10 GIRL SCOUT MYTHS
DEBUNKED

MYTH 1: All “scouting” programs are basically the same.

Not even close! At Girl Scouts, everything we do is designed with and for girls.
- Our programming is based on 100+ years of 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.

MYTH 2: Girl Scouts isn’t about getting outdoors.

Girl Scouts build outdoor skills, participate in high adventure activities, go camping and appreciate nature.
- Girl Scouts earn badges in high adventure and outdoor adventure.
- Girl Scout troop camping starts in kindergarten.
- For many girls, Girl Scouts is their introduction to the outdoors.
- Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri operates three camp properties and has more than 1,300 acres of camp facilities and outdoor space including two ziplines, a climbing wall and a high-ropes outdoor adventure course.

MYTH 3: Only Boy Scouts have a focus on programs for adventure.

No way! Girl Scouts have all kinds of opportunities for adventure!
- Girls choose from age-appropriate activities including: archery, paddle-boarding, backpacking, rock climbing, canoeing, zip lining, horse-back riding, survival camping and so much more.
- Every year Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri sends girls to go on wilderness trips where they hone their expertise in outdoor and survival skills.
- Not only do girls go on adventures, they raise the money and plan the trip, leading the experience and ensuring they are girl-centered.

MYTH 4: The Cookie Program is just about money making.

The Cookie Program powers troop travel, field trips, Silver and Gold Award projects and community service while developing critical life skills.
- As the world’s largest girl-run business, the Cookie Program provides girls an opportunity to develop expertise and confidence in goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, business ethics and more.
MYTH 5: Girl Scouts don't do hard science.

Have you seen our Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) programs?
- 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.
- Our Girl Scout STEM curriculum and badge work is hands-on, problem-focused and girl-led learning—not memorization.
- Girl Scouts earn badges in engineering, robotics, environmental science, cyber security and space science.

MYTH 6: It is hard for families (especially dads) to get involved.

Family participation is encouraged.
- We encourage the entire family to get involved, and lots of dads volunteer in different ways, supporting as co-leaders of troops, cookie sale coordinators and camp volunteers.

MYTH 7: The Girl Scout Gold Award is less impressive than the Eagle Scout.

The Gold Award requires the completion of a complex project that prepares girls for a lifetime of possibility thinking and doing.
- 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.
- The Gold Award is impressive to higher-learning institutions, and to the military, which advances Gold Award Girl Scouts a full rank (the same as for Eagle Scouts).

MYTH 8: Troops are all the same.

Volunteer-led troops are full of variety of skilled adults and caring mentors.
- We are girl-led, and troop activities vary depending on the interests of our girls and troop leaders—some travel, some only camp, some are only involved in marine activities, some are all about service—and some do everything.

MYTH 9: Crafts are the only hands-on activity.

Girl Scouts are creators.
- If girls want to use a sewing machine, change a tire, weld, make jewelry, re-build a marine diesel engine, or build a wind turbine from recycled materials, they can!
- Girls can learn these skills and put them to work on ambitious Award projects.

MYTH 10: Girl Scouts is "harder" for volunteers.

Girl Scouts embrace a challenge (Of course, it depends on what you mean by harder).
- There are many planning resources and support available.