

## Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts: Both are called “Scouts.” So, what is the difference?

**Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are different organizations.** We both build character and teach life skills and teamwork, and we do so in different ways. Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts each have unique cultures and approaches to youth development and volunteer support.

**There are a lot of myths about how Girl Scouts compares to Boy Scouts—starting with the stereotype that Girl Scouts is like the pink toy aisle—all glitter and sparkle.** Girl Scouts designs our programming based on research about how best to empower girls to lead, thrive, and gain skills. As a girl-led, girl-only program, we encourage girls to discover who they are, free of the norms and rules imposed on girls by media and society. We provide girls with opportunities to explore their passions, dream big and become leaders. This is what happens when girls are in a single-gender, safe-space, and have the opportunity to try new things, meet accomplished women and take risks without fear of failure.



To learn more about Girl Scouts and how to join, visit [gscnc.org/join](https://gscnc.org/join)

Myths	Facts about Girl Scouts
<p>Girl Scouts aren't about getting outdoors</p>	<p><b>Girl Scouts teach outdoor skills, go camping, and develop a sense of self.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girl Scouts earn badges in outdoor adventure and high adventure.</li> <li>• Girl Scout troop camping starts in Kindergarten.</li> <li>• Girl Scouts Nation's Capital owns and operates <b>eight</b> camp properties across the Greater Washington Region, where girls explore the outdoors and engage in fun, challenging adventures. Features at our camps include water sports, swimming, kayaking, archery, high ropes course, team building challenges, hiking, nature, and more.</li> <li>• In addition to troop camping, we offer summer sleep-away and day and evening camp programs for girls from K-12<sup>th</sup> grade.</li> </ul>
<p>Only Boy Scouts have a focus on programs for adventure</p>	<p><b>Girl Scouts have opportunities for adventure.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls decide and choose from age-appropriate, high-adventure activities. Our camps offer archery, sailing, kayaking, paddle-boarding, rock climbing, caving, backpacking, swimming, zip lining and more.</li> <li>• Camp White Rock features a high adventure ropes course, with multiple bridges and obstacles including a cargo net, raider bridge, vine walk and wobbly beam. The course ends with a 300 foot zip line.</li> <li>• Camp Crowell features a team building course with low rope challenges, a zip line and more.</li> <li>• Camp Coles Trip features sailing, paddle boards and kayaks, archery and more.</li> <li>• Camp May Flather features rock climbing, archery, caving and more.</li> <li>• Camp Winona features kayaking, archery, swimming pool and more</li> <li>• Camp Potomac Woods features archery, swimming pool, hiking trails and more.</li> <li>• Our program partners offer an array of high adventure activities for troops.</li> </ul>
<p>Girl Scouts don't do hard science</p>	<p><b>Have you seen our Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The STEM interest- and confidence-gaps between girls and boys starts at age 6 and can be closed with programs that are designed for girls.</li> <li>• In Girl Scouts girls can earn badges in engineering, robotics, environmental science, cyber security, and space science.</li> <li>• Girl Scout also exposes girls to senior level women in the STEM professions.</li> </ul>
<p>Crafts are the only hands-on activity</p>	<p><b>Girl Scouts are makers.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If girls want to use a sewing machine, make jewelry, weld, change a tire, re-build a marine diesel engine, or build a play house for a children's shelter, they can!</li> <li>• Girls can learn these skills and put them to work in ambitious Award projects.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Each year Girl Scouts Nation's Capital host a Maker Day for Girl Scouts to display their tech gadgets, demonstrate robotics and sell products they've made with all natural ingredients.</li> </ul>
The cookie sale is just a gimmick	<p><b>Money-earning opportunities fund troop travel, field trips, Silver and Gold Award projects, and community service days while developing critical life skills.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our Cookie Program is the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program. Girls gain valuable business skills: goal setting, money management, people skills, decision making and ethics.</li> <li>During Girl Scout Nation's Capital 2018 cookie program, troops sold over 4.6 million boxes of Girl Scout Cookies to fund their adventures and service projects.</li> </ul>
Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award is less impressive than the Eagle Scout	<p><b>The Gold Award requires completion of a complex project that prepares girls for a lifetime of achievement.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gold Award Girl Scouts identify an issue in their community, develop a plan, lead teams to develop a sustainable solution to the issue, and develop skills in advanced planning, organization, and team building.</li> <li>The Gold Award is impressive to colleges and universities, and to the military, which advances enlisted Gold Award Girl Scouts a full rank (the same as Eagle Scouts).</li> </ul>
Troops are all the same: cookies and crafts	<p><b>Volunteer-led troops are full of a variety of skilled adults and caring mentors.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are girl-led, and troop activities vary depending on the interests of our girls and troop leaders—some travel, some only camp, some earn badges, some are all about service—and some do everything.</li> </ul>
Girl Scouts is only about girls and women	<p><b>Family participation is essential to the success of our program.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Our focus IS girls and women, but we know it takes a village. We invite the entire family to get involved, and lots of dads volunteer in different ways, such as co-leaders of troops, cookie sale coordinators, camp volunteers and even serving on our board.</li> </ul>
The rest of the world embraces co-ed "scouting," why not the Girl Scouts?	<p><b>Girl-only scouting organizations are going strong. The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGS.org) represents 10 million girls in 150 countries.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We believe that girls thrive in a single gender environment. Girls as early as age six, begin to lose confidence. At Girl Scouts, girls get to claim every role, every space, every opportunity for girls.</li> <li>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 "fake news" that co-ed scouting has replaced Girl Guides (or Girl Scouts)—it has not. They are merely different programs.</li> <li>Some co-ed scout programs are sectarian or require that members recognize an obligation to a specific faith. Girl Scouts is a non-partisan, non-sectarian group, with a strong history and policy of <b>inclusion</b> of all girls.</li> </ul>