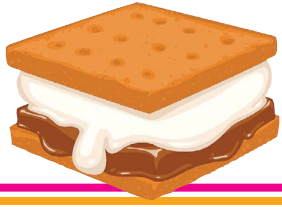


S'more NEWS



girl scouts
of gulfcoast florida

GSGCF Family Newsletter
Spring/Summer 2019

POWERED BY GIRL SCOUTS

Save the Date and Come Celebrate!

Mark your calendar for our council-wide celebration of girl achievements, the annual Young Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony, Sunday, May 19 from 2-5 p.m. at the Charlotte Harbor Event and Conference Center in Punta Gorda.

This free event gives Girl Scouts from across our ten counties an opportunity to shine and be applauded for their hard work and accomplishments, including recipients of the Journey Summit Award, ten-year membership pin, 1,000+ Cookie Entrepreneur, My Promise My Faith/P.R.A.Y., Girl Scout Scholarships, and Girl Scout Highest Awards (Bronze, Silver, Gold), as well as graduating seniors. We're especially excited to celebrate those earning the Girl Scout Gold Award—16 girls in all!

RSVP by May 13 by visiting the EVENTS calendar at www.gsgcf.org. In order to be recognized at the event, eligible girls must have submitted a Girl Award Worksheet by the March 15 deadline.



National Spotlight

G.I.R.L. 2020 G-TEAM Rep



Meet Girl Scout Senior Allarie K.! She was selected by GSUSA from 750 applicants nationwide to serve on the G-TEAM for the 2020 G.I.R.L. Convention. From marketing to logistics, the G-TEAM is responsible for planning the massive week-long event in true girl-led Girl Scout fashion. When asked what makes her the right candidate for the team Allarie replied, "I'm a natural leader that will always guide others to lead by example."

Cookie Pro 2018



Say hello to Olivia T. of Girl Scout Troop 463! From over 25,000 applicants, she was selected as one of six 2018 Girl Scout Cookie Pros. As part of the Cookie Pro experience, Olivia flew to NYC to meet Sylvia Acevedo, CEO of GSUSA, and participate in a photoshoot to be on the next Girl Scout Cookie package! Her advice to Girl Scouts everywhere: "Absorb everything you learn, and put it towards exceeding your goal."

girl scouts
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HER NEXT STEP

POWERED BY
GIRL SCOUTS!



What path will she choose next year?

With new programs in outdoor adventure and STEM and the promise of dozens of new skills to learn and awards to earn, at Girl Scouts the trail is hers to blaze! Spring Renewal and Girl Scout Daisy Launch begin May 1. Girls who complete their registration before June 30 will receive a free patch. Don't miss out! Whatever her next step looks like, we can help her make it happen.

Be an
Early Bird!
Registration
begins May 1st



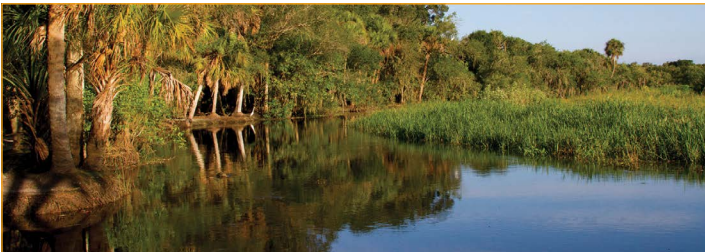
Renew Your Membership at www.gsgcf.org



Do you receive our monthly electronic S'more News family newsletter?

If not, it might be because we recently switched to a new emailing service. These emails may be accidentally landing in your spam folder. Please add gsgcf@email.girlscouts.org to your approved email contacts so you can continue receiving relevant news and updates.

Mark Your Calendars: State Parks Weekend, July 13-14



Girl Scouts of the USA is working with our state parks to offer exciting programming nationwide, including events at Florida State Parks throughout our council on July 13-14. Join us with your troop, family, and friends for a variety of outdoor adventures. A list of activities will be posted on our council website once they have been confirmed, but expect to catch a fish, earn your Florida State Parks Junior Ranger Patch, or hike through some beautiful landscapes. Activities will vary based on location.

The national goal is to get over 1 MILLION girls in state parks over this weekend. Help us make history!

National Girl Scout Bridging Week, May 4-11

Bridging to the next level of Girl Scouts is an important transition in a girl's life. New adventures await, and the possibilities are endless! It's also a time to celebrate your achievements as you take the next steps in your Girl Scout journey.



Check our event calendar for bridging opportunities.

We encourage troops throughout our council to participate in the first annual National Girl Scout Bridging Week by holding your bridging events between May 4-11. You won't be alone, as your sister Girl Scouts across the world will be celebrating, too! Why not join forces with other troops in your service unit? Or with other service units in your county? The more, the merrier!



October 23-25, 2020



Will you be there?

This year, girls who earn Cookie Dough will have the option of reserving up to \$100 of their balance exclusively toward the G.I.R.L. 2020 Convention in Orlando, Florida! All Girl Scouts, including Daisies and Brownies, can use Cookie Dough for this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Please visit the "Forms" section of our website or email customercare@gsgcf.org for more information.

G.I.R.L. 2020 Convention

Hosted by Girl Scouts of the USA, this mega event will provide attendees with unforgettable experiences as they gain inspiration, tools to empower themselves, and the know-how to lead change in their communities—connecting with some of the most influential women in the world along the way. So awesome!



Are you excited?

Join us for the world's largest girl-led event for girls and young women and everyone who supports them! It's going to be one epic celebration. If you weren't already, you should be excited now!

Got connections?

Although the convention is hosted nationally, GSUSA is looking to local Florida councils to suggest partnerships for exhibitors and sponsors. If you or someone you know might be interested in receiving more information about these opportunities, please email marketing@gsgcf.org.

CELEBRATING YOUR DEDICATION

Throughout April, Girl Scout lifetime membership will be available at a special 50% discount—from \$400 down to \$200—for volunteers who have served for 10 years or more.

When you upgrade to lifetime membership through MYGS in April, you can expect:

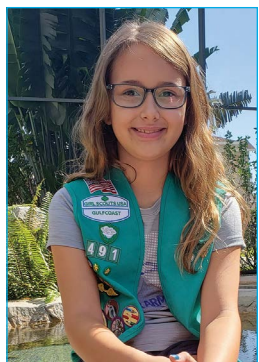
- Continuous membership in Girl Scouts
\$25 of your dues to fund one year of Girl Scout membership for an underserved girl in our council
A lifetime membership card and pin
10% off Girl Scout merchandise purchased from girlscoutshop.com
An invitation to join an annual call hosted by GSUSA's CEO
A monthly enewsletter



Thank you for your years of service and all you've done to help create the next generation of female leaders. We couldn't do it without you! For more information, contact customercare@gsgcf.org or visit girlscouts.org/lifetime.

Fall Product Program

Another impressive Mags & Munchies Fall Product Program is in the books! A total of 1,548 girls sold an average of \$214 each. That is an 18% increase in per-girl average from last year! Troop proceeds totaled \$34,719.



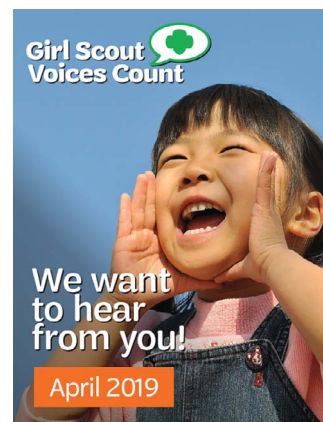
This year's top entrepreneur is **Danielle D.**, for the second year in a row!

Danielle's sales totaled a very impressive \$2,445.

You rock, Danielle!

Make Your Voice Count

Have you opened your email invitation from GSUSA for the Girl Scout Voices Count annual survey? We care about your experiences, good or bad, and we want to hear from you! Girls, parents, and troop leaders, make your voice heard, and you could win a \$50 gift card from GSUSA! Plus, each girl who fully completes the survey will receive the exclusive GSGCF "My Voice Counts!" patch. Don't miss out—survey closes April 30!



QUESTIONS?

Visit our website, www.gsgcf.org, and type "Girl Scout Voices Count" in the search bar to find a list of FAQs and additional information.

Thank You for Participating in the Girl Scout Cookie Program!

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is so much more than just selling cookies. It's an opportunity for girls to learn how to set goals, make decisions, manage money, develop people skills, and practice good business ethics. We are proud to announce 3,750 Girl Scouts sold over 1.1 million packages in the 2019 cookie season. Hats off to all the volunteers who made this possible!



Gingerbread Festival

The 10th Annual Gingerbread Festival, with its new location, extended dates, and times made history in December 2018. Over 12,400 guests visited the holiday wonderland to marvel at (and maybe drool over) dozens of gingerbread house creations made by hands big and small. This much-anticipated 10-day event would not have been possible without the generosity of Publix Super Markets Charities, The Mall at UTC, The Herald-Tribune Media Group, AlSCO, and Children's World.



Cookies and Milk

Over 200 girls and family members converged at Dakin Dairy Farms in January to kick off the Girl Scout Cookie Program. Girls practiced the five skills—goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics—while going on an exclusive behind-the-scenes tour and gaining confidence with their sales skills.



Media Marvels

Media Marvels is a program series offered to Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors who have an interest in broadcast, print, or digital media and want hands-on learning experiences. Media Marvels have exclusive access to external media opportunities, such as appearances on television and radio, magazine photoshoots, and interviews with newspaper journalists. Please reach out to mediamarvels@gsgcf.org for more information and upcoming opportunities.



Full STEAM Ahead

Our STEAM-themed events are always a hit! Whether it's building a mini robot, completing a circuit, or constructing a gingerbread house, girls love using their hands to discover how much fun science, technology, engineering, arts, and math can be.



Speak Up, Speak Out, Be Heard

More than 30 Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors from across the council participated in a special three-part advocacy series, Speak Up, Speak Out, Be Heard. Through workshops, a weekend at the state capital, and individual visits with local legislators, girls gained a better understanding of local, state, and national legislative processes, and how they can advocate for issues important to them. The program was funded by a grant from the 4Girls Foundation.



Legislative Days

Ten lucky Girl Scouts made their way to Tallahassee for the annual Legislative Days. Surrounded by Girl Scouts from all over the state, they explored the inner workings of our government, met with elected officials, participated in mock debates, and toured the Florida State Capitol. What a weekend!



Congratulations to our 2019 Volunteer Award Recipients

Perhaps the only thing we look forward to more than working with our amazing volunteers, is recognizing them at our council's Annual Meeting. Without their time, talent, and dedication to the mission, Girl Scouting wouldn't be possible!

At our January 2019 Annual Meeting, we recognized a total of 35 volunteers with local and national-level awards, along with 17 volunteers who received membership pins spanning 20–60 years. Congratulations and thank you to all!

Thanks Badge

This badge is the highest honor in Girl Scouts. It honors an adult Girl Scout whose ongoing commitment, leadership, and service have had an exceptional, measurable impact on meeting the mission-delivery goals and priorities of the entire council or entire Girl Scout Movement.



Linda Nau has been Sarasota 15's service unit manager for 14 years. Though both of her daughters have gone off to college, she continues to volunteer and mentor new and returning volunteers. She helps new leaders and troops get organized and feel confident, keeps everyone informed of any council business, and encourages involvement in activities. She is also an adult delegate and has recruited girl delegates to serve during the last 3 years. She is an exemplary service unit manager!

Linda is also the service unit cookie coordinator and has been handling cookies for over 14 years. She gets all of the girls excited about sales and incentives by hosting a cookie rally each year, teaching them everything they need to know! This past year, Sarasota 15 had a record-breaking year for sales.

Linda is the rock that holds Girl Scouts together in North Port, helping to retain leaders and girls. Leaders continue to volunteer because they know they can rely on Linda's encouragement and support. It is estimated that she has worked with almost 2,500 girls! She truly deserves the Thanks Badge for being such an inspiration to all.



Rae Dowling has served on the council's board of directors for ten years, including three terms as a member-at-large from 2009-2015, a two-year term as chair of the Board Development Committee from 2010-2012, and board president from 2015-2018. During the past four

years, she oversaw and helped implement strategic planning efforts for properties, supported the council through personal and professional philanthropy, led the search for a new CEO, recruited and cultivated new board and committee members, and provided mentorship opportunities to older girls and Gold Award Girl Scouts.

She has served as a National Council Delegate for two terms and represented Gulfcoast at the National Council Session in 2014 and 2017. Rae provided exemplary leadership and support through a very public and challenging legal matter, earning the council respect throughout the Gulfcoast communities.

As External Affairs Manager for Florida Power & Light Company, Rae partnered FPL and GSGCF to have a solar canopy installed at our main office and a solar tree at Camp Honi Hanta. She is a true leader and mentor, and 100% committed to the Girl Scout Movement.

Honor Pin

The Honor Pin recognizes an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience for impact on two or more geographic areas of service which allows the council to reach and surpass its mission-delivery goals.

Erika Rolando

Appreciation Pin

The Appreciation Pin is a national award recognizing an individual's exemplary service in support of delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience for impact within one geographic area of service.

Aleksandra Moore **Kim Poinsett** **Paul Wade**
Jason Hodson **William Shreve** **Judy Wolf**
Carla Martinez **Kathy Van Note**

Volunteer of Excellence

This national award recognizes volunteers who have contributed outstanding service while partnering directly with girls in any pathway to implement the Girl Scout Leadership Experience through use of the National Program Portfolio or who have contributed outstanding service in support of the council's mission delivery to girl and adult members.

Amy Arrigo **Heather Hinefelt** **Michelle Nightingale**
Pamela Brownell **Lori Humphreys** **Robin Peterson**
Rosemarie Bruno **Jeannine Martin** **Jennifer Slaughter**
Michelle Cramer **Serenity Murtagh** **Marivel Vargas Lugo**

Green Angel Award

This council award recognizes a volunteer's outstanding support to girls and council.

Theresa Leach

Membership Year Pins

60 Years **Marsha Alleman**
45 Years **Barbara VanEssen**
40 Years **Diane McAlear**
35 Years **Kathy Cobb** ♦ **Martha McKenzie**
30 Years **Melissa Bartoe** ♦ **Linda Carl** ♦ **Sonya Gazdik**
Darby Zimmerman
25 Years **Lauren Cobb** ♦ **Helen Sundgren**
Heather Zimmerman
20 Years **Allison Horsley** ♦ **Sara Lenius** ♦ **Rebecca Shea**
Cate Teague ♦ **Kelly Wertenbach**
Melissa Zimmerman

President

Richard Cyphers

Vice President

Karen Huebner

Treasurer

Christina "Tina" Ottman

Secretary

Juliana Meek

Chief Executive Officer

Mary Anne Servian*

Members at Large

Julian Agollari
Dr. Bonny Eads Dery, OD
Rae Dowling
Margaret "Peg" Grathwohl
Ashley Harris
Lauren Johnston
Marissa D'Agostino-Pendley
Sharon Preston-Folta
Hannah Rolle
Angela Smith

Girl Representatives

Megan K.
Katie P.
Lily P.
Kaila S.

*Non-voting member

**April is
Volunteer
Appreciation
Month. Visit
the council
shop for great
gift ideas!**

gsgcf.org

Dates to Remember

- April 22.....Girl Scout Leader's Day
- April 30.....Girl Scout Voices Count survey closes
- April 30.....2019 Cookie Pro application closes
- May 1.....Spring Renewal (Early Bird) begins
- May 4-11.....National Bridging Week
- May 19.....Young Women of Distinction Awards Ceremony
- May 24.....Council offices closed
- May 31.....Spring Renewal (Early Bird) ends
- June 1.....Hurricane Heroes Program
- June 4-6.....CIT Leadership Week—Eco Trek
- June 11-13.....Cadette Leadership Week—Eco Trek
- July 4.....Council offices closed
- July 13-14.....State Park Weekend
- July 21-29.....Council shop closed for inventory
- August 29.....Cookie Dough expires
- August 30.....Council offices closed
- September 30 Girl Scout membership year ends **RENEW TODAY!**
- October 1.....Start of a new Girl Scout year!
- October 31.....Juliette Gordon Low's Birthday
- November 28-29.....Council offices closed
- December 3.....Giving Tuesday



We would like to thank the following for their generous ongoing support:



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