

MAKING a DIFFERENCE

FOR FRIENDS OF GIRL SCOUTS SAN DIEGO • SUMMER 2020



Girl Scouting Virtually Opens Up the World

Social distancing is bringing Girl Scouts closer together...in the cloud! Through innovative, cyber-safe programs and resources, we're helping girls and volunteers stay active in Girl Scouting, ease anxiety, and chase away boredom. →



p. 3
**GIRL SCOUTS BUILDS
LEADERS OF THE
FUTURE**

Pivoting in today's challenging times



p. 4
**ALCOCK FAMILY:
GIRL SCOUTS GAVE
US SO MUCH!**

Meredith Alcock's Girl Scout journey

Girl Scouts Go Digital: Embracing New Technologies to Connect, Learn, Camp, and Serve

From Daisies to Ambassadors, Girl Scouts are meeting with their troop-mates and joining forces for an enriching array of experiences.

STEM exploration

Future scientists, technology experts, engineers, and mathematicians have been hard at play, enjoying programs hosted on digital platforms by our council, community partners, and adult members.

For example, girls applied aerodynamics, design aesthetics, and creativity to build miniature cars for a Powder Puff Derby in Scripps Ranch. Girl Scouts Riley, Marley, and Landry O'Day and their parents coordinated the races for an online audience.

Camp...Reimagined!

Outdoor adventures are closer to home this season. Campers will earn badges as they explore topics like animals, space, and art, during virtual sessions led by our camp staff.

Our first-ever "In-Tents Campout" got girls and their families into the outdoor spirit. They experienced the

magic of Girl Scout camp at home by pitching tents or blanket forts; doing crafts; and video chatting, singing, and roasting marshmallows around their campfires.

Acts of kindness and service

As they did in response to the Great Depression, World War II, and 9/11, Girl Scouts are stepping up in this time of crisis and turmoil.

- Eleventh-grader Adhiti added coronavirus safety elements to her previously completed Gold Award project, which centered on natural disaster preparedness. She is also helping Girl Scouts San Diego develop an emergency response and safety patch program.
- Cadettes led by Leslie Carlson and Camille Reyno supplied masks for Poway Unified School District's Food and Nutrition Department and elderly people.
- Troop 1420, led by Jenna Fasack, sends care packages and artwork with uplifting messages to elderly residents of affordable housing



Grace is one of many Girl Scouts making masks for people in need.

developments. The fourth-graders are also participating in Girl Scouts of the USA's new letter-writing campaign designed to comfort seniors living in care facilities.

- Countless Girl Scout troops—including 3911—thanked, and sent supplies to essential workers.
- Katie and other Cadettes of Troop 3082 incorporated digital elements into their Silver Award project that equips children with type 2 diabetes to educate their peers about the disease.

These are just some of the many ways Girl Scouting is thriving in today's world. Find more stories on our new Girl Scouts at Home resource page, sdgirlscouts.org/stayingconnected.



Daisy Troop 4362 learned how to stay safe online. Sahara collected food for a family in need. Girls created thank-you cards for healthcare workers.



CEO UPDATE *Carol Dedrich, CEO*

Girl Scouts: Today's Leaders!

During this incredibly challenging time, I am so very proud to be a Girl Scout.

As COVID-19 began to hit our region this spring, we moved the entire staff out of the office to work remotely. Our team did not miss a beat, and neither did the girls. We quickly pivoted to a virtual world.

Recognizing that isolation would be especially difficult for girls, our staff and volunteers collaborated on creative ways for girls to meet with trusted friends and adult leaders in a safe virtual space. While the transition to virtual gatherings has been daunting sometimes, our Girl Scout family is finding that staying connected help all of us grow in courage, confidence, and character.

Staff members are creating innovative online programs, providing resources to more than 23,000 Girl Scouts and 11,000 adult members.

The stay-at-home extension led to wrenching decisions. Cancelling the Operation Thin Mint Sendoff Family Festival on April 3 tore my heart out. Our young entrepreneurs had earned that celebration on the Midway, setting a cookie sales record, and securing donations of more than 192,000 packages of cookies for military troops. Since then, my staff has had to completely reimagine our programs, events, and even camp.

It's a different Girl Scout world these days. Many girls, especially our high school seniors, are experiencing grief from disappointment and isolation. Yet, through Girl Scouting these young women are building resilience and finding ways forward. They are pivoting to embrace this new reality, and to lead in it.

Girl Scouts has a proven track record of building leaders of the future...and of the here and now. Our girls inspire me to work even harder and to want to shout (through a mask, of course!), "Girl Scouts are TODAY'S leaders!"

We hope you enjoy this revamped publication, formerly titled Giving Wisely. Your ongoing support has helped us equip our girls with the tools, skills, and hope they need during these challenging times. Thank you, and take care!

New CARES Act Benefits Girl Scouts...and You!

Congress recently passed the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act to provide tax relief. Takeaways include:

- **If you itemize your deductions:** You can deduct donations up to 100 percent of your 2020 Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).
- **If you do not itemize deductions:** Your contribution to Girl Scouts San Diego or another qualified charity makes you eligible for a charitable deduction of up to \$300 per taxpayer (\$600 per married couple).
- **If you are over 70½:** As before, you can avoid taxable income by directing up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Girl Scouts San Diego through a qualified charitable distribution.

For details, please contact your financial advisor. To make a gift to Girl Scouts, contact Gift Planning Officer Merle Brodie at 619-610-0804 or mbrodie@sdgirlscouts.org.



Co-chairs Bink Cook, Dea Hurston, Lidia S. Martinez, and Patti Roscoe invite you to join us from home on Friday, June 12 at noon for a heartwarming salute to our Cool Women of 2000-2019 and Emerging Leader Girl Scouts of 2020. Register for this free event at sdgirlscouts.org/cw.



Your passport to fun

International travel may not be in the stars anytime soon, so let's explore the world together! Co-chairs Janice Kurth and Kimberley Layton invite you to join them for our 23rd annual Urban Campout on Friday Sept. 25. Proceeds will fund powerful programs for 23,000 local girls. Find out more at sdgirlscouts.org/uc.

<<Addressee>>
<<Address Line 1>>
<<Address Line 2>>
<<City>>, <<State>> <<ZIP>>

MAKING a DIFFERENCE

Meredith Alcock: Girl Scouts Gave Us So Much!

Acclaimed attorney Meredith Alcock has substantial evidence that Girl Scouts matters.

Her three daughters (pictured on the cover) benefited from enriching Girl Scouting experiences, including river rafting, international travel, the cookie program, badgework, and creating sustainable change while earning Silver and Gold Awards.

“My girls thrived in an environment where they could be themselves, form friendships, do projects with their Girl Scouts sisters, and make their own decisions,” says Meredith. That opportunity to select and organize their activities was a major incentive for all three sisters to remain in Girl Scouting.

Margaret, the eldest, and her Senior troop focused on attending plays and opera dress rehearsals, purchasing their tickets with cookies proceeds. “Margaret was rather shy, “Meredith recalls. “Girl Scouts was an excellent way for her to bond with other girls.”

Margaret is now a successful electronics technician in Seattle, helping

Boeing manufacture the new 777X jetliner. She lives with her youngest sister, Megan, a legal assistant who aspires to a career in creative arts.

Maureen, the middle child, volunteers for the Girl Scout council in Columbus, Ohio. She is an optometrist working on a second Ph.D., this time in vision science. Her goal is to teach optometry. Maureen and her husband have a toddler, Eva, and are expecting another future Girl Scout this summer.

When their daughters were growing up, Meredith and her husband Robert loved spending quality time with them, doing Girl Scout outings and activities. The couple can’t wait for their granddaughters to continue the family tradition.

Meredith—who led troops for both Margaret and Megan and helped Maureen’s troop—says that experience allowed her to truly get to know her daughters’ friends. Collaborating with other adult volunteers in the Clairemont West Service Unit was another highlight of her 10-year Girl Scout journey.



Professionally, Meredith is a partner in the law firm of Abbene & Alcock, APC and a certified specialist in estate planning, trust administration, and estate settlement.

A pro bono consultant for Girl Scouts San Diego, she will host a session about estate planning for women on Aug. 29, at our Volunteer Conference.

Meredith and Robert Alcock are leaving a lasting legacy to the next generation of Girl Scouts by allocating a portion of their estate to Girl Scouts San Diego. They, and others who do so, are members of our Juliette Gordon Low Society.

“Girl Scouts gave our girls and us so much that we knew it would always be high on our list of organizations to support,” Meredith says.