



**'Discover,  
Connect,  
Take Action'**

Troop 11374 at San Antonio Community Hospital with dolls and nurses. Area Scouting Troops serve the community in a variety of ways.  
Photo courtesy of Troop 11374

# What Is Girl Scouting?

*by Layla T., Makayla G. and Nicole T.*

**G**irls Scouts provides girls the opportunity to learn new skills and to develop the skills they already have to be successful in life. Most girls participate in Girl Scouting by joining a troop, but girls can also work on their own, attend camp, and travel the world as independent girls. Troops participate in activities such as community service, camp outs and educational outings. These opportunities help support the Girl Scout Mission of building girls of courage, confidence and character who make the world a better place.

Our troop is proud to be based in Rancho Cucamonga. We represent schools from throughout the Etiwanda School District and meet at a church near Etiwanda High School. We have worked hard to give back to our local community over our past seven years together. Nearly everyone knows that Girl Scouts earn badges and sell cookies, but in reality, we do so much more! A few of the projects we've done to support our community are feeding the homeless, planting gardens, collecting donations for the Rancho Cucamonga Animal Center, provid-



ing Christmas gifts for children in need, and doing community clean-up days — just to name a few!

But we are just one of over 100 troops in the Rancho area! You've probably walked by something a Girl Scout did or worked on without even knowing it. If you drove past Hermosa Elementary School during Red Ribbon Week in September, you saw Troop 10174's work — they're the ones who donated the supplies and decorated the school. If you've seen Alta Loma High School's peace pole, that was part of Alyssa S.'s Girl Scout's Gold Award project. If you've walked across the bridge at Central Park in Rancho Cucamonga, that was also a Gold Award project funded and built by local a Girl Scout. Brownie Troop 10504 organized a book drive and donated over 100 books to the Friends of the Library Foundation at Paul A Biane Library. Troop 11204 has spent this year collecting canned food and donated over 400 cans to Touch Ministries. Troop 11264 purchased, decorated and donated a Christmas tree for The Assistance League's holiday auction to help raise money for local community volunteer projects. Troop 11374 made hand-made dolls to donate to San Antonio Hospital's pediatric wing.

Overall, Girl Scouts has taught us to think not just with our minds, but with our hearts. Every day we are looking for ways to be active in making a positive change in our world.

#### **Our Girl Scout Journey by Anouk M., Julia P., Kayla F., Lexie R., and Monica M.**

Several years ago, Girl Scouts introduced a new program called Journeys. Journeys are fascinating activity books with exciting morals and lessons that can help girls in youth and as adults. "Girl Scout leadership Journeys invite girls to explore a theme through many experiences and from many perspectives through the three keys to leadership: Discover, Connect, and Take Action." These three keys help us be leaders by teaching us to break problems down. From badges to service projects, we start by learning about a topic (Discover), find how it is relevant to ourselves and our community (Connect), and then do something to make a positive change (Take Action). Journey topics range from Daisies learning to take care of animals to Ambassadors learning to use their voices to advocate for issues.

Our troop is now working on the MEdia Journey. We are learning about how media tells a story and how it can reinforce stereotypes. Since media can have both a positive and negative effect, we are using it to promote truth and positive awareness. To learn more about media, we designed a survey and asked over 100 people about their thoughts on media use, stereotypes, and changes they would like to see. Many people we surveyed felt that media lied and caused people (especially girls) feel bad about themselves. We are now using this information to reveal and remove some of the stereotypes we have encountered and use media to share a more accurate point of view.

Through our surveys and time spent talking to people in our community, one of the most eye-opening things we learned is that most people have a lot of misconceptions about Girl Scouts. Stories in the news have led people to believe that girls in troops are being taught to think a certain way or are encouraged to support or contradict controversial issues. They also seem to think that all we do is sell cookies and earn patches. But as you can see, this is very untrue. Since we've enjoyed Girl Scouts so much and want every girl to have the experienc-



**- Troop 11374 with dolls they made to donate to San Antonio Community Hospital pediatric unit.**

Photo courtesy of Troop 11374



**Troop 11754 at Disney's California Adventure participating in the Y.E.S. Program "Designing a Disney Story."**

Photo courtesy of Troop 11374

es we've had, we decided to write this article. This is a perfect example of how we have learned to use media for good. This article is written from our hearts, and we hope that it will help every girl realize she can be a part of this movement and learn to be a leader, be successful and just plain have fun!

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## Girl Scouts in the Community

Local Scout troops are making a difference with various volunteer projects near and far.

Send us your photos

[RanchoLife@hibu.com](mailto:RanchoLife@hibu.com)



Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts



Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts



From left: Troop 11754 at Rancho Foothills Camporee 2014; Troop 11374 selling cookies; and Troop 11754 at Mall Madness.



Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts



Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts



Photo courtesy of Girl Scouts



Girl Scout activities., clockwise from lower left; Troop 11754 at Disney's California Adventure participating in the Y.E.S. program; Troop 11374 at San Antonio Community Hospital with dolls and nurses; Troop 11374 with dolls they made to donate to San Antonio Community Hospital pediatric unit; Troop 11754 working on a Bronze Award project at St. Clare church; Rising Stars Gold project (before and after pictures).