



What It Means to Care

By

Juliette Gordon Low Society member Carolyn Baker, M. Ed.

Girl Scouts has always held a special and important place in Carolyn Baker's heart. Growing up in Lakewood, she discovered Girl Scouts at the age of six when she became a Brownie. Two years after joining Girl Scouts, Carolyn's life changed forever: Her beloved father, a Lieutenant Commander in the Navy, passed away. Meanwhile, her mother—a social worker for the Children's Clinic in Long Beach—worked many long hours. During this difficult time, Girl Scouts gave Carolyn important tools for resiliency to persevere.

Girl Scouts provided Carolyn with lasting friendships, caring leaders, opportunities for social connectedness, and to develop character and confidence. She had great troop leaders, neighborhood mothers with high expectations for the girls in the troop. Carolyn went on to be a Junior and Cadette and these troops were a great support system helping her to find strength, skills, and empowerment:

"The close and friendships I had with other girls in my troops, helped me feel connected and have a sense of belonging. It really helped me understand myself and feel a part of something meaningful and solid! That was a big deal for me after my father's passing."

Her favorite activities as a Girl Scout were working on all the badges, all the outdoor activities—camping, campfire circles, singing rounds, hiking, and knot tying. She still remembers the fresh smell of the pine trees at Skyland Ranch and enjoyed canoeing at Marine Landing.

Carolyn still enjoys the outdoors and is an avid hiker and backpacker. She is proud of the independence and life skills she gained as a Girl Scout, and feels Girl Scouts taught her how to handle anything—including how to figure out solutions in tough situations:

Today, Carolyn is Chief Development Officer at Step Up, a nonprofit ending homelessness in LA through permanent supportive housing. After Carolyn attended our [ToGetHereThere Luncheon](#) last November, she took another leadership step in the Girl Scout Movement: She included Girl

Scouts of Greater Los Angeles (GSGLA) in her estate plans. She says she was so impressed and amazed by the Girl Scouts with whom she spoke, she felt motivated to do more:

"I've cared about Girl Scouts my whole life. Coming from my line of work, I know how simple it is to make a planned gift. I am fortunate that I understand it doesn't have to be a big deal to make this type of gift. I included Girls Scouts as a beneficiary of a percentage of my life insurance policy. Any legacy support such as this ensures the future of important organizations. A legacy gift to Girl Scouts ensures the same leadership benefits that touched my life will be available to as many girls as possible!"

Carolyn is now a member of our [Juliette Gordon Low Society](#), which recognizes individuals who have named GSGLA as a beneficiary in their wills, trusts, insurance plans, or retirement accounts. Legacy support provides girls and volunteers with the Girl Scout Leadership Experience, along with financial assistance to those in need.

We are deeply grateful to Carolyn for her outstanding investment in girls!

If you have included GSGLA in your estate plans, please let us know so that we may thank and recognize you as a member of the [Juliette Gordon Low Society](#). To notify us or to find out more information, please contact Donna Baharouzi at 626-677-2314 or dbaharouzi@girlscoutsla.org. Your support will inspire others and help girls discover what it means to lead.