



# Girl Scouts California Councils

## Fact Sheet: Gold Award Girl Scouts of California

**COUNCIL NAMES:** Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast  
Girl Scouts of Central California South  
Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles  
Girl Scouts of Northern California  
Girl Scouts of Orange County  
Girl Scouts San Diego  
Girl Scouts of San Geronimo

**TOTAL GIRL MEMBERS  
IN CALIFORNIA:** Approximately 123,010  
*\*as of Sept. 30, 2023*

**TOTAL VOLUNTEERS/  
ADULT MEMBERS IN CA:** Approximately 78,882  
*\*as of Sept. 30, 2023*

**ABOUT THE GOLD AWARD:** The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest, most prestigious award in Girl Scouting. Girl Scouts in grades 9-12 earn the Gold Award by committing a minimum of 80 hours to transform an idea and vision for change in their community into an actionable plan with measurable, sustainable, and far-reaching results.

The highest award in Girl Scouting from 1916 to 1939 was the Golden Eaglet, which marked the beginning of a long tradition of recognizing the extraordinary efforts of Girl Scouts. From 1940 to 1963, the Curved Bar Award was the highest honor, and from 1963 to 1980, Girl Scouts earned First Class. Since 1980, the Gold Award has inspired girls to find the greatness inside themselves and share their passions with the world.

**TOTAL 2024 GOLD AWARD  
GIRLS SCOUTS:** 415

**TOTAL SERVICE HOURS:** 33,200 (minimum hours)

**POPULAR TOPICS\*:** 16.9% focused on mental health  
*\*topic themes overlap* 33.0% focused on civic engagement and advocacy issues  
5.10% focused on diversity, equity, inclusion, racial justice issues (DEIRJ)  
14.2% focused on environment and sustainability

**GIRL SCOUTS FOUNDER:** [Juliette Gordon Low](#), also known as “Daisy,” founded Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) in 1912.

**MISSION:** Building girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.

**NATIONAL AND  
LOCAL LEADERSHIP:** Bonnie Barczykowski, Chief Executive Officer, Girl Scouts of the USA

Vikki Shepp, Chief Executive Officer, Girl Scouts of Orange County

**CORPORATE STATUS:** All Girl Scout Councils across California operate as individual 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations.

**SOCIAL MEDIA:** @girlscoutsoc on Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn

**WEBSITE:** Visit [www.girlscouts.org](http://www.girlscouts.org) to learn more about Girl Scouts of the USA and the national movement. For more information about Girl Scouts of Orange County, visit [www.girlscoutsoc.org](http://www.girlscoutsoc.org).