

Girl Scout Facts! (Not Fake News.)

MYTH: Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are the same organization.

FACT: **Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are separate organizations, each with its own charter, leadership, programs and approach to youth development.** While both organizations build character and develop leadership skills, we do so in different ways.

MYTH: A co-ed space is a sign of progress and gender equality and should be welcomed.

FACT: **Research shows that the single-gender environment builds connectedness, competence and confidence in girls.** Boys and girls learn and develop their leadership abilities in different ways. The Girl Scout program has been designed to specifically meet the needs of girls, while the Boy Scout program is designed to meet boys' needs.

Given the deeply embedded gender stereotypes in our society regarding roles, occupations, and appearance, it's important girls have a space where their individuality is reinforced and being female is seen as a positive identity, with inherent strengths. Having strong female role models who affirm that girls can be anything they want to be is powerful. In Girl Scouts, girls learn to support and trust their female peers, they have every opportunity to speak and be heard, and to take on any and all roles and challenges, which helps girls develop their skills, confidence and leadership abilities.

While most schools and many extracurricular programs are now co-ed, Girl Scouts is one of the few single-gender organizations available to girls and young women. We're in a unique position to change girls' lives for the better.

MYTH: Girl Scouts is a social club.

FACT: **Girl Scouts is the premier leadership development organization for girls, offering proven, girl-centered, experiential programs designed specifically to meet girls' needs.**

MYTH: Girl Scouts' focus is selling cookies.

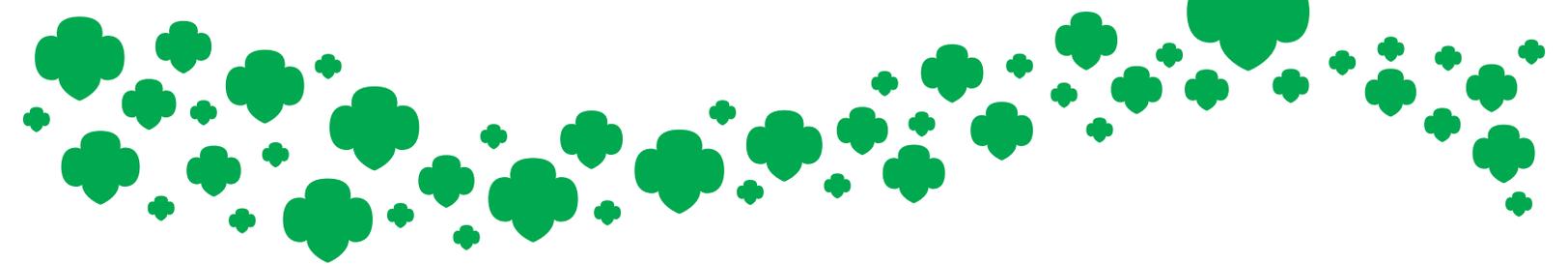
FACT: **The four pillars of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience are STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), Outdoor Skills, Life Skills and Entrepreneurship.** Our Cookie Program allows girls to gain important life-skills in goal-setting, money management, decision-making, people skills and business ethics. All proceeds remain with troops and the council to help fund new experiences for girls, like troop programs, field trips, summer camp, travel, and community service projects, as well as maintaining camp facilities, volunteer training, and financial assistance.

MYTH: Girl Scouts only do crafts.

FACT: **Girl Scouts are makers.** Girls can use a sewing machine, build a robot, create jewelry, use a potter's wheel, weld, change a tire, or build a play house for a children's shelter.

MYTH: Girl Scouts have limited opportunities for outdoor adventure. Boy Scouts offer more adventurous programs.

FACT: **From the backyard to the backcountry, Girl Scouts has a long, storied and successful history of getting girls outdoors.** Girl Scouts offer more opportunities for adventure than the Boy Scouts. Girls decide and choose from age-appropriate activities like archery, back-packing, ziplining, canoeing, white-water rafting and more.



MYTH: Girl Scouts don't offer science programs.

FACT: **Girl Scouts offers up-to-date Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs.** Girls can earn badges in engineering, robotics, cybersecurity, environmental science, and space science. Girl Scouting has offered STEM badges and programming since its founding in 1912. For example, the original handbook included badges like electrician, flyer, telegrapher and naturalist.

MYTH: Girls need the Eagle Scout award to prove themselves.

FACT: **The Girl Scout Gold Award is as prestigious—and more rigorous—than earning the Eagle Scout rank.** Sadly, our society has a history of not honoring the achievements of women and girls at the same level they honor achievements of men and boys, which may explain why the Eagle Scout Award is more well known. To earn this, Gold Award Girl Scouts find an issue in their community, then develop and execute a plan to create a sustainable solution to the issue. To complete the project, girls source funds and project materials, and organize and lead teams. Colleges and universities view this as an impressive leadership credential and the military advances Gold Award Girl Scouts a full rank when they join.

MYTH: Girl Scouts only let women be involved.

FACT: **While Girl Scouts focuses on girls, we welcome the involvement of fathers and whole families.** Many fathers volunteer as co-leaders of troops, cookie program coordinators, and high adventure program volunteers.

MYTH: The rest of the world has co-ed "scouting," why not here?

FACT: **Girl-only scouting organizations are going strong.** The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGS) represents 10 million girls in 150 countries. In countries where scouting is only co-ed, males outnumber females 3 to 1 in both membership and leadership resulting in a lack of focus on girls' unique needs.