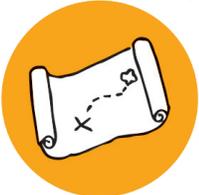
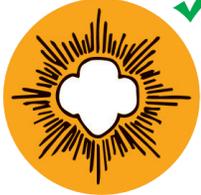


GIRL SCOUTS MYTHBUSTERS

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are, and always have been, two very different organizations. Since Boy Scouts of America’s plan to recruit girls to their program has generated some confusion and perpetuated long-held misconceptions, here are some common myths and the truth.

| MYTHS | ✓ FACTS ABOUT GIRL SCOUTS |
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| <p>✗ All “scouting” programs are basically the same.</p> |  <p>✓ Not even close. At Girl Scouts, everything we do is designed with and for girls. Most of a girl’s life is co-ed, so there are plenty of opportunities to interact in that environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The all-girl, girl-led, single-gender 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 and take the lead without the distractions or pressures that can be found in a co-ed environment. • In single-gender spaces, girls are more apt to take healthy risks, try new things, and take on leadership roles. |
| <p>✗ Girl Scouts isn’t about getting outdoors</p> |  <p>✓ Girl Scouts build outdoor skills, go camping, and appreciate nature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girl Scouts earn badges for outdoor activities and high adventure. • Girl Scout troop camping starts in kindergarten. • For many girls, Girl Scouts is their introduction to the outdoors and 80% of girls said camping was their most memorable experience*. • GSWCF operates four camp properties for girls to experience all the outdoors have to offer. |
| <p>✗ Girl Scouts doesn’t have programs for adventure</p> |  <p>✓ No way! Girl Scouts have all kinds of opportunities for adventure!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls choose from age-appropriate activities including: archery, hiking, climbing walls, kayaking, ziplining, rappelling, high- and low- ropes courses, horseback riding, and so much more. • Through our Summer Travel Camp programs, girls can venture beyond our council borders to experience cave exploration, backpacking, airboat rides, rafting and mountain hikes. • Not only do girls go on adventures, they raise the money and plan the trip, leading the experience and ensuring they are girl-centered. |
| <p>✗ Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts offer the same science program</p> |  <p>✓ Have you seen our science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. Girls can earn badges in engineering, robotics, environmental science, cyber security, and space science. • Our STEM content is timeless, helping girls develop a lifelong interest in how things work and teaching girls how to think like scientists, programmers, and engineers. Even as those fields develop, Girl Scouts will understand the fundamentals of thinking like an innovator. • Girl Scout STEM curriculum and badge work is centered on hands-on, problem-solving, and girl-led learning, not memorization. |

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| <p>✗ Crafts are the only hands-on activity</p> |  <p>✓ Girl Scouts are builders, and crafts are just a part of that.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If girls want to build, create, and fix, we want to provide them the opportunities to do so. Whether their interest is in welding, making jewelry, changing a tire, sewing, or re-building an engine, they can! • Girls can learn these skills and put them to work in ambitious Bronze, Silver, or Gold Award projects. |
| <p>✗ The Girl Scout Cookie program is just about making money</p> |  <p>✓ Girl Scouts do a great job at creating revenue, but the cookie sale is so much more!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the world's largest girl-run business, the Cookie Program gives girls an opportunity to develop expertise and confidence 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. |
| <p>✗ Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award is less prestigious than the Eagle Scout Award</p> |  <p>✓ The Gold Award requires completion of a rigorous project that prepares girls for a lifetime of possibility thinking and doing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold Award Girl Scouts identify an issue in their community, develop a plan, lead teams to develop a sustainable solution to the issue, and practice 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. |
| <p>✗ Troops are all the same</p> |  <p>✓ Girls help choose and plan troop activities which makes every troop unique.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities vary depending on the interests of girls and troop leaders. Most troops explore STEM, outdoors, life skills, and community service, and attend council-sponsored programs where they can explore their interest in sports, arts, STEM, entrepreneurship, outdoor adventure, camp, and more! |
| <p>✗ It's hard for families (especially dads) to get involved with Girl Scouts</p> |  <p>✓ Family participation is encouraged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage the entire family to get involved, and lots of dads volunteer in different ways, supporting as co-leaders of troops, cookie sale coordinators, and camp volunteers. • Parents and other adults play a critical role to delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience both as volunteers and as supporters. Parents who are also troop leaders get the opportunity to bond with their daughters as they move through the Girl Scout program. |
| <p>✗ Girl Scouts is "harder" for volunteers</p> |  <p>✓ It depends on what is meant by <i>harder</i>. Though volunteering is a time commitment it is also incredibly rewarding, it offers personal development in a range of skills and support is available every step of the way.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girl Scouts is flexible, girl-led, and has a wide variety of activities that volunteers are there to help guide and facilitate—and we sure wouldn't change that! • There are many planning resources and support opportunities available such as the digital Volunteer Toolkit that can plan your troop's entire year down to the last detail, in-depth trainings, activity plans, and troop mentors. |

The Simple Truth: Girl Scouts are bold, brave and unstoppable.

The benefits of the single-gender environment has been well-documented by educators, scholars, other girl and youth-serving organizations, and Girl Scouts and their families. 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 and empower them to define themselves on their terms.