



GSOC Marketplace Competition Toolkit

Beginning in 2018 Boy Scouts of America began opening its core program to girls. We are confident that our girl-centered program provides the best opportunity for all girls to thrive and become the confident, courageous leaders our world needs

Now more than ever, we have a unique opportunity to elevate the importance and value of Girl Scouts in our conversations with friends, family, and the community. We have created the GSOC Marketplace Competition Toolkit to provide you with resources to confidently navigate conversations around the Girl Scout Movement and the impact Girl Scouts has had on you and your girl.

What's in the Toolkit:

1. [The Girl Scout Difference](#)
Share this flyer with friends and family, prospective Girl Scouts, and anyone interested in learning more about how Girl Scouts helps girls thrive.
2. [Talking Points for Volunteers about Girl Scouts](#)
Familiarize yourself with these data-driven, research-backed statements to enhance your conversations about the power of Girl Scouts.
3. [The Girl Scout Advantage: FAQs](#)
Read through these FAQs for answers to questions you may have or may receive from friends, family, and the community.
4. [“What to do if someone asks your Girl Scout about Boy Scouts”](#)
Use this booth sale resource and run through the scenario, “What to do if someone asks your Girl Scout about Boy Scouts opening its program to girls,” with your girl before you begin booth sales.

THE GIRL SCOUT DIFFERENCE

Share this flyer with friends and family, prospective Girl Scouts, and anyone interested in learning more about how Girl Scouts helps girls thrive.



The Girl Scout Difference:

Girl Scouts offers the best leadership development experience for girls in the world—one that is designed with, by, and for girls.

Girl Scouts unleashes the **G.I.R.L.** (**Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader**)™ potential in every girl, preparing her for a lifetime of leadership—from taking a nighttime hike under the stars to accepting a mission on the International Space Station; from lobbying the city council with her troop to holding a seat in Congress; from running her own cookie business today to tackling cybersecurity tomorrow.

Our Girl Scout Leadership Experience is a **one-of-a-kind leadership development program for girls**, with proven results. It is based on **time-tested methods and research-backed programming** that help girls take the lead—in their own lives and in the world.

Girl Scouts is proven to help girls thrive in five key ways as they:

-  Develop a strong sense of self
-  Display positive values
-  Seek challenges and learn from setbacks
-  Form and maintain healthy relationships
-  Identify and solve problems in the community

The **inclusive, all-female environment** of a Girl Scout troop creates a safe space where girls can try new things, develop a range of skills, take on leadership roles, and just be themselves.

Did you know?

Girl Scouts fuels the female leadership pipeline.



50%
OF FEMALE
BUSINESS LEADERS



73%
OF FEMALE
U.S. SENATORS



100%
OF FEMALE
U.S. SECRETARIES
OF STATE

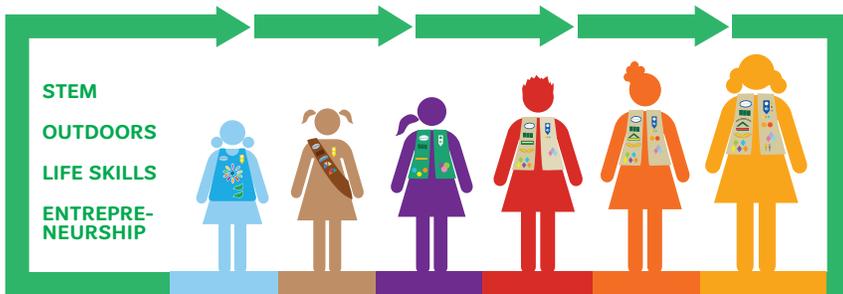
...WERE GIRL SCOUTS.



Girl Scouts takes the potential of girls, combines it with robust skill-building programming, and adds caring adult mentors and strong female role models.

Our Program

Everything a Girl Scout does centers around STEM, the outdoors, development of life skills, and entrepreneurship, and is designed to meet her where she is now and to grow along with her.



Whether she's building a robotic arm, coding her first app, building a shelter in the backcountry, or packing for her first hike, a Girl Scout has an exciting array of choices to suit her interests at every age.



STEM

Computer science, engineering, robotics, outdoor STEM, and more



LIFE SKILLS

Civic engagement, healthy living, global citizenship, communication skills



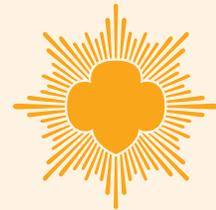
OUTDOORS

Adventure and skill building, including through camping experiences for all age levels, from the backyard to the backcountry



ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Girl Scout Cookie Program—the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world—teaches goal setting, decision making, money management, business ethics, and people skills.



The Girl Scout Gold Award is the most prestigious award in the world for girls—and the most difficult to earn—and it's only available to Girl Scouts.

It's a one-of-a-kind opportunity for girls to engage in a rigorous process that calls for leadership at the highest level, as they tackle issues they feel passionately about.

Gold Award Girl Scouts:

- Earn college scholarships
- Demonstrate high educational and career outcomes
- Are active in their communities
- Access a powerful and supportive Girl Scout network

TALKING POINTS FOR VOLUNTEERS ABOUT GIRL SCOUTS

Familiarize yourself with these data-driven, research-backed statements to enhance your conversations about the power of Girl Scouts.



Talking Points for Volunteers about Girl Scouts

Overview

In Girl Scouts, Girls aren't supporting players. They are the stars of the show. With more than 105 years of experience, Girl Scouts shows girls how to take the lead early and often. We are building the female leaders of tomorrow.

Below is a compilation of talking points to empower you to speak to the value of Girl Scouts' unparalleled leadership development program, backed by proven research.

If you have questions about any of these talking points, please contact Communications Director Elizabeth Fairchild, efairchild@girlscoutsoc.org.

[Data shows](#) that Girl Scout alumnae enjoy **higher incomes**, more **rewarding careers**, and are more **active in their communities** than non-Girl Scouts. Girl Scouts' **all-girl, girl-led environment** creates a safe space where girls can try new things, develop a range of skills, take on leadership roles, and feel comfortable learning from failure, dusting themselves off, and trying again.

- ✓ For 105+ years, Girl Scouts has focused on giving girls the best leadership development experiences, customized for girls' unique developmental needs so their confidence increases as they take on new and increasingly challenging leadership roles.
- ✓ Our program is based on time-tested methods and research-backed programming that continually evolves to keep up with today's girls.
- ✓ In 2017, Girl Scouts released 23 new Outdoor and STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) badges to help girls learn skills to become better problem solvers by thinking like engineers-- learning to program robots, preparing to take on cybersecurity, and more!
- ✓ In the outdoors, Girl Scouts hike, backpack, kayak, and take on high adventures, from novice and intermediate to expert levels. Through these experiences, they learn to take risks, seek challenges, and develop the resilience and grit to be successful. Girl Scouts of Orange County members enjoy year-round outdoor education, including life-changing experiences at our award-winning Camp Scherman, Girl Scout Program Centers across Orange County, and our new Argyros Girl Scout Leadership Center in Newport Beach's Marina Park.



The Girl Scout Leadership Experience

[76% of current female U.S. Senators](#), 67% of current **female governors**, and every **female secretary of state** in U.S. history were-- you guessed it-- Girl Scouts! In addition, more than half of women in business are Girl Scout alumnae. These statistics stem from the Girl Scout Leadership Experience-- a proven leadership development program that pairs girls from kindergarten to 12th grade with strong, caring female role models and mentors who inspire them to participate in entrepreneurship, the outdoors, STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math), and so much more.

The Girl Scout Gold Award & National Gold Award Girl Scouts

The Girl Scout Gold Award and National Gold Award Girl Scouts honor are the most prestigious recognitions in Girl Scouts. The Girl Scout Gold Award has been recognizing the efforts of women who change the world for over 100 years. Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award means a girl has single-handedly changed the world—forever, and for better.

To earn their Girl Scout Gold Award, girls typically spend one to two years on their Gold Award project, which involves taking action on a local or global issue (such as poverty, illiteracy, or the environment) that results in long term, sustainable impact.

- ✓ Approximately six percent of Girl Scouts reach this pinnacle of achievement during their Girl Scout years.
- ✓ In Orange County, approximately 100 Girl Scouts earn their Girl Scout Gold Award each year.
- ✓ Gold Award recipients stand out in the college admissions process, earn college scholarships, and enter the military one rank higher than their peers.

Each year Girl Scouts selects 10 Girl Scouts, from an elite group of Gold Award recipients across the nation, as its prestigious National Gold Award Girl Scouts. Girl Scouts of Orange County is proud to have two recent National Gold Award Girl Scouts: 2017 recipient Sharleen Loh, whose project STEMup4Youth has reached more than 10,000 underserved Orange County youth with hands-on STEM experiences, and 2015 recipient Liza Villanueva, who established mobile learning centers for children in the Philippines.

Only Girl Scouts offers girls this one-of-a-kind opportunity to engage in leadership at the highest levels while taking on an issue they are passionate about.

All-Girl Environments

Girls need and deserve a place where they can just be girls—where they are free from the pressures and anxieties of a coed space and can take the lead and thrive. Only Girl Scouts provides girls of all ages and abilities with a safe, inclusive, girl-led environment for them to practice different skills, explore their potential, and even feel allowed to fail, dust themselves off, and try again.



The all-girl experiences that Girl Scouts provides are vital to girls' healthy development. Research shows that [single-gender environments provide more opportunities](#) for girls to build confidence, a key component of leadership.

Individually Tailored Experiences

In Girl Scouts, there are countless ways to have fun and explore the world. Whether girls want to get involved in their community, learn how to code, or go on adventures in the outdoors, there's something for *every* girl in Girl Scouts. Any girl in grades K–12 can join the fun!

When she's a Girl Scout, she's also a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)[™]

When you think Girl Scouts, you might think cookies, campfires, and friendship bracelets. Those things are all part of this exciting, life-altering journey, but there's so much more! Girl Scouts are big thinkers, groundbreakers, and role models. They design robots, start garage bands, and improve their communities— and yes, they sell the best cookies on the planet. They are go-getters, innovators, risk-takers, and leaders. These traits define girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. It's the Girl Scout DNA.

What does G.I.R.L. stand for?

G = Go-getter

She's bold, honest, and determined to succeed. Goal oriented and ambitious, she's also a lifelong learner who believes no challenge is too difficult!

I = Innovator

Thinking outside the box is her specialty, so she's always looking for creative ways to take action. She knows how to get things done!

R = Risk-taker

Courageous and strong, she's open to trying new things and embracing the unfamiliar. She's ready to step up, speak out, and break the mold if that's what it takes.

L = Leader

She's confident, responsible, and committed to changing the world for the better-- and she's happiest when others join her in taking the lead!

What is the G.I.R.L. Convention?



Hosted by Girl Scouts of the USA and held in Columbus, Ohio in early October, [G.I.R.L. 2017](#) was the first tri-annual G.I.R.L. Convention. Attended by thousands of girls, the event was the largest girl-led event for girls and young women in the world. Attendees had unforgettable experiences as they gained inspiration, tools to empower themselves, and the know-how to lead change in their communities, connecting with some of the most influential women in the world along the way. Accomplished public figures Chelsea Clinton, Gabby Douglas, Barbara Pierce Bush, Mae Jemison, and others led panels and breakout sessions on pressing issues facing girls today. Many sessions featured female leaders from organizations and companies, including Facebook, Instagram, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, NASA, and AT&T.

Watch highlights from [G.I.R.L. 2017](#).

What is the G.I.R.L. Agenda?

The [G.I.R.L. Agenda](#) is a nonpartisan initiative to inspire, prepare, and mobilize girls and those who care about them to lead positive change through civic action. This multiyear effort celebrates the Girl Scout legacy of civic engagement programming, which now includes a new badge for girls as early as kindergarten and will provide girls and adults with tools to be catalysts for change that strengthens their communities and the world.

The G.I.R.L. Agenda makes it simple and rewarding to access free civic engagement resources derived from Girl Scout programming to prepare all G.I.R.L.s to make lasting, positive change.

How does G.I.R.L. relate to you?

Every Girl Scout has a G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)[™] story to tell. G.I.R.L. is not a marketing campaign, but rather an expression of the experiences and stories that have always been part of who we are and what we do. Your G.I.R.L. story doesn't necessarily have to be about your time in Girl Scouts. It can be about the traits you've developed because of Girl Scouts. Maybe it was a time when you challenged the status quo to improve corporate culture at your workplace, took a risk to start your own business, guided your Girl Scouts in a take action project to raise awareness about tolerance, or volunteered with your daughter to clean up your favorite beach. Whether or not your story is about a Girl Scout-specific experience, sharing how Girl Scouts has helped you unleash the go-getter, innovator, risk-taker, leader within shines a spotlight on the incredible caliber of people who make up our movement.

Share your G.I.R.L. story using #becauseofGirlScouts. Be sure to tag @GirlScoutsOC!



Additional Resources

[Girl Scout Research Institute](#)

[Raising Awesome Girls – Parenting Advice for Parents of Daughters](#)

girlscouts.org/because

[Blog: Girl Scouts is the Girl Leadership Expert](#)

[Blog: G.I.R.L. Agenda Launches to Mobilize Civic Action](#)

[Success Factor! The Girl Scout Impact Study](#)

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THE GIRL SCOUT ADVANTAGE: FAQs

Read through these FAQs for answers to questions you may have or may receive from friends, family, and the community.



The Girl Scout Advantage: FAQs

Overview

Beginning in 2018 Boy Scouts of America began opening its core program to girls, with programs for older girls expected to be available in 2019.

For more than a century, Girl Scouts has delivered unparalleled experiences backed by [proven research](#) that invite girls to discover their passions, develop leadership and people skills, explore their worlds, and embark on new adventures. Adult mentors and strong female role models show girls they can be anything they want to be.

The purpose of this FAQ is to empower Girl Scout members, volunteers, and supporters to speak with one voice in responding to questions they may receive in the field.

If you have additional questions this FAQ does not answer, please contact Communications Director Elizabeth Fairchild, efairchild@girlscoutsoc.org.

Q: What is GSOC's official response to BSA's announcement?

A: We are disappointed that Boy Scouts of America chose to open its program to girls in violation of its charter, rather than focus on the 90% of U.S. boys not currently served by Boy Scouts. We believe strongly in the importance of the safe, all-girl, girl-led, and girl-friendly environment that Girl Scouts provides. Moreover, we are confident that our girl-centered program provides the best opportunity for all girls to thrive and become Go-Getters, Innovators, Risk-Takers, and Leaders (G.I.R.L.)™. Girl Scouts is the *only* organization with over 105 years of experience, backed by [proven research](#), on how to help girls succeed.

Recently Girl Scouts of Orange County CEO Vikki Shepp CEO published a letter to all GSOC members and supporters, which you can read [here](#).

Competitors come and go—but Girl Scouts focuses on moving forward at the pace of girls. We remain as committed and focused as ever when it comes to serving today's girls in new, exciting, and future-focused ways. The need for female leadership has never been greater.

Q: I saw in the news that Girl Scouts is suing Boy Scouts? Why?

A: On November 6, 2018, Girl Scouts of the USA filed a trademark infringement lawsuit against Boy Scouts of America. The lawsuit addresses BSA's infringing use of Girl Scouts' intellectual property and the confusion and infringement caused by BSA's use of the terms "Scouts" and "Scouting" to market to girls.



Our national organization, Girl Scouts of the USA, has primary oversight over Girl Scouts' brand assets and intellectual property and brought the action against Boy Scouts of America. Girl Scouts of Orange County has taken no local legal action against any other youth organization.

We understand that some in our Movement, including our amazing, loyal, and committed volunteers, might feel conflicted by this development—but the action that Girl Scouts of the USA has taken stems from an unwavering commitment to advocate for our girls and their families and the communities we serve. Protecting our mission and brand is vital.

Please refer to [Girl Scouts of the USA](#) if you have further inquiries about this matter.

Q: What is the timeline for Boy Scouts recruiting girls?

A: Recruitment of girls into the Cub Scouts program has already begun. According to Boy Scouts of America, families can choose to sign up their sons and daughters for Cub Scouts, and girls and boys will receive the same Cub Scout program. To our knowledge, the program has not been adapted for the unique strengths of girls' leadership development. Expected to be announced in 2018 and projected to be available in 2019, the organization will also deliver a program to older girls that will enable them to earn the Eagle Scout rank using the same Boy Scout curriculum. At Girl Scouts, everything we do is designed with and for today's girls so they can become tomorrow's leaders.

Q: What does Boy Scouts' decision to open its membership to girls mean for Girl Scouts?

A: Though our movement faces new competition, Girl Scouts remains the *best* leadership development organization designed with and for girls. No other organization brings together our time-tested, research-backed methods with exciting, modern programming that speaks to today's girls and caters to the strengths of girls' leadership development. For over 105 years, Girl Scouts has provided a safe, inclusive, girl-led environment for girls discover their talents and leadership skills and grow up to be confident, healthy, and happy women who change the world. When girls choose Girl Scouts they learn to be leaders-- ready to overcome challenges and stand up, stand out, and stand tall.

We are proud of Girl Scouts' role in our country's history and are embracing and amplifying our impact. Between the power of our members and our proven Girl Scout Leadership Experience, there's no challenge girls can't overcome, no goal they can't reach. We have never been better prepared to equip the next generation of female leaders with the skills they need to live their best lives.

Q: How can I Take Action to support Girl Scouts?



A: Our volunteers, parents, Girl Scouts, and Girl Scout supporters are the lifeblood of our organization. We need you to share the value of Girl Scouts, through your stories and experiences, with your family, friends, and community. Tell others what you or your girl have gained through the Girl Scout Leadership Experience and why Girl Scouts matters to you. On social media, share content, such as news articles and valuable blog posts that promote the importance and impact of Girl Scouting.

Follow [GSOC](#) and [GSUSA](#) on Facebook, and share your Girl Scout story using [#becauseofGirlScouts](#). Be sure to tag [@GirlScoutsOC](#).



Q: Is Girl Scouts planning to open its program to boys?

A: No. Girl Scouts has always been, and will continue to be, exclusively for girls. Our all-girl, girl-led, and girl-friendly program provides the best opportunities for girls to learn and thrive.

Q: Why is the single-gender environment considered a “safe space” for girls?

A: The fact is that most of a girl’s life is coed. What we are seeing in society today is that all-girl spaces are more important than ever. Girls need and deserve a place where they can just be girls-- where they are free from the pressures and anxieties of a coed space and can take the lead and thrive. Only Girl Scouts provides girls of all ages and abilities with a safe, inclusive, girl-led environment for them to practice different skills, explore their potential, and even feel allowed to fail, dust themselves off, and try again.

It is so important and beneficial for girls to have opportunities to lead, speak up, and take risks in a supportive all-girl environment where they feel comfortable being themselves.

No matter how the Boy Scouts try to structure their programming to include girls, the fact is in Girl Scouts, girls have always been the stars. **Our program doesn’t just include girls, it was developed specifically FOR girls.**

Q: How does Girl Scouts’ Program serve today’s girls?

A: Our programming is always evolving to meet modern girls in today’s world. Girl Scouts is uniting the best of our legacy experiences-- like outdoor adventure, camping, and our cookie program-- with exciting, modern programs in STEM, computer science, computational thinking, and engineering to ensure we offer a truly one-of-a-kind experience for today’s girls.

And Girl Scouts works! A recent study from the Girl Scout Research Institute showed that Girl Scout alum have higher perceptions of self, higher rates of volunteerism and civic engagement, higher rates of college education and higher household incomes than non-alumnae.

Q: Why don’t the two organizations join forces?

A: Girl Scouts of Orange County has a long history of collaborating with our local Boy Scout council through opportunities such as Scouting for Food (where Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts have collected over 5 million pounds of food since 1988) and [One Billion Acts of Kindness](#).

Additionally, our Vietnamese troop model includes Girl Scout troops and Boy Scout troops, which come together for shared activities such as hiking and camping, but separate for Girl Scout and Boy Scout program. The two organizations, however, remain separate. At Girl Scouts, we are strong believers in the benefits of offering girls opportunities to learn and thrive in a single-gender environment. This safe space offered by Girl Scouts fosters collaboration



instead of competition and promotes support among girls, enabling them to stretch beyond their limits and transfer valuable knowledge and skills to any environment, both now and in the future.

Q: Is there research supporting Girl Scouts as a valuable scouting experience for girls?

A: Yes! Our programs are research- and evidence-based. From this research, we know that Girl Scouts excel in important aspects of life. A report published by the Girl Scout Research Institute this past summer, [The Girl Scout Impact Study](#), reveals that participating in Girl Scouts helps girls develop key leadership skills they need to be successful in life. Compared to their peers, Girl Scouts are more likely than non-Girl Scouts to be leaders because they:

- ✓ Have confidence in themselves and their abilities (80 percent vs. 68 percent)
- ✓ Act ethically and responsibly, and show concern for others (75 percent vs. 59 percent)
- ✓ Seek challenges and learn from setbacks (62 percent vs. 42 percent)
- ✓ Develop and maintain healthy relationships (60 percent vs. 43 percent)
- ✓ Identify and solve problems in their communities (57 percent vs. 28 percent)
- ✓ Take an active role in decision making (80 percent vs. 51 percent)

Q: Does Girl Scouts have an award equivalent to the Eagle Scout?

A: Yes! The Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor a Girl Scout can earn, has been recognizing the efforts of women who change the world for over 100 years.

Being a Gold Award Girl Scout is not about building benches or cleaning parks. Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award means a girl has single-handedly changed the world—forever, and for better. A Gold Award Girl Scout takes on a project in her community that will stand the test of time, has a real meaningful influence on people’s lives, and leaves a legacy that lasts forever. A Gold Award project typically takes one to two years to complete and is a future-focused 21st century experience. Gold Award Girl Scouts tackle issues such as poverty, sustainability, hunger, abuse, medicine, and technology. They program robots, build helipads to move medical supplies, solve problems through the Internet of Things, and get parks created.

Earning the Gold Award is one of the most challenging, exciting, and rewarding experiences a girl can have and one of the most prestigious recognitions she can earn. Gold Award Girl Scouts earn college scholarships, enter the military at a higher rank, and—most importantly—are committed to creating a better future for their entire community.

Approximately six percent of Girl Scouts reach this pinnacle of achievement during their Girl Scout years. In Orange County, approximately 100 Girl Scouts earn the Girl Scout Gold Award each year.

Q: Who are the National Gold Award Girl Scouts?

Each year Girl Scouts selects 10 Girl Scouts, from an elite group of Gold Award recipients across the nation, as its prestigious National Gold Award Girl Scouts. Girl Scouts of Orange County is proud to have two recent National Gold Award Girl Scouts: 2017 recipient [Sharleen](#)



[Loh](#), whose project STEMup4Youth has reached more than 10,000 underserved Orange County youth with hands-on STEM experiences, and 2015 recipient [Liza Villanueva](#), who established mobile learning centers for children in the Philippines.

Q: Why do Boy Scouts get to do more high adventure activities, some of which Girl Scouts can't do?

A: Actually, that is a myth. Girl Scout programming offers many identical or comparable outdoor and high adventure opportunities. From taking aim at archery, to outdoor survival, to exploring the scenic Idyllwild Mountains at Girl Scouts of Orange County's Camp Scherman, Girl Scouts provides many opportunities for girls to take risks in high adventure situations. There are few activities Boy Scouts permits that Girl Scouts does not (primarily firearm usage). The safety of our members is paramount. Girl Scouts of Orange County follows [GSUSA's Safety Activity Checkpoints](#), as well as our own risk management plans to review activities deemed high risk.

Q: I like that Boy Scouts get outdoors. What is Girl Scouts doing to get girls outdoors?

A: From hiking, swimming, camping, and kayaking to archery, and horseback riding, outdoor adventure is a fundamental part of the Girl Scout experience. In fact, these experiences are SO fundamental that many of our most advanced, modern, and cutting-edge programs take place outdoors—including STEM and civic engagement activities for girls. According to the Girl Scout Research Institute, nearly 100 percent of Girl Scouts participate in at least one outdoor activity, and more than half participate in high-adventure experiences like canoeing, archery, and ropes courses. Through girl-led outdoor activities, the Girl Scout experience truly comes to life. Girls seek challenges, become resourceful problem-solvers, work cooperatively, and develop a strong sense of self.

Q: What is Girl Scouts doing in the area of STEM?

A: We have worked in the STEM space for so long, it's almost second nature for us—because STEM is second nature for today's girls. Today's girls live in an exciting, fast-paced world full of phones, tablets, video games, robots, computers, fiber optics, and the Internet of Things. At Girl Scouts, K–12 girls engage in STEM in natural, interesting, and memorable ways. Girls learn how they can use STEM to help their community, improve their world, and build a future for themselves and everyone they know. Just last year, Girl Scouts nationally introduced 23 new Outdoor and STEM badges (robotics, mechanical engineering, troop camping, outdoor art, and more) for Girl Scouts of all ages – the largest national rollout of badges in almost a decade.

Locally, Girl Scouts of Orange County is focused on developing tomorrow's STEM leadership pipeline. In September of 2017, we opened the doors to the [Argyros Girl Scout Leadership Center \(GSLC\)](#), Orange County's new hub for Girl Scout STEM programs. Through experiences available at the GSLC and our signature INSPIRE multimedia program, girls explore science, technology, engineering, and math in their world and are introduced to exciting 21st century careers and learn how to take action to change the world. We are also proud to be heading into



our fourth year of the [Girl Scouts of Orange County STEM Consortium](#), a Collaboration of leading STEM companies and GSOC, working together to make STEM accessible to girls across Orange County. Through the [GSOC STEM Consortium](#), we have developed two council's own badges MySTEMLife for Girl Scout Cadettes (grades 6-8), and STEMsational ME! for Girl Scout Juniors (grades 4-5), as well as our brand new STEM Tank workshop series for girls in 8-12 grades, which provides special opportunities for them to be entrepreneurs while exploring STEM and honing their business and presentation skills.

Girl Scouts is proud to be a recognized industry leader when it comes to providing STEM programming for youth—and we're unmatched in our ability to deliver it to girls.

Q: Boy Scouts' model of serving both boys and girls seems more convenient for busy families. Do you agree?

A: Full details have not been shared about how Boy Scouts is going to provide a convenient family experience that accommodates both boys and girls. While outwardly, it may seem more convenient, our understanding is that outside of the monthly pack meetings, boy dens and girl dens will still meet separately, likely at different times, locations, and frequencies.

Girl Scouts has introduced several new tools and strategies that have made Girl Scouts more convenient for even the busiest families. We encourage you to explore Girl Scouts for your family. We are confident you will find Girl Scouts the best place for your girl to explore her full potential in a girl-led, girl-focused environment with programming designed specifically for girls.

Q: What is the difference between being a Girl Scout Troop Leader and being a Boy Scout Leader?

A: Both Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts pair adult mentors with youth in leadership development programs that focus on character development, life skills, and service to the community. While Boy Scouts' model focuses on individual and personal development through progression of traditional military style ranks, leadership skills are baked into Girl Scouts' progression. In Girl Scouts, troop leaders guide girls in developing the courage, confidence, and character to empower themselves for a lifetime of leadership and drive sustainable solutions to causes they care deeply about.

Boy Scouts is known for its outdoor education program. Girl Scouts' program embraces four distinct program pillars – Outdoors, STEM, Entrepreneurship, and Life Skills. Girl Scout troop leaders have the opportunity to introduce girls to experiences in areas where they traditionally have not had equal access (such as STEM) and watch as they discover the greatness inside.

“WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE ASKS YOUR GIRL SCOUT ABOUT BOY SCOUTS”

Use this booth sale resource and run through the scenario, “What to do if someone asks your Girl Scout about Boy Scouts opening its program to girls,” with your girl before you begin booth sales.

What to do if someone asks your Girl Scout about Boy Scouts

Beginning in 2018 Boy Scouts of America began opening its core program to girls. In light of this change, your Girl Scout may receive questions about Boy Scouts when she participates in public activities, such as product sales or Girl Scout recruitment events. Here are some tips to help her speak confidently about why Girl Scouts is the best place for her.

What to tell your Girl Scout and others in the community when you are asked about the BSA Program decisions:

Explain that Girl Scouts is, and always will be, **a place for her!**

“Girl Scouts is the best girl leadership organization in the world, created with and for girls. Our all-girl, girl-led, and girl-friendly program has been helping girls succeed for more than 105 years! Whether girls want to get involved in their community, learn how to code, or go on adventures in the outdoors, there’s something for every girl in Girl Scouts.”

How your Girl Scouts can answer questions about the BSA Program decisions:

Your Girl Scout does not need to weigh in on Boy Scouts’ decision or respond to any questions she is not comfortable answering. Instead, this is **an opportunity for your girl to share her Girl Scout story with her community and describe why Girl Scouts is important to her!**

▶ Have her share **what she loves** about Girl Scouts.

Examples might be:

“I get to make friends, try new things, and go on exciting adventures in the outdoors.”

“I get to meet inspiring role models.”

“Girl Scouts helps me think about my future and explore different careers. I want to be a _____ some day!”

“Girl Scouts prepares me to make a difference in my community.”

“Girl Scouts has shown me that I can do anything!”

▶ Have her share what she’s accomplished **because of Girl Scouts.**

- Girl Scout Bronze, Silver, and/or Gold Awards
- Community Service and Take Action Projects
- Badges & Journey Awards she has earned
- Skills she has gained public speaking, coding, confidence, ability to sing camp songs and more!
- Favorite Girl Scout memories like that time she enjoyed an unforgettable troop outing!

And remember ... we are here to support

Please direct community members with detailed questions about this matter to Elizabeth Fairchild, Girl Scouts of Orange County Communications Director at efairchild@girlscoutsoc.org.