



Argyros Girl Scout Leadership Center

Celebrating five years of inspiring girls to Take Action
to make our world a better place.

Dear Girl Scouts of Orange County Supporters,

Five years ago, our Girl Scout community and generous donors joined together in a remarkable pledge to show girls they can be anything they want to be as Girl Scouts of Orange County (GSOC) opened the doors to its state-of-the-art **Argyros Girl Scout Leadership Center (GSLC)**.

Since then, thousands of Girl Scouts have visited this first-of-its-kind Leadership Center, recognized by the United States Green Building Council for achieving LEED Silver Certification. Activities at the Leadership Center show girls they have a voice in changing the world and introduce them to a wide breadth of STEM careers. Girls' early exposure to STEM fuels our long-term goal of closing the gender gap in STEM jobs.

Girl Scouts is eternally grateful to Julia and George Argyros for their leadership and generosity in providing a \$2.5 million gift to bring the dream of a Girl Scout Leadership Center on Balboa Peninsula to life. We are equally grateful to the many donors who joined together to bring this special venue to our Girl Scouts to learn and grow as young leaders on their journey to becoming responsible, successful women.

We proudly share our Impact Report with all who supported this important addition to Orange County, where girls from all cultures, backgrounds, and exceptionalities can create lifetime memories and develop lifelong skills - *through experiences they won't find anywhere else!*

Warmly,



Vikki Shepp
CEO, Girl Scouts of Orange County



Molly Jolly
Board Chair, Girl Scouts of Orange County

“An investment in Girl Scouts is an investment in our future. Girls and young women visiting this first-of-its-kind Leadership Center will quickly learn that there are no boundaries for what they can do. This is a safe environment where girls from all cultures and backgrounds can apply their talents and passions to creating powerful and lasting change in our communities and around the world.”

- Julia Argyros



“The work of
today is the
history of
tomorrow and
we are its
makers.”

- Juliette Gordon Low
Founder, Girl Scouts of the USA

Impact

IMPACT DRIVERS – 5 years cumulative

GIRL PARTICIPATION: Since its opening, 14,220 girls from 1,163 troops have visited the Argyros Girl Scout Leadership Center with 5,279 adult volunteers.

GIRL SCOUT BADGES AND PATCHES:

- 19,055 National Badges earned or partially earned (average 1.34 badges per girl)
- 1,846 GSLC Fun Patches earned
- 3,706 INSPIRE Fun Patches distributed
- 691 Take Action Patches earned
- 1,796 Career Exploration Patches earned



PROGRAM PARTICIPATION:

67% of troops chose the CAREER EXPLORATION module of INSPIRE

19% of troops chose the TAKE ACTION module of INSPIRE

14% of troops chose both modules of INSPIRE

INSPIRE Career Exploration and Take Action Outcomes



WHAT GIRL SCOUTS SAY:

84.3% agree with this statement:

After doing INSPIRE, I am more interested in STEM activities.

86.5% agree with this statement:

INSPIRE made me excited to find out more about careers I might love to do.

84.6% agree with this statement:

INSPIRE showed me how STEM is part of things I love to do.

89.7% agree with this statement:

INSPIRE helped me understand that STEM is important to my future.

WHAT LEADERS SAY:

68.8% observed that the STEM components of INSPIRE supported girls' interest in STEM subjects, and 31.2% reported that girls became more interested in STEM subjects after completing INSPIRE.

80.7% agree with this statement:

My girls are excited to further explore careers that interest them.

87.4% agree with this statement:

My girls see how STEM plays a role in what interests them.

72.6% agree with this statement:

My girls are curious about STEM and ask questions, thereby enhancing critical thinking and problem-solving skills.

80.3% agree with this statement:

My girls better understand the relevancy of STEM education to their lives.

"INSPIRE taught me that I can do anything I want to."

- Camilla, Girl Scout Junior



Reflections of Argyros Girl Scout Leadership Center

The past couple of years was a time in history when the world paused. During the COVID-19 pandemic, activities at the Argyros Girl Scout Leadership Center were put on hold to keep girls and families safe. With the reopening of the world, Girl Scouts of Orange County is celebrating the return of Girl Scouts to the GSLC.

Destination – Color Me OC!

GSOC held its first GSUSA Destination *Color Me Orange County* in the summer of 2022, when 21 Girl Scouts across the country visited Orange County. The girls spent 10 days making new friends, exploring 21st Century careers, enjoying Orange County’s spectacular beaches and attractions, and exploring GSOC’s beloved Camp Scherman. The journey began with three days at the Argyros Girl Scout Leadership where girls experienced INSPIRE, kayaked near the bay-front property, toasted s’mores on the sprawling patio, and participated in fun water and sand activities. They even swam with dolphins!



Community Programs Partnership Troops

“It has been exciting to bring our Girl Scout troops from Big Brothers Big Sisters and Save Our Youth to the Argyros Girl Scout Leadership Center to participate in INSPIRE and enjoy the amenities. From first- to 11th graders, the girls were intrigued by the program content and careers discussed. Following our INSPIRE sessions, we dipped our toes in the water and girls had fun making s’mores. The older girls commented that they would like to return and learn more. Most hadn’t considered STEM-focused careers and were surprised to learn how varied they are. They want to return during the upcoming school year.” -
Veronica Thousand, GSOC Community Programs Leader



Kayaks with the CEO

Class of '22 graduating Girl Scouts enjoyed meeting the *Color Me OC* destination participants and GSOC CEO Vikki Shepp. This annual event for graduating Girl Scouts celebrates their Girl Scout journey and kicks off their next adventure as Girl Scout Alum. The young women enjoyed kayaking, connecting with Girl Scout friends old and new, enjoying lunch with a view of the Newport Bay, and participating in a special bridging ceremony.



“It was a fabulous experience! The girls enjoyed the INSPIRE program, loved the facility, enjoyed cooking for themselves, and having an overnight sleepover.”

- GSOC Troop Leader



Thank you for helping girls see what they can be.

On behalf of our nearly 15,000 Girl Scouts and 10,000 adult volunteers from every zip code in Orange County, thank you to our generous donors for powering the promise of Girl Scouts and building a state-of-the-art leadership center where STEM comes to life and builds on girls' school education in science, technology, engineering, and math.

Thank you to the women of INSPIRE for sharing your careers and passions and inspiring girls to dream big and do bigger. Thank you to our adult volunteer leaders and mentors for bringing girls to the GSLC to experience INSPIRE's Career Exploration and Take Action programs and explore the world around them. Thank you to our GSOC staff for delivering meaningful and impactful experiences and for your excitement in expanding opportunities at the GSLC.

Girl Scouts of Orange County will continue to champion girls through STEM experiences that build lifelong skills and maximize program opportunities at the GSLC. We look forward to sharing updates with you!