

## 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. By being a girl-led, girl-only program, we encourage girls to discover who they are, free of the norms and rules imposed on them by media and society.



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

<b>Myths</b>	<b>Facts about Girl Scouts</b>
<b>Girl Scouts aren't about getting outdoors</b>	<p><b>Girl Scouts build 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>• GSBDC owns and operates 3 camp properties (including an urban camp), giving girls an opportunity to grow, explore and have fun under guidance of caring, trained adults.</li> </ul>
<b>Only Boy Scouts have a focus on programs for adventure</b>	<p><b>We have an abundance of outdoor adventures and programs for every girl.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Girls decide and choose from age-appropriate activities, including: archery, surfing, paddle-boarding, target paintball, tomahawk throwing, backpacking, white water rafting, and more.</li> <li>• In 2017, GSBDC hosted a Girl Scout Jamboree with over 1,000 participants from 28 states where girls in grades 4-12 experienced high adventure across mountainous terrain, over rocks and boulders, flying through the air, and sailing across the lake.</li> </ul>
<b>Girl Scouts don't do hard science</b>	<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> </ul>
<b>Crafts are the only hands-on activity</b>	<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>
<b>The cookie sale is just a gimmick</b>	<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>• Through the Girl Scout Product Program, Girl Scouts learn life skills essential to success in life, while earning badges for budgeting, establishing credit, and giving back.</li> <li>• When you support her cookie sale, your dollars help power new unique and amazing experiences for her and all of the girls who sell Girl Scout Cookies.</li> </ul>
<b>Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award is less impressive than the Eagle Scout</b>	<p><b>The Gold Award requires completion of a complex project that prepares girls for a lifetime of possibility thinking and doing.</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 Gold Award Girl Scouts a full rank (the same as for Eagle Scouts).</li> </ul>
<b>Troops are all the same: cookies and crafts</b>	<p><b>Volunteer-led troops have a variety of skilled adults &amp; 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 like crafts, some only camp, and some are all about service- and some do everything.</li> </ul>
<b>Girl Scouts is only about girls and women</b>	<p><b>Family participation is encouraged.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Our focus IS girls and women, and it takes a village. We like the entire family to get involved, and lots of dads volunteer in different ways, such as co-leaders of troops, cookie sale coordinators, and camp volunteers.</li> </ul>
<b>The rest of the world embraces co-ed "scouting," why not the Girl Scouts?</b>	<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>• 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 <b>false</b> 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 policy of inclusion for all girls.</li> </ul>

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