

The Girl Scout Difference

Do you know today's Girl Scouts?

Girl Scouts offers the best leadership development experience for girls in the world—one that is designed with, by and for girls.

Girl Scouts unleashes the **G.I.R.L.** (**Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader**) in every girl, preparing her for a lifetime of leadership. From protecting our national parks to accepting a mission on the International Space Station; from lobbying the city council with her troop to holding a seat in Congress; from running her own cookie business today to tackling cybersecurity tomorrow, Girl Scouts is the best-suited organization to offer girls unparalleled opportunities to learn 21st-century skills and empower themselves with the experiences they need to succeed in life.

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience is a **one-of-a-kind leadership development program for girls**, with proven results. It is based on **time-tested methods and research-backed programming** that helps girls take the lead—in their own lives and in the world.

The **inclusive, all-girl environment** of a Girl Scout troop creates a safe space where girls can try new things, develop a range of skills, take on leadership roles, and just be themselves. Research shows that girls want and thrive in an all-girl, girl-led and girl-friendly environment where she can practice different skills; explore her potential; take on leadership positions; and even feel allowed to fail, dust herself off, get up, and try again.

Girl Scouts takes the potential of girls, combines it with robust skill-building programming, and adds caring adult mentors and strong female role models.

Everything our program does centers around STEM, the outdoors, development of life skills and entrepreneurship, and is **designed to meet her where she is and to grow along with her.**

Whether she's building a robotic arm, coding her first app, building a shelter in the backcountry, or packing for her first hike, a Girl Scout has an exciting array of choices to **suit her interests at every age.** Girl Scouts is unmatched in delivering proven outcomes that set girls up to close the gender gap and position our nation to compete in the global economy. There has never been a better time to be a Girl Scout. **Because when girls succeed, so does society.**

GIRL SCOUT MYTHS AND FACTS



MYTHS

Girl Scouts aren't about getting outdoors.

Only Boy Scouts have a focus on programs for adventure.

Girl Scouts don't do hard science.

Girl Scouts only do crafts.

The cookie sale is just a gimmick.

Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award is less impressive than the Eagle Scout.

Troops are all the same: cookies and crafts.

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are merging.

FACTS

Girl Scouts go camping and work on all types of outdoor skills.

- Girl Scouts earn badges in outdoor adventure and high adventure.
- Girl Scout troop camping starts in Kindergarten.
- Girl Scouts – Diamonds owns and operates four camp properties and one volunteer-run camp.
- We are currently working on developing and fundraising for Camps of Excellence at three of our properties.

Actually, we have as many or more outdoor and high adventure opportunities.

- Girls decide and choose from age-appropriate activities, including: archery, rock-climbing, paddle-boarding, target shooting with BB guns, backpacking, white-water rafting, and more.
- What's cool about Girl Scouts is that we were founded by a woman who wanted to give girls the opportunity to master skills typically only available to boys at the time. After more than 100 years, we are still providing those opportunities.

Have you seen our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) programs?

- Girl Scouts code, build robots, use 3-D printing technology and they can earn badges in engineering, robotics, environmental science, cyber security and space science.
- We have the STEAM Center at Burnham Woods, a building and program devoted to providing STEM experiences (plus the Arts – STEAM) for girls.
- The STEM interest and confidence gaps between girls and boys starts at age 6 and can be closed with programs that are designed for girls.

Girl Scouts are makers.

- If girls want to use a sewing machine, make jewelry, weld, change a tire, re-build an engine, or build a play house for a children's shelter, they can!

Money-earning opportunities fund troop travel, field trips and community service projects while developing critical life skills.

- During the 2018 Cookie Program, Girl Scouts – Diamonds troops and service units earned more than \$830,000 to fuel adventures, travel and community service projects.
- Girls learn 5 critical life skills when they participate in the cookie sale. Selling cookies teaches goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills and business ethics.

The Gold Award requires completion of a complex project that prepares girls for a lifetime of possibility thinking and doing.

- Gold Award Girl Scouts identify an issue in their community, develop a plan, lead teams to develop a sustainable solution to the issue, and develop skills in advanced planning, organization and team building.
- The Gold Award is impressive to colleges and universities, and to the military, which advances Gold Award Girl Scouts a full rank (the same as for Eagle Scouts).

Volunteer-led troops are full of a variety of skilled adults and caring mentors.

- We are girl-led, and troop activities vary depending on the interests of our girls. Some travel, some like crafts, some only camp, and some are all about service – and some do everything.

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are not merging, nor will boys be joining Girl Scouts.

- Girl Scouts is a completely separate organization, and we fulfill a need that Boy Scouts is not equipped to.
- Our mission has always been and always will be girls. We offer time-tested, research-backed programming designed specifically to meet the unique needs and interests of girls and the way they learn best.