



Girl Scouting **Makes a Difference** in Girls' Lives.
 25,000 Orange County Girl Scouts are **Making a Difference**
 in our Communities and the World.

Orange County Girl Scouts give more than 500,000 hours of service each year to their communities and beyond.

Through their Girl Scout service projects, girls develop a lifelong commitment to give back to their communities, country and the world.

Girl Scouts is the nation's (and Orange County's) largest organization providing leadership and personal values experiences for girls.

The Council is an independent 501c(3), one of 109 Councils chartered by the Girl Scouts of the USA to deliver its life-changing girl leadership program.

Through Girl Scout leadership experiences, girls develop the skills, confidence and values they need for success in the 21st century.

Girl Scout activities teach the importance of responsibility and the satisfaction of accomplishment.

8,000 dedicated Orange County volunteers contribute more than 1,000,000 hours serving each year as mentors, advisors, motivators and inspiring role models for Girl Scouts.

The Council is comprised of a cohesive team of volunteers, board and staff working to serve 25,000 girls.

Girl Scouts is the only organization that welcomes ALL girls, K-12 from ALL walks of life.

Bilingual outreach programs in high risk, low income neighborhoods and the Council's unique Teen Moms program teach girls critical life skills like financial literacy, healthy relationships, problem solving and decision making. Scholarships and sponsorships are available to make Girl Scouting accessible to girls from every economic and cultural background.

Girl Scouts has been the expert on girls for nearly 100 years. No other organization has been so successful at helping girls achieve their leadership potential. Documented outcomes of Girl Scouting include:

- Leadership and social skills
- Business and life-planning skills
- Critical thinking skills
- Ethical and social values
- Confidence and self-reliance
- Commitment to community service & citizenship

"It is so rewarding to watch girls grow more confident as they master new skills and then use those skills to make the world better." Barb Christensen, OC Troop Leader

CEOs. Scientists. Athletes. Artists. Mothers. Leaders.
What do these women of achievement have in common?
Girl Scouts!

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Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character,
who make the world a better place.



Leadership Experiences

Girl Scouting provides girls with **leadership experiences that change the way they see the world and their place in it**. Trained volunteers work in partnership with girls to offer age appropriate activities that use **girl-led, cooperative learning** and **learning-by-doing** processes.

At the heart of the Girl Scout Leadership experience are **three keys**:

- **Discover**: Girls understand themselves and their values and use their knowledge and skills to explore the world.
- **Connect**: Girls care about, inspire, and team with others locally and globally.
- **Take Action**: Girls feel empowered to make a difference in the world.

Pathways: Different Ways Girls and Volunteers Participate in Girl Scouting

Girl Scouting is designed to meet the **flexible** needs of today's active girls and volunteers. **Multiple Girl Scout pathways** make it easier for girls, parents and volunteers to get the most enjoyment and benefit from Girl Scout experiences. Depending on their needs, interests and schedules, Girl Scouts can **participate in one, or all, of the pathways**.



Girl Scout Journeys

At every grade level, **Girl Scouts take 'special journeys,'** with exciting adventures and discoveries along the way. Girls can earn skill and interest **badges, hike, camp, take field trips, sell cookies, do community service projects and enjoy enduring Girl Scout traditions**. Two captivating *Journey* book series, "It's Your World-Change It" and "It's Your Planet-Love It," tie the activities together and provide a fun and highly interactive way for Girl Scouts to take their life-changing Girl Scout journeys.

Leadership Awards

Many Girl Scouts earn the prestigious national Girl Scout **Bronze, Silver and Gold** leadership awards, the **pinnacle of Girl Scout success**. The awards, starting in grade four for the Bronze, require girls to employ the skills and abilities they learn as Girl Scouts. They complete **meaningful service projects that address problems in their communities or beyond**. As Girl Scouts move into higher levels, the requirements for the Silver Award (grades 6 - 8) and then the Gold Award (grades 9 - 12) become progressively challenging.

We are **extremely proud** of our **2009 Gold Award Girl Scouts**. Together, the 142 awardees contributed nearly **11,500 hours of community service** addressing such urgent issues as hunger, homelessness, disabilities, the environment and education. They are **truly making the world a better place**.

Our Alumnae: A Proud Sisterhood

More than **50 million American women** have made Girl Scouting part of their lives. In addition to shaping individual lives, **Girl Scouting shapes history**.

- 92% of **female astronauts** were Girl Scouts.
- 64% of today's **women executives/leaders** were Girl Scouts.
- 82% of high-achieving alumnae believe that Girl Scouting **influenced their success**.
- 68% of **women in our current Congress** were Girl Scouts.

If you were a Girl Scout as a girl or involved as an adult, **you are invited to become a proud Girl Scout alumnae**. Register online at www.gscoc.org/alumna or call 949.461.8800.

How We Are Funded

The Girl Scout Council of Orange County is a **non-profit charity** that relies entirely on **private funding**. The Council spends **\$322 per girl each year** to ensure the safety of 25,000 Girl Scouts, recruit and train more than 8,000 volunteers and ensure high quality leadership programming. **66%** of the Council's funding is **from Cookie Program and Fall Product Sale** proceeds. **Closing the 34% shortfall depends on support from our families, volunteers, businesses and community members** through:

- Annual Family and Staff Campaigns
- Gifts from corporations, foundations and individual donors
- Annual Urban Adventure Badge Bash event.

Community **support is more important now than ever**. Lack of funding means only 1 in 10 Orange County girls are able to be Girl Scouts. **Please consider making a donation today** at www.gscoc.org/donors or call 949.461.8800.