

**Become strong and confident in Girl Scouts**  
**By Charlee Leatherberry, Cadette Girl Scout**

My name is Charlee and I am a Girl Scout in Troop 8742. I have been in this troop for five years and plan on staying until I graduate high school, because it is fun! Now that school is starting, I hope that more girls join Girl Scouts in Santa Clarita and beyond.

There is so much more to Girl Scouts than camping and cookies—even though I really enjoy those two activities, too. I am on a Girl Scout FIRST Lego League team made up of Girl Scouts from all over Los Angeles. We learn how to work together as a team and build and program Lego robots to complete missions. We present solutions to adults about real-world problems, like how to reduce trash. At the end of the program, I have lots of new friends from all over LA, and ideas to help the world.

My troop is very active in community service in my hometown of Santa Clarita. We have participated in a River Rally clean-up. We collected old blankets and pet toys for a local pet shelter, too. My troop also led a donation drive for food, clothes, and toys which were given to a domestic abuse safe house. For our Girl Scout Bronze Award, the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can achieve, we collected new books and gift cards for the Children's Hospital of Los Angeles.

There is also the Girl Scout Advisory Board (GAB). In GAB, I have learned how to speak in public. This has helped me immensely and I now have a voice. I have been able to represent Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles at many public and private events like the Grammy's and Girl Scout board meetings. In all the events, I am in front of several adults and am able to speak without fear.

Finally, Girls Scouts is all about girl power! My Girl Scout friends are my sisters. We support and cheer each other on. All our activities build our character for the better. This makes me a better person and sets me up to succeed as a woman.

Every girl should join so she can become strong and confident.

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**Join me on an amazing journey in Girl Scouts!**  
**By Elizabeth Lewelling, Cadette Girl Scout**

Give me a G-I-R-L S-C-O-U-T-S! What does that spell? Girl Scouts! I feel like shouting those words all the time, because I am proud to be a Girl Scout. Now that school has started up again, I hope that more girls join Girl Scouts in Antelope Valley.

It is a great feeling to be part of an amazing troop. Six years ago, my mom signed up to be a Girl Scout leader and I joined Girl Scouts when I was in kindergarten. I have gained so much more self-confidence and courage to help me in all the things I do—from school and sports to making new friends.

Many people think Girl Scouts is just about selling cookies. But it isn't! Did you know that our troop uses the money from our cookie sales to plan activities and outings? I can go on and on about all the cool and amazing things we have done in our troop! My two favorite and most memorable trips with my Girl Scout troop were sleeping over at Sea World San Diego and bridging (which is like graduating to the next level in Girl Scouts) in San Francisco with over

6,500 fifth-grade Junior Girl Scouts from all over the country! We also used the money from our cookie sales to give back to the community to purchase fabric to make blankets for a community service project called Project Linus. It feels great to make a difference in my community, and I am only 11 years old.

Through Girl Scouts, I've learned that if you believe it, you can achieve it. I hope you will join or volunteer with us. Girl Scouts can open the doors to new and exciting things!

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### **Make impossible dreams come true in Girl Scouts** **By Evelyn Baran, Cadette Girl Scout**

My name is Evelyn and I've been in Girl Scouts since kindergarten. I think every girl in Torrance should join Girl Scouts, because you get to do all of your favorite things with your friends—new and old. My troop and I have gotten chances to do things we've never done before. For example, I never thought I'd get to go to San Francisco, but my Girl Scout troop worked hard to make it happen—and we had a blast! I love Girl Scouts because it makes impossible dreams come true.

Some of the things that I got to do in Girl Scouts were helping animals, the earth, and the very needy. With Girl Scouts, I got to make toys for a local animal shelter. We also got to walk dogs at a greyhound rescue center. One year on Earth Day, we handed out reusable shopping bags that we used our cookie money to purchase to help reduce the use of plastic bags. Our troop also helped feed the homeless at the church where our meetings are held. At one of our meetings, we made goodie bags to hand out with the meals.

Girl Scouts also challenges me. When I go to camp, I have learned how to canoe, kayak, paddle board, do archery and my biggest challenge: the climbing wall. It was terrifying. I wanted my mom to come up to me or have a fire truck come up and get me down. I did not make it up the first or second time. But, I did not want to be the only girl to not climb the wall. That would be embarrassing. So, I tried a third time, and all the Girl Scouts and counselors cheered me on and I made it to the top!

Girl Scouts is so much more than cookies, camping, and crafts. I am challenged to be helpful in my community and challenged to improve myself. As the new Girl Scout year approaches on Oct. 1, I hope you will join me in becoming a Girl Scout or volunteering with us! To get more information, visit [girlscoutsla.org](http://girlscoutsla.org) or call 213-213-0123.

Evelyn Baran is a sixth-grade Girl Scout Cadette from Troop 5675 in Torrance. She has been a Girl Scout for six years.

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### **Girl Scouts: Activities with a purpose** **By Joanna Hua, Ambassador Girl Scout**

I originally joined Girl Scouts because it looked like just a group of girls having fun together. As a troop, we went to San Diego, had sleepovers, and went on whale watches. We spent a lot of time selling cookies with our cute faces as a persuading factor. What I thought, looking back to it now, was how clever Girl Scouts really were.

Our new Girl Scout year begins October 1, and I think every girl in my town of Temple City and beyond should consider joining us.

Why? Because in Girl Scouts, all of the activities and games have a purpose; the activities I've enjoyed in Girl Scouts got us to bond like a second family and trust each other from the very beginning. We started learning later on about issues that surrounded us, from peer pressure to politics. This is why I believe that Girl Scouts, while inspiring young girls to pursue many things and be confident, really helps lead girls to become poised young professionals by the time they reach the peak of Girl Scouts.

By the time I reached high school, the opportunities presented widened in scope. The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award a Girl Scout can achieve after working more than 70 hours over the course of three to five months, was just one of those. I focused my project on raising awareness about depression and spreading positivity and put up posters full of cheesy quotes while passing out pins and wristbands. I also included this into my Miss Temple City Pageant platform and collected over 1,000 Post-it notes with positive messages written on them by various people. I placed stations with information about this sensitive yet crucial topic at my high school, middle school, my local LA Fitness, Arcadia Methodist Hospital, and seven LA county public libraries. Baldwin Park Library even invited me to be a guest speaker, and I gave an hour-long speech to teens to share my experience and spread the positivity.

Girl Scouts gave me the strength, courage, and safety to come out with my feelings and find an issue that I was passionate about. Girl Scouts gave me an opportunity to educate those around me about mental health.

I think that Girl Scouts is evolving for the better; it is constantly improving and letting the public know that we are not just selling cookies. Although we age through Girl Scouts, the end of this journey is a symbol for the impact that it has on all of our lives, and our futures are brighter because of it.

I hope you will consider telling the girl in your life to join our movement.

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**Why I am Proud to be a Girl Scout**  
**By Lizeth Rangel, Cadette Girl Scout**

Throughout my Girl Scout career, I had been offered many wonderful opportunities to do things that most kids my age haven't. As we begin a new school year, I hope more girls in South Gate and beyond will join Girl Scouts so that they, too, can experience what I have.

While Girl Scouts has been a lot of fun, it has taught me to be more responsible—especially with managing my time for school work and free time. From all the fun clubs and activities I have heard of, seen, or been in, Girl Scouts has been the most convenient and interesting.

Although it has been fun selling cookies, Girl Scouts is a lot more than that! There are so many clubs and activities in Girl Scouts (beyond your troop activities), like our Girl Advisory Bureau, where I get to learn about media; or our day camps El Ranchito and Marine Landing, where I get to lead activities for younger girls. In Girl Scouts you get to meet a ton of new friends and try lots of new things. I have earned religious medals and have planned community service projects through Girl Scout leadership awards. All my time spent toward Girl Scouts has also taught me

how to be more social with people in school and school activities. I think that the simple little things that Girls Scouts teaches me can help me with big things in the future.

Besides meeting new people and trying new things, Girl Scouts is also fun for all the projects and badges, but what makes these things fun are the moments and memories with my friends and troop leader. The best moments were going to events all about learning STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) and modern technology, because I think these skills will really help me in the future.

Through my eight years in Girl Scouts, I have never regretted being a Girl Scout. I am proud to be a Girl Scout, and I hope you will join us in becoming a Girl Scout or volunteering for our organization.

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**Girl Scouts: More than just “The Three Cs”**  
**By Maya English, Ambassador Girl Scout**

When most people think about Girl Scouts they immediately get one thought: cookies. However, Girl Scouts is so much more than “The Three Cs”: cookies, camping, and crafts; it is consequential to the development of strong women leaders in our society. And as the new school year begins, I hope you will consider joining or volunteering for Girl Scouts in our community.

My own Girl Scouting career is a pronounced testament to the value of Girl Scouting in Chino. In the past 12 years, Girl Scouts has given me the opportunity to both make a difference locally and internationally. For example, when my troop and I were in fifth grade we put together a penny drive at Litel Elementary for disaster relief after the earthquake in Haiti. We ended up raising over \$600, a notable feat for 10-year-old girls!

But Girl Scouting doesn't just end with philanthropy, Girl Scouts provides life experiences that can't be found elsewhere for girls. Within the last two years I have been blessed to participate in several life-altering leadership roles. For example, I'm currently a Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles national delegate, and I represented 40,000 Girl Scouts and volunteers at the Girl Scout National Convention in Salt Lake City. I was also flown to New York and chosen along with 12 other girls in the nation to serve on the first National Girl Scout Advisory Board. My proudest Girl Scout achievement, though, is a little closer to home and still in process: I'm working to earn my Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest award in Girl Scouting. My project is titled EngineeHer, and it's an initiative to get girls interested in computer science, through two workshops at Canyon Hills Junior High School.

I know without the badges, camping, and, yes, even cookie selling I wouldn't have the confidence, character, or courage to make a difference. Looking back in 20 years, I know that the bonds and experiences I have made with my troop will play a huge role in my endeavors as a leader in my community. My troop is my second family, and I know I wouldn't be who I am today without them. Like our founder Juliette Gordon Low (whose birthday is coming up on Oct. 30!) said: “The work of today is the history of tomorrow, and we are its makers.”

Girl Scouting is an experience I believe every girl should have, which is why I highly encourage anyone to volunteer or take part in supporting the leaders of tomorrow.

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## **Why I love Girl Scouts**

### **By Aline Perez, Cadette Girl Scout**

I have had many great experiences as a Girl Scout that many other people haven't been able to experience. My Girl Scout career has given me such a great opportunity to learn new things and apply them to everyday life. Girl Scouting has allowed me to learn confidence by speaking to new people when doing projects or research. It has also taught me how manage my time and speak confidently in front of a large crowd or audience. It also taught me many life skills such as cooking and filling out paperwork.

Girl Scouts has been way more than the average camping s'mores. It also has many workshop and badges that is going to help you in the future such as budgeting, comparison shopping, etc. It also teaches you about technology and math so you can become more aware of math and technology studies. You also have religious medals and learn about new religions and what they do. It also puts awareness to people and things in need such as collecting things for less fortunate. It teaches about how to be confident around other people with presentations and projects.

There are so many that make Girl Scouts fun and exciting. When we go camping, I like to make food and being outdoors. I also like being a Program Aide which is someone who helps teach and take care of younger girls such as in summer camp or camping. The best memories are made during camping because you are having a lot of fun doing new activities that may be scary at first but they turn out to be the best part. Also during Bridging, Rededication, and Investiture ceremonies, it is a special moment that says you are still a Girl Scout or becoming a Girl Scout.

Girl Scouts will always be a very important part of my life because of all the life skills it has taught me.