and development that select Senior and Ambassador Girl Scouts (grades 9-12) have poured into their respective community service projects. These large-scale ventures must showcase creativity, engage others, and make an indelible impact on its targeted community.

Only six percent of all eligible Girl Scouts attain the Gold Award, and remarkably, GSGLA continuously boasts the highest number of girls reaching Gold among 112 Girl Scout councils each year. In 2018, 291 girls in Greater Los Angeles County were awarded the prestigious award.

Two of these outstanding young women focused their Gold Award projects on children.

Masha B. of Reseda chose to bring attention to Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), a condition with

which she was born, in her project “It’s More Than Just a Drink.” She aimed to educate others on FASD, its impact, and prevention measures. To launch her project, Masha had to overcome her fear of telling friends of her condition. “I cared what people thought of me,” said Masha. “I had to trust other people not to make fun of, judge, or bully me.”

Fortunately, she pushed past her fears to successfully create a website, direct educational workshops, and develop informational brochures on the disorder for LAUSD high school health classes. Through this process, Masha learned a key life lesson—to keep moving forward regardless of challenges. “This Gold Award helped me grow as a person and as a leader and showed me how much I can achieve by being me,” said Masha.

Inspired by a passion for 3D printing stemming from her Girl Scout robotics team involvement, Joy U. of Redondo Beach set out to inform elementary students about STE(A)M with her Gold Award project. In 2016, Joy spotted a 3D printer at a Manhattan Beach elementary school that was simply collecting dust in a corner. She decided to salvage the item and began teaching fifth graders at Grand View and Pacific Elementary Schools how to prepare and 3D-print models. In addition, Joy created manuals for and trained technology-challenged teachers. Today, Joy’s manual is being used in the creation

of a “MakerSpace” curriculum at the school.

The development of Joy’s “Inspiring Interest in STE(A)M” project ultimately taught her to effectively communicate with principals, district teachers, professionals, and elementary students. “I learned how to explain technical concepts to fifth graders, [and] how to engage my young audience and keep them interested in their work,” said Joy.

Since 1916, Girl Scouts have developed Take Action projects to discover sustainable solutions to address the root cause of many societal issues. Gold Award projects are designed to inspire young women in identifying and investigating pivotal issues and take action to create change while educating and inspiring others throughout the process. Walking in the footsteps of Girl Scouts Gold recipients before them, Masha and Joy put forth their best and brightest Gold Award ideas and are saluted for their determination and achievement.

GSGLA will celebrate the 2019 Gold Award class at the Gold Gala 2019 on June 8 at Westfield Century City. This special event will welcome community and corporate supporters who champion the cause of girl leadership. For more information about the event, please contact us at [giving@girlscoutsla.org](mailto:giving@girlscoutsla.org).



Masha presenting to fellow Girl Scouts.



Joy teaching a kid about 3D printing.

## GOLD AWARD BY THE NUMBERS



# #1

GSGLA has the largest Gold Award class in the nation

# 291

girls earned the Gold Award in 2018



# THRIVING ON ADVENTURE

Let's face it: There are a lot of myths about the types of activities Girl Scouts do. One starts with the stereotype that Girl Scouts is like the pink toy aisle—all glitter and sparkle. The truth is, Girl Scouts has provided a time-tested, mold-breaking, stereotype-bashing, glass-ceiling-smashing leadership program for more than 105 years. And, all of it is created by experts for and with girls.

And if there is one thing Girl Scouts know, it's this: girls thrive on adventure.

At Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles, girls have all kinds of opportunities for adventure. They can master archery, paddle-boarding, backpacking, rock-climbing, navigating high-ropes courses, kayaking, zip-lining, horseback riding, wilderness survival, fire-building, knife skills, orienteering, and so much more.

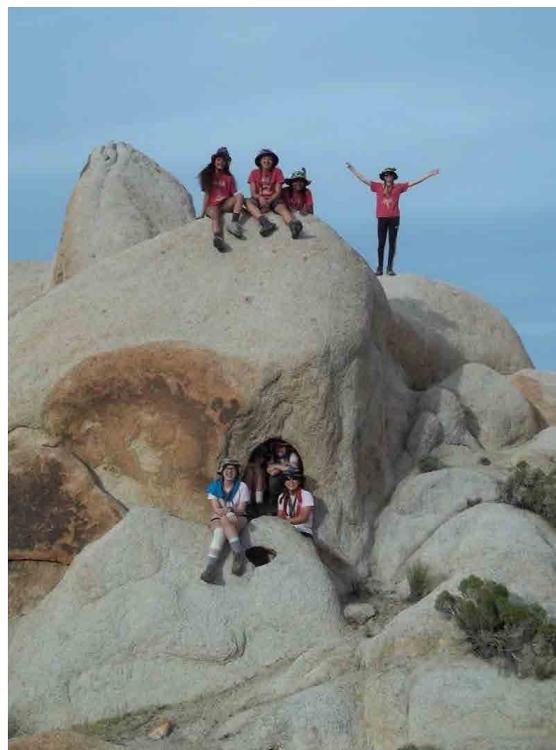
Girls can choose to do these things either with their troop (GSGLA provides training, badge curriculum, and safety education), or through council-delivered programs that welcome troops or individual Girl Scouts.

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## Primitive camping in the Mojave Desert

“I’ve gone to the Mojave Primitive Encampment (MPE), led by Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles volunteers, for the past two years. You camp in the Mojave Desert for five days and they’re not kidding about the primitive part. Outdoor cooking, rock climbing, rappelling, hiking, campfires, skills contests, songs, and skits are some of the amazing things I got to do. But the key is you have to make the cut. MPE requires you to go to workshops and an overnight tryout. You learn how to set up a tent, employ first-aid, use a compass, build a fire, and use knots and lashing to build a frame and table. Basically, all the things I didn’t know how to do. Was I a) nervous, b) scared, or c) excited? All of the above. But, I practiced the skills and kept telling myself I could do this. My goal was to get to Mojave. It wasn’t easy, but it paid off: I was chosen. I’m proud that I did something new and didn’t let my fear of going it alone stop me. At MPE, they tell you that your attitude is just as important as knowing skills. Being a go-getter doesn’t mean that you always have it under control and know everything. It means you have a goal, put the work toward it, and have a good outlook.”

–Sydney E., Senior Girl Scout, Sunland



## Scaling mountains from California to Alaska

“When I joined Girl Scouts I didn’t think that I would ever climb to the top of mountains, go kayaking through sea caves, or see the total eclipse! I feel so lucky and privileged to be a part of this wonderful troop. When we realized how amazing just one easy hike could be, we expanded our horizons, traveling to more distant places like Mammoth. After that, we had a thirst for thrill and adventure. We hiked Mount Washburn, and saw bison, elk, a bear, and wolves. We took another camping and hiking trip to Oregon and Northern California, specifically Crater Lake and Lassen Volcanic Park, where we climbed Lassen Peak. While on this trip, we were inspired to take it to the next level and visit the most adventurous place we could imagine: Alaska! We started planning the trip while we were driving home, researching the best national parks and most amazing places to visit. We knew this would be expensive, but we were motivated. We sold many boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to eventually earn enough money to make it to Alaska this year. [Denali National Park and Kenai Fjords National Park were] the most magnificent places we had ever laid our eyes on.”

–Nathalie V., Cadette Girl Scout, Long Beach



# NEW BADGES BRIDGE THE STE(A)M GAP

As Director of Program & Community Engagement at Girls Scouts of Greater Los Angeles (GSGLA), I get to work with a team of amazing women developing high-impact girl programs. Programs range from developing a start-up business over the course of a weekend to going to the United Nations as a girl delegate to learn about gender inequality. What I appreciate most about our programs is the opportunities we create for girls who would have never been afforded them otherwise.

A recent *Forbes* article highlighted a study by Stanford University indicating that women in quantitative fields may feel diminished confidence in their abilities due to their perception of their abilities—which are influenced by societal factors—rather than their innate abilities. We know women are underrepresented in STE(A)M fields at only approximately 25 percent of the workforce. In an effort to combat these statistics, Girl Scouts of the USA has rolled out 30 new STE(A)M badges.



By Anne Marie Hand  
Director of Program  
& Community  
Engagement,  
GSGLA

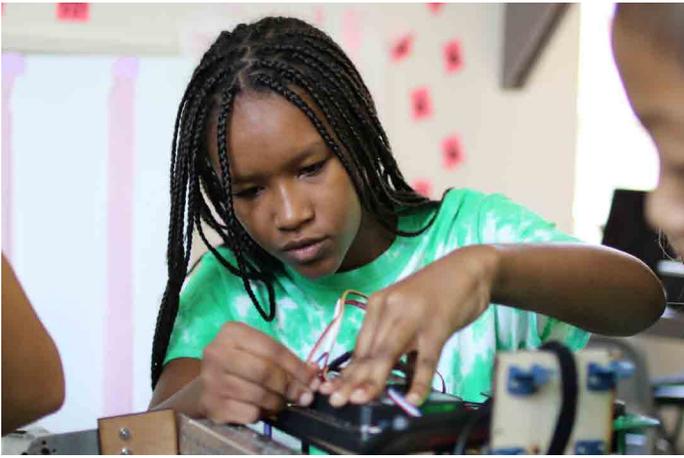
Our GSGLA team will bring educational opportunities to life through GSGLA partnerships with female STE(A)M professionals. Our areas of focus this year include **Mechanical Engineering**, **Cybersecurity**, and **Think Like a Programmer** badges - all of which have sold out programs! From designing/building robots, to becoming an effective environmental advocate, planning for the future, and more, these badges help girls unleash inner strengths so they can explore their personal talents.



## Younger Girls

Girl Scouts in grades K-5 who love all things space-related can earn the **Space Science**

badge while channeling their inner NASA scientist and learning about space objects and how astronomers conduct investigations. Girls in grades 4-5 can earn the **Mechanical Engineering** badge by designing paddle boats, cranes, and balloon-powered cars while learning about buoyancy, potential and kinetic energy, machines, and jet propulsion.



Girl Scouts learn how to build robots and rockets at our STE(A)M programs.

### Older Girls

Young women who are ready for college exploration can now earn a badge in **College Knowledge**. Girls in grades 11-12 research the admissions process, learn about financial aid, and more. This badge fulfills a highly requested need for those with higher education aspirations and provides Girl Scouts with support and information.



### Something for Everyone

K-12 girls are getting introduced to

**Cybersecurity** through a series of badges that introduce age-appropriate online safety and privacy principles, how the internet works, and how to spot and investigate cybercrime. There is a **Robotics** series, where girls practice hands-on programming and design. Finally, our **Environmental Stewardship** series, prepares girls to be environmental advocates who address problems, find solutions, and protect the natural world.

### Girl Scouts of Greater LA Council-delivered Programs

A lack of exposure to female role models and STE(A)M pathways contributes to girls opting out of STE(A)M fields, which is why GSGLA has provided opportunities for girls to hear from and work on projects with women in the field and bring these new badges to life.

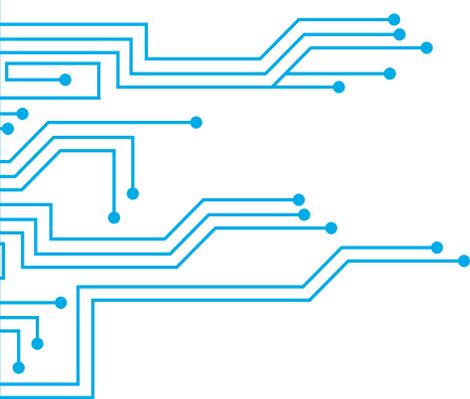
We are excited in particular about our Astronomy Club, robotics teams,

and rocketry challenges. In addition, Palo Alto Networks has been a tremendous partner in Cybersecurity programs, and Cal Poly Pomona University brought an Engineering Day to life for hundreds of Girl Scouts.

### Partner with Us

GSGLA STE(A)M programs aim to increase the organization's overall impact by educating girls and elevating their interest in STE(A)M careers, while also exposing girls to STE(A)M professionals. These combined factors help boost girls' confidence in their STE(A)M-related abilities. As part of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience (GSLE), which focuses on girl-led, cooperative learning and learning by doing, girls will learn more about STE(A)M in a safe, non-competitive environment where they are encouraged to lead.

GSGLA could not provide these opportunities to our local Girl Scouts without the support of our Industry Alliance partners. We bring companies together from similar fields to create and sponsor an extended series of experiences that support and educate girls. Interested in preparing and equipping future leaders? Please visit [girlscoutsla.org/partnerships](https://www.girlscoutsla.org/partnerships), or contact [giving@girlscoutsla.org](mailto:giving@girlscoutsla.org) for more information on how your company can partner with us. For more information on STE(A)M badges, please visit our website.



# A YEAR OF EXPANSION

## INGLEWOOD SERVICE CENTER

**Service Center & Store open December 2018  
Innovation Center Capital project culminates in 2020**

Currently there are more than 8,300 Girl Scouts and 4,500 volunteers in Inglewood—14,600 in our council's surrounding region previously served by our Marina del Rey Service Center. Our new Inglewood Center will not only be a support hub for those existing members, it will also open a door (literally) to new members—girls and families who may not have considered Girl Scouts an option before. Attached to the service center and Girl Scout store is the space for an all-new Innovation Center, a versatile program environment, integrating technology in activities with STE(A)M, entrepreneurship, and life skills. Girls will have access to a master classroom equipped with relevant technology, a multi-media studio for exploring the arts, and a food science lab for developing healthy lifestyles.



## UPLAND SERVICE CENTER & GIRL SCOUT STORE

In January we moved the Southeast service center and store from Montclair to Upland into a newly renovated 13,000-square-foot multi-use facility, with a more open floorplan, spacious volunteer meeting rooms, wonderful outdoor space, a gorgeous retail store, ample parking, a large warehouse for storage, and the Heritage Committee display space (historical Girl Scout items and archives are shared for everyone to see and appreciate).



We know every girl has the potential to lead with courage, confidence, and character—we just have to give her the experiences, connections, and spaces to make it happen.

To continue providing high-impact programs while reaching more girls in Greater Los Angeles, GSGLA embarked on a year of expansion in 2018. In 2019, we invite our supporters to invest, imagine, and inspire LA's girls as they prepare for a lifetime of leadership through Girl Scouting. Learn more about ways to get involved at [girlscoutsla.org/capitalcampaign](https://girlscoutsla.org/capitalcampaign)

Renderings courtesy of Perkins+Will



## CAMP LAKOTA - FRAZIER PARK

### Open for Summer Camp – 2020

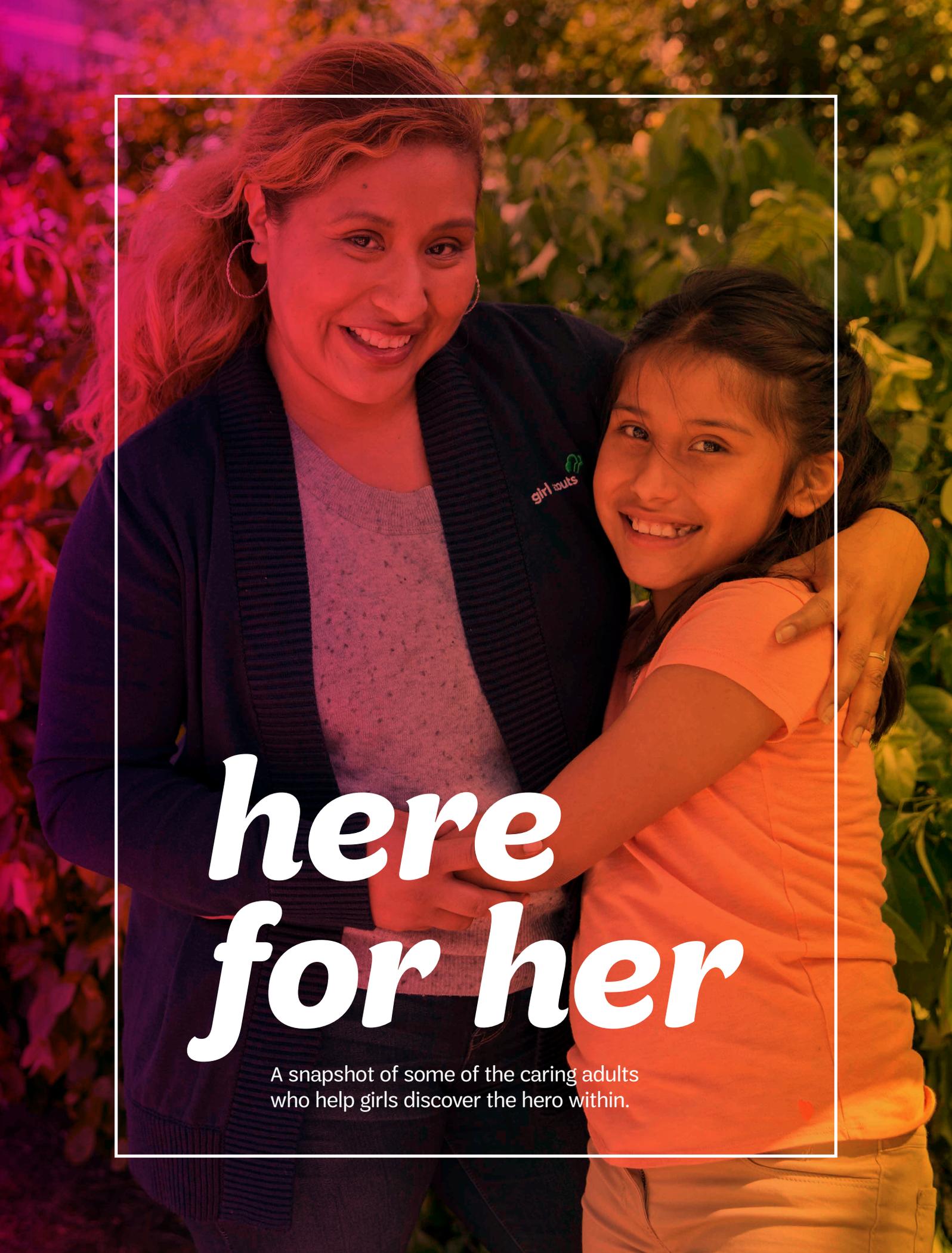
Purchased in 1965, Camp Lakota occupies 57 beautiful acres in Frazier Park adjacent to national forest land. For decades, it has served as a beloved primitive camping spot for thousands of Girl Scouts. In 2010, the camp's dining hall burned down, resulting in a drastic reduction of property use. GSGLA took this moment as an opportunity to pause, listen to membership, assess the current landscape of camp experiences, and plan for future use of this land. In 2016, private donors funded the renovation of our pool and the build-out of a new low- and high-ropes course. By the summer of 2020, Camp Lakota will feature modern cabins in a rustic setting, a 9,000-square-foot dining hall, and access to our new features including archery and an equestrian program. Camp Lakota will help thousands of GSGLA girls get out of the city and into an immersive outdoor experience for generations to come.



## SANTA CLARITA SERVICE CENTER

The Santa Clarita Service Center relocated to its newly renovated building last spring. The 3,600-square-foot space serves as a multi-use center for volunteers and staff, a cookie cupboard, and ample parking. Additionally, a large community park will open across the street and provide amazing outdoor opportunities.





# *here for her*

A snapshot of some of the caring adults  
who help girls discover the hero within.

# Ashley Abdalla & Kristen Ballew

YES, WE ARE...ADVOCATES FOR GIRLS!



Ashley: Registered nurse (R)  
Kristen: Human resources business partner (L)

## Why they give to GSGLA:

**Ashley:** With Girl Scouts, you can try something you've never thought of doing, maybe fall in love with it, and not be judged. I love to support an organization that focuses on our future leaders—it's the right thing to do, period!

**Kristen:** It's important for girls to have a place where they feel free to be themselves. A safe place to grow and ask questions.

## Favorite Girl Scout activity:

**Ashley:** I love teaching our girls traditional Girl Scout ceremonies, how important they are, why they should be done every year.

**Kristen:** Camping! However, I'm very excited to see all of the STE(A)M activities and new badges coming out! Those are quickly becoming my favorite.

## Best part of being involved in Girl Scouts:

**Ashley:** Watching girls from totally different backgrounds enjoy exploring activities and discovering themselves as they give back to their communities.

**Kristen:** There are girls in my troop who, a few years ago, were too scared to speak in front of each other. Now, they are actively involved in drama, dance, and taking center stage. They also refer to each other as "Girl Scout sisters."

## Why others should support Girl Scouts:

**Ashley:** It takes a village to raise a girl in a large city like LA! GSGLA gives my family that opportunity to have that village. Every girl should get to experience different settings.

**Kristen:** GSGLA gives girls from every walk of life the opportunity to explore the world around them and gain exposure to camping, learning new skills, volunteer opportunities, travel—the list goes on and on.

“

***GSGLA gives girls from every walk of life the opportunity to explore the world around them and gain exposure to camping, learning new skills, volunteer opportunities, travel—the list goes on and on.”***

# Elyssa Taylor-Stewart

Academic Director, Long Beach Unified School District  
WRAP Expanded Learning Program (Winners Reaching  
Amazing Potential)

## **The Long Beach Unified School District WRAP:**

Provides high quality expanded learning opportunities for all students by providing diverse and quality programming that supports the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of students.

## **The Girl Scout program for WRAP students has:**

Strengthened the girls' self-esteem, built their self-confidence, and given them an opportunity to build meaningful relationships with other girls.

## **All-girl, safe spaces matter because:**

Girls have unique needs and concerns in the #MeToo era. Giving young girls a safe space to have a voice and be supported unconditionally helps them become more self-aware and self-accepting, increases empathy and understanding for others, and fosters an overall sense of well-being and acceptance. Conversation and education are powerful tools for change!

## **Favorite Girl Scout activity with this partnership:**

WRAP site directors have shared many positive stories about activities their Girl Scouts have participated in. One that comes to mind is the Camporee Day! I was able to observe the fun and excitement the girls experienced as they participated in each of the events. Archery seemed to be one of their favorites!

## **Partnering with Girl Scouts is a “no brainer” because:**

Girl Scouts had a major impact on my life as a girl—it helped me develop a strong sense of self, develop a strong moral base, and build healthy relationships with other girls in my community. Every girl should have an opportunity to be a Girl Scout, and I am so glad our girls in the WRAP Program have this awesome opportunity!



**YES, I AM...A CONFIDENT  
WOMAN OF COLOR  
DEDICATING MY LIFE TO  
SUPPORTING THE WELL-  
BEING OF ALL CHILDREN!**

“

**Giving young girls a safe space...helps them become more self-aware and self-accepting, increases empathy and understanding for others, and fosters an overall sense of well-being and acceptance.**

ELYSSA TAYLOR-STEWART

”



# KEEPING THE GIRL IN G.I.R.L. FUND



By Adriana Lopez  
*Engagement and  
Stewardship Specialist,  
GSGLA*

A year and a half ago, I was lucky enough to join Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles’ fund development team. One project I have had the privilege of working on from inception to implementation is our new giving program, the G.I.R.L. Fund.

The G.I.R.L. Fund (formerly Family Partnership) is an opportunity to remind our community that girls are at the center of philanthropy at GSGLA. Every time we receive a gift to the G.I.R.L. Fund, the girl is the one who wins. I like to call myself the first G.I.R.L. Fund Champion, and as such, I get a ton of questions when I am at volunteer meetings or girl events, like:

**Why is the G.I.R.L. Fund important?** Supporting extraordinary Girl Scouts takes financial resources. Whether that means providing high impact programmatic experiences, underwriting troop expenses, or supporting volunteers—all of these directly impact the girl and her Girl Scout Leadership Experience. We work hard to eliminate financial barriers to all families and we simply would not be able to do that without gifts to the G.I.R.L. Fund.

**What is the coolest thing about the G.I.R.L. Fund?** Hands down my favorite thing about the G.I.R.L. Fund is that donors can designate where their dollars get allocated. There are many

incredible areas at GSGLA that need support, like outdoor experiences, STE(A)M programs, or financial assistance for girls in underserved communities. Donors get to choose, and that's awesome.

**How are we spreading the word about the G.I.R.L. Fund?** We are building a network of volunteers (G.I.R.L. Fund Champions) who believe in the power of giving back to Girl Scouts. G.I.R.L. Fund Champions are excited to raise awareness about and become strong advocates for the G.I.R.L. Fund! G.I.R.L. Fund Champions work with me to encourage our community to give back.

**What is next for the G.I.R.L. Fund?** We are launching Give for the G.I.R.L. (Nov. 27), a day of giving dedicated to funding 20 new Girl Scout troops in underserved communities across Greater Los Angeles. Every girl should have the opportunity to be a Girl Scout, which is why we're expanding GSGLA's impact to prepare girls to be tomorrow's fearless leaders and changemakers.



GSGLA volunteers at the G.I.R.L. Fund Kickoff.



We need your help to start 20 new troops (that's 240 girls) in underserved areas! Give for the G.I.R.L. on Nov. 27 at [girlscoutsla.org/GiveForTheGirl](https://girlscoutsla.org/GiveForTheGirl). Here are a few ways you can join me and champion for girls.

### GIVE

Donations will pay for a Girl Scout's basic need. Your generosity is invaluable to expanding Girl Scouts and reaching more girls. Donate today at [girlscoutsla.org/GiveForTheGirl](https://girlscoutsla.org/GiveForTheGirl)

### SHARE

Share on social media why you give back to GSGLA and invest in girls. Get creative and use #GiveForTheGirl in your posts. Don't forget to give a shout out and tag us!

### JOIN

Launch your own Give for the G.I.R.L. fundraising page alongside G.I.R.L. Fund Champions to start 20 new troops in underserved communities! Create your page at [girlscoutsla.org/GiveForTheGirl](https://girlscoutsla.org/GiveForTheGirl)

 [facebook.com/GSGLA](https://facebook.com/GSGLA)

 [@girlscoutsla](https://twitter.com/girlscoutsla)

 [@girlscoutsla](https://instagram.com/girlscoutsla)

Questions? Email [giving@girlscoutsla.org](mailto:giving@girlscoutsla.org) or call GSGLA Customer Care line at 213-213-0123.



# Save the Date!

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 27**

Every girl should have the opportunity to be a Girl Scout! That is why we're launching **Give for the G.I.R.L.**, a day of giving (Nov. 27) dedicated to raising funds to start 20 new troops in underserved communities across Greater Los Angeles. And we need your help!

## WAYS TO HELP

Give for the G.I.R.L. on Nov. 27! Donate at [girlscoutsla.org/giveforthegirl](http://girlscoutsla.org/giveforthegirl)

Raise for the G.I.R.L. by launching your own fundraiser to help start 20 new troops! Create your page at [girlscoutsla.org/GiveForTheGirl](http://girlscoutsla.org/GiveForTheGirl)

Learn more and donate at [girlscoutsla.org/GiveForTheGirl](http://girlscoutsla.org/GiveForTheGirl)