



girl scouts   
of california's  
central coast



# Monthly Newsletter

## *January 2026*



## Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast



Ribbon Cutting - Thousand Oaks Program Center

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## Featured Pages

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Oliva Barry

Gold Award Girl Scout



Media Room Experience



January 2026

# Top 10

## Tips for New Girl Scout Leaders Heading Into Cookie Season With Confidence

#1	<b>Start with why—and make a plan.</b> Begin by talking with girls about what they want to do this year. Clear goals drive planning, confidence, and success.
#2	<b>Use goals to guide your Initial Order conversation.</b> As you plan, look at whether your troop can reasonably reach the Initial Order bonus incentives, like outfitting every girl with the Cookie Program t-shirt. Treat this as a planning discussion, not a requirement.
#3	<b>Let girls lead.</b> It may take longer, but leadership grows when girls make decisions and learn by doing.
#4	<b>Set realistic, flexible goals.</b> Start with what feels manageable and adjust as momentum builds.
#5	<b>Ensure caregiver support is registered and ready.</b> Confirm you have registered caregivers in defined supporting roles (inventory help, booth coordination, finance support) so responsibilities are shared and compliant.
#6	<b>Communicate early with families.</b> Explain goals, timelines, and incentives so families understand how they can support the troop.
#7	<b>Keep tracking simple and consistent.</b> Small, regular check-ins are easier than last-minute catch-up.
#8	<b>Encourage different selling styles.</b> Booths, online, or one-on-one—there's no single right way to sell.
#9	<b>Celebrate effort and progress.</b> Recognize teamwork and growth along the way, not just final numbers.
#10	<b>Keep it fun.</b> A calm, positive leader sets the tone for the entire troop.

Grab it  
Here!

## The 2026 Troop Cookie Guide is Here!

girlscouts  
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### Welcome to the Girl Scout Cookie Program!

Each year, the Girl Scout Cookie Program has an inspiring new theme and mascot, that entrepreneurs can seamlessly incorporate into their business marketing strategies. The theme is carried out in the Girl Scout Cookie Program materials as well as in the rewards the Girl Scouts can earn. This year's Girl Scout Cookie season official mascot is the Black Footed Ferret (BFF) and our theme is:  
Brave. Fierce. Fun.



Let's meet the Black Footed Ferrets!

📌 Please note: This is a digital-only guide. It will be updated throughout the season, so be sure to check Cookie Central and our newsletters regularly for the most current version.

We're excited to launch our brand-new 2026 Troop Cookie Guide, your one-stop resource for everything cookie season! From goal setting to booth tips, reward info, and digital marketing tools, this guide is packed with everything troops, caregivers, and volunteers need to feel confident and ready.

## Troop Proceeds

**Behind every box of cookies is a bigger story.**

When customers try a new cookie like **Exploremores** or pick up a longtime favorite, they're doing more than enjoying a treat—they're supporting girl-led goals. Troop proceeds fund the experiences girls choose, from camp and travel to service projects and badge work, helping girls see how planning, decision-making, and teamwork turn cookie sales into real opportunities.

All troops participating in the Girl Scout Cookie Program earn \$1.05 in proceeds per package sold. Troops that opt out of individual rewards may earn an additional \$0.05 per package (opt-out deadline: March 10 in the Troop Information tab of Smart Cookies). Girl Scout Juliettes receive proceeds through GSCCC Entrepreneurship Credits, redeemable in a variety of ways.



Every Girl Scout Cookie box sold helps girls turn plans into experiences.

**Troop Proceeds**  
**= \$1.05 per box**

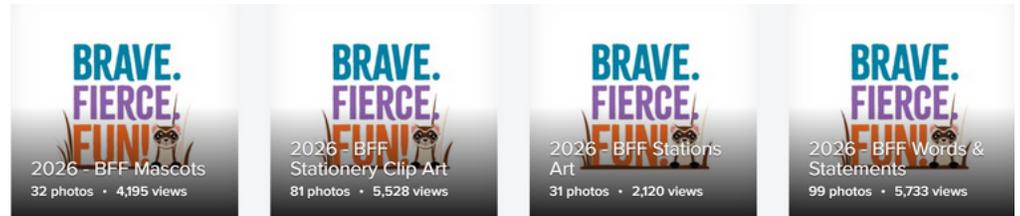


## Digital Artwork for Cookie Season

Girl Scouts can download free, ready-to-use digital artwork to create eye-catching social posts, cookie booth signs, door hangers, thank-you notes, and even coloring pages!

Use these tools to share Digital Cookie links, promote booth sales, and show appreciation after delivery. Designed to help girls build confidence, practice creativity, and grow their cookie business.

[Explore the Digital Art Library](#)



## 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!**



*it's*  
**Cookie  
Time**



**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.

### December 30, January 7 and January 14

Booth Bound and Brave

*How to select booths in SMART COOKIES, How to remove booths, How to allocate booth cookies to girls, and What's the financial impact*

### January 21 and January 28

Smart Planning - Planned Orders and Transfers.

*How to place a planned order. The pickup process options - Troop to Troop reach outs and exchanges*

### January 21 and January 28

Explore More, Stock More - *Cupboards and Cookie Jars, How to get more cookies, Council versus Service Unit Cupboards, First Come, First Serve Cookies, Damages, and exchanges*

### 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](#).

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

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Life is  
too short  
to wait.

## Get Your Adult Membership Before Cookie Season Begins

Cookie season is almost 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.

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!



Marsha Hill

## Volunteer Spotlight

### Helping Girls Discover What They Can Do

For Marsha Hill, Girl Scouts has always been about confidence, leadership, and the joy of the outdoors. Marsha began Girl Scouts in second grade in Minnesota, where she first experienced tent camping, outdoor cooking, and hands-on learning. “Girl Scouts was the only place I went camping,” she recalls. “Even as the least talented girl, I had an important role to play.” Those early experiences—solar-baked cakes, campfire cooking, and teamwork—left a lifelong impression.

That foundation inspired decades of service. Marsha has volunteered as a troop leader, Service Unit leader, council trainer, camp director, and Kaleidoscope chair. She led two troops from 4th through 12th grade, helped decorate Rose Parade floats for 13 years, and traveled with girls to San Francisco and England for the 100th Anniversary of Scouting.

**Yet what she values most isn't titles—it's transformation.**

One of Marsha's proudest moments came at Day Camp, where she recognized leadership potential in an older girl who seemed disengaged. Marsha created the Lead Aide program, giving older girls responsibility for mentoring younger campers. The result was powerful: the girl flourished, the program evolved into the Day Camp Girl Board, and it later inspired a Gold Award project that formalized the process.

Marsha's passion for Kaleidoscope comes from the same belief: outdoor skills build confidence. “**Girls go to Kaleidoscope to challenge themselves,**” she says, “**and to be part of something bigger than their troop.**” From fire building and knot tying to singing songs, decorating campsites, and trading SWAPS, Kaleidoscope balances skill-building with fun and tradition.

She often shares a story of a troop whose strongest fire builder couldn't attend Kaleidoscope. Nervous at first, the remaining girls relied on their training and succeeded. “They were incredibly proud,” Marsha says. “**That confidence carries into every part of their lives.**”

Kaleidoscope also introduces girls to cherished traditions—Bridge of Silence, outdoor flag ceremonies, camp songs, Girl Scout's Own, and learning from one another's creativity.

These moments, Marsha believes, stay with girls long after the weekend ends. “**Not every girl will master every skill,**” she says. “**But every girl deserves the chance to try.**” Thanks to Marsha Hill's dedication, thousands of girls across our Council has done exactly that.

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# Kaleidoscope 2026

## Registration is Open!!!

Inspired by leaders like Marsha Hill, Kaleidoscope is where girls put their outdoor skills into action, grow their confidence, and experience the magic of camp on a Council-wide scale. Whether it's building a fire, tying the perfect knot, singing under the stars, or meeting Girl Scouts from across our Council, Kaleidoscope is a weekend they won't forget.

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

**Are YOU Ready to Create Your Own Kaleidoscope Story?**

**If so, we're seeking volunteers for:**

**Village Hosts –**  
Experienced Kaleidoscope volunteers who support troops throughout the weekend.

**Workshop Leads –**  
Leaders for Cooking, Skills, or Crafts

Both roles receive a half-off discount for the weekend.

*We ♥ our  
Volunteers*

Volunteers  
Sign Up  
Here!

Troops  
Sign Up  
Here!

**Registration is OPEN!**  
**December 1 for GSCCC troops**  
**January 1 for all other troops**

Before registering, be sure to review the Kaleidoscope Handbook on our Council website. It's full of helpful details on registration, preparation, and refund information—and it's absolutely worth the read.

### **A Big Camping Cheer!** 🎉

We were thrilled to see so many troops who attended Skills Days already out camping—woo-hoo! If your troop hasn't taken the plunge yet, now is the perfect time to try. Even a backyard campout counts (just pretend you're really at a campground!).

Getting that practice in builds confidence, and since Live Oak is semi-primitive, a little experience goes a long way toward making Kaleidoscope even more fun.

**Plus... we just really, really love camping.**

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## New Troops ALERT

Please join us in congratulating three new troops that formed in December! We are so excited to see our Girl Scout family grow.

As these new leaders and girls begin their journeys, let's surround them with the support that makes our community so special. Reach out with a friendly welcome, invite them to upcoming programs, and share opportunities to engage, especially as the holidays approach. A simple connection can spark confidence, courage, and a strong start to their Girl Scout year.

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

You've  
Got the  
Power

Troop 55808  
Multi-level - Daisy/Brownie

Troop 65535  
Daisy

Troop 65536  
Multi-level - Daisy/Cadette

## Growing Troops - And Earning Program Credits

We want to extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the incredible troops who earned \$25 per girl in Troop Program Credits by welcoming one or more new girls from the waitlist into their troop.

Because of you, these new Girl Scouts will have the chance to build lifelong friendships, develop leadership skills, and explore exciting new experiences—one girl at a time!



Troop 15051  
Troop 30103 (2 girls)  
Troop 45015  
Troop 45212 (2 girls)  
Troop 55805

Troop 55807  
Troop 61105  
Troop 65535 (three girls)  
Troop 65631 (four girls)  
Troop 66055



## 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.**



### Reversible Trefoil Puffer Vest - \$49.00 Available at your local Program Centers

Be ready for every Girl Scout adventure with this versatile, reversible vest—perfect for in-between weather at meetings, events, and outdoor activities. One side features a water-resistant quilted trefoil pattern, while the other delivers cozy fleece with Girl Scouts servicemark branding.



Easy to layer, stylish, and warm, it's a great way to show your Girl Scout pride on the go.

Available in Youth and Adult sizes. NOTE: they run large

Quilted water-resistant pongee with polyester fill; polyester fleece reverse. Imported. UPC: 731955892609

# Celebrating Service Unit Success

## *Growing the Girl Scout Movement Together*

From October 1 to December 6, 2025, 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

25 Daisys - SU 656  
Rancho Sierra Vista

**Led by SU Managers:**  
Julie LaPaglia/Jennifer Bovatsek

### **Total New Girls**

48 New Girl Scouts - SU 555  
Costa De Oro

**Led by SU Manager:**  
Marisa Brenninkmeyer/Lisa Pitre

46 New Girl Scouts - SU 660 -  
Thousand Oaks

**Led by SU Managers:**  
Deborah Vaughn/Tammy Adams

### **Growing New Adults**

45 New Adults - SU 555 - Costa De Oro

**Led by SU Managers:**  
Marisa Brenninkmeyer/Lisa Pitre

30 New Adults - SU 357 - Salinas Valley

**Led by SU Manager :**  
Olivia Vasquez

Let's  
Grow  
Together

You are  
AMAZING

Thank you for your leadership, partnership,  
and commitment to growing Girl Scouting.

January 2026



## Great News!

### Event Registration Just Got Easier

As part of our commitment to supporting Service Units, the council provides approved registration tools to help streamline registration, financial tracking, and insurance requirements for SU-hosted events. These tools are designed to make event planning easier, ensure accurate rosters, and help protect both volunteers and participants. To best support your needs, the council offers two approved platforms for Service Unit events:

**Cheddar Up** – A flexible, council-approved option that allows Service Units to manage event registration, customize questions, and control fund transfers.

**Doubleknot** – Used for council-managed events; Service Units may request setup by submitting the SU Event Request Form.

### Why Choose Cheddar Up?

Cheddar Up is a simple, user-friendly platform for Service Units that want ownership of event setup and registration.

### Important: Use the Council Link

To receive council partnership benefits, including no credit card fees, events must be created using the council's Cheddar Up link. Email [info@girlscoutsccl.org](mailto:info@girlscoutsccl.org) to request access for authorized SU volunteers.

### Registration & Roster Requirements

Please use the TICKET option in Cheddar Up to capture the required insurance information. All attendees—girls, adults, and participating tagalongs—must be included on the roster. Full name and email address are required; additional details may be collected as needed.

### Camporees & Day Camps

These programs follow separate council processes, covered in the 2025–2026 mandatory trainings.

Thank you for your leadership and partnership in creating meaningful experiences for girls—we're here to support you.

Click [Here](#) to learn more about Cheddar Up

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## Join our Girl Scout Team - as a Professional Girl Scout!

We are actively hiring for several positions and would love to welcome new team members who believe in empowering girls and strengthening our communities. Whether you're passionate about youth development, customer service, outdoor programming, or operational support, we may have the perfect role for you.

### CURRENT OPENINGS

Mission Delivery Specialist I - Castroville  
Mission Delivery Specialist III - Thousand Oaks

# JOIN OUR

# TEAM

Check  
out our  
careers page  
[HERE](#)



### Lighting Up the Season Girl Scout Style!

Service Unit 356 absolutely lit up the Pacific Grove Parade of Lights this December! ✨❤️ The girls showed up glowing — head-to-toe in lights — and proudly represented Girl Scouts in front of the whole community.

Great work, Girl Scouts!!!

## Give the Gift of Girl Scout - Time is Running Out!

We're already \$3,200 strong—thank you!

Imagine the impact of just \$45—helping a girl discover her potential, build friendships, and grow her confidence through Girl Scouts. From outdoor adventures and STEM exploration to community service, your donation opens doors to life-changing experiences.

Our goal is \$4,500 by December 31, and we're just \$1,300 away. With 100 generous donors, we can provide vital financial aid so every girl—regardless of financial barriers—has the chance to thrive.



[Donate Now](#)

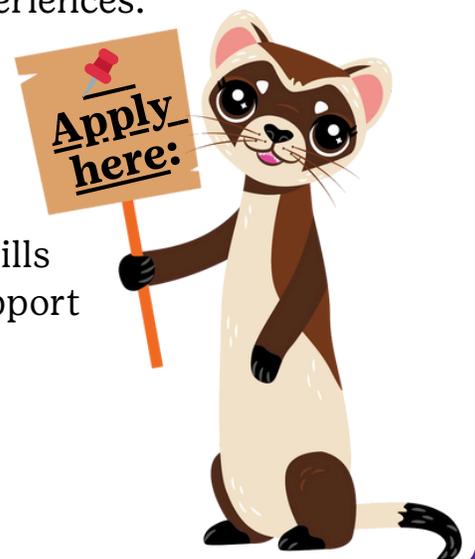
**Will you be 1 of the 100 to help us reach the finish line?**

## Calling all Troops - It's Corporate Cookie Time!!

Girl Scouts of all levels — it's time to take your cookie business to the next level! Corporate Cookie Connections gives your troop the chance to partner with local businesses, build real-world leadership and entrepreneurial skills, and grow confidence through authentic business experiences.

Through this unique opportunity, Girl Scouts will:

- Learn how to craft a pitch and tell their story
- Set goals and present their vision
- Build communication, teamwork, and business skills
- Connect with corporate partners who want to support your troop by purchasing 100 boxes of cookies!



**Ready to participate?**

**Fill out the application form today!**

January 2026

## D'ARRIGO LEADERSHIP CENTER

### UPCOMING PROGRAM



#### First Aid & CPR Certification Course

**Date: January 18, 2026**

**Time: 10am - 1pm**

**Cost: \$75.00**

**Register  
HERE**

Learn how to stay calm, act fast, and save lives. This hands-on course covers essential skills to respond to common emergencies - CPR, choking, bleeding, burns, and more, all through interactive instruction and real-world scenarios.

This course will be led by 4Points and is open to Girl Scout volunteers, troop leaders, and community members. Certification provided upon successful completion.

## SAN LUIS OBISPO PROGRAM CENTER

### UPCOMING PROGRAM

#### Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Patch Program

**Monday, Jan 19, 2026**

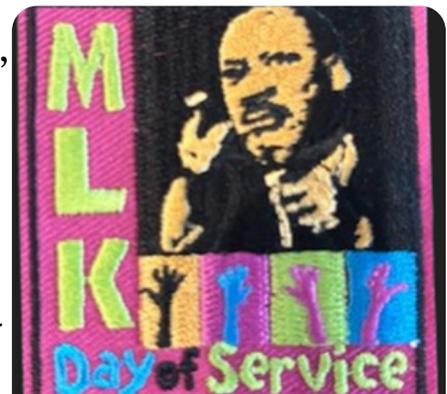
**Multi-Programs**

**\$10 (patch included)**

**Register  
HERE**

This one-hour MLK Day program explores Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s legacy through leadership, justice, and service. Participants reflect on how his commitment to nonviolence and community action connects to their own lives.

Through discussion and a service-focused activity, girls identify issues they care about and take action—honoring MLK Day as a National Day of Service and stepping into their role as leaders and changemakers.



## SANTA BARBARA PROGRAM CENTER



### UPCOMING PROGRAM

**Cookie Star: Patch Program**  
**Saturday & Sunday, Jan 3 & 4, 2026**  
**Multi-Programs**  
**\$10 (patch included)**

**Register**  
**HERE**

Girls of all Girl Scout levels are invited to join this fun and engaging Cookie Star: Goal Setter badge program! Through interactive, hands-on activities, participants will learn how to set meaningful goals for their cookie sales journey, practice sharing those goals with family and friends, and celebrate their progress along the way.

This program goes beyond cookies—girls build confidence, teamwork, and goal-setting skills in a supportive and encouraging environment. Whether they're brand new to the cookie program or returning with experience, every Girl Scout will leave feeling empowered and proud of what they can achieve.

**All levels. Big goals. Sweet success—one cookie at a time! ★**



## OXNARD PROGRAM CENTER

### UPCOMING PROGRAM

**Human Trafficking Awareness Patch**  
**Sat Jan 31, 2026**  
**11:30 AM PST - 1:30 PM PST**  
**\$5 (patch included)**

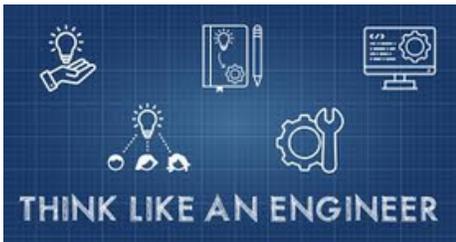
**Register**  
**HERE**

Join Detective Ash'lee Grey from the Ventura Police Department Special Victims Unit for an important conversation on human trafficking. Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts will learn how to recognize risks, understand prevention strategies, and become informed advocates for protecting vulnerable individuals in their communities.

This program is intended for Cadette, Senior, and Ambassador Girl Scouts due to the sensitive nature of the topic.

# 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**

**Apply  
HERE**

### **The Ranchera Program is Back!**

We're excited to announce the relaunch of the Ranchera Program at Camp Arnaz! This year-long equine experience is open to Girl Scouts ages 9-18 and offers hands-on learning in horse care, riding, and leadership.

What's new this year? Rancheras will progress through a structured level system, work closely with a designated horse, and build skills at their own pace - from basic care to advanced horsemanship. The program is designed to grow confidence, responsibility, and connection to our horses and the Camp Arnaz community.

## Celebrating 100 Years of World Thinking Day!



This year's special theme is **Our Friendship. Think Big!**

Download the FREE Girl Scouts World Thinking Day activity guides [HERE](#)

Girl Scouts and Girl Guides from over 150 countries around the world will celebrate World Thinking Day on February 22nd, 2026. Today, you and your troop can start learning about World Thinking Day and embracing perspectives outside your own!

**Attend a World Thinking Day Event near you. Check with your local Service Unit to see if they are hosting an event or attend your local Program Center by registering [HERE](#)**



girl scouts 

See you at the  
2026 Girl Scout  
Convention!

Washington, DC  
July 20-25, 2026



### 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](#)

# Retail Alert!

Optional booth and troop supplies  
(not required to participate)

# Happy 😊 SHOPPING

GS Cookie Cart



\$65.00

GS Recycled Bag



\$0.75

GS Cookie Tote



\$4.00



GS Troop Banner



\$7.00



GS Notecards



\$10.00

GS Yard Sign & Stake



\$12.00

GS Tablecloth 60x60



\$22.00

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## Top 2 Myths vs. Facts: Money Earning:

**Myth #1: “Troop money belongs to the girls who sold the most cookies.”**

**FACT:** Troop funds belong to the troop as a whole, not to individual girls or families. All money raised in the name of Girl Scouts must be used for Girl Scout purposes and can never be divided or given to individuals. Decisions about spending should benefit the entire troop.

**Myth #2: “Customers can tip or donate extra money to the troop at a cookie booth.”**

**FACT:** Cookie booths are for cookie sales only. Troops may not accept tips, cash donations, or “round-ups” at booths. Customers who want to donate should be directed to a council-approved cookie donation program (such as Care-to-Share), not to give cash to the troop.

GSUSA Blue Book of Basic Documents (2025), Ownership of Assets, p. 20



## BANKING UPDATES Ventura County Troops



We are starting to transition Ventura County Troops and SU Bank Accounts over to Ventura County Credit Union. We want to ask for your help and support to move all accounts before Cookie Season starts.

### **To open a VCCU or Move an Account:**

Email [banking@girlscoutscv.org](mailto:banking@girlscoutscv.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.

For all other areas, we are continuously looking for new banking relationships and hope we can bring you good news soon!

# Girl Scout

## Gold Award Spotlight

### Olivia Barry

### Say No to Single-Use Plastics: Website & School Awareness Campaign

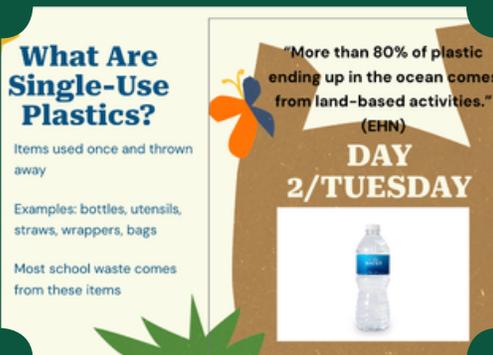
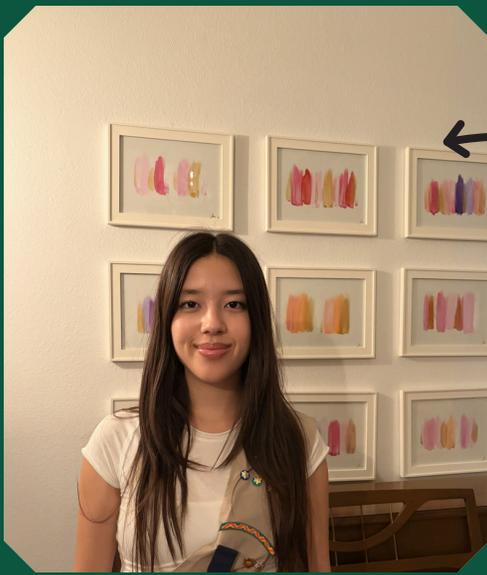
Olivia Barry (Troop 60215) earned her Girl Scout Gold Award for her project, “Say No to Single-Use Plastics.” Addressing the widespread use of disposable plastics, Olivia focused on education and lasting behavior change within her school community.

She created an educational website and led a Plastic-Free Week at Westlake High School, reaching over 200 students and staff through presentations, waste audits, and interactive activities. Her findings showed that a typical school day produced nearly 1,000 waste items, more than half of which were single-use plastics—insights that motivated students to take pledges and adopt sustainable habits.

By partnering with the school’s environmental club and EcoSchools program, Olivia ensured her project would continue beyond her involvement. Her Gold Award work demonstrates how leadership and data-driven action can create meaningful environmental change.

Click [Here](#) to visit her website

January 2026



## Silver Award Spotlight Troop 65604



For their project, Katherine, Manasa, and Emi challenged the misconception that Girl Scouts is only about selling cookies. Using skills from the Cadette MEDIA Journey, the girls created a parody music video showcasing the leadership, life skills, and fun that define the Girl Scout experience. Each girl took on a leadership role, contributing to writing, filming, directing, and editing the video.

Check out their video

[HERE](#)

## Bronze Award Spotlight



For their Helping Doggos Bronze Award project, Junior Girl Scouts Petra and Astrid partnered with Santa Barbara County Animal Services to help dogs find loving homes.

They created an adoption flyer and hosted a community outreach event at Shoreline Park, sharing information about available dogs and adoption resources. Their efforts raised awareness, brought joy to the community, and highlighted dogs like Delgado.

Through this experience, Petra and Astrid strengthened teamwork, communication, and leadership skills while creating a lasting impact through continued advocacy for dog adoption.

# Share Your Troop in Action

Girl Scouts are making a difference every day—and we'd love to showcase your troop! Send us photos or short video clips of Girl Scouts exploring outdoors, earning badges, serving the community, meeting inspiring people, or having fun together. Your submissions may be featured in GSCCC promotions, social media, newsletters, and more.

By submitting, you grant GSCCC permission to share your content (first name + last initial only). Email to [media@girlscoutsccc.org](mailto:media@girlscoutsccc.org).

## Quick Video Tips

- Film landscape (turn your phone sideways)
- Use good lighting (natural light works best)
- Keep it steady and capture clear sound
- 10–30 seconds is ideal
- Send the highest quality file (don't compress)

## What to Include

- Troop number + Service Unit
- Who's featured (first names only)
- What's happening and where
- Any fun context (badge, event, project)

## Meet a few of our Horses



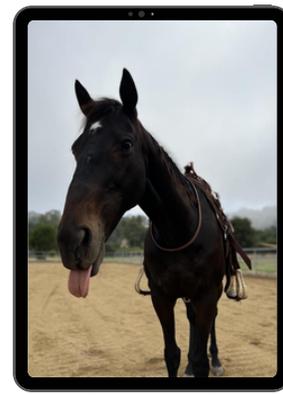
Caught in these silly moments with tongues out and personalities shining, our horses remind us that Camp Arnaz is full of joy as well as learning. While they help girls build confidence, empathy, and responsibility, they're also experts at making us smile. Sometimes the best lessons come with a little laughter—and our horses deliver!



Apollo



Wilson



Zeus



# Meet our Santa Barbara Program Center Team

From Left to Right: Elisabeth, Mission Delivery Specialist I  
Maggie, Special Events Administrator  
Jasmin, Mission Delivery Specialist III  
Cassie - Mission Delivery Specialist I



We are  
OPEN



## Joke of the Month

☀️ Q: Why did the Girl Scout bring a ladder to the cookie booth?

## Riddle of the Month

### The Power You Can't See

I can tie knots, build teams, and open doors.  
I can grow even when you're still.  
You take me everywhere you go—  
But only use me when you will.  
What am I?



Riddle Answer: Courage.

Joke Answer: Because she heard the sales were going through the roof! 🍪🙄



## Contact Us!

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# 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!

