

Media Squad Magazine

By Media Squad Cohort 2 | October 2024 - January 2025



Girl Scout Troop Warms Hearts with Handmade Scarves and Baby Blankets for Local Hospital Patients

Written by Ellie T.

Winter is around the corner, meaning temperatures are going to drop! Girl Scout Troop 31602 hosted another community service project that benefited Fremont's Washington Hospital. This display of kindness and creativity creates a meaningful difference in the lives of

many patients. With a lot of fleece fabric and handiwork, the troop donated 72 warm no-sew scarves and 24 cozy baby blankets to keep patients warm throughout the year.

For the past six years, the scouts of Troop 31602 have created numerous scarves without the use of threads or needles. The idea originated in 2017 by their previous troop leader, Ms. Jen. The project is now continued by one of the Girl Scout moms, Ms. Linh. Each girl crafted these scarves (along with baby blankets) by cutting and knotting the ends. This project not only allowed the scouts to develop new skills, but also helped them gain a new sense of accomplishment. Creating scarves and blankets for patients at the hospital also taught them valuable lessons about the importance of giving back to their community.

Kaylee, a Girl Scout Cadette, commented "This project is both fun and rewarding for us, because we know that the scarves and blankets will go to the hospital patients who will benefit from receiving them. Knowing that it will make them happy makes us happy."



Photo by Ellie T.

Project Coordinator, Ms. Linh stated, "Every year, our scouts get their hands busy with the cutting and knotting for this service project. When their crafting is complete, they deliver to the local hospital with a sense of pride and joy that they're helping community members in need. I am super proud of our troop, and look forward to continuing this service project for years to come!"

Well there you have it! Another fond and heartfelt memory for these Girl Scouts!



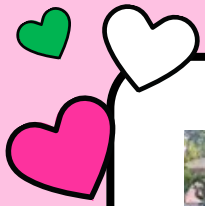


Photo by Averie N.

Girl Scout Friendships

Written by Anumitha S.

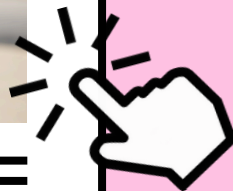
Beyond cookies and badges, if there's one thing every girl gains through Girl Scouts, it's friendship. Whether someone joined Girl Scouts last week or has been a part of the organization their whole life, Girl Scouts is a welcoming atmosphere where all people can feel included and make connections with other girls with similar interests or aspirations from across the state. In a typical day to day school environment, it can be difficult for girls or anyone in general to meet people who they truly click with, but Girl Scouts is a place where every girl is hardworking, passionate, and open to new friendships, which is exactly why so many scouts cite Girl Scouts as the origin to so many of their lifelong friendships. After counseling at different camps, so many Girl Scouts have made connections with girls across the state and these friendships introduce them to unique friends with different perspectives and stories, and while they may not see these friends as often as friends from school, these friendships are just as valuable as they are genuine connections, just like friendships that are taken into adulthood. Some people may believe that the stories shared by Girl Scouts of friendship may seem shallow as they only have met these friends once or twice, but even though the friends may be miles away, their bond can stretch, just as the openness of Girl Scouts opens to every person who joins. No matter how different two scouts are, or how different their walks of life or whether they would ever meet again after Girl Scouts, the friendship girls make through Girl Scouts lasts a lifespan. Girl Scouts is an amazing place for anyone to form lifelong friendships with other Girl Scouts from places they would have never expected.

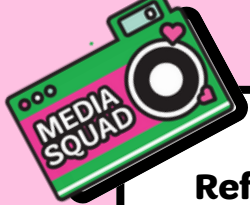
Reflections of a Senior Girl Scout

Written by Selma E.

A couple of months ago, I had one of those cherished Girl Scout moments that reminded me why this experience has always been so special. As a senior-level Girl Scout in high school, finding time for meetings is tough—our schedules are very packed, and we're all navigating schoolwork, extracurriculars, and responsibilities. But when we do get together, it's like no time has passed at all. We fall right back into our routines, catching up, laughing, and simply enjoying being with each other. Girl Scouts provides a space where we can just talk without academics weighing on our minds, even if it's only for a little while. It's a place where we can be ourselves, free from the pressures that come with being a high school student.

Our last meeting was no exception. We spent the day building an obstacle course out of everyday items we could find around us. It was a fun challenge that made us think critically about ordinary objects and collaborate creatively. We laughed as the dominoes fell, resetting our progress, and we cheered each other on when something finally worked. There were playful moments of frustration when things didn't go as planned, and genuine excitement when it was finally time to test out our makeshift course. We used anything we could find—books, plastic cups, rulers, and even some craft supplies we had leftover from an old project. It was amazing to see how our collective creativity transformed these simple items into something much more complex and fun.





Reflections of a Senior Girl Scout, cont'd

But more than the activity itself, we were just hanging out. We had the kind of conversations that make you feel lighter—filled with stories about our lives, the challenges we're facing, and the milestones that are coming up. We talked about our plans for the future, from college applications to career aspirations. It felt good to share these hopes and dreams with people who understand me, who have been there through so many different stages of my life. A friend shared her goals for her Gold Award project, and I had a chance to talk about mine too. We bonded over how long the application process took and how passionate we are about the global challenges we chose to tackle. Another friend complained about her upcoming back-to-back tests, which led us all to groan in unison, followed by a round of laughter at our shared worries. We talked about everything—from school stress to our favorite new TV shows, to how we were all trying to make time for hobbies despite our hectic schedules.

Moments like these remind me that Girl Scouts is about so much more than just badges and projects—it's about the friendships we've built along the way. It's about knowing that we have each other to rely on, not just during meetings but whenever we need someone to talk to. We've been through so much together—campouts, cookie sales, community service projects, and countless meetings. Each of these experiences has brought us closer, and it's comforting to know that no matter what happens, we have this group to fall back on.



Even though we don't meet as often these days, those bonds haven't faded. We've grown together, and each gathering—no matter how infrequent—is a reminder that the connections we formed through Girl Scouts are here to stay. Even as we all take different paths in life, we have each other to lean on and share in those light-hearted moments that keep our friendships strong. Girl Scouts is about more than just learning new skills or earning awards; it's about having a community that supports you, no matter how packed your schedule gets or how far you go. It's about knowing that even when life pulls us in different directions, we'll always have this bond that holds us together—a sisterhood of shared experiences, laughter, and endless support.

I think that's what makes Girl Scouts so special—it's not just about what you do, but who you do it with. The activities are fun, and the badges are rewarding, but the real value comes from the people who are by your side through it all. These are the friends who have seen me at my best and my worst, who have celebrated my successes and helped me through my failures. They are the ones who make me laugh until I cry and who remind me that it's okay to take a break and just have fun. No matter how much time passes between our meetings, we always pick up right where we left off, and that's something truly priceless. It's comforting to know that even as we move forward into new phases of our lives, we'll always have these memories and this community to look back on. Girl Scouts has given me so much more than just skills and experiences—it's given me lifelong friends and a sense of belonging that I will carry with me wherever I go. And as I look to the future, I know that these friendships will continue to shape who I am. The lessons I've learned from Girl Scouts aren't just about leadership or teamwork—they're about empathy, resilience, and the power of community. As we all face new challenges and adventures, I have no doubt that the bonds we've created will help us navigate whatever comes our way. I feel incredibly lucky to have had this experience, and I know that even years from now, when we are scattered in different places, we will still find ways to reconnect, share our stories, and support each other. Girl Scouts has not only been a journey of growth but also a journey of love and friendship, and for that, I am endlessly grateful.



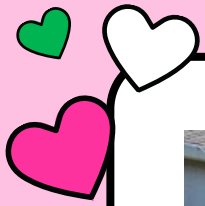


Photo by Evelyn F..

Community Service

Written by Madeline R.

Every Girl Scout lives by the Girl Scout Law “Making the world a better place”. We give back to our community in different ways like helping the less fortunate at food banks, homeless shelters or caring for animals in animal shelters that are waiting for their forever homes. We always want to do our best to make a difference in the lives of the people around us for the greater good. Girls Scouts are proud to be service oriented and love being out there serving our community through community service and take action projects. Girl Scouts make an impact on the community because we take action and find ways to address a problem for a better future for ourselves and others. Serving the community is friendly and helpful, considerate and caring, and it makes the world a better place.

This past summer my troop made cat toys and donated them to various local animal shelters. We could see the impact this made because it not only made the cats happy but also it made the many volunteers at the shelters happy. Our donations provided them new toys to play with the cats. We also made an instructional on how to make cat toys so that people can feel inspired to make cat toys and donate them to animal shelters like we did.

Girl Scout Cookies

Written by Madeline R.

Everybody all over the country loves Girl Scout cookies, and so do we! Every January to April, Girl Scouts sell delicious cookies. We have recently switched to a new baker, who makes the cookies even better! For the 2025 cookie season, our mascot is a cute panda named Mèi Lán!

We make memories when selling Girl Scout cookies. We learned not to be afraid to go up to people and ask them if they would like to buy cookies. One time my classmate did cartwheels to get costumers attention and one costumer was very impressed with her. Although he didn't buy any cookies, he donated 100 dollars to our troop! We got to learn how to handle money and share a job together.

Though I haven't tried all the cookies yet, here is my rating for the ones I have tried. The caramel delites are my favorite because I love coconut and caramel and I give it 10 out of 10. To me, thin mints are 8 out of 10 because I do not like mint flavor as much, but I like thin mints when they are frozen. Lemon ups are 6 out of 10. To me, they taste like lemonade, and I like the tangy lemon taste. Trefoils are 7 out of 10 because I like the plain taste of shortbread cookies. Adventurefuls are 6 out of 10. They are not in my top 3 cookie flavors but I like the chocolate and caramel. Toast-Yays are 9 out of 10, I love the sweetness of the icing. Do-si-dos are 4 out of 10, not a fan of the oatmeal taste.

There are more cookies in the line-up that I haven't tried yet. But hopefully I will get to try them this upcoming cookie season.



Photo by Madeline R.

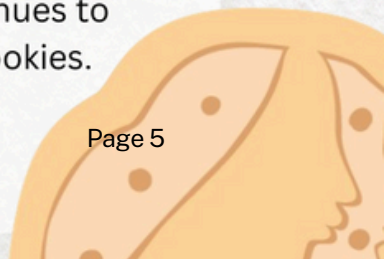


New Cookies, Same Scouts

By Anumitha S.

While the cookies may have new names, the spirit of them stays alive.

With the recent switch of bakers leading to a lot of discussion, especially over the renaming of iconic flavors such as Samoas being switched to Caramel DeLites or Tagalongs now being known as Peanut Butter Patties, lots of Girl Scouts and lifelong customers are wondering how the new changes with Girl Scout cookies are going to play out. ABC Bakers and Little Brownie Bakers have been the two main bakers of Girl Scouts cookies, and ABC Bakers has actually been working with the organization since 1934, and while Little Brown Bakers are still collaborating for these cookies, but ABC Bakers are now the leads of baking the cookies. With this baker switch, customers can expect a slight change in cookies from what we have been hearing so far; the cookies will also be notably healthier than in the past, so some of the sugary spike of Girl Scout cookies may go down. Girl Scout cookies continue to have different options for vegan, gluten-free, and even Kosher and Halal preferences. Originally, the only gluten-free Girl Scout cookies were the Toffee-Tastic, and this year Caramel Chocolate Chip Cookies are a new gluten-free option for customers looking for another gluten-free option to try out. This year also provides many more vegan options this year; despite the recipe being changed, Thin Mints continue to be vegan cookies, and now there are three more flavors to join it. First off, the altered recipe for Tagalongs, or Peanut Butter Patties, under ABC Bakers now has a new recipe for a vegan version. Two of the new flavors, Toast-Yay, a french toast flavored cookie and Lemonades, shortbread cookies that are the second lemon flavor along with the continuing Lemon-Ups. Overall, while there are some big changes coming to Girl Scouts, one thing remains the same; the girls selling them. The positive and upbeat cookie-selling community continues to bring smiles to the millions of customers who purchase the cookies.



The Sweet Success of Girl Scout Cookies

Written by Selma E.

For more than a century, Girl Scout Cookies have been a beloved tradition that highlights leadership, entrepreneurship, and community impact. Each year, Girl Scouts across the country take part in the cookie program, turning a simple sale into an opportunity for personal growth and skill development.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program is about much more than the beloved minty freshness and caramel delights, though. It empowers young women to build skills they'll use for the rest of their lives. By setting goals, handling money, and interacting with customers, Girl Scouts learn the basics of running a business. They also develop confidence, communication skills, and a strong sense of ethics. These experiences help prepare them for success in school, their careers, and beyond.

The program doesn't just benefit the Girl Scouts—it also strengthens local communities. Proceeds from cookie sales directly support local troops, funding activities, service projects, and educational programs. Whether it's organizing STEM workshops or leading environmental cleanups, the revenue from cookie sales makes a real difference. Every purchase helps support these initiatives while connecting customers to the mission of empowering young leaders.



The cookie program is also accessible for everyone. Scouts can sell cookies the traditional way—door-to-door or at booths—or through digital platforms. This flexibility encourages creativity and allows participants to find the best methods to meet their goals and serve their customers.

Girl Scout Cookies are more than just a tasty treat—they represent a movement that promotes leadership, learning, and positive change. The next time you pick up a box of Thin Mints or Samoas, remember you're helping to shape the future by supporting ambitious young leaders.



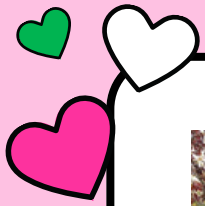
Photo by Vera L.

My First Girl Scout Meeting

Written by Vera L.

As I nervously stepped into my first Girl Scout meeting to meet my soon-to-be Girl Scout sisters, I never knew how much it would change my life. Looking around at the unfamiliar faces, I couldn't imagine the friendships that would blossom and the experiences that would shape who I am today. Little did I know that Girl Scouts would open up so many incredible opportunities, helping me grow in ways I never expected.

One of my favorite memories as a Girl Scout was our camping trips. The smell of roasting marshmallows and melting chocolate for s'mores filled the air as we gathered around the campfire, laughing and singing classic Girl Scout songs. The pine trees seemed to wrap us in a comforting embrace, making the outdoors feel like home. I remember hiking and painting, letting our imaginations run wild. Those moments were about



My First Girl Scout Meeting cont'd

more than just being in nature—they were about learning, growing, and building friendships that I carry with me to this day.

Through every camping trip, badge earned, and challenge overcome, I learned the value of teamwork, creativity, and perseverance. These experiences, shared with friends who started as strangers, gave me memories that I'll always treasure. The friendships I've made through Girl Scouts are lasting bonds, reminding me that true friendships are built on shared memories, mutual support, and the joy of adventure. As a Girl Scout, I can proudly say that we do more than just sell cookies—we form lifelong friendships, create lasting memories, and grow together into resilient, compassionate individuals.

Lead the Way Conference: Ignite Your Passion, Lead with Power!

Written by Selma E.

The 'Lead the Way' Conference is back and bigger than ever! This annual event, hosted by Girl Scouts of Northern California, is not just any conference—it's a girl-led experience to empower Girl Scouts in grades 6-12 to take on the world with confidence, skills, and community!

The 2025 'Lead the Way' Conference promises to be an extraordinary journey of growth and connection, crafted entirely by high school Girl Scouts who have spent countless hours planning and perfecting every detail. This year's theme, yet to be revealed, is sure to inspire attendees to explore their full potential and push the boundaries.

At the heart of 'Lead the Way' is the Planning Committee, a group of high school Girl Scouts who work tirelessly behind the scenes to create this experience for their peers. These young leaders are not just participants; they plan and execute the conference, making it happen. The dedication of these girls over the course of six months shines through in every aspect—from the keynote speakers to the workshops.

The 2024 conference in February was a resounding success, featuring over 20 workshops and hosting more than 200 participants with the theme of Women in Media. This year, the excitement is building up even more as we anticipate the new workshops and speakers that will make the 2025 event unforgettable.

One of the unique aspects of the conference is its focus on community and girl-led initiatives. Every workshop and activity is designed to help attendees gain practical skills and build a supportive network that extends far beyond the conference itself. As Marina Park, former CEO of Girl Scouts NorCal put it, "This conference is a testament to what girls can achieve when given the opportunity to lead."



Lead the Way Conference: Ignite Your Passion, Lead with Power! cont'd

Participants leave 'Lead the Way' with not only new skills, but also a sense of confidence and belonging. As Emily K., a previous attendee, shared, "Lead the Way helped me feel more confident about applying to colleges and exploring career options." This year, we're ready to take that empowerment to even greater heights, with workshops designed to tackle new challenges and opportunities in the ever-evolving world that awaits our future leaders.

Get ready for the 2025 'Lead the Way' Conference! The excitement is on the rise, and we can't wait to see the incredible impact this year's theme will have on the participants. Whether you're an attendee looking to learn and grow or a high school Girl Scouts ready to take the lead, this conference is your opportunity to be part of something truly special. This conference is a journey towards leadership, growth, and an amazing future! Don't forget—as you lead the way today, you are paving the road for future generations of young women to follow.



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Photo by Charlotte G.

Friendship

Written by Charlotte G.

Friendship is a big part of Girl Scouts, whether you make new friends at camp or are hanging out with girls in your troop. Girl Scouts value friendship and treat each scout as a sister. Girl Scouts also give girls opportunities to meet other Scouts that have the same interests as them and can connect to form friendships that last lifetimes. Girls can rely on their fellow Scouts for support and can trust each other. Scouts also show other girls kindness. These are the building blocks of making friends. One example of how Girl Scouts focuses on friendship is the Make New Friends song, "Make new friends, but keep the old, one is silver and the other gold. A circle around that has no end, that's how long I want to be your friend." This shows how Girl Scouts wants girls to meet others and maintain friendships they already have. Many troops also use this as a closing song at troop meetings to remind girls that friendship is very important. When I first joined Girl Scouts I had friends from school already in my troop but now that I've been to camps and activities I have made many friends that I look forward to seeing at future events. Being in Girl Scouts can also help girls that may be in the same troop become better friends. Girl Scouts cares a lot about friendship and believes it is very important. Girl Scouting is and continues to be, a place where friendship grows and thrives.

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