










GIRL SCOUT MYTH BUSTERS

Be a Girl Scout myth buster! Here are common misconceptions about Girl Scouts and the facts.

MYTHS	 FACTS ABOUT GIRL SCOUTS
<p>✗ All “scouting” programs are basically the same</p>	<p>   Not even close. At Girl Scouts, everything we do is designed by, with, and for girls. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In single-gender spaces, girls are more apt to take on leadership roles, try new things, and take healthy risks. • Girl Scouts creates an inclusive, safe space in which girls are free to explore their potential and take the lead without the distractions or pressures that can be found in a co-ed environment. • An all-girl, girl-led space helps girls safely thrive. Our programs are tailored to maximize impact by teaching girls in ways they learn best. </p>
<p>✗ Girl Scouts isn’t about getting outdoors</p>	<p>   Girl Scouts build outdoor skills, go camping, and appreciate nature. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girl Scouts earn badges in outdoor adventure and high adventure. • Girl Scout troop camping starts in kindergarten. • For many girls, Girl Scouts is their introduction to the outdoors. 80% of girls said camping was their most memorable experience.* • Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore owns 6 properties and partners with the Greilick Outdoor Recreation Education Center and our sister councils to provide outdoor spaces. </p>
<p>✗ Girl Scouts doesn’t have programs for adventure</p>	<p>   No way! Girl Scouts have all kinds of opportunities for adventure! <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girls choose from age-appropriate activities including: archery, paddle-boarding, backpacking, rock climbing, kayaking, horse-back riding, skiing, and so much more. • Every year, Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore sends girls on adventures across the globe with Girl Scout Destinations. Whether a girl wants to see Hollywood or climb Mt. Fuji, Destinations has a trip! • Girl Scouts go on adventures! They plan the trip, raise the money, and have a blast on their girl-centered journey. </p>
<p>✗ Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts offer the same science program</p>	<p>   Have you seen our science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) programs lately? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The STEM interest and confidence gaps between girls and boys start at age 6. Girl Scouts closes those gaps with programs designed for girls. Girls earn badges in engineering, robotics, environmental science, cyber security, and space science. • Our STEM programs help girls develop a lifelong interest in how things work. Girls learn how to think like scientists, programmers, and engineers. Girls become innovators and stay on top of latest trends. • Girl Scout STEM curriculum and badge work is hands-on, problem-focused, and girl-led. It's not about memorization. </p>

* 2014 Girl Scout Research Institute study

<p>✗ Crafts are the only hands-on activity</p>	<p>✓ Girl Scouts are makers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If girls want to weld, use a sewing machine, make jewelry, change a tire or re-build a marine diesel engine, they can! • Girl Scouts of Michigan Shore to Shore is partnering with Camp Invention to provide a week of hands-on STEM learning where girls will build 2 robots and a mini mansion fully equipped with smart technology.
<p>✗ The cookie sale is just about making money</p>	<p>✓ Girl Scouts do a great job at creating revenue, and the cookie sale is so much more!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As the world’s largest girl-run business, the Cookie Program gives girls an opportunity to develop expertise and confidence in goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, business ethics, and more. • All Cookie Program proceeds stay with your local council. They go back to troops, or help councils provide financial aid.
<p>✗ Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award is less impressive than the Eagle Scout Award</p>	<p>✓ The Gold Award requires completion of a rigorous project that prepares girls for a lifetime of possibility thinking and doing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold Award Girl Scouts identify an issue in their community, develop a plan, lead teams to develop a sustainable solution to the issue, and practice skills in advanced planning, organization, and team building. • The Gold Award is impressive to colleges and universities, and to the military, which advances Gold Award Girl Scouts a full rank, the same as for Eagle Scouts.
<p>✗ Troops are all the same</p>	<p>✓ Girls help choose and plan troop activities which makes every troop unique.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities vary depending on the interests of girls and troop leaders. Most troops explore STEM, outdoors, life skills, and community service. They attend staff-led programs where they explore their interest in sports, arts, STEM, entrepreneurship, outdoor adventure, camp, and more!.
<p>✗ It’s hard for families (especially dads) to get involved with Girl Scouts</p>	<p>✓ Family participation is encouraged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We encourage the entire family to get involved, and lots of dads volunteer in different ways. They are troop leaders, co-leaders, cookie sale coordinators, and camp volunteers. • Parents and other adults play a critical role in delivering the Girl Scout Leadership Experience as volunteers and as supporters. Parents who are troop leaders have the opportunity to bond with their daughters as they move through the Girl Scout program.
<p>✗ The rest of the world embraces “co-ed scouting”</p>	<p>✓ Girl-only scouting organizations are going strong. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS.org) represents 10 million girls in 150 countries.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The two largest scouting organizations are the World Organization of the Scout Movement, and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. It is not true that co-ed scouting has replaced Girl Guides (or Girl Scouts)—it has not. They are merely different programs. • Girl Scouts is a non-partisan, non-sectarian group, with a strong policy of inclusion for all girls.
<p>✗ Girl Scouts is “harder” for volunteers</p>	<p>✓ Girl Scouts embrace challenge! (But it all depends on what you mean by harder.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Girl Scouts is flexible, girl-led, and has a wide variety of activities—and we sure wouldn’t change that! • There are many planning resources and support available such as the Volunteer Toolkit, activity plans, and troop mentors.