

Mission

Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama, Inc. (GSSA) builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. It is the leadership training ground for girls and volunteers. The highly respected board and staff of this flexible, progressive organization enjoy strong public support. Respectful of its long history, this strong, unified council is known for its innovation.

Membership

Girl Scouts of the USA is the largest voluntary organization for girls in the world. In southern Alabama, more than 10,000 girls and adults take part in Girl Scout programs each year. We tailor our programs for the developmental, educational, emotional and social needs of girls at six levels: Daisy Girl Scouts (grades K-1), Brownie Girl Scouts (grades 2-3), Junior Girl Scouts (grades 4-5), Cadette Girl Scouts, (grades 6-8), Senior Girl Scouts (grades 9-10) and Ambassador Girl Scouts (grades 11-12).

Every Girl, Everywhere

Diversity is a founding ideal of Girl Scouting. Today we celebrate over 100 years of maintaining that commitment and making Girl Scouting available to any girl who wants to take part. From traditional troops, to public housing communities, and in-school and afterschool programs, all Girl Scout activities help girls engage in positive self-expression, increase their ability to make positive life changes, gain self-confidence and develop the skills needed to become a leader. Even though the cost of being a Girl Scout has risen to nearly \$444 a year, GSSA is holding on to the promise of Every Girl, Every Where.

Camping

Girls can choose to attend one of four camp properties maintained by GSSA. Programs include resident summer camps and training, troop camping and special events. Camp properties include Kamp Kiwanis in Eclectic, Camp Scoutshire Woods in Citronelle, Camp Sid Edmonds in Bay Minette and Camp Humming Hills in Elba.

Programs

GSSA focuses on activities and lessons that build leadership skills and develop a strong sense of self-worth. It is a safe and encouraging environment that challenges individuals and groups to make a difference in the world and create lasting friendships. Each year our council spends more than \$320 per girl to provide programming events, maintain properties and provide support to girls who otherwise could not afford Girl Scouting.

Awards

Dozens of Girl Scout Juniors and Cadettes earn Bronze and Silver Awards every year by completing community service projects and national curriculum requirements. Additionally, girls in high school can work toward the Gold Award, which is the highest earned achievement in Girl Scouting, awarded to those girls who demonstrate a significant commitment to community service and leadership.

Fund Development

An investment in Girl Scouts has an impact that is broader than addressing a cause or a cure. It's a commitment to a generation. Foundations, corporations and government agencies provide support to GSSA, as well as combined money raised from our donors through annual giving campaigns, major gifts, special events, United Ways and other charitable funders. Donations support program activities, volunteer training, maintenance of service centers and camp properties, daily operations and financial assistance for girls. Girl Scout annual membership fees go directly to Girl Scouts of the USA to support national program development and services.

Cookie Program

For nearly 100 years, through the Cookie Program, girls have developed valuable business skills, made their communities a better place, and have had fun making new friends along the way. The Cookie Program is all about the skills a girl gains from interacting directly with the cookie customer, the experience of running her very own cookie business, and building a lifetime of confidence as she learns five skills essential to leadership, success, and life.

Council Operations

Nationwide there are more than 100 Girl Scout councils. Girl Scouts of Southern Alabama serves more than 10,000 girl and adult members in a 30-county region, which includes Autauga, Baldwin, Barbour, Bullock, Butler, Chambers, Choctaw, Clarke, Coffee, Conecuh, Coosa, Covington, Crenshaw, Dale, Dallas, Elmore, Escambia, Geneva, Henry, Houston, Lee, Lowndes, Macon, Mobile, Monroe, Montgomery, Pike, Tallapoosa, Washington and Wilcox counties.

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