



## **Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast Mourns the Loss of Diane Porter Cooley**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 18, 2022

**Ventura, CA —**

Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast lost one of their own. Diane Porter Cooley was born on October 15, 1928, in Oakland, CA and raised on Los Lomas Ranch in nearby Watsonville. She passed away March 10 in her Pajaro Valley home. She was 93 years of age. She was known for her love of her community and the outdoors; both are which synonymous with the Girl Scout movement.

Cooley's time with Girl Scouts began as a Mariner Girl Scout, where she and her troop developed skills in swimming, safety and rescue, boating, weather, and navigation. Later, Cooley led a Girl Scout troop. She often led outdoor excursions which included activities such as trail building and creek cleanups. She also created an environmental merit badge.

Mark Boos, retired Director of Development at Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast remembers Cooley as a "force of nature" who was fond of her big straw hat, and passionate about the outdoors and getting girls outdoors – an effort Cooley supported as a Girl Scout Leader and later as a donor. Cooley was notably part of the Founders Circle, a group of donors who assisted financially during the inaugural year of the Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast council in 2007.

Cooley is survived by her husband Donald Cooley, daughter Anne and Ben Youngblood, daughter-in-law Debby Coolnas, grandchildren Sam and Rebecca Cooley, Kathryn and Tyler Doman, Genevieve Fullerton Dash and Thomas Porter Youngblood, in addition to her great grandchildren Porter Ann and Eva Mae Doman and Sam Cooley, Jr. Diane will also live in the memories of many Girl Scouts.

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**About Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast**

Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast serves over 8,800 girls across six counties and is committed to making the Girl Scout Leadership Experience available to girls in ways that impact their lives both in the moment and into the future. Girls participate in troops, individual projects, council events, day camps, resident camps and more. A variety of leadership, outdoor skills, and Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) based programs and events provide girls with opportunities to learn and explore in fun and informative ways. To join or volunteer in Santa Cruz, San Benito, Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara or Ventura County, visit: <http://www.girlscoutscoc.org>.