The Girl Scout Spirit

#icantwaitto

REAL GIRLS - REAL WOMEN - Real Leaders

BOISE CITY FAMILY GOES GOLD

Purse with Purpose

Volunteer Spotlight

Fall 2014

The Girl Scout

of texas oklahoma plains
I can’t wait to start another great year of Girl Scouting! At Girl Scouts, girls have new experiences that give them that super-excited, jumping, giggling, butterflies-in-the-stomach feeling. Experiences that inspire them to look forward to what they’re going to do today, tomorrow, and even ten years from now, by helping them realize that they can be anything they want to be. For the girl in your life, a year with us will be filled with new friends, tons of fun, and more “wow” moments than she’s ever imagined.

At Girl Scouts, we want every girl to be excited about her future that she can hardly wait for it, because she knows she can achieve anything she sets her mind to. That feeling starts with one day, one meeting, or one role model that shows her she can accomplish more than she ever imagined.

Angela Hennigan is a fantastic example of that special role model, cheerleader, and mentor that girls have in Girl Scouting. She guides her girls through fun adventures, amazing experiences and friendships that they will remember for the rest of their lives. Check out her story on page 3 in our Volunteer Spotlight.

Volunteers like Angela play a crucial role in the lives of girls. They introduce girls to new experiences that make every day feel like the best day ever. Imagine the smiles, the excitement and the memories you’ll make – those are the moments you’ll share at Girl Scouts. Whether you can give a day, a few weeks, or the whole year, it all starts with you.

You can start the fun at the Fall Kick-off in your area. (See the next page for upcoming dates). Fall Kick-off is full of great ideas and opportunities to give your girls the best Girl Scout year ever. Community resources and program providers will also be on-hand with exciting opportunities for your girls.

September is always a busy month for Girl Scouts and this year is no exception. Lubbock and Fort Worth – be sure to mark your calendars for a delicious annual event, Desserts First! This delicious fundraiser features local chefs who compete to create an original dessert using Girl Scout cookies. Guests sample each dessert, enjoy complimentary wines and vote for their favorite. Yum!

Also in September, Girl Scout families and friends are invited to Open House events celebrating the new Southlake Service Center and the remodel of the Fort Worth council headquarters. Check out dates and times for these events on the next page.

While we at Girl Scouts love to promote leadership, we also love to celebrate leadership during our annual Women of Distinction and Gold Award Gala events. These women leaders are an example for us all – of the good we can do when we set our sights high, give it our all, and follow through to make a true impact. Their story starts on page 7.

Here’s to another great year of Girl Scouting, full of fun, I-can’t-wait-to moments!
Save the date

Fall Kick-offs

Kick-off your Girl Scout year with a day full of enriching opportunities to learn about the Girl Scout program. Booths and presenters provide outstanding resources for volunteers – community service projects, field trip ideas, and so much more! Volunteers learn about how to guide, support and work with girls while connecting to other Girl Scout volunteers. Save the date for the Fall Kick-off in your area. Call your area Girl Scout office for more information.

**AMARILLO**
**Saturday, September 20**
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish
4100 S. Coulter Street
C.A.R.E. (Celebration & Recognition Event) will also be a part of the day’s activities.
806-356-0096

**WICHITA FALLS**
**Saturday, October 4**
10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
Trinity Methodist Church
5800 Southwest Parkway
C.A.R.E. (Celebration & Recognition Event) will be held from noon to 1 p.m.
940-723-4336

**FORT WORTH**
**Saturday, October 4**
817-737-7272

**LUBBOCK**
**Saturday, October 4**
Science Spectrum
2579 S Loop 289 #250
806-745-2855

**ABILENE**
**Saturday, October 11**
C.A.R.E. (Celebration & Recognition Event) will also be a part of the day’s activities.
325-670-0432

**Open House**

Celebrate the grand opening of the new Southlake service center location and the remodel of our council headquarters.

**COUNCIL HEADQUARTERS**
**Saturday, September 27**
Open House – 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Cardboard Arcade – 2 to 4 p.m.
4901 Briarhaven Road, 76109
The Cardboard Arcade will be held on the lawn behind the council office and features cardboard games made by area Girl Scouts!

**SOUTHLAKE SERVICE CENTER**
**Saturday, September 27**
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
584 N. Kimball Avenue, Suite 100, 76092
Festivities include a live DJ, carnival-style games and prizes, refreshments, door prizes and tours of the new building. The Girl Scout store will be open and ready to showcase their best deals for you. Community partners are coming to host activities for the kids and everyone will be able to help with a fun service project or two!

**Desserts First**

Bring your friends and join us at this unique event featuring innovative Girl Scout cookie desserts created by area chefs and complimentary wine.

For ticket or sponsorship information, contact Katherine Curtis at 817-735-5313 or kcurtis@gs-top.org

**LUBBOCK**
**Thursday, September 4**
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
McPherson Cellars
1615 Texas Avenue, 79401

**FORT WORTH**
**Tuesday, September 16**
5:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Times Ten Cellars
1100 Foch Street, 76107
Volunteer Spotlight

Girl Scouts Troop Leaders make every day the best day ever. Leaders are role models, they teach new things, and best of all, they show girls what’s possible. With their Troop Leader by their side, girls develop skills and confidence that will last a lifetime.

Angela Hennigan is an awesome Troop Leader from Muenster who has helped her girls shine since they were Daisies. (That was six years ago.) She credits her Assistant Troop Leader Zonya Klement, “...we work together as a team...,” and the moms in her troop, “...they are always ready to lend a hand...” with helping her create a fun, supportive community around her multi-level troop.

**Angela’s Experience**

As Angela’s leadership journey started out the way many do – her daughters joined Girl Scouts when they were in Kindergarten and first grade, and Angela volunteered to help. When their troop leader retired, Angela stepped up.

She continues to be involved in Girl Scouts because of the growth that she sees in her own daughters and the fact that she enjoys just being with the girls in her troop. “It has been so much fun watching them grow from little Daisies & Brownies into mature Juniors, Cadettes, and now a few Seniors, this is quite a feat.) The girls are especially excited about earning outdoor badges and Girl Scouting’s highest awards, the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Of course, running a multi-level troop has its challenges. As girls get older, they become more involved in school and extra-curricular activities, so time becomes more scarce. But, they always manage. Angela notes that, “The younger girls look up to the older girls and seeing what they accomplish, especially with the Silver Award. And it gives the older girls an opportunity to be good role models.”

Girl Scout staff praise Angela’s leadership. “Angela works diligently to deliver the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to her girls,” said Sherrie Scott, GS-TOP community development specialist. “The girls are learning important, lifelong skills under her guidance.”

Angela ensures that her girls take advantage of all the opportunities Girl Scouts offers – from community service, to camping, to the Cookie Sale and so much more. They work hard to earn lots of badges and awards. (With a troop that includes Juniors, Cadettes, and now a few Seniors, this is quite a feat.) The girls are especially excited about earning outdoor badges and Girl Scouting’s highest awards, the Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards.

Credit to the Community

The girls of Troop 4657 are fantastic role models, not only for each other but also for the community they live in and serve. This troop loves to give back and they accomplished a lot in the past Girl Scout year. They held a canned food drive during the Christmas season, donated two Thanksgiving baskets to a local food pantry, and they participated in the “Keep Muenster Beautiful” community clean-up and beautification campaign. The troop honored our nation’s veterans when they participated in the “Keep Muenster Beautiful” community clean-up and beautification campaign. The troop honored our nation’s veterans when they participated in the Gainesville Medal of Honor event and placed flags at a local cemetery on Veteran’s Day. The girls also assembled birthday boxes for children in need. Birthday boxes are filled

Everyone can be a Girl Scout volunteer, no matter how much time you have or your level of Girl Scout expertise.

As a volunteer, you’ll introduce girls to new experiences that make every day feel like the best day ever. At every turn, you’ll be their cheerleader, guide, and mentor, helping them develop skills and confidence that will last long after the meeting is over.

Start the fun today at gs-top.org/join
with everything a child needs to celebrate her birthday – cake mix, candles, a birthday card, a gift and a birthday activity.

With Angela’s guidance, the Cadettes in her troop earned the Girl Scout Silver Award, the second highest award in Girl Scouting. In support of their project, the girls interviewed directors and volunteers of various organizations, assessing community needs and researching their community. During the course of this research, the girls found Abigail’s Arms, a local shelter for domestic violence victims and their families. The girls chose to adopt the playroom at Abigail’s Arms for their Silver Award project – they painted a mural and collected books to start a library. They also volunteered at a booth during a fundraiser for the organization.

**A Trail of Tortillas**
Of course, the girls have fun, too. The girls recently used their cookie funds to pay for troop trips - last year they went to Savannah and this past summer they went to Space Center Houston and visited the Battleship Lexington in Galveston. Angela’s favorite memory – and Zonya’s too – is one particular camping adventure at Dinosaur Valley State Park.

“We camped in tents and thought that we had everything secure, but little did we know that the raccoons in that area are very clever. They raided our camp overnight, getting into our coolers and cookies that were double-sealed! Some of the girls & moms were still awake and had quite a show watching the raccoons fight each other for the food. The next morning we found a trail of tortillas leading into the woods.”

It’s memories like these that will be with her girls for the rest of their lives. It’s leaders like Angela who truly deliver the promise of Girl Scouts to her girls: that they, too can be leaders and have a ton of fun along the way.

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### Share your Girl Scout stories!

We are always looking for local volunteer stories to lift up and pitch to local media. Send your favorite stories to pr@gs-top.org.

Follow us on social media and share your Girl Scout stories with the #icantwaitto hashtag!

- Facebook (facebook.com/GirlScoutsTOP)
- Twitter (twitter.com/topgirlscouts)
- Pinterest (pinterest.com/girlscoutstop)
Real Girls – Real Women – Real Leaders

Real Girls Real Women Event Series
Every year, Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains celebrates women and girl leadership through the Real Girls Real Women event series. Comprised of two celebrations of female leadership – Women of Distinction and the Gold Award Gala – Real Girls Real Women brings together communities in Amarillo, Fort Worth, and Lubbock, to uphold and honor true leadership. The women recognized at Women of Distinction are leaders in all aspects of life – in their respective professions, their families, and of course, their communities. The Gold Award Gala shines a spotlight on girls who earned the highest award in Girl Scouting – the Gold Award – and is a special way to celebrate them and show them how exceptional they truly are. This year’s Women of Distinction honorees and Gold Award recipients are in a class all their own, showing us how fortunate we are to have great leadership in our lives.

Gold Award Gala
Girl Scout families and supporters celebrated 67 girls who answered the call to “Go Gold” at this year’s annual, council-wide Gold Award Gala. The event was held on May 9 at the Red Oak Ballroom in Fort Worth. By completing their Gold Award projects, this fantastic group of girls contributed more than 6,000 hours of community service throughout their communities. These girls tackled serious issues through their projects, including childhood obesity, the environment, literacy and bullying.

While taking action to address their chosen issue, girls must plan toward long-term impact and sustainability. A Girl Scout’s Gold Award project must “live on” after completion – she must identify and train volunteers in their communities to carry on the project. Many organizations and groups that girls partner with to complete their projects are so happy with the results, they pledged to keep their project going for years to come.

The Gold Award is the culmination of everything a girl has learned throughout her Girl Scout career – leadership, community service, career planning and personal development – and it is a way for her to make a lasting impact on her community. Without a doubt, the Gold Award is an awesome way for girls to change the world.

The Gold Award Gala celebrated each girl’s accomplishment and included a pinning ceremony, dinner and Gold Award Charge and Pledge.

You can learn more about each girl’s incredible project and the lasting impact they made by going online to gs-top.org/gold.
Women of Distinction
The annual Women of Distinction events, held in Amarillo, Fort Worth and Lubbock, honor a select group of women in recognition of their leadership and service in the community. The awards are based on the keys to leadership central to Girl Scouts:

**DISCOVER AWARD**
The recipient of this award demonstrates exceptional understanding of herself and her values, and uses this knowledge in every way possible to help girls and women explore and discover themselves and their world.

**2014 Honorees**
Dr. Marjorie Jenkins (AMARILLO) | Amy Yudiski (FORT WORTH) | Mary Anna Self (LUBBOCK)

**CONNECT AWARD**
The recipient of this award demonstrates exceptional leadership in connecting with others to create solutions in our community and beyond to make the world a better place.

**2014 Honorees**
Suzy Huguley (AMARILLO) | Deborah Ferguson (FORT WORTH) | Christy Martinez-Garcia (LUBBOCK)

**TAKE ACTION AWARD**
The recipient of this award serves our communities and advances the quality of life and opportunities vital to the development and support of women leadership.

**2014 Honorees**
Terry Price (AMARILLO) | Dr. Gleniece Robinson (FORT WORTH) | Dr. Gladys Whitten (LUBBOCK)

**LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD**
The recipient of this award is an individual that has dedicated her life to serving in the interest and support of women leadership.

**2014 Honorees**
Janet Slaughter (AMARILLO) | Libby Watson (FORT WORTH) | Ada Rummel (LUBBOCK)

Thank You!
Because of supporters like you, girls from across the council can take part in the fun adventures and “wow” moments of the Girl Scout Leadership Experience. For information regarding the 2015 Women of Distinction events, contact Katherine Curtis at kcurtis@gs-top.org.

We’d like to thank the following sponsors for supporting our Fort Worth, Lubbock, and Amarillo* events.

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*As of July 1.
The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest award in Girl Scouting. The Gold Award is a truly remarkable achievement — one of extraordinary dedication, perseverance and leadership.

Boise City Family **Goes Gold**

“Helping four daughters pick, work and achieve their Gold Award is something that has taught me many things:
1. Let it be their project.
2. Let them make mistakes, it will help them in life down the road.
3. Celebrate the big and little steps of the project.

But most of all, it gave us each individual time with each other to work on something to improve the life in our community and for others. We all need to learn to help each other and the world would be a better place. I am so proud of my daughters and their accomplishments. As Autumn said, “Mission accomplished Mom!”

- Kim Mizer, Mom

“My project was inspired by a little girl battling cancer. **I wanted to do something that would make a difference to not only that one girl but for everyone.** I teamed up with the Be the Match foundation and put together three donor drives. In total there are now almost 200 people from my small hometown community that are on the national bone marrow registry. Along with the drives, I educated the public on how bone marrow is harvested and what bone marrow is. From my Gold Award project I have learned how to present in front of several people, that no matter how much you plan, something will always come up and you have to be flexible. These qualities and so much more are ones that I will need as I continue my education and pursue a degree in elementary education. Girl Scouts left a lasting impact on my life - from enjoying get-togethers with my girlfriends, to teaching me how to be a good sales woman, to give everything I do my all and to be a sister to every girl.”

- Kayla Mizer

“My Gold Award Project was inspired by a little girl battling cancer. **My project was called Play 60. It was a 30-day program to get kids from Kindergarten through 6th grade more active and enjoy playing sports!** They also learned the importance of being and eating healthy. We met up twice a week in the summer and played games from football to line dancing and even had a mini track meet! "My project taught me how to use time management, organizing skills, and working with kids. Girl Scouts has taught me the importance of belonging to a community and girls can do anything they set their minds to.”

- Autumn Mizer
FALL 2014
The Girl Scout SPIRIT

"For my Gold Award Project, I developed a fundamental basketball skills program for boys and girls in first through fourth grade. I organized a schedule for practice and use of the gym and recruited several of my high school friends to help me coach and work with 34 kids. We taught them the fundamentals of basketball including dribbling, shooting, defensive stance, and other skills. This project positively affected my community by recognizing a need for this fundamentals basketball program and hopefully showing those children that fundamentals are the basis of any job or activity. The most meaningful lesson for me, however, was that every child can learn given enough time and encouragement. Being a member of Girl Scouts is important in my life today. I am a high school math teacher and these lessons I learned as a Girl Scout serve me well today."

- Kassidy Mizer Rosas

"Golfing was always a huge interest for me throughout my youth, so I wanted to work on a project to promote our newly built golf course. My dad and a few of his fellow farmers and friends came together to build this beautiful new course. They took pride in their work, and I also wanted to contribute to the beauty of the course. I decided to design a sign to welcome all golfers to the golf course and have it made. My dad and I framed it with wood and welded it to the fence at the entrance, since we all know the wind can blow a little here in the Panhandle. Girl Scouts has had a huge impact on my life, providing experiences to face new challenges and fostering a willingness to strive to help others every day."

- Bridgett Mizer

All four of Kim Mizer’s daughters – Bridgett, Kassidy, Kayla and Autumn – are exceptional young women who answered the call to Go Gold during their Girl Scout careers. Each girl saw a need in their communities and took it upon themselves to make a measurable and sustainable difference by taking action. Their accomplishments reflect leadership and citizenship skills that set them apart. The lessons they learned while earning the Gold Award still resonate today. Through their hard work and dedication, they show girls everywhere that they can do anything.

Discover more about Girl Scouts who made a lasting impact in their communities when they answered the call to Go Gold at gs-top.org/gold.
Ready for another year of that super-excited, jumping, giggling, butterflies-in-the-stomach feeling? Then register for a year of experiences that inspire girls to look forward to what they’re going to do today, tomorrow and even ten years from now, by helping them realize that they can be anything they want to be.

Troops are forming right now and all year long. For the girl in your life, a year with Girl Scouts is filled with new friends, tons of fun and more “wow” moments than she’s ever imagined.

The kind of moments she just can’t wait to tell you about.

Some of the amazing things Girl Scouts do:
• Build catapults and experiments at S’more Engineering.
• Make color explosions and elephant toothpaste at Science Throwdown!, an all-ages Girl Scouts science competition.
• Collect thousands of blankets for women and children seeking shelter from abuse during the Sleep Experts Share the Warmth drive.
• Brave the rapids in Colorado.
Be the role model she’ll always remember.

We want every girl to be so excited about her future that she can hardly wait for it. That feeling starts with you! As a Girl Scout Volunteer, you’ll introduce girls to new experiences that make every day the best day ever. At every turn, you’ll be her cheerleader, mentor and guide. Imagine the smiles, the excitement and the memories you’ll make. Participate in multiple ways. You choose how: one week, one month or year-round fun. It all starts with you, volunteer at gs-top.org/join.

Help my community

Find out what happens next

I can’t wait to

Why wait?
Claim your spot at gs-top.org/join

FALL 2014 The Girl Scout SPIRIT 10
Purse with Purpose, GS-TOP’s family giving program, is an annual, council-wide campaign for support just for Girl Scout families, who understand the value and significance of the Girl Scout experience. All families are encouraged to participate.

100% of your donation supports local girls.

100% of your donation helps girls change the world.

The cost of providing the programs, camps, volunteer support and materials required to support one girl for a year is approximately $300. Our council organizes troops and trains leaders to help ensure that every girl has a positive and enriching experience in Girl Scouting.

Each girl who donates to Purse with Purpose receives our Purse with Purpose patch and annual tag. In addition to the patch, Purse with Purpose supporters are recognized in the Spirit Magazine and the Annual Report.

Here are reasons why GS-TOP families and girls are giving to Purse with Purpose:

- **Because I believe in scouts and the great values it has taught my daughter.**
- **I enjoy Girl Scouts and want all girls to get that opportunity.**
- **My daughter wants other girls to love the Girl Scouts like she does!**
- **This is what my daughter wanted to donate, we can’t do much but we wanted to show that we cared.**
- **I want to help other Girl Scout sisters.**

Invest in girls today at gs-top.org/invest
Xcel Energy, a proud partner of the Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains since 2008, is an integral part of the communities they serve. The company’s generous support helps Girl Scouts explore STEM-based career and higher education opportunities offered throughout the Amarillo area. Xcel Energy literally connects communities with the energy they provide and also through their community outreach efforts.

This year, Xcel Energy Foundation’s gift supports Explore, Experience and Engineer a Career, an initiative to encourage girls’ interest in STEM. This program targets girls in grades 4-12 with age-appropriate, interactive events and activities designed to not only introduce them to STEM fields, but also to provide guidance in pursuing a career in STEM.

“Xcel Energy is a great corporate partner and supporter of the Girl Scouts of Texas Oklahoma Plains,” says Becky Burton, GS-TOP CEO. “We can always count on them to support our work and leadership opportunities for our girls.”

Terry Price, Xcel Energy Senior Foundation Representative, says of the partnership, “The future of our company depends on our ability to recruit skilled and well-rounded workers and leaders. And women will play an increasingly important role in guiding our company in the years to come. We’re grateful for the work Girl Scouts is doing to prepare our future workforce, and the future leadership of our communities. This is why we’re pleased to support Girl Scouts.”

We’ll close out the fall by asking our volunteers to recruit a friend to start a new K–5 troop this November. Recruiters - existing volunteers - get $50 to use at Girl Scouts’ Official Online Store when they recruit a new volunteer to start a new K–5 troop. The new volunteer gets a new Volunteer Resource Pack (a Girl’s Guide, a Journey set, a badge pack, a tote, and pins) to help make getting started easy.

Pretty cool, huh?

Watch gs-top.org and our Facebook page for more details to come!
At the Girl Scouts, we know that when girls are given the opportunity, they change the world. We know what it takes ToGetHerThere. Thank you for investing in girls, so they can change the world.

The following recognizes those who made gifts January 1 – June 30, 2014. For more information about investing in GS-TOP, go to gs-top.org/invest or contact Katherine Curtis, CFRE, at kcurtis@gs-top.org.
Check out the new and improved council website!

The new council website is a great resource for girls, families, volunteers and supporters:

- Keep up with council news, learn about Girl Scout traditions and follow events on our new blog.
- Support the Girl Scout mission through our Shop to Give partners where your everyday purchases provide a donation to the council: gs-top.org/alumnae-donors/shop-give
- Share your Girl Scout stories with us: gs-top.org/form/share-your-story
- Follow us on social media.
- Stock up on essentials like badges, pins, and journey books at the online shop.

Visit gs-top.org today!