



SHEET



girl scouts
louisiana east

Founded in 1912

by Juliette Gordon Low who believed that all girls, regardless of their background, should be given the opportunity to develop physically, mentally, and spiritually, Girl Scouting is a premier voice for girls and a leading expert on their growth and development into leaders. Together with committed adult volunteers who partner with girls to guide and inspire their growth and achievement, **Girl Scouting builds girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.**

Girl Scouts Louisiana East was formed in April 2008 following the realignment of Girl Scouts – Audubon Council based in Baton Rouge, and the Girl Scout Council of Southeast Louisiana. The two councils joined together under a national reorganization plan designed by Girl Scouts of the USA to create high performance, high capacity councils with expanded program and delivery of Girl Scouting for all girls. Headquartered in New Orleans with a Regional Service Center in Baton Rouge, Girl Scouts Louisiana East serves the parishes of Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge, and West Feliciana. In 2018 Girl Scouts Louisiana East served over 12,300 girls and 5,100 adults in its 23 parishes.

About Girl Scouts

Membership in Girl Scouts is open to all girls, grades K to 12, who accept the Girl Scout Promise and Law; women and men, 18 and older, can join as adult members. Membership is \$25 per year, but no girl will be denied membership for financial reasons. All girls are encouraged to become Girl Scouts, regardless of race, color, ethnicity, creed, national origin, socioeconomic status or ability.

Girl Scouts is broken into six levels:

- Girl Scout Daisies – kindergarten – grade 1
- Girl Scout Brownies – grades 2-3
- Girl Scout Juniors – grades 4-5
- Girl Scout Cadettes – grades 6-8
- Girl Scout Seniors – grades 9-10
- Girl Scout Ambassadors – grades 11-12

Adult members, who are both women and men, volunteer in many capacities including troop leaders or advisors, consultants, board members, and specialize in such areas as child development, adult education, outdoor education, special events and administration.

Building Leaders

Girl Scouting is the premier leadership development program for girls. The Girl Scout Leadership Experience is designed to help girls discover themselves and their values, connect and team with others, and take action to make the world a better place. Activities are girl led, encourage learning by doing (experiential learning), and cooperative learning to ensure the quality and promote the fun and friendship integral to Girl Scouting.

The Girl Scout Leadership Experience reflects the ever-changing needs and interests of participating girls. It provides girls with a wide variety of leadership opportunities available in Girl Scout journeys, books, awards, websites, as well as other resources. The program encourages increased skill-building and responsibility, and promotes the development of strong leadership and decision-making skills.

No matter what age, girls learn the value and the fun of sharing experiences in a physically and emotionally safe, all-girl environment, with caring, trained adults to serve as mentors and role models. All activities are designed with girls in mind to spark their interests, address their concerns, build their skills, and explore the world around them.

Girls are taught to value and to be responsible custodians of natural resources and wildlife and encouraged to become involved in environmental issues, through conservation and environmental education, outdoor skills development and volunteer service. The Girl Scout program includes a myriad of enriching experiences, including field trips, career exploration, community service projects, cultural exchanges, and environmental stewardships.

To advance the Girl Scout mission and ensure that all girls have the opportunity to be successful, Girl Scout Louisiana East has developed several areas of focus in addition to girls and leadership, including

encouraging healthy living among girls, increasing girls' involvement in science, technology, engineering, and math, and increasing financial literacy.

Encouraging Healthy Living Among Girls

Through our program experience and research, Girl Scouts has a unique understanding of the complex issue of healthy living and what motivates girls to adopt healthy lifestyles. Not only does this mean grappling with issues such as childhood obesity and low self-esteem, but there are a wide range of related and overlooked issues, such as relational aggression and cyberbullying, healthy media images and eating disorders, that directly and disproportionately affect girls' health.

With more than 60 healthy living-related badges and a historic emphasis on health in the Girl Scout experience, girls are educated and empowered to take action to strengthen their physical and emotional health and positively impact their communities and the world. Additionally, the Girl Scout Research Institute report, *The New Normal? What Girls Say About Healthy Living*, tells us that girls believe health combines good nutrition and physical fitness with emotional and social well-being.

Increasing Girls' Involvement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

Around 3rd grade, girls begin to lose interest in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM). As they age, the problem only gets worse - the percentage of girls who say they would not study math anymore given the choice increases from 9% to 50% in the years between 4th and 12th grades. As a result, women are vastly underrepresented in STEM fields – at a time when our country needs all the scientists and engineers it can educate. With more than 70 badges and patches and a journey program entitled, *It's Your Planet Love It!*, focused on STEM-related activities, Girl Scouts are encouraged to explore many possibilities in STEM-related fields.

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Improving Financial Literacy

The current economic crisis has highlighted the need to improve financial literacy among all Americans. With youth controlling more than \$172 billion in spending, and one in three carrying a credit card, we must ensure that all youth – including girls – have the information they need to properly save, spend, budget, and invest. Moreover, as women are more likely to earn less, work fewer years and live longer on smaller retirement benefits than men, teaching girls personal finance early is crucial to helping them avoid financial insecurity as they mature.

From the Girl Scout Cookie Sale Program – often girls' first introduction to business planning and entrepreneurship – to innovative programs like *CentsAbility* and *The Penny Project*, Girl Scouts has a long history of working with girls to deliver informal financial education and ensure their financial literacy. It's important that we ensure that all girls have solid financial literacy skills by providing real-world financial literacy experiences for girls.

A Worldwide Sisterhood

Girl Scouts participate throughout the United States, and in 90 countries through USA Girl Scouts Overseas. Girl Scouts is part of a global community of 10 million girls in 145 countries through the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS). Girl Scout membership stands at 2.3 million girls and 890,000 adult members working primarily as volunteers. Remarkably, over 59 million American women were members of Girl Scouts during their childhood.

Healthy and Safety

The Girl Scouts' primary concern is always the health and safety of the girls we serve. Health standards and accident prevention are built into the total program. All activities are planned and carried out so as to safeguard the health, safety and general well-being of the participants.

Council Properties

Among its properties are three camps: **Camp Covington** in Covington, **Camp Marydale** in St. Francisville, and **Camp Whispering Pines** in Independence; **McFadden Cabin**, located in New Orleans' City Park; a **Regional Service Center** in Baton Rouge which houses regional offices

and a program/training center; and the **Council Service Center** in New Orleans which houses the Council's corporate headquarters and a training center.

Resident camping is conducted at Camps Marydale, Whispering Pines, and Covington with the three camps accredited by the American Camp Association. Camp Marydale is a 400-acre site, offering year round camping with a multi-purpose building/dining hall, cabin and platform tent units, a large lodge for activities, all located near a small lake. There is a sports field, an archery field, a low ropes course, several hiking trails, and a swimming pool. A herd of horses are housed in a large barn, with two riding arenas.

Camp Whispering Pines is a 600-acre site complete with cabin and platform tent units, day use areas, primitive camping areas, a junior Olympic-size swimming pool, sports field, rock-climbing wall and high ropes course, nature trails including a trail with access to the Tangipahoa River, and a lake with boating and fishing available.

Camp Covington, a 23-acre site on the Bogue Falaya River near Covington, is open for day use and troop, service unit, and family camping with platform tent and cabin units available. A renovated dining hall, fire circles, and frisbee disk course are just some of the improvements made to the camp in recent years. Newly added stairs lead down to the sandy-bottomed Bogue Falaya, a perfect spot for wading.

Organizational Structure

The board of directors, led by chair Lyndia Jones, M.D. and composed of outstanding community volunteer leaders, manages the corporate and business affairs of the council. Chief Executive Officer Rebecca Pennington, Ph.D. is responsible to the

board of directors for day-to-day operation of the council. Girl Scouts Louisiana East is separately incorporated but chartered by the national organization, Girl Scouts of the USA.

Hours of Operation

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday-Friday.

Contact Information



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louisiana east

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The Girl Scout Law

I will do my best to be
honest and fair,
friendly and helpful,
considerate and caring,
courageous and strong, and
responsible for what I say and do,
and to
respect myself and others,
respect authority,
use resources wisely,
make the world a better place, and
be a sister to every Girl Scout.



The Girl Scout Promise

On my honor, I will try:
To serve God and my country,
To help people at all times,
And to live by the Girl Scout Law.

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