



Girl Scouts Join Forces with Palo Alto Networks to Engage Girls K-12 in Cybersecurity Activities with Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin

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On October 12, Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast and Palo Alto Networks are hosting an educational cybersecurity event with Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin at CSU Channel Islands.

Recently, Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast and Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) launched 42 new badges exclusively for girls in grades K–12, allowing them to make their own choices about how they want to experience and influence the world.

The latest offerings include the first-ever national cybersecurity badges, developed in partnership with Palo Alto Networks. This innovative programming provides access to cybersecurity education for girls across the United States, encouraging deeper engagement in STEM activities for girls and eventually priming female candidates to fill the ever-growing vacancies in the technology, IT and cybersecurity fields.

“With the help of Palo Alto Networks, girls as young as five years old will have the ability to participate in fun and engaging STEM activities, all while cultivating an early interest in cybersecurity and technology. Older girls in grades 6-12 will partake in deeper engagement opportunities designed to inspire and lead the next generation of female STEM professionals,” said Tammie Helmuth, CEO of Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast.

By providing compelling programming designed to increase girls' interest and instill a valuable 21st century skill set, Girl Scouts is honoring their mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place. This national effort is a huge step toward eliminating technology-access barriers, such as gender and geography, by enabling girls as young as five years old to help ensure that even the youngest girls have a foundation primed for future career success.



Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin is excited that so many girls will have an opportunity to participate in this event with Girl Scouts. Her education as a systems engineer helped her establish the tools to understand the cybersecurity challenges facing our government and business community. "As an engineer by trade and Girl Scout Alum, I understand the importance of encouraging girls and young women to become more involved in STEM," said Assemblywoman Jacqui Irwin. "This event has the power to change the lives of girls who participate because they will be exposed to vital hands-on experience."

Registered Girl Scouts and girls interested in becoming Girl Scouts are welcome to join the Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast on October 12 at CSU Channel Islands for an exciting, Girl Scout centered educational experience!

In the morning, there will be a variety of activities for girls in grades K-5, followed by lunch and a keynote speaker. Older girls in grades 6-12 will join at lunch and have a unique opportunity to hear from Palo Alto Networks STEM professionals about their career paths as well as participate in activities. Some of the topics and activities during the event include: Protect Your Treasure, Layers of Security, Networking, Crack a Code, Build a Rube Goldberg Machine, and more! Learn more and secure your spot at www.girlscoutscoc.org/cybersecuritypatchevent.

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>.

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