

THEIR 85TH ANNIVERSARY

Do You Know These Girl Scout Facts?

Girl Scouts was founded by Juliette Gordon Low on March 12, 1912 in Savannah, Georgia. It was initially called "Girl Guides" after the Girl Guides in England, on which it was based. From an original membership of 18 girls, the organization has grown to 3.3 million girl and adult members throughout the country today.

The first Girl Scout handbook called *How Girls Can Help Their Country* was published in 1913. Today there are five - one for each level in Girl Scouting. Over the years, it has been published in Braille, Spanish, Japanese, and German.

The first Girl Scout uniform in 1912 was actually blue. The color was changed to khaki in 1914. It wasn't until 1928 that the Girl Scout uniform became green — the color most people associate with Girl Scouts. Today, there are different uniforms for each of the five age levels, as well as an adult uniform. It comes in shades of green or blue (or brown and blue for Brownies).

The first Girl Scout national headquarters was in Washington, D.C. It was moved to New York City in 1916 and has been there ever since.

The first local Girl Scout council charter was issued in 1916 to Toledo, Ohio. There were once as many as 2000 Girl Scout councils, but resources have been consolidated over the years. There are now 324 councils serving girls in all 50 states, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

A film produced by Girl Scouts in 1916 called "The Golden Eaglet" was shown in movie theaters in the United States. Girl Scouts published a very popular magazine for young girls from 1917-1979 called *The American Girl* (called *The Rally* from 1917-1920). It is considered a "classic" of its era and is still available on microfilm from the University of Michigan. The Girl Scouts still publish *The Girl Scout Leader* magazine for all adult members. It began publication in 1921 as *Field News*.

A fiction series, published by Grosset & Dunlap and featuring Brownie Girl Scouts as main characters began publication in 1993. GSUSA works with Scholastic, Inc. on *G*I*R*L**, (Girls In Real Life), a magazine for girls between the ages of 8 and 14. Its first issue was published in 1995.

In 1926, Girl Scouts opened a national conference and training center in Briarcliff Manor, New York, named after the Girl Scout pioneer Edith Macy. Thousands of Girl Scout leaders, volunteers and staff have received training there. The center has hosted international conferences, one of which was attended by Eleanor Roosevelt.

Girl Scout founder Juliette Gordon Low was deaf from an early age. She was also multi-talented and could draw, paint, sculpt, and forge iron gates.

Girl Scouts was founded "for all the girls." By 1917, it had troops for physically disabled girls. There are also records of Black Girl Scout

troops in the 1920s; American Indian and Asian troops as early as the 1930s and 1940s and a continuing history of innovative projects involving underserved populations such as migrant girls, Mexican-American girls, inner-city and rural girls, girls with mothers in prison, girls in Head Start programs, etc.

Girl Scouts first sold cookies in 1912, but the first sale of commercially-baked Girl Scout Cookies was in Philadelphia in 1936. The two most popular Girl Scout Cookies have always been the shortbread trefoil and the thin mint.

During both World Wars, Girl Scouts served on the homefront collecting waste fat and scrap iron, growing Victory Gardens and selling defense bonds. Special Mariner Girl Scout and Wing Girl Scout programs were developed for Senior Girl Scouts.

Girl Scouts have been instrumental in conservation on conserving materials and protecting nature. In 1945, the Girl Scouts dedicated their first forest. In 1970, Eco-Action, a nationwide environmental education and improvement program, began. In 1992, GSUSA launched a nationwide environmental service project known as "Girl Scouts Care for the Earth."

Girl Scouting has always worked to remain contemporary and fun by studying the girls' needs and development and using the results to create needed program changes. A major shift occurred in 1963 when four separate age levels for girls ages 7-17 were launched: Brownie Girl Scouts, Junior Girl Scouts, Cadette Girl Scouts, and Senior Girl Scouts. In 1984, a new level called Daisy Girl Scouts was introduced for girls age five or in kindergarten.

Over the years, the Girl Scouts have been honored in many ways. A Liberty Ship was named in Juliette Low's honor in 1944. Commemorative stamps were issued by the Post Office in 1948, 1962 and 1987.

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LANSING BROWNIE TROOP # 886



KF BROWNIE TROOP # 1146



LANSING BROWNIE TROOP # 380-B



DAISY TROOP, 1986 - Cayuga County's First Daisy Troop



CAMP COMSTOCK, 1937 - This photo was shared by Rosalie Graubart (2nd row, 2nd from right). In the '30s, all counselors were local women. The photo names Libby Scoville Janet Gracey West, Louise Ravage, Agnes Gabelmann, Elizabeth Benson, Janet Richmond, Eleanor Walbridge and Mary Hooper Hall. Can you identify anyone else?



1996 CAMP COMSTOCK SWIMMERS Times change, but young people always need to meet their highest physical, moral and intellectual capacity.



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