



Camp Bothin 1912 Project - Honoring Your Legacy



girl scouts 
of northern california



Camp Bothin 1912 Project
Honoring Your Legacy

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Girl Scouts of Northern California's Camp Bothin

Honoring Legacies

Camp Bothin, nestled in the serene hills of Marin County near Fairfax, California, has been a cornerstone of outdoor education and adventure and leadership experiences for Girl Scouts since 1948. The camp's rich history intertwines with the legacy of Henry E. Bothin, a philanthropist who established the Bothin Convalescent Hospital in 1910 on a 1,000-acre parcel of land he purchased in 1903.

After Mr. Bothin's death in 1923, the property continued to serve charitable purposes until the 1950s, including as a tuberculosis recovery home for women and children. In 1948, the Marin Girl Scouts Council began using part of the property for summer activities, and by 1959, the entire site was leased to the Girl Scouts, officially becoming known as the Henry E. Bothin Youth Camp.

The Bothin Foundation transferred the ownership of the land, which included portions of the Bothin estate (Hill Farm) and Arequipa, to the San Francisco Bay Area Girl Scout Council and Marin County Open Space in 1988. As a condition of the Open Space easement agreement, the property is not open to the public as long as the Girl Scouts continue to use it.

Today, Camp Bothin spans 412 acres of redwood forest, offering a diverse range of activities that blend tradition with innovation. The camp is accredited by the American Camp Association and provides programs for girls and gender-expansive youth in grades K through 12. Campers can engage in classic activities such as hiking, archery, slingshots, swimming, and outdoor cooking, as well as specialized programs like performing arts, STEM exploration, and low and high ropes courses.

Camp Bothin's accommodations include yurts, cabins, and dormitory-style buildings.

The camp's facilities are designed to foster a sense of community and connection with nature, providing a comfortable environment for campers and adult volunteers and staff. The addition of the Hub's meeting rooms, office, and outdoor pavilion, all designed with direct input from Girl Scout troops and Camp Bothin alum, expands Camp Bothin's program and community spaces.

This opening marks a significant milestone in the council's long-term plans for investment in property enhancements and outdoor experiences. The Hub facilities encompass: the Ellen Richey Welcome Center, Marina H. Park Pavilion, and Michelle McCormick Program Office. These spaces are named in honor of the executive leadership team who shared the vision for the project and collaborated with countless volunteers, staff, and partners to see this unique addition to Camp Bothin become a reality.

Girl Scouts of Northern California has also taken steps to preserve Camp Bothin's natural surroundings. The Sempervirens Fund purchased conservation easements on the property, ensuring the protection of its redwood forests and wildlife habitats. This initiative supports the camp's commitment to environmental stewardship and provides financial resources that help to maintain the camp's operations for our current campers and as we look ahead to future generations of campers as well.

From its origins as a convalescent hospital to our vibrant Girl Scout camp, Camp Bothin has evolved while maintaining its dedication to empowering young girls and gender-expansive youth through outdoor experiences. Its blend of history, natural beauty, and commitment to outdoor education and developing our future leaders makes it a unique and cherished destination for all who visit.

Ellen Richey



Ellen Richey is a dedicated leader and generous philanthropist whose impact on Girl Scouts of Northern California (GSNorCal) has been both deep and lasting. She served two terms as Board President and has worn many hats over the years - including First Vice President, leader of the Property Task Group, and Director of the Fund Development Committee for the former San Francisco Bay Area Council. She also played a pivotal role in the Council Realignment Committee as the chair of the Finance Subcommittee.

Ellen brings a remarkable depth of experience to her work with GSNorCal, drawing on a distinguished career that included serving as Vice Chairman of Risk and Public Policy at Visa Inc. Her thoughtful leadership has helped shape the strategic direction of the council, ensuring it remains a place where girls across Northern California can have transformative experiences and grow into confident and capable leaders. Ellen's involvement with GSNorCal reflects her deep commitment to fostering resilience, confidence, and leadership in young people.

Ellen's journey with Girl Scouting began in Massachusetts, and her passion has only grown over time. From championing outdoor programs to supporting Camp CEO, she has remained a steadfast advocate of the Girl Scouts movement. Today, Ellen continues to serve on the Finance Committee and as a valued mentor to our board leadership team. Ellen is truly an inspiring example of a lifelong commitment to the Girl Scouts mission.

Marina H. Park



Marina H. Park embarked on her journey as Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of Northern California (GSNorCal) in 2007, after having been a successful lawyer and managing partner at a law firm for 25 years. She brought with her a love for the movement and a deep commitment to its mission.

Over her 15-year tenure, Marina guided GSNorCal through countless transformative decisions and milestones. Her steady leadership and unshakable optimism helped the organization weather some of its most difficult times, including the unprecedented challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and the damage to Skylark Ranch Camp caused by the CZU Complex Fire.

Under Marina's guidance, GSNorCal came together as one council and truly leaned into girl experiences rooted in outdoor adventure, STEM, life skills, and entrepreneurship - all areas in which Marina led with heartfelt enthusiasm. Marina's collaborative approach has given voice to girls, volunteers, staff, board members, and community partners. She truly embodies the power of "girl-led" leadership. Her unwavering dedication to expanding access to Girl Scouts ensured that even more young people could benefit from everything the Girl Scouts experience has to offer.

A lifelong Girl Scout, Marina remains an important part of the GSNorCal community, offering continued support and mentorship to the council's leadership team - carrying forward her legacy of courage, vision, and inclusion.

Michelle McCormick



Michelle McCormick has been a steadfast team member within Girl Scouts of Northern California (GSNorCal) for more than 42 years, beginning her journey with the Santa Clara Council and continuing on after the merger that formed GSNorCal. Throughout her tenure, Michelle fulfilled key roles in delivering and supporting the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, including adult training, community outreach, outdoor programs, property management, and product sales.

In her most recent role as Chief Mission Delivery Officer, Michelle led numerous outdoor property initiatives with dedication and heart. Working closely with the GSNorCal Property Committee, volunteers, and partners, she ensured our camps were well cared for and ready to welcome thousands of Girl Scouts and volunteers each year.

Michelle's own Girl Scout experience began in Southern California. Today, she continues to serve as an enthusiastic and hands-on volunteer, leading the GSNorCal Heritage Committee and showing up with gloves and tools in hand for camp work parties whenever she can. Michelle's passion, experience, and deep love for Girl Scouts continues to make a lasting impact on our community.



Camporee Magic
Bothin 2022

Troop 10931



Ropes Course
Bothin 2022



Troop 61060

Celebrating 15 years of Girl Scouting, by honoring our favorite spot, Camp Bothin.



Some may have graduated but
are still part of our crew.



Smiles that last a lifetime. Happy
to be part of the Bothin Legacy.

Troop 60879

Cookies, Campfires & Zoom Badges



Troop 60879 launched as a Daisies in late 2019 - just before everything shut down. We didn't miss a beat. Weekly Zooms became our new campfire, where we earned badges, built sisterhood, and sold Girl Scout Cookies online. Our first in-person GSNorCal event was a magical Camporee at Camp Bothin, where we met CEO Marina Park and Michelle McCormick - unforgettable leaders who inspired us. This donation celebrates our troop's resilience, creativity, and the lasting memories made through screens, hikes, and hugs.

Camp Bothin will always hold a special place in our hearts.



Members of Troop 60879: Aanya, Anna, Anushkaa, Claire, Dasha, Ellissa, Florence, Gracie, Liyu, Lynn, Madison (Maddie), Nitya, Parish, Pegg, Saanjali, Sarah, Serena, Sofii, Skyla, Vaishnavi, Vanya, Vicky, Vishaka, Yueran, Amy & Jackie, & all our volunteers!



Troop 32956



Troop 32956 had many adventures at Camp Bothin including our first overnight at Camporee. We came back again for a journey weekend in 2015 and for Crossroad's Older Girl weekends in 2015, 2018 and 2020.

One of our best memories was cooking our breakfast over a fire on a cold January morning while everyone watched us from the warm Manor kitchen. Troop 32956 loved campfires and would safely play with fire every chance they got! We also did the ropes course for the first time that weekend and loved it.

Crossroad's Camporee
Brownies
May 2012



aMaze Journey Weekend
Cadettes
January 2015





Troop 60940

Los Gatos, CA

Troop 60940, together from 2014-2021, attended the same elementary school in Los Gatos.

They camped almost every year! Camp Bothin holds great memories for them.

The troop had several projects related to animal rescue (domestic and wild), plastic pollution prevention, citizen science creek cleanup and fun adventures like indoor sky diving, horseback riding, and camping!

They created a zoom presentation along with Valley Water about ocean and creek pollution prevention for their Bronze Award project.

The troop went all in for Girl Scout events like cookie sales and Camporee.

Camporee 2019 "Where in Time?"

Colonial Themed skit!

Pictured are: Ellenore, Sophie, Cadence, Anna, Vivienne, Roxie and Dana



2019 Los Gatos Holiday Parade -

Cookies and Milk!

Pictured are: Dana, Vivian, Roxie, Sophie, Cadence and Anna



In Honor of Jillian Samuel and Troop 32389



Service Unit 638



Fall Camporee
Camp Hidden Falls, October 2022



Summer Day Camp
Vasona Lake County Park, 2023

Dos Pueblos Service Unit Volunteers



The 2024-2025 Service Unit Team includes Treasurer and Cookie Chair Billie O'Brien (upper right), Program First Aider and Membership Advisor Joy Light (upper left), Advisor Faith Main (center), Program Advisor Alejandra Alvarez (front left), Program Advisor Graciela Alvarez (front right), and Specialist Ivy Montero (not pictured).

Right: Service Unit Secretary Jonnette Newey-Zane



The purpose of the Dos Pueblos Association is to provide service and support to the troop leaders of San Lorenzo and San Leandro, so that they may provide quality program for every girl in our community.



Service Unit 608

Service Unit 608 represents the Los Altos community.

Girl Scouting started in Los Altos in the late 1920's. In 1961, the Los Altos Council became part of the Santa Clara County Council and then, part of Girl Scouts of Northern California in 2007. Service Unit 608 organizes and supports the troops in this community and is proud to say Girl Scouting has been going strong in Los Altos for over 95 years!

SU 608 thrives with many events from partnering with the City of Los Altos on community service opportunities to many years of semi-annual Camporees in the Santa Cruz mountains. We have girls at all program levels, K-12 with many pursuing leadership opportunities and Bronze, Silver, & Gold Higher Awards.

SU608 is an ardent financial supporter of the many GSNorCal camps including Skylark Ranch, Hidden Falls, and, The Hub at Bothin is no exception where our girls have spent many nights under the stars and at summer camps.

SU 608 Leadership Team



SU 608 Fall Camporee
Hidden Falls



Byrd Avery Lochtie

From a Girl Scout Family

My family was a Girl Scout family. My mother, Louise Avery, volunteered to work with older girls on singing and dramatics. She taught them ballads and helped them develop and perform plays with the ballads. My dad, Howard Avery, taught girls to use a pocketknife safely, to whittle fuzz sticks, to light a fire in the rain, and to flip flapjacks over the campfire. My older sister, Mary, became a Brownie when she turned seven, and I eagerly followed her two years later.

Mary and I both were in troops all through High School, and we each earned the Curved Bar, the highest award available at the time. We took field trips to New York City, to see plays or to go to museums. We participated in Memorial Day and Fourth of July Parades in Mahwah and performed service projects in the town. Fathers of all the girls in the troop helped us make camping boxes that were also the benches in our tiny meeting space.

Badges were fun and challenging but hiking and camping were the best! One memorable rainy weekend was great fun, when we made camp, lashed a table, cooked our meals over the campfire, built a shelter, and laughed as we splashed in the rain.

24 Mary went to a national camping event in Wyoming when she was a Senior. Mary and I enjoyed Girl

Scout camp as campers, and then as counselors during our college years. I loved learning campfire songs, and I was very lucky to learn every possible swim stroke from a wonderful waterfront counselor. One year Mary and I led a backpacking unit together for a fifty-mile adventure.

I have always believed in the value of Girl Scouting, so when my husband and I settled in Eureka, California. I volunteered as an Assistant Leader for an Intermediate Girl Scout Lone Troop in the company town of Samoa, across the bay from Eureka. It was a wonderful way to meet people, to have fun, and to give to my community. Atti Lee Hasz, the leader, became a good friend.

The next year, the council located in Chico, California, allowed Eureka to affiliate with them, and a Brownie troop and an Intermediate troop were formed in Eureka. I was the leader of the Intermediate girls (5th to 8th grade) and I loved working with that age. This group of girls especially loved camping. They enjoyed camping in the rain as much as I had as a girl! They also planned and earned the money for a troop trip to Sacramento. On the bus when we were about ten miles south of Eureka, I was amazed when one girl said she had never been farther from Eureka than that. Girl Scouts provided a unique experience for that girl, and I was really proud to be part of providing that kind of experience for girls.

Because I was experienced in so much outdoor program, I was invited to take a week-long course to become a trainer of Girl Scout leaders. This was an exciting new challenge for me, and I really enjoyed working with other leaders. I traveled several times to Chico and Redding, and met wonderful Girl Scout volunteers everywhere throughout Council.

This course was a life-changing experience for me. In the following decades, I attended many workshops designed to support personnel when I attended veterinary conferences with my husband. I also served two terms on the Eureka City School Board. Finally putting together everything I had learned about organizations, nonprofits and teaching adults, I started my own consulting business, working with nonprofit Board of Directors. I love this work, and I have not yet fully retired! I am now in the process of mentoring several young women to take over as consultants when I am no longer available. That Girl Scout course set me up for an amazing and rewarding career.

I have never stopped being a Girl Scout -- that makes 80 years this year! The names of groups and specific jobs have changed over the years, but I served in most Service Unit jobs. I led a Cadette troop when the various levels changed. Then when my daughter was a Brownie, I wanted her to have an experience without me, so she could be herself without mom around. I worked as an Organizer and the Troop Committee Chair, and continued training leaders about working with girls in their troops. I also helped with day camps for several years, keeping in touch with girls!

When my daughter, Ann, became a Junior Girl Scout, she was happy for me to be her leader. Two of my dearest friends, Agnes Preble and Monda Hall, were co-leaders. The girls loved camping and planned many camping trips. I can remember one weekend, with rain in the forecast, when one girl begged her reluctant mother to please sign the permission slip so she could camp - in the rain! This troop also planned parties with their families, wrote and published a newsletter, took local hikes, enjoyed arts and crafts, and worked on service projects for every badge. I remember how excited the girls were to use an old mimeograph "jelly roll" to print the newsletter, and how amazed they were when they realized what beautiful designs they could make when they learned and practiced quilling.

I continued with the Junior troop, while Ann went on to Cadettes with a great leader, Gail Freeman. They camped, traveled to Ashland, Oregon to see Shakespeare, and performed several service projects in the community. I stayed active as a trainer, before I went back to lead a Brownie troop of 43 girls, with five co-leaders who became close friends. Brownies were such fun; they were so eager to try anything! One delightful adventure was taking all 43 girls to a local theater production of The Little Mermaid. They had all seen the movie, but they had never been to a play. Before the trip, we talked about how to be a good audience. At our next meeting after the trip, we talked about the difference between the movie and the play. I especially loved hearing one girl say, "The play was really, well, it was - REAL!" One of the girls from the troop now has a very responsible job at the local Blood Bank, where

I see her about once a month.

I have two granddaughters, and they have both been Girl Scouts, Sienna Lochtie in Portland, Oregon, and Emily Gunderson in Billings, Montana. Sienna learned all about childcare and safety and became the most popular babysitter in her neighborhood. She is now just about to receive her master's degree in School Counseling. Emily's troop loved camping, service projects, and creative projects. Emily earned her Gold Award by designing and painting a huge mural on a wall for the Salvation Army. As part of that project, she also painted another wall where kids could add their own pictures and designs. Emily is now a very successful graphic designer. I watched Girl Scouting help both my granddaughters develop confidence and hone skills to carry them into successful careers.

Along the way, a number of years ago, I worked with a group of local adults as we raised money to buy the Eureka Girl Scout Office. When we had raised about 80% (I think) of the money, Council helped by paying the monthly amount due on the mortgage. That was a huge campaign, with help from our supportive community, so that this part of the council could have its own office and store.

For the last twenty-five years I haven't led a troop, but I have done some training. I sometimes miss the girls, and I love it when I meet one of my former girls (now with gray hair!) in her successful career. I am still on the Property Task Group after a number of years. We had to decide if and how the new council could maintain all the camp properties acquired when

a number of councils were combined to become the Girl Scouts of Northern California.

Our group gathered facts and ideas involved in maintaining, closing or selling one or more camps. We heard from generations of Girl Scouts who had attended one of these camps. Emotions ran very high when we talked about selling camps, but the financial picture meant we had to consider such actions. We spent many hours seeking input from long-time members and held listening sessions in various areas of Council. We were never able to satisfy every member's wishes; but we did reach a point where most everyone understood the decisions we made. We were very fortunate to sell conservation easements to environmental groups for two of the camps, to remain as camps in perpetuity. That helped set up a fund to repair and maintain the camps we kept.

The task group also looked at how each unique camp contributed to Girl Scouts programming. Girl Scouting provides an excellent framework for girls to develop skills, character and leadership through educational and recreational experiences. I truly believe that camping is one of the most significant activities, as well as one that girls enjoy the most. Through training, I have been able to help leaders learn skills to make camping fun and beneficial for girls. Troop camping is great, but resident or day camps provide another powerful experience for girls.



Byrd Avery Lochtie

From Brownie to Adult
Volunteer and Donor

"It has been my joy and privilege to contribute to the use and maintenance of our council's camp properties, where girls learn while they have fun."

- Byrd Lochtie



Robin
MacGillivray



Girl Scouts has shaped who I am today and inspired me to keep growing and leading with purpose.

- Robin MacGillivray

I joined Girl Scouts as a Brownie and remained active in my troop until sixth grade. I took a little break and then rejoined a troop at my high school. We were called a Mariners Troop because all of our activities focused on water. We learned to water ski in the Pacific Ocean! We learned to sail in the local marina! We backpacked in the high sierras and fished in the local lakes. The highlight of my high school experience was a week-long canoeing adventure on the Colorado River over Easter break of my senior year. I am friends to this day with many of the girls in my troops!

I reconnected with the Girl Scouts in 2005 when I was invited to join the Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of San Francisco Bay Area. Several years later, I was asked to be the inaugural President of the Girl Scouts of Northern California, when our five original councils were realigned. At the conclusion of my terms as Board President I was offered the opportunity to chair our 100th Anniversary campaign, which was a real honor. That campaign was the launching pad for the creation of The Hub! What a source of pride to be at the finish line!!!

The highlight of my adult Girl Scouting experience was the opportunity to co-found Camp CEO. Camp CEO brings together teen girls from underserved communities throughout Northern California and women business executives for a long weekend. Through outdoor activities, mentoring conversations, campfire and shared meals, the girls learn how they can become "chief executive officers" of their own lives. My heart is happy knowing that hundreds of girls have been touched by this special program over the past twenty years!

Being part of Girl Scouts for most of my life has been an incredibly rewarding experience. I've built lifelong friendships, augmented my leadership skills, and experienced the joy of high impact community service. I have especially loved spending time outdoors, learning, new skills, and challenging myself in nature. Girl Scouts has shaped who I am today and inspired me to keep growing and leading with purpose.

Suzanne and Robert F. Bell



We are delighted to bring our family legacy of camp to the girls of Bothin.
Have fun, learn and grow.

In Memory of Pat and In Honor of Margaret Bermingham



Margaret was a Girl Scout and Bothin camper in San Rafael, a leader for my junior troop, a leader for my sisters' troops and a nurse at Two Sentinels.

Pat learned to camp from another Girl Scout dad and loved camping with our family when we were young and with his friends until late in life.

San Mateo County Giving Circle



The San Mateo County Giving Circle is a connected group of friends enduringly committed to making Girl Scouts accessible to all girls. We pool our donations and award grants to Girl Scouts of Northern California's programs and camps that build girls who are risk-takers, fearless pioneers, leaders, independent, and strong. We celebrate the Bothin Hub and the future of Girl Scouts.

List of Members

Becky Simpson
Carole Freitas
Debbie Hall
Elizabeth Katz
Grace Zales
Jane Taylor
Jayne Sungail
Jennifer Moyen-Logan
Kathy Engelmann
Katie Evans
Kay Newby
Kelly Bugos
Kim Freitas
Kim Mitchell

Leslie Peters
Lisa Perry
Maria Decker
Marina Park
Mary Bernstein
Mary Ng
Renee Courington
Sanborn Hodgkins
Suba Ramanathan
Susan A. Johnston
Susan Hinstorff
Valerie Armento
Wendy Fisher
Yolanda Canny



"Ours is a circle of friends united by ideals."
- Juliette Gordon Low

Investing in Girls

SANTA CLARA COUNTY GIVING CIRCLE JOIN ~ VOTE ~ LEARN ~ VOLUNTEER

How far our community's girls go in life depends on how much we invest in them.
We are a circle of friends investing in girls!

Since our launch in 2017, Girl Scouts of Northern California's first Giving Circle Chapter has become a vibrant network of passionate Girl Scout alums and friends. This dedicated group is driven by the shared vision of ensuring that every girl - especially those from under-resourced communities in Santa Clara County - has the chance to experience the life-changing benefits of Girl Scouts. By pooling our donations, we are able to award meaningful grants to GSNorCal programs and projects that build girls of courage, confidence, and character, helping them reach their fullest potential.

Through our grants, we support Girl Scout programs that enable girls to gain essential leadership skills, form lifelong friendships, and empower their futures. We have also invested in camp infrastructure, including at Hidden Falls, so even more girls can experience the joy of outdoor adventures.

As Giving Circle members, we extend our own Girl Scout experiences into adulthood with several meetings per year, where we reconnect and build a sense of belonging, learn together, and most importantly, give back. Together, we are shaping the next generation of strong, confident women.

We hope that The Hub at Bothin, as part of the diverse network of Girl Scout camps, continues to be a place where girls can discover a love of nature, embrace their leadership potential, and cultivate a deep sense of purpose. May these experiences inspire them to grow, lead, and make a positive impact in the world around them.



Northern California ♦ San Francisco Bay Area

GS Alumnae (GSA) is a network of women supporting the Girl Scouts of Northern California. We unite women of all ages seeking to promote Girl Scouting. Our membership ranges from young women to grandmothers, some were not scouts growing up and several celebrate more than 50 years as registered Girl Scouts!

GS Alumnae was founded on three premises:

- Many women in the San Francisco Bay Area have a Girl Scouting background.
- By sharing our skills and expertise, we can make a difference in the lives of today's Girl Scouts.
- It's never too late to have some more Girl Scout fun!

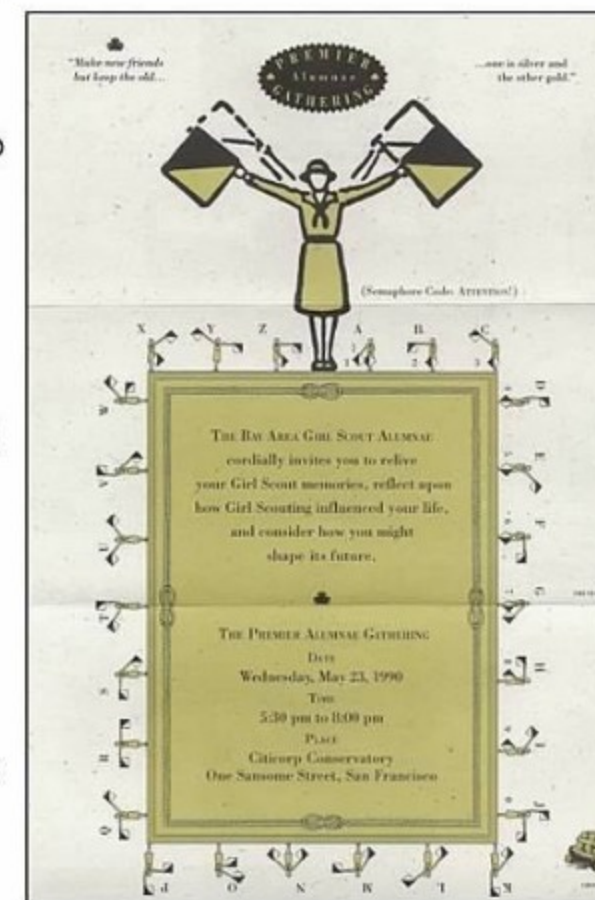
Our History

*Written by Jeanette Bemis, Charter member & GSA Historian,
with contributions from GSA member, Carol McMillan*

In 1989 a group of young professional women, mostly without children of their own, who had been Girls Scouts wanted to "give back," but were not affiliated with troops or service units. Fortunately the volunteer coordinator at San Francisco Bay GS Council saw the value these women could contribute, seeded them \$500, and along with many larger donations, the organization launched.

After months of planning, our Premier Event, (in the planning minutes the event was to be called "S'mores and Silk Blouses") was held at the Citicorp in downtown San Francisco on Wednesday May 23, 1990.

From the beginning, August 25 & 26, 1990, we've greatly enjoyed our annual retreat at Camp Bothin - many thanks to member Wendie Wu who coordinated the annual retreat in those early years. Work projects included gardening and painting. By the time we were splitting wood for the camp with a pneumatic log splitter, we called it "Women's Weekend" and enjoyed a chair massage afterwards.



Premier Event Invitation (1990)



Our first group photo started with those wearing GSA Wear (1991)

We expected GSA members would be providing mentorship to individual girls planning careers in various fields, but we found that we were constrained by distance when trying to match the adult women and girls. Our newsletter, at one time called the "Silver & Gold" (originally edited by member Diane Surtees and later Normandie Ross-Rocans) advertised requests for volunteers with special talents to help at Council and Service Unit events. Our GSA members have always been willing to lend a hand.

The GSA travels – Our first trip was to Savannah, Georgia in March 1994 to visit the Juliette Gordon Low birthplace. We followed in the Founder's Footsteps to Pax Lodge and Brownsea Island in England in 1997. We went to Nuestra Cabana in Mexico at least twice, and visited Our Chalet in Switzerland in 2010.



Singing around the campfire (2023)

Renewing old friendships and making new ones has been fun whether traveling or singing around campfires. In order to keep our songs alive, under the coordination of the late Helen Sitchler, we produced two song books with tapes in 1994 & 1998 (recorded at Camp Bothin) to carry on the old songs for new GS Leaders who didn't know them.



Example of the Silver & Gold Newsletter (1994)



Hosting overnight guests for the 2024 GSNorCal Annual Meeting

Although we have events at GS houses and other GS camps, we love to go to Camp Bothin. When GS of SF Bay became part of GS of Northern California, the Annual Council meeting has been held at Bothin and the GSA has provided overnight hospitality for the delegates who travel a distance to attend. GSA members meet for general meetings twice a year, incorporating fun and crafting around the business.

The GS Alumnae has sponsored a Gold Award Luncheon annually since 2004 to recognize and show appreciation to the girls who have achieved such a high honor in Girl Scouting.



Gold Award Luncheon 2024

Since 2005 GSA has sponsored an annual weekend Holiday Extravaganza for older girls each November at Camp Bothin. There, we learned that girls wanted to learn to sew and because there wasn't enough time at HE, we spawned one day "Sew N Sews." Unfortunately they were discontinued when we again ran into geographical issues and the challenge of finding a location and equipment.

At our annual Women's Weekend, we learned many GSA members enjoy scrapbooking, so in 2010 we spawned a weekend in San Francisco for doing that activity. We're still having Scrap-A-Ganza every February!



Decorated tea towel by talented GSA Member, Karen Johnson



Women's Weekend 2024

The GSA includes many "makers." In December 2025 we plan to sponsor a Holiday Craft Fair in the East Bay for younger girls.

Girl Scout Alumnae of Northern California, San Francisco Bay Area is proud of our contributions to continue the support of girls in Girl Scouts. Most of all we enjoy making new friends and keeping the old.



Our Logo

*by Farris Horak
submitted originally for
the GSA Newsletter*



Have you ever thought about how communication was done before cell phones? Before telephones? Before what is known today as snail-mail? (The latter would take weeks to cross the country by boat or by covered wagon or even by the Pony Express - when they existed.) Semaphore was used extensively. A good old example is what is now known as Telegraph Hill in San Francisco. It used to be called Signal Hill to advise San Francisco residents on big events, especially when ships came into port.

The Girl Scout Alumnae (of Northern California - San Francisco Bay Area) chose the semaphore as a depiction of us - on our logo the flags spell out GSA. Girl Scouts and semaphore go back a long way. Semaphore was a requirement to become a First Class Scout at the beginning in 1912. It was consistently a requirement to become a First Class Scout until about 1930. Then it was a choice of one of the requirements. It was not required in 1940 and/or 1947, but the semaphore alphabet was in the Handbooks.

So as time passed semaphore was phased out. Semaphore flags were a part of the interactive Girl Guide Museum in London up until the early 2000's. Guides and Scouts could practice with them.

What better way to let the world know that the Girl Scout Alumnae is alive and well than with a logo of semaphore flags? It is a part of our heritage!

Fun Committee Outings & Activities

GSA's Fun Committee plans great outings and activities for members, helping us keep in touch and have fun together throughout each year.



Archery at Twin Canyon (2022)



Filoli Holiday Lights Tour (2024)



Camp Ida Smith Work Party (2023)



Paint Party -Hayward Cabin (2023)



Fort Point Walking Tour (2024)



Palace of the Legion of Honor Tour (2025)

How GSA supports the Girl Scouting Community

Holiday Extravaganza
Annually in November
Camp Bothin, Fairfax, CA
A crafting event for GSNorCal Girl Scouts in 6th-12th grades and their friends!

Gold Award Luncheon
Annually in January
The Bridges Country Club, San Ramon, CA
An event for recent Gold Award recipients and their families, to show recognition and appreciation.

Adulthood 101 Patch Program
This program teaches key skills girls need to become successful adults.
There are 16 rockers organized into four key areas: Life Skills, Public Life, Financial Life, and Personal Life.

GSA Knowledge Database
Our members possess a wealth of knowledge and expertise about Girl Scouting, Crafts, Business, and much more, and are eager to share with you.
A helpful resource for GSNorCal Service Units, Troop Leaders and Volunteers

Women's Weekend
An annual fun-filled, themed weekend where GSA members, their friends and prospective members get together at Camp Bothin on the weekend after Labor Day. We relax, reconnect with friends and make new ones, sing songs, get crafty, eat yummy meals, and enjoy the things that make us Girl Scouts (even if you never were one as a girl!). You don't have to be a member to attend - so it is a great opportunity to check us out.



Girl Scouts of Northern California Heritage Committee



In 1989, Heritage groups were established in local councils to preserve Girl Scout history and maintain collections of Girl Scouts memorabilia.

Our Mission Statement:

The Girl Scouts of Northern California Heritage Committee preserves and shares Girl Scout history and culture to inspire a sense of belonging in Girl Scouting, and promote an appreciation of its traditions.

The Heritage Committee collects, conserves and catalogs items of historical interest related to local, national and international Girl Scouting. They maintain vintage uniforms for girl and adult members to wear at special events and provide materials for historic program activities.

The Heritage Committee also develops and maintain displays at our council offices and program centers, including the Girl Scout Museum at Camp Bothin.

Volunteer historians participate in groups across the entire council's geographical region organized by area:

Chico - Fairfield - Redwoods - San Francisco Bay - Santa Clara County - Santa Rosa

Please contact the Girl Scouts of Northern California Council Office to learn about our historical Girl Scout resources or to join the Heritage Committee.



Juliette Gordon Low House
San Jose Office



Chico Center Display



Bothin Display



The Bothin Museum

Camp Ida Smith Site Committee



Camp Merced started on the west side
of Lake Merced in San Francisco.



Ms. Ida Smith
Director of San Francisco Girl Scouts Council 1932-1957



Camp Merced was renamed Camp Ida Smith after moving to the east side of Lake Merced.



Camp Ida Smith is managed and maintained by a group of dedicated volunteers.

View looking north - campfire circle, Hauser House and 3-sided shelters at Jay Hawk.



3-sided shelter at Hummingbird site.



Girl Scouts working on fire safety.



Planting during October 2024 Camp Ida Smith Service Day.



Camp Ida Smith Committee at February 2025 meeting.



Nancy Johnsen, devoted volunteer and long-serving Chairperson of Camp Ida Smith Committee, at former tent platform.

Karen Malmstrom Eckhart

The year is 1950. Intermediate Troop 39 is loaded into parents' cars and we're off! Off to Manor (now known as Bothin)! We leave the fog drenched surroundings of our outer Mission District homes in San Francisco and cross the thrilling Golden Gate Bridge, holding our breath as we pass through the tunnel into sunny Marin County. It's the beginning of a long love affair with Girl Scouts Together at Manor/Manor Valley/Bothin.

So many memories . . . early years (see photo of me, Karen Malmstrom, and Gail Jolliffe on the steps of Little House) when Troop 39 accompanied my mom's (Genevieve Trillium Malmstrom) troop of high schoolers to Manor. How we envied those teens who got to sleep on the (then) uncovered deck which they named Lovers Leap! We had to be content with the open porch, while the Brownie sister tagalongs slept indoors. We slid down the banister to the main floor. We played Sardines and hid in the blanket closet at the top of the stairs (one little sister giggled so hard while we waited to be found that she wet her pants). An old player piano by the fireplace had yellowed paper rolls which you inserted and then pumped away on the pedals at whichever speed was appropriate (or not). My favorite was racing through Humoresque. Barbara Browne and I picked wild blackberries and made muffins in the Little House kitchen. We must not have read the Schilling spice cans carefully, as when we tasted our blackberry muffins the flavor was more like tamale pie. Oops!! We had used cumin instead of cinnamon. So disappointing after all that berry picking.

Junior High . . . Enjoying the swimming pool. Creating water ballets and holding swimming relay races. Hiking to the Boy Scout Camp Tamarancho and inviting the boys to visit us at Manor. Solving a code for clues to the story of Norah Remming and Remming Manor (Note: Around the mid-fifties troops only used Little House. But we were aware of the history of the campus as a sanatorium for tubercular children in previous times. Once, we explored Lyman House and saw equipment which must have been used for the children's safety. Our imaginative troop member, Adele Galli, was inspired to create a suspenseful tale supposedly in the words of "Norah Remming" who had been one of the recuperating children and who then upon her death gave her money to establish this Scout camp.) Every day a new chapter of the story appeared in some unlikely place which we had to find by using the code. We had no idea it was Adele who was writing it!

By High School we finally got to sleep on the uncovered deck with my younger sister's troop on the open porch. We had arrived!

Out on that sleeping porch we also worked on our tans taking advantage of the Marin County sunshine. I remember adhesive taping my boyfriends first initial to my thigh and using baby oil to tan around the capital L, making a negative tan tattoo.

Along with our annual troop weekends I had individual connections with Manor Valley. As a high school P.E. teacher, my troop leader mom had summers off. One summer, she (Trillium) was Program Director for the five-day sessions (Brownies? Intermediates?) at Lyman. As high schoolers, my sister Linda and I went along as PAs (program aides). On weekends we would go back home to our dad in San Francisco and then return again for the next session at Manor Valley. We had meals in the dining hall, always accompanied by singing. My best fun was leading the songs, which included several which had been composed especially for this camp: We have been to Manor Valley and have learned a thing or two . . . to the tune of Battle Hymn of the Republic, and the rather schmaltzy original Manor Valley, we love you so... Trillium led nature walks. When young campers expressed squeamishness on discovering a banana slug, for example, Trillium would encourage curiosity: Don't say Ewww; say Ooooo! When a scary bug turned up, she would say, Let's count its legs! to determine if it was a six-legged insect or an eight-legged spider. She was a great role model in so many ways.

I had gone through the counselor in training program at Camp Sugar Pine, but was unable to complete it (and receive my ceremonial camp name) as I had been selected to represent the United States at the Grand Opening of Our Cabana in Cuernavaca, Mexico, which took place at the same time, in 1957. I came back to Manor Valley as a counselor and then as a Unit Leader, somehow with the name Coot. But shortly after, that name (round, bobbing water bird) did not seem to fit, and I became Swift. My last visit to Bothin was an Alumnae Weekend, some 20 years ago. My blackberry muffin pal Barbara and I attended, reveling in the nostalgia. We walked out to the road and discovered Arequipa, which led to learning even more about the history of this very special place.



Karen Malmstrom Eckhart (right) with best friend Gail Jolliffe, both age 10, on the steps of Little House on their troop's first stay at Manor House, circa 1950.

"We met in preschool and were best friends all through scouting. Both still going strong at 86!"

These days, at 86, I am still Swift in spirit. I will always cherish the gift of the experiences I was fortunate to have as a Scout at Manor and Manor Valley.

Though I've lived in Southern California my whole adult life, I've been privileged to support the Girl Scouts of Northern California, over the years and wish for Scouting joy and growth at Bothin and the new Hub for generations to come!

-Karen Malmstrom Eckhart



Michelle McCormick
and Sara Davis

Michelle and Sara are Lifetime Girl Scouts. They grew up in the same town but were in different troops until they met as Senior Girl Scouts in High School. They have been together ever since, celebrating 50 years in 2025!

Michelle worked for Girl Scouts for 42 years, ending her career as the GSNorCal Chief Mission Delivery Officer. During Michelle's long career with Girl Scouts, Sara supported many projects behind the scenes. Together they have contributed to major property improvement projects at all of the GSNorCal camps.

Camp Counselors at
Skylark Ranch in 1977



We believe outdoor experiences
can have a powerful and lasting
impact on girls and women!





Three Generations One Promise Kept

This Bothin project honors the legacy of Girl Scouting passed down through three generations of our family. My mom, Jo Ann Love, led my troop, teaching me to care deeply for our world - lessons I now pass on as a troop leader to Maddie. These photos capture both memories and values: picking up trash, serving with purpose, and living the Girl Scout Law. Supporting The Hub is our way of giving back to a movement that shaped us and continuing the cycle of leadership, service, and sisterhood for the girls who follow.



Jo Ann Pleak Love, Amy D. Love, and Madison "Maddie" Pleak Love - three generations honoring one Girl Scout promise.



Camping under stars, hiking new trails, earning badges, selling cookies - Maddie and I embrace our adventurous roots with joy.



Ann Severin Watrous

A Life in Girl Scouting

Ann Watrous began her connection with Girl Scouts as a child, joining as a Brownie in Troop 5 in Berkeley, California, where her mother served as assistant leader. She continued through Intermediate Girl Scouts and later became a Senior Girl Scout in high school, volunteering as a hospital aide at Alta Bates hospital in Berkeley.

Her adult Girl Scout career began as a mother of two daughters in 1976 when she became an assistant Brownie leader for her older daughter's troop. In 1977, she took on leadership of her younger daughter's troop, guiding them from Brownies through Cadettes.

By 1978, she expanded her involvement beyond troop activities, joining the committee for Daisy Doings, a countywide Girl Scout birthday event, where she managed cookie preparation and delivery. The following year, Ann became a member of Council's Program Advisory Group under Anne Heller, planning council-wide events and mini-camps, a role she continued through 1985. She also served as a unit leader at Diablo Day Camp in 1979 and then at Two Sentinels resident camp from 1980-1982, where she led the backpacking unit.

In 1980, Ann became a Council trainer and took on the role of Brownie Consultant for the Walnut Creek Association, holding monthly meetings and helping organize association events such as Walk-a-Mile, Girl Scout Birthday celebrations, International Faire, and Brownie Play Days. Her leadership expanded in 1982 when she became Association Chairman for Walnut Creek, a position she held for six years, planning numerous association events.

During 1983-1984, Ann collaborated with Lawrence Hall of Science to develop the Earthquake Ready Patch packet. In 1986, she joined the Discoveree Committee, which produces an annual event providing a day of teaching workshops on topics including Songs, Water, Weeds and Whiffs, and Saying Thank You. She served as the Discoveree chair for many years and continues to serve as a supporting member of the team.

When the Girl Scouts celebrated their 75th birthday, Ann helped plan both association and council events and training materials. She was elected as a National Council Delegate and attended the National Council Meeting in Portland, Oregon in 1987.

The following year, she chaired the Council's 25th Anniversary Ethnic Faire celebration and developed the Passport to Adventure Council Patch Packet to encourage troops to travel beyond their local areas.

In early 1989, the council hired Ann part-time to coordinate spring council program events during a staff reorganization. By 1990, she was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Council Board of Directors, a position she held for six years, serving on the Property Committee, (a task group to find a new council office site), and the Fund Development Committee.

She was involved in the formation of the council's Heritage Committee and served as its chair for thirty years. During that time the committee acquired and developed the museum at Camp Bothin, organized exhibits and outreach programs at the museum and council offices and maintained and shared collections of classic Girl Scout and international uniforms and Juliette's Trunks.

In addition to her Girl Scout activities, Ann found time to serve on the Civic Arts Commission of the City of Walnut Creek,

and was its chair when plans for the Leshner Center for the Arts were developed.

Throughout her decades of service, Ann remained deeply involved at multiple levels of Girl Scouting, continuing as both a Brownie and Junior Consultant for the Walnut Creek Association, serving on the Video Task Force, Heritage Committee, and providing orientation and Basic Leader training for people in central Diablo Valley.

Her extraordinary commitment and service to Girl Scouts was recognized when she received the Thanks Badge II from the San Francisco Bay Girl Scouts Council, the highest adult award in Girl Scouting, acknowledging her service as "truly outstanding" and "significantly above and beyond the call of duty."





Ann and Mark Monroe

Left: Ann Monroe
Hidden Falls, September 2024

Right: Mark and Julia Monroe
Skylark Ranch, September 2016

Katie and Julia Monroe
Hidden Falls, May 2022



Christopher Monroe
Sugar Pine, August 2015

Carol L. Campbell

Reflections of Being a Girl Scout

To be growing up in the middle of the 20th century meant being proud of our country. We had just won WWII, the economy was flourishing, and America was growing its middle class. Optimism was in the air. Social organizations were springing up everywhere. Every girl in my elementary school was invited to join the Girl Scouts.

I could belong! We all wore our military-inspired uniforms to school on the days our troops met. We could choose from all sorts of topics to earn badges and advance in the ranks. It felt magical to me to be part of something that was also happening in other countries around the world. To feel part of something bigger than myself became one of my most cherished goals, and a main source of spiritual health.

Resident camp in the summer became the most important activity in my life. I was completely enchanted by how it felt to sing in a group, over and over all day long. We hiked, swam, did crafts, learned cool outdoor skills, and played tricks on the counselors. We made ourselves at home in Mother Nature's world, ever respectful of leaving the place better than we found it.

By junior high age it became apparent that I was destined for leadership roles. Our council offered a leadership training class. I was asked to speak at various other schools to encourage parents to send their daughters to camp. I became a Camp-Aide. Soon I was ready for CIT (Counselor in Training) training, and wonderful summers as a camp counselor.

The camp directors tended to assign the most challenging campers to my units, knowing I had a knack for connecting with just about anybody. That awareness eventually led to my career choice of being a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist.

In high school I was surprised by an invitation from GSUSA to participate in a 5-week expenses-paid trip to Mexico with 31 other girls and 2 adult leaders. From all over the United States, we formed a troop to test the feasibility of encouraging regular Girl Scout troops to undertake extended travel abroad. That was the first of many later travels I enjoyed as an adult to countries around the world.

In college in Rhode Island, I found little ways to be helpful with troops nearby. Once I graduated, I started a Cadette troop where I was living in Wisconsin. In Delaware I helped organize a big event for older girls to learn about colonial history and crafts. When I moved to California, I contacted the council to see what I might do for them. Next thing I knew, I was on the board of directors. Later, I became one of the youngest women ever to serve as president of a large Girl Scouts Council, and I helped usher in more modern forms of governance of a nonprofit organization.

All my children happened to be boys, so I never had a daughter to guide in the direction of becoming a Girl Scout. But I got to be pretty good at simply being a Girl Scout in the world, demonstrating by how I live my life that you can change the world for the better just by following Girl Scout values.



I am honoring my 91 year old mother, Sallie Clay, who was a Girl Scout leader on the Blackfoot reservation in Browning, Montana in the 1970's. She embodied the mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character. My sisters and I, along with other girls in Browning, were members of her troop and learned to do our best, be honest and fair and take on challenges.

Girl Scouts was so impactful that I encouraged our daughter, Sydney Willis, to join Girl Scouts and she earned her Gold Award in 2018. Also in the Scout family, our son, Austin Willis, earned his Eagle Award in 2015. In addition, I am honored to have served on the Board of Girl Scouts of Northern California and have the opportunity to support Bothin.

My mother's dedication to making the world a better place, has influenced younger generations in ways she likely never imagined.

Charmaine Clay



I am forever grateful to my friend, mentor and former manager, Debra Rossi, who also served on the board and is a model of strong leadership.

- Charmaine Clay

(Left to right: Marina Park, Charmaine Clay, Sydney Willis, Debra Rossi)



Eileen Mary Brosnahan
Born: June 27, 1918
Passed: February 11, 2003

In Loving Memory of Eileen Mary Brosnahan

Eileen Mary Brosnahan was born on June 27, 1918, in Whitinsville, Massachusetts, the first of three children to Timothy and Mary (Mollie) Brosnahan. Irish immigrants who became naturalized citizens. Eileen was the beloved older sister to her brothers, James and William.

Eileen attended local schools in Whitinsville and graduated from Northbridge High School in 1936, during the challenging times of the Great Depression. Despite the difficulties of finding employment, Eileen secured a position as a matron at the Framingham Women's Reformatory and closer to home at Whitin Machine Works, a local factory integral to the community. It was here she met her future husband, William Hall. They married on Thanksgiving Day in 1942 and honeymooned in Springfield, as Bill had recently enlisted in the Army and only had a weekend pass. While Bill served in California during WWII, Eileen remained at home, and by February 1944, they welcomed their first daughter, Susan. The family grew with the arrival of their second daughter, Martha, in 1950.

Eileen was a devoted mother and wife, supporting her daughters in their activities, particularly Girl Scouts, where she continued to volunteer even after her daughters had moved on. Eileen was a lifetime member of Girl Scouts and received her 50-year pin,

as well as several other honors for her volunteer work and support of the movement. Her love for communication shone through her roles as a secretary for the Northbridge Nursing Association, a Christian Doctrine teacher at her local Catholic Church, and a participant in Senior Center Elderly Education classes and the Social Library.

Tragically, Bill passed away from cancer before their 25th anniversary. Eileen's resilience and resourcefulness ensured a stable home for her daughters. She embraced life with joy, making numerous trips to Ireland, the ocean, and visiting relatives for tea and conversation.

Eileen's family expanded with the marriage of Susan to Frank Strom and the arrival of five grandchildren. Eileen cherished her role as a grandmother, often chauffeuring her grandchildren to piano lessons and Girl Scouts. Her creative homemade cards for various holidays were a cherished tradition for her grandchildren.

Eileen's life was marked by her generosity, love, and the impact she had on those around her. Her legacy of kindness and dedication will be remembered by all who knew and loved her.

Hers was a life well-lived.

Jennifer Moyen-Logan - 1967
First Year as a Brownie:
Embracing CS Values!



Jennifer's Troop in 2007: 12
girls achieved Silver and Gold
Awards and had an
unforgettable trip to Italy.



Santa Clara County Giving Circle



Building on her experiences and passion for empowering women and girls, Jennifer Moyen-Logan co-founded the GSNorCal Santa Clara County Giving Circle in 2017 to unite women donors in supporting transformative GS programs for underserved girls. The Giving Circle is a vibrant network of friends, funding programs that build Girl Scout values through leadership development, lifelong friendships, and camp experiences.

May the Hub at Bothin cultivate learning, growth, and sisterhood for years to come. The Giving Circle is committed to investing in girls, creating opportunities that shape their futures forever!



Joyce A. Richards

Joyce's legacy is one of profound impact and lasting influence. Her dedication to service, her ability to inspire, and her unwavering belief in the power of young girls to change the world are testaments to her extraordinary career.

For 27 years of her career, Joyce worked in service to the Girl Scouts movement. The capstone on her service was as the final CEO of Girl Scouts of the San Francisco Bay Area before it became Girl Scouts of Northern California.

In her time in Northern California, it was always apparent that the outdoors was near and dear to her heart. She convinced her dear friend, Melinda Carroll, to host a Girl Scouts Destination at Camp Bothin. 50 girls from across the nation were selected to travel here to stay for a week and record Girl Scouts Greatest Hits, volume 7, *We Are Family*, under Melinda's direction. She also created Camp CEO, a mentoring program for girls. Joyce and her team recruited CEOs from all over the Bay Area, across all industries, to spend a weekend at Girl Scouts Camp, sharing career advice and skills with Girl Scouts. One of the mentors Joyce recruited was Marina Park, who would later become the first CEO of the Girl Scouts of Northern California.

Joyce retired in October of 2007 after serving as the CEO at Girl Scout Councils in the San Francisco Bay Area, Hawaii, Los Angeles, and Iowa. She also served as Senior Vice President, Marketing and Development at GSUSA National. In retirement she has spent time with family and friends as well as volunteering her services as an advocate for girls and women, environmental protection and stewardship and equal rights.



In Loving Memory of Betty and Don Kelley

Napa-Solano Legacy Council Extraordinary Volunteers

High school sweethearts Betty and Don Kelley moved to Napa from their hometown of Vallejo in 1960, and immediately became active in the community, especially in the local Girl Scouts council. Betty, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, was a leader for daughter Helen's Intermediate troop, and daughter Arletta's Brownie (and subsequent) troops. Don, a Merchant Marine veteran and tugboat captain, was always available for outdoor skills training and general support. As the years passed, they took on more roles, from Betty's several stints as Council Cookie Chair, to Don's leadership of the Camp Committee, to membership on the Council Board of Directors. Together, they led girls on Council's summer backpacking adventures and the popular Gypsy Tour bus camp, traveling all over the state with a group of teen Girl Scouts in a school bus. Betty worked at the Council's many summer day camps, managing girls, equipment, and food. Following the Council's purchase of the Cove Camp on Mt. Veeder in Napa County, Don became a one-man construction and repair crew, spending many of his days off working on Cove projects, making repairs, and checking that things were okay at the camp. When he passed away in 1996, his Cove keychain held more than thirty keys to lock boxes, gates, shelter doors, and tank controls. Their greatest legacy, however, is the love for Girl Scouts that Betty and Don imparted to the many girls they worked with over the years - girls who grew up loving Girl Scouts and who, as adults, fondly remember the fun they had with Mr. and Mrs. Kelley. Inspired by their parents, both Helen and Arletta became active Girl Scout adults, leading troops, managing camps, and carrying on Don and Betty's Girl Scout legacy.

In Honor of the Kellman, Baxter and Agustin Girl Scouts

My sister and I were Brownies and Girl Scouts at Oak Knoll School and Hillview School in Menlo Park. Our mom, Joy, was the leader of Hildys troop.

Both Hildy and I learned so much in our time scouting. Camping was a big part of our troops and Summer Camp was the main way we experienced wilderness and outdoor living. As we got older, our troop time was less about camping and art projects and more about leadership skills and character building. But all of it was formative.

We loved selling cookies and have some fond memories of pulling a wagon around Allied Arts, going door to door, and of Hildy and our dad setting up an impromptu booth at Bay Meadows Horse Racing Track, circa 1978. We also sold cookies outside the local Safeway, but somehow selling cookies by the case load to the big winners was more memorable!

As adults, we became troop leaders, Hildy with Troop 33183 at Oak Knoll and Hillview, where we were scouts, and me on the other side of town with Troop 33166, first at Laurel and Encinal Schools, then Hillview and finally Menlo Atherton High School, where a few of our girls made it all the way through the Gold Award.

We are delighted and impressed with our girls and with the girls in our troops, how confident and strong they are and what great leaders they have become. We are grateful to the Girl Scouts, and thrilled to see Bothin is still serving girls over 100 years after inception, with The Hub at its center.

Thanks to everyone who helped make The Hub happen, and to all the volunteers and staff members committed to the next 100 years of Bay Area Scouting.

Joy Kellman
Robbie Kellman Baxter
Hildy Kellman Agustin

Molly Baxter
Annabel Baxter
Isabel Agustin



Top (Left to Right): Molly & Annabel Baxter, Troop 30857 at Thinking Day, Troop 33166 working on their Bronze Award

Bottom (Left to Right): Troop 33183 delivering diapers after a school drive, Robbie, Hildy and Joy 'today', Hildy & Isabel camping



In Honor of Marina Park



110th Anniversary Celebration of Girl Scouting
Marina describing the Ropes Course
Camp Bothin
March 12, 2022

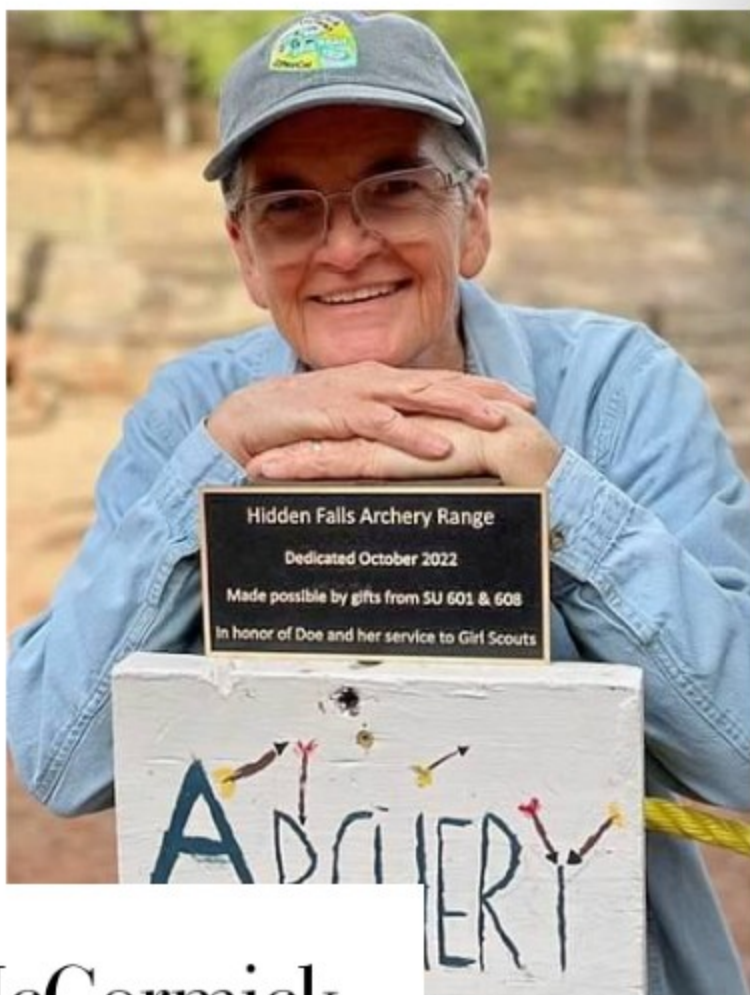


The Hub Groundbreaking Celebration
Marina celebrating with her family!
Camp Bothin
October 23, 2022



Michelle McCormick

Through her 42-year career (1981-2022), Michelle supported generations of Girl Scouts, ultimately serving as Girl Scouts of Northern California's Chief Mission Delivery Officer. For Michelle, it always was about youth and volunteers and building a welcoming community for every girl and family. Passionate about camp, Michelle oversaw many improvements, from road and bridge construction, to treehouses, archery ranges and ropes courses. I am grateful for Michelle's dedication to Girl Scouts and for her friendship and partnership during my 15 years as CEO of Girl Scouts of Northern California.



Marina, Michelle, Mary-Jane and Jill, imagining the post-fire future at Camp Skylark Ranch.
December 3, 2021



Michelle 'passing the shovel' to Mary-Jane Strom
Hub ground-breaking and Michelle's retirement.
October 23, 2022



Polly S. Cortez

Once a Girl Scout, Always a Girl Scout



Since my high school years in the Philippines, Girl Scouting has played a pivotal role in my whole life. My life skills from Girl Scouts activities and camping every summer carried me through my life in the San Francisco Bay Area for more than 50 years. I surely count my blessings to have experienced many roles as a Girl Scout troop member, troop leader, Board member, Finance committee chair, Audit committee chair, fundraising awardee for the San Francisco Bay Area Girl Scouts first-ever diversity conference, and up to now, as a member of the Audit committee. Girl Scouting developed my courage and confidence with a sharp focus on volunteerism and the goal to make the world a better place.

I carried the spirit of volunteerism to my career by accepting assignments and projects outside my designated job position - which enabled me to prove my competency in critical operational areas. Overall, Girl Scouts stand out with a sparkle!! Positive attitude, caring hearts and valuable stewards of our universe!

(Counter Clockwise): Polly on the Ropes Course; Hands Together with Camp CEO Mentors around the giant Sugar Pine tree; Dedicated Mentors of Camp CEO 2004



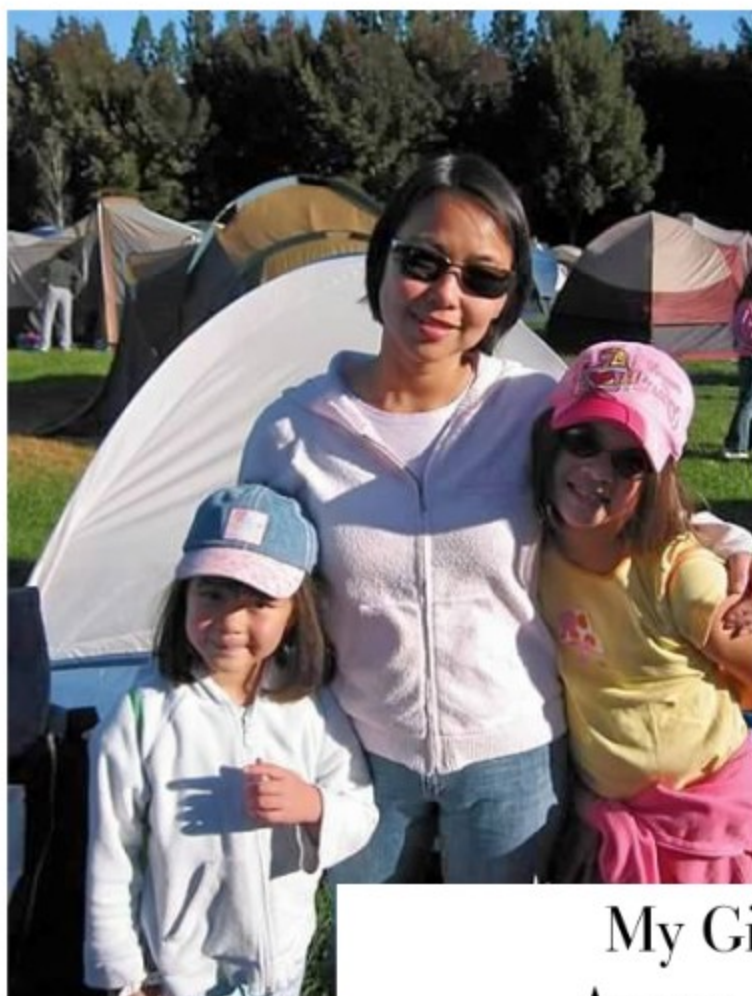


Clockwise: Polly with Joyce Richards and Nikki van Ausdall; Polly with Joyce Richards; Polly with Ann Watrous celebrating 110 Years of Girl Scouts.



Celebrating 110 Years of Girl Scouts

Left to Right: Joyce Richards, Lauryn Agnew, Kathy Gerds, Marina Park, Polly S. Cortez



My Girl Scouts
Amara & Narisa

From Gilroy to Paris!

Left: 2005 Girl Scout Camping at Bonfante Gardens

Right: 2024 Girls Trip to Paris



2003 Brownie Troop 1674
Amara Trabosh
(back row, 2nd from left)



2013 Cadette Troop 33170
Narisa Trabosh
(2nd row, 5th from right)



Three Generations

My mom was a Girl Scout in Hawaii in the 1940s during WWII. Then my sister Sherry and I were Girl Scouts in the 1970's (photo).

White go-go boots were the style! Then my daughter Kimberly "Kimi" was a Girl Scout from kindergarten thru 12th grade from 2007 to 2021. I am dedicating this in honor of three generations of Girl Scouts: mom, Millie Takahashi, sister, Sherry Takahashi, and my daughter, Kimi Shirai.



Kimi bridging to Ambassador.



Shirai Family at the ribbon cutting at Camp Butano.



Troop 61034 Sunnyvale, California

Side by side, or miles apart, we are sisters, connected by heart.



Family Tradition

Here's to strong women. May we know
them. May we raise them. May we be them.

Stephanie Holson (Troop Leader, former Girl Scout, Lifetime Member)
and daughter Sophia Holson (former Brownie, Junior, currently a Cadette)



Tiffany M. Phamvu

I am proud to say that I am a Grown-Up Girl Scout, lucky enough to be introduced to the benefits of the program and fall in love with Girl Scouting as an adult, when I started my career as a Girl Scout employee.

Girl Scouts was not my first career, but it will forever be one of the most significant career choices I have made. Not only did I meet some of my closest friends, learn from some of the best leaders, and work alongside so many empowered women, but I received the experience of falling in love with Girl Scouts and the mission through the eyes of all of the adults and girls I have served in my role.

Camp Bothin will always hold a special place in my heart as the first camp I had the opportunity to visit as a new staff member. Around my first friendship circle, I had the chance to be one of the newest staff members introduced, and to my right was Michelle McCormick, at that time, celebrating her 34th year as a Girl Scout employee, sharing her story last. This moment will forever be a core memory of a long-time Girl Scouts tradition, and also, an inspiring moment that would influence my career for years.

My passion for Girl Scouts grew as I grew within the organization. Falling in love with the mission, and learning about the impact of the outdoors, made me realize the years of outdoor adventures, family camp and sleepaway camp experiences I had as a child, helped mold a lot of who I am today. What I found to be fun times, were moments where I learned to be brave, learned to explore, learned about environmental impact, and my own impact on Mother Nature. From 3-minute showers, to reducing food waste, recycling, leave no trace, etc., these lessons learned through my camp experiences, shaped the way I live my life as an adult. These lessons were all learned while at sleepaway camp.

While I didn't get to experience Girl Scout Camp as a child, I am passionate about preserving Girl Scout camps because, "If camp impacted me as much as it did, can you imagine if I had gone to a Girl Scout camp?" I often imagine what a difference a girl-only space could have made for me as a child, and preserving that, is now a passion of mine.

From Camp Hidden Falls to Camp Bothin, to Camp Skylark, and Camp Sugar Pine, I am proud to say I have sent my Goddaughter to all of our council-run camps and have seen first-hand the impact they made on her as a child. My hope is that my continued support of Girl Scouts and our camps will mean there will always be a place for Girls Scouts to experience the outdoors. Now as a Troop Leader for my niece's troop, I look forward to being able to see her experience our Girl Scout camps first-hand.

From employee to Lifetime Member to now Troop Leader, I am proud to be able to have experienced Girl Scouts as an adult and be able to have the knowledge and passion to share it with a new generation of girls.

Girl Scouts not only introduced me to a career I never dreamed I would fall in love with, but to a class of extraordinary women I get to call my friends and mentors today. Proving, you are never too old to be a Girl Scout or to be impacted by the Girl Scouts Mission.



VAL ARMENTO

Brownie * Intermediate * Senior * Adult * Lifetime Member
50+ Years

Association Camping Coordinator * Council Trainer/Facilitator * Association Wider Opportunity Liaison * Council Wide Opportunity/Destinations Committee * Assistant Leader * Discoveree Workshop Presenter * Task Force on Program Services * Task Force on Volunteer Policies and Procedures * Co-Chair of Marine Mystique Event Steering Committee * Council Property Review Committee * Rim of the Bay Consultant * Outdoor Training Program Compilation * Golden Gate Bridging Destinations Booths

National Jamboree in Iceland * National Center West * Philmont Boy Scout Ranch (GS Adult for Coed Post) * Deer Lake Family Camp * Treasure Island Jamboree * One Hundred Fun Hundred Centennial Event * California Dreamin' Jamboree * Our Chalet

Appreciation Pin * Outstanding Volunteer Award * Thanks Badge * Thanks Badge II * Centennial Star * Honor Pin

Capital Improvement Campaigns: Camp Bothin, Camp Butano, Camp Sugar Pine * Santa Clara County Giving Circle * San Mateo County Giving Circle * Matching Grant for Hidden Falls Campaign * Hidden Falls Climbing Wall * 1912 Campaign for Camp Bothin



Winifred Imhof Cook
1926-1995

Winifred Imhof Cook

Lifelong Girl Scout

Winifred Imhof Cook, honored by her daughter Pamela Cook, had a lifelong relationship with Girl Scouts. Mrs. Cook grew up as a Girl Scout in Pennsylvania and served as a summer camp counselor at Camp Kistinowewi in Virginia. She founded and led Brownie Troop 190 in Dayton, New Jersey for 6 years. A Penn State journalism graduate, Mrs. Cook was a newspaper writer, columnist and editor for The New Brunswick Home News, The Trenton Times, The Central Post, and The Cranbury Press, among other publications. She interviewed and published several articles on Lady Olave Baden-Powell, wife of the founder of the Boy Scouts, who was instrumental in the founding of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. Over the course of her career, she wrote and published many stories about Girl Scouts and was recognized for her service by the Girl Scouts of America. Mrs. Cook also received awards from groups including the American Red Cross, United States Consumer Products Division, Jewish War Veterans, New Jersey Daily Newspaper Women, and Sigma Delta Chi. An article she wrote on hydrocephalus was placed in the Congressional Record by Congressman Edward J. Patten. She was nominated for a Pulitzer Prize by her newspaper in 1973. Copies of some of her articles may be available in the Camp Bothin Heritage Museum. In addition to her activities with Girl Scouts, Mrs. Cook was active with 4-H, the PTA, the South Brunswick Public Library, and the Penn State Alumni Association. She was the mother of 3 daughters and had 3 grandchildren. Mrs. Cook was born in 1926 in Lebanon, Pennsylvania and died in 1995 in Stuart, Florida.



Thank You for Safe Spaces

This is dedicated to all of the volunteers, staff and Girl Scouts who are committed to continuous learning in our efforts to uphold our GSNorCal Culture Code and create truly safe spaces for girls and gender-expansive youth to thrive.

Asking ourselves, "How can we live our community values within our troops, service units, camps and events?" is critical to our movement's support of advancing diversity, inclusion, equity and belonging.