

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts: Both are called “Scouts.” So, what is the difference?

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are different organizations. We both build character and teach life skills and teamwork, and we do so in different ways. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts each have unique cultures and approaches to youth development and volunteer support.

There are a lot of myths about how Girl Scouts compares to Boy Scouts—starting with the stereotype that Girl Scouts is like the pink toy aisle—all glitter and sparkle. And, other myths are guided by an implicit—often unintentional—bias that the “girl version” of scouting is somehow “less than.”

Girl Scouts designs our programming based on research about how best to empower girls to lead, thrive, and gain skills. By being a girl-led, girl-only program, we encourage girls to discover who they are, free of the norms and rules imposed on them by media and society.

For more than 105 years, Girl Scouts has led the way in terms of helping girls develop confidence and leadership skills through research-backed, proven programs—created by experts *for* and *with* girls and awesome volunteers!

Inclusive Network	Girl Experts	Variety of Experiences
A network of more than 60 million girls and women of different interests, ethnicities, ages, and life stages	The Girl Scout Research Institute delivers data and original studies on the state of girls and the effect of Girl Scouts and its programs	Tons of activities for girls to practice leadership through life skills, the outdoors, entrepreneurship, and STEM
We provide an opportunity for every girl to feel a sense of belonging to community, to practice bravery , and to have pride in herself.		
We develop girls’ leadership outcomes through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience: a strong sense of self, positive values, challenge seeking, healthy relationships; and community problem-solving skills		

Common myths and the facts about Girl Scouts:

Myths	Facts about Girl Scouts
All "scouting" programs are basically the same	Not even close. At Girl Scouts, everything we do is designed with and for girls. - The all-girl, girl-led, space is where girls safely thrive. Our programs are tailored to maximize impact by teaching girls in ways they learn best. - The single-gender environment offered by Girl Scouts creates an inclusive, safe space in which girls are free to explore their potential, take healthy risks, and lead the way without the distractions or pressures that can be found in a co-ed environment.
Girl Scouts aren't about getting outdoors	So not true. Girl Scouts build outdoor skills, go camping, and appreciate nature. Girl Scouts can earn badges that focus on the outdoors. This list includes badges like Hiker, Outdoor Art Maker, Adventurer, and even the new Girls’ Choice troop camping badges voted on by girls: Cabin Camper, Buddy Camper, Survival Camper, Primitive Camper, Eco Camper, and Adventure Camper.

	GSGLA owns and operates 10 outdoor program centers and 2 mountain camps in Big Bear and Frazier Park.
Only Boy Scouts focus on programs for adventure	No way! Girl Scouts have all kinds of opportunities for adventure! - Girls choose from age-appropriate activities including: archery, paddle-boarding, backpacking, rock climbing, navigating high-ropes courses, kayaking, zip-lining, horse-back riding, wilderness survival, surfing, fire-building, knife skills, orienteering, and so much more. - In 2019, GSGLA is launching Great Adventure Days, a series of inclusive, impactful, and focused days of fun and challenge at our outdoor program centers. - Popular longstanding adventures at GSGLA include Gathering of All Mariners (a team-building water skills competition), TAMBU (an outdoors skills competition), Island of the Blue Dolphins (a unique camping and kayaking experience on the Channel Islands), and Mojave Primitive Encampment (high-desert camping in patrols), to name a few.
Girl Scouts don't do hard science	Have you seen our science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs? - Girls can earn badges in engineering, robotics, environmental science, cybersecurity, and space science. Girl Scout STEM curriculum and badge work is hands-on, problem-focused, and girl-led learning, not memorization. - And more are coming! The 2018–19 Girl Scout year will see the largest rollout of new badges and program content in nearly a decade—with a strong focus on the outdoors and STEM. - At GSGLA, girls can join one of our 41 robotics teams, form their own team, or attend council programs where they can build and launch rockets, learn earth science at Jet Propulsion Laboratory, design video games, join a girl-led astronomy club, and so much more.
Crafts are the only hands-on activity	Girl Scouts are makers. - If girls want to use a sewing machine, make jewelry, weld, change a tire, or build a play house for a children's shelter—they can! - Girls can learn these skills and put them to work in ambitious Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award projects. - Creativity is coupled with innovation at many of GSGLA's one-of-a-kind programs, including Startup Weekend, where girls are mentored by tech pros, building an app from pitch to product—and even leaving the event as IP owners!
The cookie sale is just about making money	Yes, Girl Scout cookies do create revenue, but the cookie program is about so much more! - As the world's largest girl-run business, the cookie program gives girls an opportunity to develop expertise in goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, business ethics, and more. - Girls earn badges connected to entrepreneurship, including Cookie CEO, Business Owner, Budgeting, Good Credit, P&L, Financing My Future, Philanthropist, and a whole lot more. - Thanks to cookie program experiences and earnings, Girl Scouts are able to make a plan and stick to it—whether it's budgeting for an East Coast college tour or organizing a beach cleanup.

Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award is less impressive than the Eagle Scout	The Gold Award requires completion of a rigorous project that prepares girls for a lifetime of taking action. • Gold Award Girl Scouts identify an issue in their community, develop a plan, lead teams to create a sustainable solution and practice planning, organization, and team building skills. • The Gold Award is impressive to colleges and universities, and the military. Gold Award Girl Scouts advance a full rank in the military, just like Eagle Scouts. • GSGLA consistently boasts the highest number of Gold Award Girl Scouts in the nation! This year, 291 girls in Greater LA have earned this incredible honor.
Troops are all the same	Girls help choose and plan troop activities which makes every troop unique. • Activities vary depending on the interests of girls and troop leaders. Most troops explore STEM, outdoors, life skills, and community service, and attend staff-led programs where they can explore their interest in sports, arts, STEM, entrepreneurship, outdoor adventure, camp, and more! • As girls gain confidence within their troop setting, they stretch beyond their troop and join a plethora of Girl Scout activities as individuals—pursuing their own individual passions through GSGLA staff-led or volunteer-led programs, clubs, and teams focused on things like high-adventure, travel, hiking, robotics, rocketry, color guard, or media relations and public speaking.
It's hard for families (especially dads) to get involved with Girl Scouts	Family participation is encouraged. • We encourage the entire family to get involved, and dads can volunteer in the same ways as moms, supporting as co-leaders of troops, cookie program chairs, and camp volunteers. • GSGLA offers many programs where the entire family is invited, just look for the FF (Family Friendly) icon next to our programs in our triannual <i>Greater</i> program guide.
Girl Scouts is more expensive	Girl Scouts is comparably affordable when it comes to activities for youth—and, girls don't have to choose one program: In Girl Scouts, they can try it all. • The cost to join as a Girl Scout member is \$25 annually; each troop also collects dues—which vary per troop. • GSGLA is committed to helping all girls participate in Girl Scouting, and financial assistance is available for membership, camp, and program opportunities in and beyond the troop activities. • Materials needed to complete badges and journeys are minimal, keeping the access of resources of all troops in mind. • GSGLA offers two great product programs (cookies/fall) that provide troops the opportunity to earn money that can be used to sustain the troop financially. • In low-income target communities, GSGLA helps troops get started until they can participate in product programs, in order to become self-sustaining.
The rest of the world embraces "co-ed" scouting	Girl-only scouting organizations are going strong. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS.org) represents 10 million girls in 150 countries. • The two largest scouting organizations are the World Organization of the Scout Movement, and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. It is not true that

	co-ed scouting has replaced Girl Guides (or Girl Scouts). They are merely different programs. Some co-ed scout programs are sectarian or require that members recognize an obligation to a specific faith. Girl Scouts is a non-partisan, non-sectarian group, with a strong policy of inclusion for all girls.
Girl Scouts is "harder" for volunteers	Girl Scouts is flexible, girl-led, and has a wide range of support for a wide variety of activities. - There are many planning resources and support available to volunteers such as the Volunteer Toolkit, activity plans, and troop mentors. - GSGLA has local staff support for every zip code in Greater LA, working at eight local offices. These staff host regular new leader orientations and trainings covering everything from troop meetings to troop travel. - GSGLA utilizes technology to streamline processes and reach volunteers regularly and in a timely manner, lending support via email communications, webinars, training modules, online booking of properties and meeting spaces, and a simple and streamlined volunteer onboarding process.