

# Monthly Newsletter

## *February 2026*





## Featured Pages

Meet our 2025/2026  
Women of Distinction

Kaleidoscope

Celebrating Service Unit  
Success

Growing the Girl Scout Movement Together

Keiona Nadig  
Gold Award Girl Scout



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# **Announcing the 2025/2026 Women of Distinction**

We are proud to honor six extraordinary women whose leadership, service, and commitment have made a lasting impact on girls, families, and our community. Each of these Women of Distinction exemplifies the values of courage, confidence, and character through their actions and dedication.

Their influence extends far beyond Girl Scouting—strengthening communities, mentoring others, and creating opportunities for girls to thrive. We are grateful for their leadership and proud to celebrate the meaningful difference they make every day.

**Please join us in congratulating our  
Women of Distinction honorees.**

<b>Chris Amendt</b>	<b>Karen Bauerle</b>
<b>Lynda Fairly</b>	<b>Kathleen (Vicky) Grisham</b>
<b>Denise Hand</b>	<b>Mary Anne Rooney</b>

# **Announcing the 2025/2026 Girl Scout of the Year & the Art McLoughlin honorees**

Each year, we proudly recognize individuals whose leadership and service reflect the values of Girl Scouting. This year, we are honored to announce our Girl Scout of the Year and the recipient of the Art McLoughlin Award. We are grateful for their impact and proud to celebrate these outstanding individuals.

**The Girl Scout of the Year exemplifies courage, confidence, and character through meaningful leadership and service**

**KAYTLIN KIMBALL**

**The Art McLoughlin Award honors a male ally whose support and advocacy strengthen girls' leadership and our community.**

**KENNETH COOPER**

# Announcing the 2025/2026 THANKS BADGE honorees

We are proud to recognize a group of extraordinary volunteers who were nominated by their peers for their dedication and countless hours of service to Girl Scouts.

Their leadership and commitment have made a meaningful impact across our council.

In appreciation of their exceptional contributions, these volunteers will receive the GSUSA Thanks Badge, one of the highest honors in Girl Scouting, and will be formally recognized at our Women of Distinction Event.

Please join us in celebrating and thanking these outstanding volunteers for all they do.

**LeAnne Breslauer**

**Rainia Knapp**

**Theresa Carter**

**Melissa Platt**

**Nancy Cooper**

**Neena Morlyama**

**Susan Downing**

**Karma Simons**

**Debbie Jaeger**

**Amy Yakel**

# Announcing the 2025/2026 THANKS II BADGE honorees

We are proud to recognize an exceptional group of volunteers whose leadership and service have created lasting impact across multiple communities within our council and beyond.

Nominated by their peers, these individuals have demonstrated outstanding dedication to strengthening Girl Scouting for girls, volunteers, and families.

In recognition of their extraordinary contributions, these volunteers will receive the GSUSA Thanks Badge II, one of the highest national honors in Girl Scouting, and will be celebrated at our Women of Distinction Event.

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**Kathy Carrington**

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**Nancy Beckstrom**

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**Congratulations!**



**GRAB YOUR  
TICKETS NOW!**

## Booth Season is HERE

**Booths are the #1 way girls sell cookies across our Council and booth opportunities are officially underway!**

It's Girl Scout Cookie Season, so it's time to get fierce, be brave, and have FUN with your BFFs ❤️



**And since February is Friendship Month, what better way to celebrate than together at a Girl Scout Cookie booth?**

Booths are going fast, so be sure to log in and select your booth opportunities for the 2026 Cookie Season as soon as possible!

👉 **Need help finding booths?**

✉️ **Email: [info@girlscoutscccc.org](mailto:info@girlscoutscccc.org)**

📝 **Subject Line: Looking for Booths**

## Cookie ACH reminders for February!

As cookie season continues, please make note of the upcoming ACH draft dates. Troops should deposit all cookie cash promptly and ensure sufficient funds are available in their troop bank account prior to each ACH date to avoid returned drafts or bank fees.

**February 4 – ACH #1:**

**25% of cookies on the troop's initial order**

**February 18 – ACH #2:**

**50% of cookies picked up or transferred as of 2/13/26**



Troops are encouraged to review Smart Cookies regularly and plan ahead for each scheduled draft.



# Cookie Cupboards & Cookie Jars are OPEN!

Need more cookies to help your girls reach their goals? We've got you covered! Our Cookie Cupboards and Cookie Jars are OPEN and ready to support your girls.

**Check Cookie Central  
HERE**  
for pickup dates, times,  
and locations

?

**Need help or have questions?**

 Email: [info@girlscoutsccc.org](mailto:info@girlscoutsccc.org)

 **Subject Line: Need More Cookies**

## Cookie Boosters Can Help You Reach Your Goals!

Want help sharing your Digital Cookie® link? Cookie Boosters are GSCCC supporters who help Girl Scouts by sharing girls' Digital Cookie® links with their own networks. They don't handle money or cookies — they simply help spread the word online.

Girl Scouts can submit their Digital Cookie® link, share their cookie goals, and tell us why those goals matter. Cookie Boosters will share links or even make purchases, helping increase your online cookie sales.

👉 Submit your Digital Cookie® link [HERE](#)

**Let Cookie Boosters help cheer you on  
as you work toward your cookie goals!**



# New & Easier Ways to Pay at Booths in 2026!

Here's some exciting news for your 2026 cookie booths.  
We're making checkout even easier!

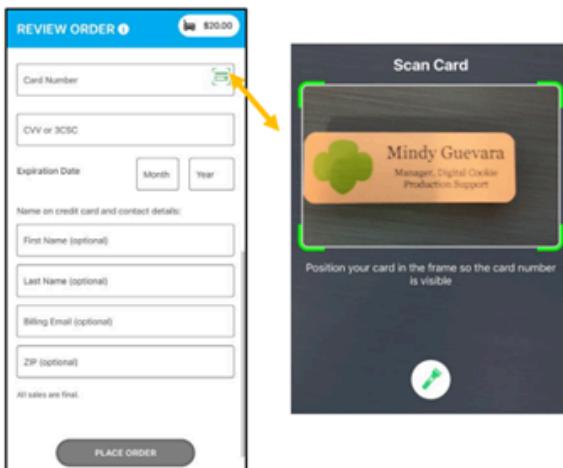
That's right... Venmo, PayPal, and an improved, easier credit card scanning process are coming your way.  
Fierce. Simple. Girl-powered.

**More ways to pay = more cookies sold = more goals reached!**

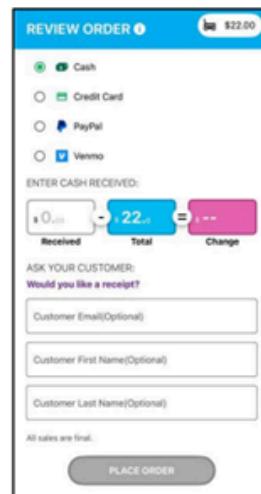
## Payment Methods

**Cash** - Available for 'Give Now' orders. Enter the amount received and the app will calculate change. Optionally enter customer name and email.

**Credit Card** - Enter or scan card details. Contact info is optional but useful for receipts or issues.



**Tip:** Have good lighting and double check the numbers before placing the order.



**PayPal/Venmo** - After clicking Place Order, a QR code appears for the customer to scan and complete payment.



# Girl Scout Cookie Program

**Get ready for the  
2026 Cookie Program!**  
This year's theme, Brave. Fierce. Fun! celebrates the courage and confidence of Girl Scouts. Our mascot—the Black-Footed Ferret—reminds girls that a group of ferrets is a “business,” inspiring bold cookie entrepreneurs.



## COOKIE TRAININGS

GSCCC Product Program Team will be providing Virtual MicroTrainings along with sessions in GsLearn.

GsLearn sessions will be launched two days prior to the Virtual Meetings. You can find these trainings named 635 - 2026 Cookie Training.

### ACH DRAFT DATES

**Feb 4 - ACH #1** - 25% of initial order

**Feb 18 - ACH #2:**

50% of cookies acquired by 2/13

**Mar 4 - ACH #3**

75% of cookies acquired by 2/27

**Mar 25 - Final ACH: 100%**

## VIRTUAL DATES FOR MICROLEARNINGS

Virtual MicroTrainings will be offered at 12:30-1:30 p.m., 3:30-4:30 p.m., and 6:30-7:30 p.m.

### February 4, 11, and 18

Money Matters and Managing Orders

*Allocating cookies to girls, Transfer Types, Reports to Review, Booth Allocation - Using the Booth Dividers*

### March 11, 2026

Rewards and Recognitions - *Celebrating Success, Creating Early, Main and Troop Orders in SMART COOKIES, Opting In - Opting Out of Rewards Timeline of rewards, Allocating Cookies to girls, Reports to review, and Reward choices*

You can sign up for these trainings [HERE](#).



**it's Cookie Time**

If you're new to the Cookie Program, our in-person training sessions are the perfect way to get started with confidence and support!

# Get Your Adult Membership To Support Girls at Cookie Booths

Cookie season is here, and our girls need you by their side! Renewing your adult Girl Scout membership now ensures you're ready to support girls safely and confidently throughout the Cookie Program.

*Life is  
too short  
to wait.*

To help at cookie booths, adults must be:

- ✓ Registered Girl Scout members
- ✓ Background checked
- ✓ Current on required trainings

**Register  
Here**

Having more registered caregivers means smoother booth scheduling, safer experiences, and more opportunities for girls to reach their goals. Don't wait until booths are underway—renew today so you're cleared, trained, and ready when cookie season kicks off. Together, we can give girls the support they need to succeed!

## Ever Wish for a Quick Guide to Girl Scout Badges and a Uniform Guide?



Have you ever wondered which badges are available at each Girl Scout level, or where pins, badges, patches, and the council crest belong on the uniform?

We hear you, and we have the **2025 Girl Essential Guide** for you!

This guide is your go-to resource for everything. From Daisies to Ambassadors, this guide brings everything together in one easy place—helping girls, caregivers, and volunteers feel confident and ready for the year ahead.

Whether you're new to Girl Scouts or just want a simple refresher, this is the guide that answers the “where does this go?” and “what can she earn next?” questions—so you can focus on the fun, learning, and adventure that make Girl Scouts special.

👉 Check it out [HERE](#) and start exploring all the possibilities!

## 💖 Sharing the Love — Welcome Our New Troops! 💖

This Valentine's season, we're excited to welcome two new Girl Scout troops formed in December & Janurary! Watching our Girl Scout family grow is something to celebrate.

As these troops begin their journeys, let's surround them with the support that makes our community special. A friendly welcome or invitation to an upcoming program can help spark confidence, connection, and a strong start to the Girl Scout year.

Here's to new adventures, new friendships, and a season full of Girl Scout spirit! ❤️✨



**Troop 65452**  
**Daisy**

**Troop 65537**  
**Brownie**

## ❤️ Love in Action: Welcoming New Girls to Girl Scouts

This Valentine's season, we're sending a big thank-you with lots of heart to the incredible troops that earned \$25 per girl in Troop Program Credits by welcoming one or more girls from the waitlist into their troop. ❤️

By opening your troops, you opened doors for new Girl Scouts to find friendship, build leadership skills, and begin exciting new adventures. Your kindness and willingness to grow Girl Scouting truly show that love leads the way—one girl at a time. ❤️

**Troop 55802**  
**Troop 55808 (three girls)**

**Troop 65536 (two girls)**  
**Troop 65615**

# Help Us Update the 2026 Troop Catalog! Troop Leaders — we need your help!

Please take a moment to complete the 2026 Troop Catalog Update so we can place new girls quickly, keep troop records accurate, and ensure your meeting location is up-to-date for insurance coverage.

Your update helps us welcome more girls into the Girl Scout experience they're eagerly waiting for!

👉 **Complete your Troop Catalog Update [here](#):**

**Thank you for making Girl Scouts shine!  
Your leadership opens doors for every girl.**



We are excited to invite you to join fellow members of the Girl Scout sisterhood at the **Edith Macy Center Legacy Celebration Weekend, taking place March 27-29, 2026.**

This special gathering will bring our community together to honor Macy's history, impact, and legacy. We would love for you to be part of this special weekend. Please note that this is an exclusive GSUSA opportunity, and spaces are limited.

Attendees will pay a registration fee that includes the celebration plus lodging and meals for overnight guests; day guests will pay a registration fee for the celebration. Register by February 17, 2026, to secure your spot and join friends and fellow Girl Scouts in celebrating the enduring legacy of the Edith Macy Center in Westchester County, New York.

# Celebrating Service Unit Success

## *Growing the Girl Scout Movement Together*

From October 1 to January 31, 2026, these Service Units stood out for their commitment to growing the Girl Scout Movement by welcoming new families and strengthening their communities. Their success reflects the dedication of volunteers and a shared belief that every girl deserves access to the Girl Scout experience.

We proudly recognize these Service Units for their leadership in membership growth and for building strong foundations that will support girls now and into the future.

### New Daisy Members

30 Daisys - SU 660  
Thousand Oaks  
**Led by SU Manager:**  
Deborah Vaughn/Tammy Adams

26 Daisys - SU 656  
Rancho Sierra Vista  
**Led by SU Managers:**  
Jessica Ferqueron

### Total New Girls

437 New Girl Scouts - SU 555  
Costa De Oro  
**Led by SU Manager:**  
Marisa Brenninkmeyer/Lisa Pitre

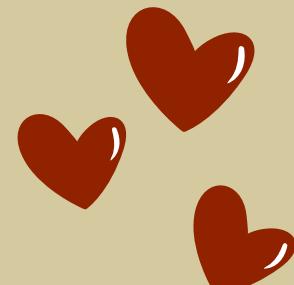
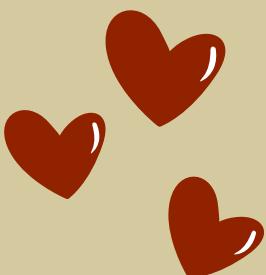
378 New Girl Scouts - SU 650  
Island View  
**Led by SU Managers:**  
Darcy Wronkiewicz and Laura Achee

### Growing New Adults

54 New Adults - SU 555 - Costa De Oro  
**Led by SU Managers:**  
Marisa Brenninkmeyer/Lisa Pitre

38 New Adults - SU 356 - Monterey Bay  
**Led by SU Managers:**  
Candace Villarta & Mary Horsley

38 New Adults - SU 357 - Salinas Valley  
**Led by SU Manager:**  
Olivia Vasquez



# D'ARRIGO LEADERSHIP CENTER

## UPCOMING PROGRAM



### Valentine's Day Fun Patch

Date: Saturday, February 14, 2026

Time: 10:30am - 12:00pm

Cost: \$5

[Register  
HERE](#)

The Valentine's Day Fun Patch is all about celebrating friendship, kindness, and love in true Girl Scout style! Come celebrate a day full of LOVE with us!

Hey Valentine,  
*I love you more  
than Thin Mints!*



# SAN LUIS OBISPO PROGRAM CENTER

## UPCOMING PROGRAM

### Lunar New Year Patch

2/20/2026 4:00 PM - 5:30 PM

\$10 (patch included)



[Register  
HERE](#)

Join us as we welcome the Lunar New Year through fun activities, storytelling, and traditions that have been celebrated for centuries across many cultures! Girl Scouts of all ages will explore the rich history and symbolism behind the Lunar New Year, discover zodiac animals, and try their hand at crafts and games that bring the festival to life.



## SANTA BARBARA PROGRAM CENTER

### UPCOMING PROGRAM



**Design Your Drive: Automotive Design**  
**Saturday and Sunday:**

**February 7th & 8th**

**Multi-Programs**

**Specific sessions for Daisy, Brownie, and Junior**

**Register  
HERE**

Start your engines! In this imaginative and hands-on program, Daisies become designers and problem-solvers as they earn their Automotive Design badge. Girls will explore how vehicles are made, what makes them go, and how they can design their very own car of the future. Through drawing, building, and creative thinking, girls will develop STEM skills while having tons of fun.

## OXNARD PROGRAM CENTER

### UPCOMING PROGRAM



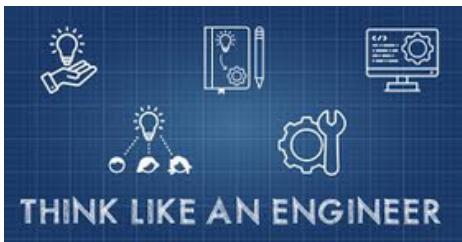
**Black History Month**  
**Saturday, Feb 7, 2026**  
**11:30 AM PST - 1:30 PM PST**  
**\$5 (patch included) - All Levels**

**Register  
HERE**

Join us for a special Black History Month program celebrating culture, identity, and self-expression. Girls will learn why Black History Month is important and how embracing differences builds confidence and understanding. Featuring guest speaker Starr Moon, owner of Unique Hair Studio in Camarillo, who will share her journey and talk about loving and caring for natural hair in all its forms—plus fun, hands-on activities.

# THOUSAND OAKS PROGRAM CENTER

## UPCOMING PROGRAM



**2/28/2026 & 3/1/2026**

**All Levels**

**Register  
HERE**

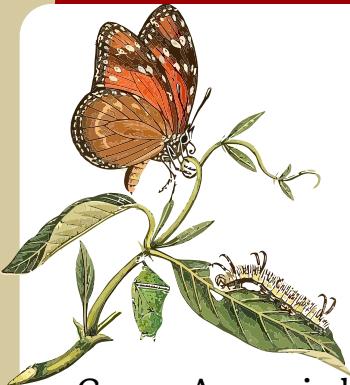
### **Design, Build, Repeat: Think Like an Engineer**

Calling all Daisies and Brownies explore the exciting world of engineering by using their creativity and problem-solving skills! Through hands-on activities, they'll learn how engineers think about building, designing, and fixing things.

Girls will have fun experimenting with materials, testing their ideas, and discovering how to work like real engineers.

### **CAMP ARNAZ**

**Register  
HERE**



Camp Arnaz is kicking off the new year with hands-on, confidence-building programs designed to inspire curiosity, leadership, and a love of the outdoors. Our Women in Construction program empowers girls to explore skilled trades and problem-solving through real-world activities led by inspiring women in the field. Meanwhile, Nature Navigators invites Girl Scouts to slow down, look closer, and connect with the natural world through guided exploration, environmental learning, and outdoor discovery around camp.

These programs are just a snapshot of what's happening at Camp Arnaz this season, with even more adventures on the way!



# Congratulations Callia!

We're proud to share that Callia, a member of our Girl Advisory Board, was selected for a youth leadership role at the 58th National Council Session.

Chosen through a competitive application process, Callia will help shape national conversations and represent our council at the Movement level! Please join us in congratulating Callia on this exciting achievement!



## 58th National Council Session

- Limited Access: 1-Day – \$100
- All Access: 3-Day (Individual) – \$550\*
- All Access: 3-Day (Group of 4) – \$2,000\*
- All Access: 6-Day (Individual) – \$600

\* 3-Day includes admission to Girl Scouts Unite only.

\*\* 6-Day includes both NCS and Girl Scouts Unite.

Girl Scouts Unite  
Event Registration  
Is Now Open!  
Get your tickets to  
be part of this  
extraordinary  
national celebration.



Learn More [HERE](#)



Calling all Juniors,  
Cadettes, Seniors,  
and Ambassadors

## Kaleidoscope - What is IT?

Save the Date to Learn More:  
March 22nd at 4pm for all girls and adults

Curious? Nervous? What is Kaleidoscope 2026 all about? Join us for a fun and informative Zoom call where you'll learn what to expect at the event, hear directly from girls who have attended before, and pick up their best tips and tricks for an amazing experience!

Reminder to register for Kaleidoscope - "It's Showtime!" Deadline is March 1 - it's coming up fast. Also, note that in your confirmation, you will receive links for the Troop Information Form and the Volunteer Information Form. Every adult must complete the Volunteer form. There will also be a link to a health information form, to be provided separately.

Remember, you do not need to sign up for every activity that happens at Kaleidoscope. There are many parts to choose from - enjoy them!

There will be a Zoom session on March 26, 6:30-8:30, about general camping and the new parking situation at Live Oak Campground.

PLEASE make sure at least one adult in your troop is Outdoor-trained. Better to have more than one, just in case.

**Got questions?? Check out  
[kaleidoscope@girlscoutscccc.org](mailto:kaleidoscope@girlscoutscccc.org).**

**SIGN UP HERE!**

## Dear Kaleidoscope Skills Day Organizers and Volunteers,

Thank you so much for offering such a delightful and informational day for our girls! From fires to lashing, compasses and knots, and so much more, it was a long, but absolutely wonderful time! We learned so much and are so grateful that you offered us the local privilege of this special skills day event. I personally had so much fun, and the girls are still talking about everything they learned and won't put their ropes down. It is our first time at Kaleidoscope this year, and this was a great introduction. As a Girl Scout and now troop leader myself, Kaleidoscope was always my favorite event, and I hope it will be my troop's favorite experience as well. My last time attending was in 2006, and now my daughter will be attending for her first time, twenty years later in 2026. I feel so incredibly blessed to be passing these traditions on. Please pass on our gratitude to anyone, the girls and adults alike cannot thank you all enough for coming all the way out to our little corner of the world and giving us such a special day today!

Thank you, thank you so much!!

Warm regards from Angelina McKee, Troop 45127



## BANKING UPDATES



**We are continuing the transition of Troop and SU Bank Accounts over to Ventura County Credit Union and West Coast Community Bank.**

### To open a new account or to move an Account:

Email [banking@girlscoutsccc.org](mailto:banking@girlscoutsccc.org) with your troop number, two signers' names/emails, troop start date, and (if switching banks) your current bank name, routing/account number, and balance. Once VCCU receives the request, signers will get paperwork directly, and Council will help transfer any remaining funds from your old account once the new one is open.



# Girl Scout

# Gold Award Spotlight

**Keiona  
Nadig**

**Electric Composting for  
Community  
Sustainability**

Keiona Nadig (Troop 63006, Whispering Oaks) earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting, for her project Electric Composting for Community Sustainability. Recognizing that traditional composting can be inaccessible, Keiona introduced scalable, electric composting solutions to two high-waste community sites.

She installed electric composters at Monte Vista High School and the Simi Valley Samaritan Center, where hundreds of pounds of food waste are generated weekly. These units convert food waste into nutrient-rich compost within hours and operate using existing solar energy at each site. Keiona also led staff training sessions, created educational signage, and shared her work on social media to raise awareness. Her project diverts approximately 250 pounds of food waste per month, reducing landfill waste and methane emissions.

After graduation, Keiona plans to pursue environmental research, public policy, or sustainable engineering, continuing to combine science, advocacy, and practical solutions to drive meaningful community change.

Click [Here](#) to view her YouTube Video



## Silver Award Spotlight Troop 15000

Congratulations to Silver Award Girl Scouts Philippa, Fiona, Olivia, and Ava from Troop 15000 (SU 150 – Surf City)!



For their Silver Award project, Here Comes the Signs, the team improved safety and the camper experience at Hidden Falls Girl Scout Camp by replacing outdated and missing signage.

After assessing needs with camp leaders, the girls researched designs, learned woodworking skills with a local partner, and built durable new directional signs and a weatherproof bulletin board. Their teamwork and leadership created a lasting improvement that helps campers and visitors navigate the camp more safely and confidently.

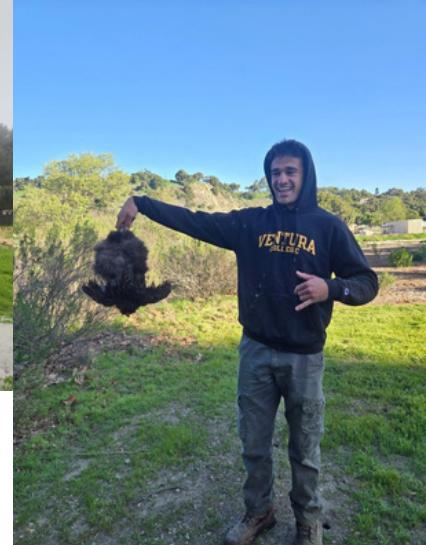
## Bronze Award Spotlight



For their Bronze Award, Troop 55400 launched The Owl Project, an environmental stewardship initiative designed to protect local owl populations and promote natural rodent control. After learning about the harmful effects of rodenticides on wildlife, the girls researched owl habitats, designed and built nesting boxes, and installed them in safe, strategic locations using skills gained through their Junior Outdoor Journey. This thoughtful project supports healthier ecosystems, reduces reliance on pesticides, benefits local landowners, and empowers girls to take confident, meaningful action that creates lasting impact in their community.

## Meet the team that keeps our camps thriving!

Our Camp Maintenance Team keeps trees healthy, grounds safe, and camps running smoothly—through floods, fallen branches, and even the occasional wild chicken attacks. They're the behind-the-scenes heroes who make every camp adventure possible. If you see them around camp, be sure to give them a big thank-you—they've earned it!



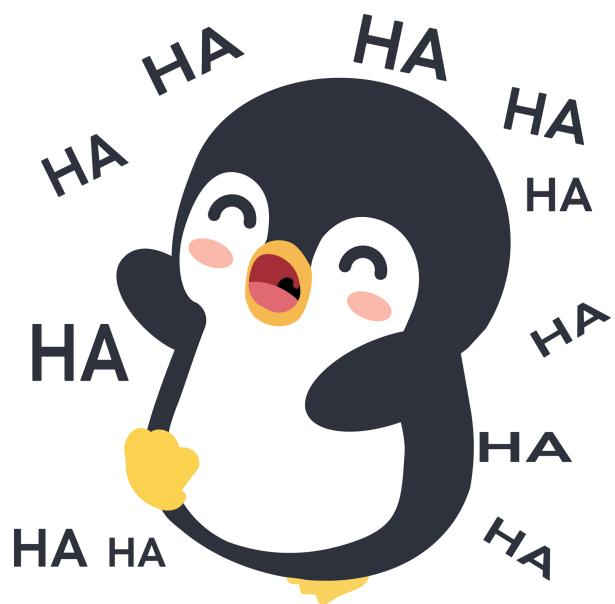
From Left to Right:  
Ben Comrie, Matt Cross and  
Shayan Barati

## Joke of the Month

🌟 Q: What's a Girl Scout's favorite type of math?

## Riddle of the Month

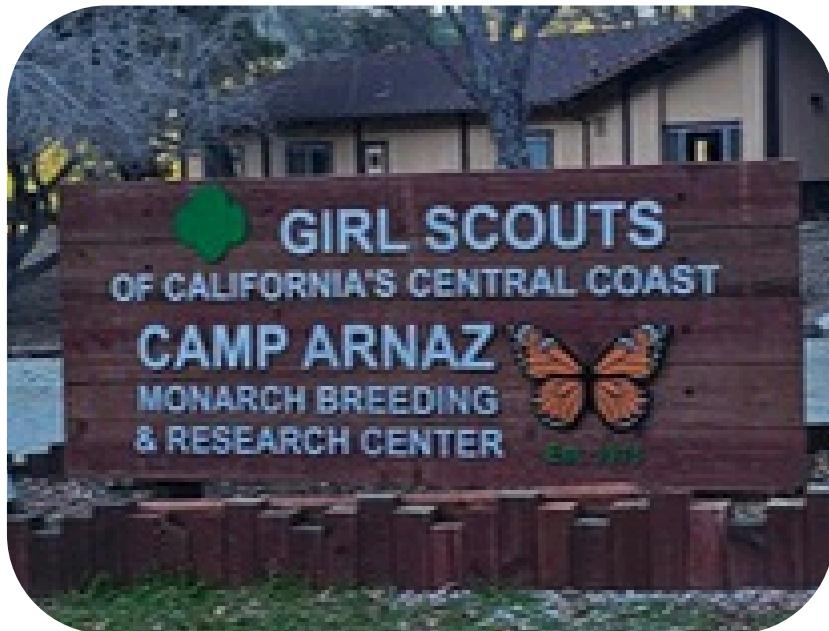
🌟 Q: What do octopuses on camping trips?



Riddle Answer: Tent-acles

Joke Answer: Cookie-lations! 🍪

## A New Look at Camp Arnaz!



We're excited to share that Camp Arnaz has a brand-new entrance sign! This update is part of our ongoing efforts to make camp more welcoming, visible, and reflective of the incredible experiences that happen on property every day. Next time you visit, be sure to take a look — it's a small change that makes a big first impression.

## Thank You for Sharing Your Early Bird Creativity!

Thank you to all the Girl Scouts who shared their creativity with us through their Early Bird patch designs! We were blown away by your ideas—be sure to check our social media on the 16th to see the winning design!



## Overnight Accommodation for Women of Distinction!



Joining us for Women of Distinction at Camp Arnaz? A limited room block is now available at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach for our guests. Book early to secure your stay and make a weekend of this special celebration.

**Grab your room now!**

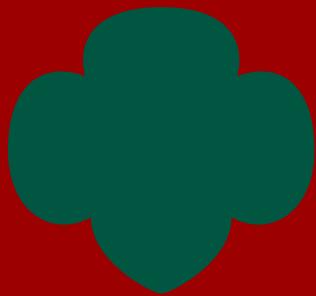
## Early Bird Survey – We Want to Hear From You!



Girls who received the Tolerance Kit are invited to complete a short survey to let us know what they loved, what they learned, and how we can make next year's kit even better.

It only takes a few minutes and helps shape future Girl Scout experiences!

**Survey Here!!**



## Contact Us!

**Phone:** 800-822-2427

**Email:** [info@girlscoutscccc.org](mailto:info@girlscoutscccc.org)

**Mail:** 1500 Palma Drive, Suite 110,  
Ventura, CA 93003



[GirlscoutsCAcentralcoast](#)



[@girlscoutscccc](#)



<https://www.linkedin.com/company/girl-scouts-of-california's-central-coast/>

## Scan the QR Code for all links.



Discover everything happening this year at our Girl Scout Program Centers! From STEM adventures to outdoor skills, leadership workshops, and creative badges, our 2025-2026 Program Guides are now live and ready for you to explore.

Finding the perfect experience is easy—simply locate your nearest Program Center and click the guide image to open a full calendar of exciting opportunities for Girl Scouts of every age. Your next adventure is just one click away!

