

Girl Scouts Mythbusters

Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts both are called “Scouts.” So, what’s the difference?

Myths	Facts about Girl Scouts
Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts are the same organization	<p>Girl Scouts is a completely separate organization for girls and by girls.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While both programs build character, teach life skills, and teamwork, Girl Scouts has a distinct culture and approach to youth development and volunteer support.
Girl Scouts is too “girly”	<p>Girl Scouts programming is based on research, not stereotypes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girl Scout programs are designed to help girls lead, thrive, and gain life 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.
Girl Scouts aren’t about getting outdoors	<p>Girl Scouts build outdoor skills, go camping, and learn environmental stewardship.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girl Scouts can earn outdoor badges like bugs, outdoor art, geocaching, hiking, eco camping and adventure camping. Girl Scout troop camping starts in Kindergarten We run three amazing Girl Scout Summer Camp programs at our own Camp Timber Ridge, Camp Meriwether, and Camp Misty Mountain.
Only Boy Scouts have a focus on programs for adventure	<p>Actually, we have more opportunities for adventure than they do.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Girls decide and choose from age-appropriate activities, including archery, kayaking and canoeing, horseback riding, ziplining, hiking and backpacking, swimming and stand up paddle boarding, sailing and windsurfing, climbing challenges, and more!
Girl Scouts don’t do hard science	<p>We have Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 Girl Scouts can earn badges in engineering, robotics, environmental science, cyber security, and space science. Locally, we have 8 Girl Scout robotics teams that compete on the state and international level.
Crafts are the only hands-on activity	<p>Girl Scouts are makers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> If girls want to use a sewing machine, make jewelry, change a tire, re-build an engine, or build a play house for a children’s center, they can! Girl can learn these skills and put them to work in ambitious Awards projects.



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

<p>The cookie sale is just a gimmick</p>	<p>Money-earning opportunities fund troop travel, field trips, community service projects, and camping adventures while developing critical life skills like goal setting and money management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During our most recent cookie program, troops earned almost \$3 million to fuel adventures, travel, and service projects. • The Cookie Program makes Girl Scouting affordable for the 49% of Georgia Girl Scouts growing up in low-income homes.
<p>Earning the Girl Scout Gold Award is less impressive than the Eagle Scout</p>	<p>The Gold Award requires completion of a complex project that prepares girls for a lifetime of possibility thinking and doing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gold Award Girl Scouts identify an issue in their community, develop a plan, lead teams to develop a sustainable solution to the issue, and grow skills in advanced planning, organization, and team building. • The Gold 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).
<p>Troops are all the same: cookies and crafts</p>	<p>Volunteer-led troops are full of a variety of skilled adults and caring mentors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are girl-led, and troop activities vary depending on the interests of our girls and troop leaders – some travel, some like crats, some only camp, and some are all about service – and some do everything!
<p>Girl Scouts is only about girls and women</p>	<p>Family participation is encouraged.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our focus IS girls and women, but we know that girls benefit from having both parents involved in their Girl Scout experiences. We like the entire family to get behind girls' leadership development. • Dads and other male family members can be troop leaders and cookie volunteers. We have events just for men, like our Man Enough to be a Girl Scout program and our Mountain Jubilee Dad/Daughter camping weekend.
<p>The rest of the world embraces co-ed "scouting," why not the Girl Scouts?</p>	<p>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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. • 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.



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