



Helping Juniors earn the Basket-Weaving badge



Cadette troop bridging in San Francisco



Helping Cadettes earn the Woodworking badge

Creating Fun and Leadership Opportunities Across Generations – Francesca Taylor Profile

Growing up in Westchester, Francesca Taylor became a Junior Girl Scout and continued to be actively involved through 12th grade. Many of us have stories about troop leaders who made a difference in our lives. For Francesca, troop leader Mrs. Bernie Horst was a real inspiration! To this day, Mrs. Horst's Girl Scout troop alumnae regularly stay in touch and sing her praises.

Francesca shared several vignettes of how Mrs. Horst "thought outside the box" and went the extra mile with her troop. After careful and thorough planning, Mrs. Horst led her Senior troop on a bike ride from **San Francisco to Los Angeles**. Because of Mrs. Horst's guidance, the girls not only had the fortitude and endurance to complete the trip, they knew how to take apart and reassemble a 10-speed bike.

Mrs. Horst often provided context that broadened the understanding of her troop and left a lasting impression with Francesca. When Francesca's troop worked on a project about hunger, Mrs. Horst helped the girls visualize what hunger meant. One of the girls in the troop missed breakfast, Mrs. Horst asked her, *"what if you felt hungry like this all the time?"*

Francesca shared another story of a one-week sailing trip on a schooner. With their troop leader, the girls sailed from the port of Long Beach to Catalina, and around Catalina. Every girl chipped in with daily chores and reaped the rewards of an amazing sailing adventure. Francesca recalled that feeling of freedom and excitement: *"The heart of scouting is being stretched and expanded."*

Not long into Francesca's Girl Scout tenure, she discovered the joys of camp. In fact, her greatest memories come from neighborhood camp-outs and Girl Scout camping. Her childhood love of camping turned into a lifelong passion.

Francesca has served as the director of the Santa Monica service unit's annual encampment, "Samoree." During these encampments, approximately 200 girls learned skills such as knot-tying, how to build and put out a fire, how to use a compass, how to read trail signs, and, of course, Girl Scout history and traditions. As a volunteer, Francesca continues to take her troop

on fun adventures where they learn new skills while visiting new places like rock-climbing at Malibu State Creek. Francesca has even visited Pax Lodge in England, one of the Girl Scout International Centers

Francesca has assisted troops through achieving their Girl Scout Bronze and Silver awards, and most recently attended the Girl Scout convention in Utah as a delegate. She knows firsthand, as a girl, as a mother of twins, and as a troop leader, how Girl Scouts enhances character development, giving girls the foundation to grow, lead, and live balanced lives. According to Francesca, *“true leadership comes from balance.”*

In the years that followed her scouting experience, she finished college at Loyola Marymount University, graduated from medical school at UC Davis, and completed her residency at UCLA. Her career focus in women’s health brought her to the position of residency Co-Director at USC where she did clinical research on the health concerns of women workers in the downtown Los Angeles garment industry. Reflecting on these life and career journeys, she notes that *“in Girl Scouting I found my first role models of women leaders, and it was they who gave me the first message that my dreams were possible to fulfill.”*

Francesca demonstrates her leadership on many fronts, as a doctor, mom, troop leader, and as a supporter of Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles. Wanting to help the next generation of Girl Scouts, Francesca included Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles in her estate plans. We are proud to recognize Francesca as a member of the **Juliette Gordon Low Society**—a group of dedicated people who have included Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles as beneficiaries in their wills, insurance plans, retirement accounts, and trusts. Juliette Gordon Low Society members are invited to special receptions, receive VIP updates, and are listed in our annual report.

If you have included Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles in your estate plans, please let us know so that we can thank and recognize you as a member of the Juliette Gordon Low Society (you can choose to be an anonymous member if you prefer). To notify us or to find out more information, contact Chris Dean at 626-677-2264 or cdean@girlscoutsla.org. Your support will inspire others and empower the next generation of female leaders!



Camping trip up the CA coast to Hearst Castle



Girl Scouts Convention 2014 in Utah



Rock-climbing at Samoree