



Shannon Johnston Fund – A Profile of a Special Leader

Shannon's mother-in-law, Ellen Johnston, was an avid Girl Scouts advocate and served as president of the Glendale council in the 60s. As soon as Shannon's daughter Michelle came of age, she enrolled in Girl Scouts in first grade. After attending a few meetings, it didn't take long before Shannon realized this troop was not for her. Shannon and her husband Larry started a new troop with 30 girls and seized the opportunity to make meetings more lively, educational, and fun. The troop enjoyed the great outdoors, experienced a close encounter with a skunk family while camping in El Dorado park, visited Skyland campground, learned how to use a glue gun while crafting, travelled, earned multiple badges, and developed leadership skills. Shannon's daughter Michelle was one of six girls in the Long Beach council who earned her Gold Award in 1993.

Shannon not only co-lead the troop all the way through high school, she served as a service unit manager. Shannon, like many Girl Scout troop leaders and volunteers, wore many hats. Her other full time job was serving as COO of a large healthcare PPO, at a time when mergers and acquisitions in the field peaked.

In 1998, Shannon's local Long Beach Council recruited her to become their Executive Director. Later, Shannon served as a sub-chair of the council realignment for two years, deftly navigating a complex merger. After the councils merged in 2008, Shannon applied to become VP of Volunteer Development. We are delighted Shannon took the job! Shannon is adept at forging productive collaborations among people with diverse viewpoints, communication styles, and backgrounds. Shannon's strength in building, engaging, and sustaining community has helped shape Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles into the organization it is today – the largest girl-serving nonprofit in the greater Los Angeles area. Under Shannon's leadership, GSGLA's breadth is matched also by its depth. Our council consistently holds the record for the highest number of Gold Awardees – which is not surprising given Shannon's commitment to robust programming for older girls.

Although Shannon is leaving as Chief of Mission Delivery, we are comforted by knowing that Shannon will continue to stay involved. That's who she is.

[Join us in honoring this special leader with a donation to the Shannon Johnston Fund by clicking here.](#)