

GIRL SCOUTS SUPPORTS YOUR EFFORTS TO RAISE A COURAGEOUS, CONFIDENT G.I.R.L. IN AN EVER-CHANGING AND OFTEN CONFUSING WORLD

Girls today are growing up in a time of rapid demographic, social, economic and technological change. These trends are important not only because they may affect how girls are faring today, but also because they will soon be entering the workforce and starting families of their own.

[The State of the Girl](#), a report released this month by the Girl Scout Research Institute, shows girls have made some progress in the past few years in education and involvement in extracurricular activities. However, more girls today are living in low-income households, obesity rates are still rising, and girls have more emotional health problems. These factors mean girls are more likely to face challenges that affect their health, happiness, and achievement.

Girl Scouts believes all girls deserve access to educational and enrichment activities in a safe space away from pressures at home and school. They deserve mentors who also believe in helping each girl discover the world around her, find her passion and voice, believe in herself, and make a difference.

Sylvia Acevedo, interim CEO at Girl Scouts of the USA, said, “Girl Scouts has truly been, and will always be, a Movement for ALL girls – a place where girls can, must and will feel safe to explore their potential, learn new skills, make lifelong friends, and tap into their potential for the leadership that our world so desperately needs.”

When your girl is a Girl Scout, she’s a **G.I.R.L.** (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™. Through exciting **G.I.R.L.**-led experiences, Girl Scouts prepares girls to empower themselves for the big and small moments when they overcome failure, face their fears, try new things, and make their dreams a reality. And we know you want to be there encouraging, celebrating, and learning with her.

That’s where **Today’s G.I.R.L.** (formerly The G.P.S. - Girl & Parent “Stuff”) comes in. As part of Girl Scouts Heart of the South’s Parent Engagement Initiative, we help parents better understand the benefits girls gain by being part of Girl Scouts and how they can help their girl find the **G.I.R.L.** within.

Whether she is making new friends, developing healthy habits, speaking up, managing a budget, or addressing a problem in the community, she is becoming a leader with the courage, confidence, and character to make the world a better place.

This issue of **Today’s G.I.R.L.** focuses on building girls’ sense of self and a **go-getter** attitude. When a girl has confidence in her abilities, is guided by her values, and has a purpose, she is better equipped to overcome challenges and be resilient. *Girl Scouts is the place where she can empower herself!*

5 Ways Girl Scouts Builds G.I.R.L.s

Girl Scouts’ mission is to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. Since 1912, girls have explored new fields of knowledge, learned valuable skills, and developed strong core values through Girl Scouts. Today Girl Scouts is, as it always has been, the organization best positioned to help girls develop the important 21st Century skills they need to become successful adults.

At Girl Scouts, guided by supportive adults and peers, girls develop their leadership potential through age-appropriate activities that enable them to discover their values, skills, and the world around them; connect with others in a multicultural environment; and take action to make a difference in their world. These activities are designed to be girl-led, cooperative, and hands-on processes that create high-quality experiences conducive to learning.

Studies show that the development of attitudes, behaviors, and skills, like confidence, conflict resolution, and problem solving, are critical to well-being and rival academic and technical skills in their capacity to predict long-term positive life outcomes.



CHALLENGE SEEKING

Girls take appropriate risks, try things even if they might fail, and learn from mistakes.



STRONG SENSE OF SELF

Girls have confidence in themselves and their abilities, and form positive identities.



POSITIVE VALUES - Girls act ethically, honestly, and responsibly, and show concern for others.



HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS - Girls develop and maintain healthy relationships by communicating their feelings and resolving conflicts constructively.



COMMUNITY PROBLEM SOLVING - Girls desire to contribute to the world in purposeful and meaningful ways, learn how to identify problems in the community, and create “action plans” to solve them.

We want you to brag about your girl!

Tell us how she discovered something new, persisted through a challenge, made a positive choice (especially if it wasn’t an easy choice), or was proud of herself. Email us and share your daughter’s **G.I.R.L.** moments at news@girlscoutshs.org.

Girl Scouts creates an environment that allows a girl's self-identity to emerge. Through practicing the values of the Girl Scout Law, interacting with positive adult role models, focusing on community service, and participating in holistic activities that boost mind, body and spirit, girls can combat negative media messages and form a positive sense of self. Girls can also participate in upcoming activities with our Kappa Delta partners: **Girls' Night In** at Delta State University on April 9 for girls to think, dream and be confident; and **The Real YOU is Beautiful** at Rhodes College on April 23 for an afternoon of self-love, empowerment and building up confidence in yourself and others.

DEVELOPING YOUR CHILD'S HEALTHY SELF-IDENTITY

Condensed from: http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dr-jim-taylor/self-identity_b_2063761.html
Dr. Jim Taylor, adjunct faculty, University of San Francisco



Self-identity is one of the trickier aspects of a child's healthy development because you can't "do" things to your children to give them their self-identity. Rather, you can only create an environment that allows their self-identity to emerge naturally. Today's media can stunt, distort or co-opt that self-identity. Of course, the obvious recommendation is to monitor and restrict your children's use of technology, from old-school media such as television and magazines to new-school media such as social networking sites but, as digital natives, your children are going to be immersed in that world, so such a defensive posture is probably not going to be possible or even enough. Here are some recommendations on how to develop your children's self-identity amid the cacophony of messages they're getting from media:

Inoculate Your Children Against Media's Messages - You can help your children resist media's messages by priming them for those messages. When you consistently offer your children contrasting perspectives, you prime them to stand firm against the unhealthy messages. You can actively teach them "executive functioning" skills, such as impulse control, critical thinking and long-term planning, that will further gird them against the unhealthy messages.

Emphasize Healthy Values - You should focus on healthy values that help shape your children's self-identities, for example, integrity, hard work, respect, responsibility and compassion. When you emphasize values, you're also sending the message that the values your children will be exposed to through today's media aren't important to you or healthy for them.

Highlight Your Children's Intrinsic Passions and Strengths - The media is telling your children that they should value themselves based on, for example, what they look like or what they have. You should be telling them that they should value themselves based on their unique capabilities, such as their academic, athletic or artistic achievements; their relationships with family and friends; their passions and interests; and anything else they believe, feel or do that originates inside of themselves.

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HELPING ELEMENTARY SCHOOLERS DEAL WITH SOCIAL CONFLICT

<http://www.pbs.org/parents/parenting/raising-girls/friends-social-life/helping-elementary-schoolers-deal-with-social-conflict/>

As children move out of preschool and into elementary school, parents should focus on helping their child handle social conflicts rather than attempting to solve the problem. While experts encourage parents not to fight their daughters' battles and get over-involved, they do provide ideas for helping girls to help themselves.

Expect girls to respect everyone, but don't expect them to like everyone. - You can certainly insist that your daughter behave in civil, non-hurtful ways — but you should also respect the fact that she doesn't have to like or be best friends with everyone. "Talk with your daughter about what respect looks like," says Rachel Simmons. "For example, if someone sits down at her lunch table who isn't her friend, what is your daughter's obligation? To say hello? To answer if asked a question? Talking about this with your daughter will help her make the right choices in social situations."

Behave the way you want your daughter to behave. - You are your daughter's primary role model. Let her see you model

positive social behavior, such as talking to lots of different parents at school gatherings and refraining from gossiping. Help her learn to be kind; for instance, don't let your daughter distribute presents or party invitations at school unless she has one for everyone.

Don't get over-invested in her social life. - Experts say that sometimes elementary-school girls' social pain is exacerbated by parents. "This is a tough time for many parents because possibly for the first time, they witness their girls experiencing real social pain. And sometimes they see them inflicting pain on others," adds Catherine Steiner-Adair. "Parents need to separate their own emotions from their daughters' social lives."

Help your daughter learn how to speak directly. - "You can't fight her battles and can't choose her friends," says Steiner-Adair. "But you can help her develop the tools to say things like, 'It hurts my feelings when you don't talk to me at school,' or 'I'm sorry, I didn't mean to hurt your feelings that way.'"

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Keep Your Children Grounded in Reality - Your children are bombarded by messages and images from media that are entirely out of touch with reality (e.g., you can become rich and famous without any talent or effort). Yet, with persistent exposure, these unrealistic messages and images can become your children's reality and, by extension, an unhealthy influence on their self-identity. Your goal is to constantly expose your children to the real world, namely, the one that is grounded in positive values; accurate depictions of appropriate behavior; reasonable expectations and consequences; suitable responsibilities; and the inevitable imperfections, challenges and failures that are a part of the human condition.

Have Your Children Involved in Healthy Activities - The best way to keep your children away from unhealthy media influences is to keep them busy with healthy activities. Help them find activities that they love doing, whether academic, sports-related or in the arts, that promote healthy self-identity. Research has shown that, for example, girls and boys who play sports have higher self-esteem, get better grades and can be at a lower risk for depression.

Walk the Walk on a Healthy Self-identity - If you fall prey to media's messages and you develop a "manufactured" identity, your children have little chance of developing their own healthy self-identity. Be sure that you have your own internally derived and well-defined self-identity and that they see it clearly. If they do, they will follow your lead and seek to establish their own positive self-identity. "Do as I say, not as I do" just doesn't cut it when it comes to parenting. You need to make sure that you're living the healthy life that you want them to lead.

Create a Healthy Family Lifestyle - Your children will base much of their self-identity on their most immediate environment. If your family life is informed by healthy values, choices, activities, and relationships, they are more likely to internalize those messages as their own.

Surround Your Children With Healthy People - You can surround your children with healthy people in their immediate social world who support everything that goes into the development of a positive self-identity. These healthy messages will not only prime your children to think, feel and behave in beneficial ways, but they will also provide consistent exposure to contrasting healthy perspectives that can mitigate the influence from media.

Talk With and Listen to Your Children - Your children have a tremendous capacity to communicate with you about what is happening in their lives, both the good and not so good. Unfortunately, they're often speaking in a language that parents don't understand. If you listen to their messages, verbal, emotional and behavioral, you'll be better able to hear what they're trying to tell you, particularly when they're asking for help. Also, don't be afraid to talk to your children, especially on topics that make you uncomfortable or they may not want to hear. Though they may not always seem like they're listening, your children want your guidance and support because they know that they can't go it alone and they need to know you are on their side.

Focus on Others - The one form of externalization of self-identity that is healthy is when your children direct their focus and energies onto helping others. Healthy self-identity is built when your children are not preoccupied with themselves and experience the intrinsic rewards of improving the lives of others. Make compassion and community service family values and experiences to be shared.

The Girl Scouts' [It's Your Story](#) Journey series helps girls of all ages navigate social conflicts by developing healthy relationships, identifying ways to enhance self-expression, and promoting well-being and confidence in others. Activities and discussions woven into each level get girls thinking critically about the portrayal of girls and women in the media and song lyrics, importance of teamwork, combating stereotypes, and the power of sisterhood.



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Realize that your goals for your daughter may not be her goals. - It's important to acknowledge, understand and respect your daughter's goals, even if you are trying to convince her otherwise," says Lawrence Cohen. "You may think the friend she is pining for is not good for her. But your daughter's agenda may be to figure out a way to make this girl become her best friend." Adds Simmons, "Empowering your girl to set her own goals helps her to take responsibility for her own behavior, and to practice setting and achieving realistic goals for herself."

Talk about friendship in an open way. - "Discuss with your daughter the interactions you witness among her group of friends," recommends Meg White. "You might ask your daughter what she thinks about certain players in the group. What does she like or dislike about them? By listening to her you will teach her to listen to herself." Says Simmons, "Parents have every right to say what they think about their daughters' social situations — just be careful how you say it. It's one thing to say, 'That girl is spoiled and selfish' — which could make your daughter leap to her friend's defense — and quite another to say, 'I am really disappointed with the way Marie handed out invitations in front of everyone but didn't include Annie,' which criticizes the action without condemning the friend."

Help her solve the problem independently. - If your elementary-school girl comes home in tears, or has a conflict at a play date, you can help her with some strategies for resolving issues on her own. "I am more of a believer in getting elementary-school girls to do their own thinking and helping them brainstorm solutions, even if they are different from the parent solutions," says Lawrence Cohen. "Guiding her to solve it independently (with a little help from you) will help her far more than you rushing to call the other girls' parents." Here are some questions that might help her solve the problem: "What did you try?" "How did it work?" "What else can you try?"

"These questions help parents get out of the trap of telling kids what to do," says Cohen. Even if the answer to the first question is 'nothing,' your second question then becomes, 'How did nothing work?'"

CREATE A GO-GETTER FROM SCRATCH!

By Natasha Petroff

<https://www.parentmap.com/article/create-a-go-getter-from-scratch>

According to many parenting books, the most surefire way to create a **Go-getter** is to build my child's self-esteem. Prime it from the moment she is born, nurture it throughout childhood, prod it during adolescence, and then keep stoking it, well, forever.

What is self-esteem? The elusive pet concept of seemingly every child development expert is defined alternately as "confidence," "inner-contentedness" or, as Patricia Berne and Louis Savary say in their book, *Building Self-Esteem in Children*, "the ability to see oneself as capable and competent, lovable and loving, unique and valuable."

Pat Durbin, a 14-year instructor of preschoolers at Able Child Children's Center in Seattle, says self-esteem is anything but a cookie-cutter quality. "It shows in different ways with different children," he says. "It has to do with pursuing interests confidently and not being undone by failure." In Durbin's opinion, the best way to boost young children's confidence -- and to stroke their inner **go-getter** -- is by doing two things: **Pay attention. Avoid judging.**

"Just paying attention to kids is an incredibly strong self-esteem builder," Durbin says. "So, when they show you the painting, don't just say, 'It's pretty.' Notice the colors and provide a simple description. There's no judgment needed."



Durbin takes the same approach when he supervises children's social interactions. When they have a run-in, he voices his observations and asks the children individually how they think they can solve the problem. This allows them to use their existing social skills and build upon them, then revel in the glory of a problem solved. Next time, the children are more likely to take their problems on themselves, without prompting. No praise necessary.

And that raises the prickly question of praise. Durbin and many authors on early childhood education are rethinking their notions of praise, regarding it as a form of judgment.

"Praise can undermine children's self-sufficiency, which is an important part of self-esteem," says Durbin. "Just looking and letting them know you're looking is the most important thing you can do, toward any accomplishment."

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7 TIPS FOR HELPING YOUR TEEN CREATE A STRONG SENSE OF SELF

By Caroline DeLoreto

Condensed from: <http://www.psychalive.org/7-tips-for-parents-to-help-teen-create-strong-sense-of-self/>

Sometimes as parents we can get a bit over excited about what our kids could have interests in— wouldn't it be great if they just popped out with all of our passions and wanted to do them with us from day one?! But as you probably have found this is not usually the case. As much as you would like your kids to genetically find interest in the things you love to do, they are their own individual with their own identity, and have their own drives, desires, passions and interests to discover for themselves. It's one of the joys of being alive—exploring and learning from experience what you like, don't like and what is challenging or easy for you. By exploring, you get to create your path and decide who you want to be. You are creating a sense of self. This is what play for kids is all about. Trying out roles and personalities and "testing the waters" socially, emotionally,

and physically. Each person's journey is their own, including your child's.

So, what can we do to help our children/teenagers grow into adults with a strong sense of self—knowing who they are and confident about being in the world?

Encourage exploration and curiosity. - Encourage and support exploration—share your passions with your child, but if they aren't for them, allow them to pursue their own interests and explore. You may just learn something new about yourself in the process by trying something you may have never tried before. While encouraging exploration of new experiences and interests, the one thing we must be careful of as parents is not

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The Benefits of Helping Your G.I.R.L. Create a Strong Sense of Self

No matter your daughter's age, by paying attention to the 7 tips listed below, she learns work ethic, resilience, how to problem solve, and how to effectively communicate and express when she does or does not like something (and why). This builds a strong sense of self and a more confident person for the future. In doing this together you will improve your relationship with your daughter because you show her that you respect and value her as an individual person with her own identity and own personality. In turn, she is more likely to respect and value you as a person, as well. This mutual respect builds trust and honesty, which will benefit the entire family for years to come. But - more than anything - it could just be a lot of fun to explore new things together!

Girl Scouts is girl-led and girl-driven. Girls at every grade-level are encouraged to try new things, explore their interests, and make decisions about their experiences. 93% of girls said they learned or did something new in Girl Scouts. It's also a perfect opportunity to share the experiences with your girl - 76% of volunteers said Girl Scouts improved their relationship with their daughter, and parents find it an opportunity to bond with their child. Our **adult development** courses and **volunteer opportunities** give parents a chance to learn new skills, meet new friends and experience new things.

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In his article, “Are We Raising Helpless Children” (Parents magazine, April 1998), writer James Tobin argues: “In the long run, only those children who learn through experience that they really can handle the tasks of everyday life -- at home, in school, in the community, and in relationships with others -- can possess true confidence in themselves.”

To instill competence in young children, Tobin suggests parents teach practical rather than purely “enrichment” skills. Offer simple thanks for favors and chores accomplished. Encourage calculated risk-taking for practice dealing with failure. Share some tasks with children. And finally, provide kids with plenty of opportunities to handle tasks on their own. Importantly, what boosts one child’s self-esteem doesn’t necessarily boost that of the next child. Caregivers should take stock of their kids’ strengths and sensitivities, and nurture them accordingly.

Parents all make mistakes. Luckily, children are resilient and forgiving. Any time we end a challenging day flustered and wake up the next day with a fresh burst of enthusiasm, we’re modeling “overcoming failure.”

That said, here are some self-esteem hindrances to avoid:

- **Over-direction.** Children should be allowed to take initiative in their activities and problem-solving.
- **Criticism, scolding, shaming.**
- **Neglect, exclusion.**
- **Comparisons to siblings or peers.**

Today, I yelled at my daughter for messing up a fort I built for her. (A low parenting moment, to be sure.) But then I composed myself. I reminded myself that a floppy tent is still a tent, that my daughter is still 4, and that I am still learning how to be the parent who creates the **go-getter**.



The Girl Scout Cookie Program is an ideal time to work on building skills of a **go-getter**. Girls get practical life experiences in self-sufficiency (earning their way), taking risks (talking to customers), overcoming failure (hearing a rejection), and problem-solving (setting goals and plans). Parents are there to support and encourage their girl while letting her take initiative.

bringing in our own biases, judgments or shame around different activities.

Support your kids in choosing what interests them. Don’t push your agenda on them. - Working with young adults for the past 14 years has made me realize how important it is for parents to be aware of how much their pressure on their child to be someone they want them to be can really have a big effect (positive and negative) on their kid’s social and emotional wellbeing, especially around extracurricular activities. One reason I feel this topic is so important to stop and take some time to think about as a parent is because one of the good things that I have seen come from parents who allow their kid to explore their interests and find what they like or don’t like without judgment or shame, is that the relationship between the parent and child is so much clearer, respectful and loving—the parent(s) and child want to be with each other and spend time together because there is mutual respect for who they are. This relating continues throughout their life and builds trust and honesty because it is safe to be yourself and share it. As a parent myself, I couldn’t want anything more—I want her to feel safe to be who she is and to share that with me. Home should be a safe place for our children to grow and find themselves. A safe place to fail at things they try and to get up and try again.

Recognize introverted versus extroverted interests. Another thing to take into consideration when helping your daughter find her passions and interests is whether or not she is more naturally introverted or extroverted. If she can understand this about herself, it can help her create a stronger sense of self, especially if she is more naturally inclined to be more introverted, since we live in a society that values and sees being more extroverted as successful. (i.e.: the school system places great value on group work, outward successes like being able to talk in front of large groups of people, going to big events like football games and dances, and going to parties with their peers in high school.) If your child isn’t that extroverted naturally, she might be trying to fit into a box that does not fit her well.



As parents, becoming more aware of our own natural tendencies will help us identify if our type is the same or different than our children’s. This is a very important thing to recognize because what your child might need may be very different than what you might need. For example, if your child is more extroverted and you are more introverted, then your child might need more social arrangements with friends to recharge and feel happy, and you may need more down time to yourself away from friends to recharge and feel happy. If you are a parent who is more extroverted and your child is naturally more introverted, then you might not understand how they could enjoy spending time on their own in their room all day writing, reading or doing art on their own [and mistakenly] worry there is something very wrong.

Let your teen learn from her choices and natural consequences. Your part in this is almost acting as a facilitator in your child’s life—not the dictator or “preaching teacher.” Instead you are helping her reflect on and share what she is learning from exploring her interests and making her own personal choices. Through open-ended questions, reflection-based questions, and a genuine support and acceptance even when she finds she might not like something or that she is not as good at something as she would have liked to be, you will help her feel safe to really take in and understand who she truly is. Remember, it’s not your job in this to “fix her” and how she is feeling, but instead to hear her and reflect back positive observations on what she is sharing. A good question to ask, “Would you like my opinion on this?” If she says no, don’t give it. This builds trust and eventually she will be asking for your thoughts on her own.

So, what if your child finds they don’t like one of the choices she has made about exploring a new passion? Or what if you have one of those kids who tends to want to switch from one thing to the next from day to day? I am not suggesting

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OPEN TO ALL GIRLS. OPEN TO ALL GIRLS. OPEN TO ALL GIRLS.

CAMP LIFE

IS THE

BEST LIFE!

Summer camp is an **AWESOME** place for girls to spend their summer! And at our camps they'll be learning, exploring, and having tons of **FUN!**

Our overnight camps are designed with girls in mind and offer a variety of activities that include aquatics and equestrian programs, archery, culinary and creative arts, high-adventure travel, and a whole lot of campfires, songs and s'mores!



Two amazing camp options open to ALL GIRLS entering grades 1st - 12th!

Kamp Kiwani *Middleton, TN*

Sessions from June 4 - 24

Camp Tik-A-Witha *Van Vleet, MS*

Sessions from June 18 - July 14

Camp sessions start at just \$200 for an all-inclusive experience.

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letting your kid run the show in this regard—instead establish in the beginning that when they sign up for something they are committing to sticking to it for a set amount of time (ie: a week, a month, a season...) Remind them of this commitment when either her interest is no longer there or she is finding it too challenging. Support her by helping her reflect on what she does not like and help her discover ways to get through it or to make it more interesting. This helps build resilience. Your job is to help her find humor and positives in the work part of this experience.

By reminding them they have made the choice and commitment, your child learns to take responsibility for their own choices and they get that sense of accomplishment that comes from persevering and finishing tough things. If you, as the parent, had picked the activity/interest for her then she would not experience what it is like to take responsibility for and feel the consequences of her own choices.

Stop worrying about how things will look on their college application. This worry is about you, not your child's sense of self and development. There are many colleges out there and many different paths to take. What makes your daughter happy and excited about being alive? What motivates her to get out of bed? Naturally if she finds these things early on she will have the energy, desire, and motivation to pursue them in the future and they will show up in their college applications naturally. The message she hears when you are only focused on how "what she's doing" looks to colleges or to others, is that "looks" matter more than she does. This is not a message any parent really wants their child to receive, is it? No, you want your child to feel loved and worthy of attention for who she is naturally. It's exhausting to try and be someone you're not. Help free her from that exhaustion by accepting her as she is and encouraging her own identity.

Don't try to live your life through your kids. It's good to be aware of your intentions when pushing your child into something. Just take a moment and ask yourself if whatever the activity or event is—if it is something you feel will truly benefit your child or if it is something you wish you had had a chance to do? If it is the latter, then take some time and jot down a few things you wish you could do in your adult life now. Put that same energy you were projecting on to your child and put it towards a focus and intent to make something happen for you in your own life. A parent's life can get busy, and we have to focus on our kids before ourselves a lot of the time—but it is really important to set aside self-care time and have recharging activities that keep us excited about our own lives. It's our responsibility to do this for ourselves: not our partners or our kids.

Take some time to look at your own sense of self and passions. Why not make this an adventure for both you as a parent and your child. It's never too late to reflect on your own life and interests. Re-check in to see how your choices in your own life are steering your path and if it is the direction you want to go. As your child discovers new interests maybe look for new interests for yourself in your own life. Join a group, go to the theater, write a blog, try something new—see a therapist, try yoga, go kayaking, meet someone new... If you are excited about your own life—you won't be as dependent on your kids to make you feel happy, successful or good. That is a lot of pressure to put on a child—I can guarantee you she will be happier knowing you are passionate and excited about things YOU are doing too. You both can share your joy in doing things you love - even if they are different things!

Caroline DeLoreto, MFT, MA in Education and M.A. in Clinical Psychology

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR G.I.R.L.S

All GSHS events are open for girls to attend with their troop or on their own. Not a Girl Scout? All girls are welcome! Come join the fun and see what Girl Scouting is all about! For complete details about all of these exciting Girl Scouts Heart of the South events and more visit www.girlscoutshs.org/calendar.

FEBRUARY 2017

Girl Scout Night at the Grizzlies

Root on the Memphis Grizzlies with fellow Girl Scouts and family by attending the Girl Scout Night.

Tues., Feb. 28, 7:00-10:00 PM
FedEx Forum, Memphis, TN

MARCH 2017

Soaring into College

All high school girls in the Greater Memphis area are invited to this half-day college prep day hosted by SheLeads! Memphis.

Sat., March 4, 8:00 AM - 12:00 PM
University of Memphis

Hidden Language in our Lives

What is this language called coding? Coding is a part of nearly everything you touch and use today. Are you curious how it works? Ready to start speaking this hidden language?

Tues., March 20, 6:00 – 7:30 PM
Possibility Place, Girl Scout Leadership Center, Memphis

Treetop Zipline Adventure

Enjoy a birds-eye view of the North Oconee River, ravines, ponds, pastures, and wildlife! Soar through the air as you find yourself zipping at greater heights and speeds through the lush North Georgia Canopy.

March 15-17
Lula, GA

Teen Camporee

Come and design your own fun at TEEN Camporee!!

Fri., Mar. 31, 5:00 PM - Sun., Apr. 2, 10:00 AM
Kamp Kiwani

APRIL 2017

Beauty All Around

Dive into nature as you create works of art from the elements that surround you.

Thurs., April 6, 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Possibility Place, Girl Scout Leadership Center, Memphis

Scouts Rock! Graceland

Experience Graceland like never before! Earn portions of various badges, visit the home of a legend, and get a sneak peek at the newest Graceland attraction!

Sat., April 8, 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM
Elvis Presley's Graceland, Memphis, TN

Troop Camping Weekend

Want to experience the outdoors with your troop, but don't want the hassle of all those plans? Let us do that for you. We will take care of all the details so you can sit back and enjoy!

Fri., April 7 – Sun., April 9
Camp Tik-A-Witha



Owl Prowl

Are you ready for a nighttime animal adventure? Get a behind the scenes tour of the zoo, meet animals, games, and more!
Sat., April 8, 6:00 PM – 9:30 PM
Memphis Zoo

Pony Riders/Ring Riders

Come and take part in Kamp Kiwani's very own progression horse program.
Sat., April 8 AND Sat., April 15
Pony Riders – 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM
Ring Riders – 1:00 – 3:00 PM

Trail Riders/Cowgirls

Come and advance your horsemanship skills at Kamp Kiwani.
Sat., April 29
Trail Riders - 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Cowgirls - 1:00 - 4:00 PM

Make it a Hit!

Lights! Camera! Action! Select a theater and film workshop track, and spend the day working together to Make It a Hit!
Sat., Apr. 22, 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Holloran Centre for Performing Arts & Education, Memphis, TN

Taste of Camp

See what summer resident camp has to offer. Meet staff, ask questions, see cabins, and experience some of the fun (arts and crafts, games, snacks and more). Register for camp and shop at the Trading Post.
Sun., Apr. 23, 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Kamp Kiwani

Zoo Snooze

Discover the nightlife at the Memphis Zoo during this exclusive Girl Scout zoo lock-in! When the zoo gates close, your adventure is just beginning!
Fri., April 28, 7:00 PM - Sat., April 29, 9:00 AM
Memphis Zoo

Girl Scouts Space Out

Get ready to zoom through space, explore the constellations, and be taken on a wild ride!
Sat., April 29, 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM
Pink Palace Museum, Memphis, TN

2016-2017 G.I.R.L. Celebration

Join us for a wonderful event recognizing all GSHS Girl Scouts earning Higher Awards (Bronze, Silver, and Gold), product sale winners, 10-year members and graduating high school seniors
Sat., Apr. 29, 2:00 - 4:00 PM, Hutchison School, Memphis, TN

Taste of Camp

See what summer resident camp has to offer. Meet staff, ask questions, see cabins, and experience some of the fun (arts and crafts, games, snacks and more). Register for camp and shop at the Trading Post.
Sun., Apr. 30, 2:00 - 4:00 PM
Camp Tik-A-Witha

MAY 2017

Me and Mine

Get ready for an awesome girls' getaway at Kamp Kiwani!
Fri., May 5, 5:00 PM – Sun., May 7, 11:00 AM
Kamp Kiwani

Like to Hike

Spend a weekend outdoors with our trained staff and experience backpacking through the Sipsey wilderness, pitch a tent, build a campfire, and appreciate the beauty of the outdoors!
Fri., May 5 – Sun., May 7
Sipsey Wilderness, Alabama

SheLeads! "Girl Talk: What's Next for Girl?"

Girls and young women speak out on what's on the horizon for girls, topics facing girls today, and ways they can take charge of their future.
Sat., May 6, 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM
Location: TBD

Atmosphere and Beyond

Why is the sky blue? How is rain created? What is in a cloud? Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts are invited to the Possibility Place to discover the answers to these questions!
Thurs., May 11, 6:00 – 7:00 PM
Possibility Place, Girl Scout Leadership Center, Memphis

Let's Explore - Huntsville, Alabama!

Ever wanted to know what it is like to be an astronaut? To live among the stars? Explore different planets and solar systems?
Wed., May 31, 8:00 AM - Fri., June 2, 9:00 PM
U.S. Space & Rocket Center, Huntsville, AL

JUNE 2017

World Changers:

Costa Rica Sun and Service

June 19- 26
Travel with a purpose to tropical Costa Rica!

Event dates, times and locations are subject to change. Please check the event calendar on our website for the most up-to-date information prior to attending.

When a girl is a member of Girl Scouts, she has access to many opportunities to discover, learn and grow with her troop and on her own.

There are **badges** on sports, financial literacy, manners, citizenship, art, outdoors, science, etc. **Events** bring girls from different areas together to learn from each other and have fun while they learn about animals, be creative, dance, ride a horse, hike, travel, and more. She can also earn **awards** and **scholarships**.

Girl Scouts creates a supportive environment for a girl to explore her interests, build confidence, develop healthy values, express opinions, be comfortable in her own skin, learn responsibility, practice resiliency, and give service to others.

It's everything she needs to build a strong sense of self and go-getter attitude.

All photography courtesy GSUSA