

**October
2020**



**Bryan / College Station
Service Unit News
Area 3, Service Unit 700, Council**

Message from the SUD

I find it almost unbelievable that it is now November, Halloween is past and we are moving quickly toward Thanksgiving and the holidays! The world is so different from the world we knew as Spring Break started. But, one thing I have learned is that we are very resilient and are able to do great things supporting the Girl Scouts in the BCS area in new and creative ways.

It is now time to focus on getting ready for the spring Cookie Sales. Again, there are new, creative opportunities to sell cookies in a safe environment. Rumor from Council is that the BCS area is a Cookie Selling Powerhouse!

I wish all of you a wonderful (if possibly different) Thanksgiving. My holiday will be very small, just those in our bubble, enjoying time together.



BRAZOS VALLEY GIVES

The numbers are in and GSCTX received **\$5176** in donations!

Thank you to everyone who participated in the event and donated to GSCTX.

Serving the girls of Brazos County.

Helping to build girls of courage, confidence, and character.

Highest Awards Update for August and September 2020
(includes girls who earned their Gold Award for 2019 – 2020)

Gold Award (Gold Award Girl Scouts this year received personal deliveries porch side):

- **Caroline Lobb** (Troop 9022): Music Makers benefitting Little Kids Rock and multiple school districts
- **Athalie Schooler** (Troop 9554): Sheltering Love for Humans and Animals benefitting Aggieldand Humane Society

Bronze Award:

- **Ares Morales, Ladyn Owens, Makaylah Salinas, Madelynn Salinas, Kallie Black, Vanessa Speer** (Troop 9185): First Aid for A Family Promise
- **Sarah Boytim, Nyla Adams, Evelyn Schmeichel, Kendall Mack** (Troop 9018) Birthday Blessing Bags, The Masks Project, Hygiene Kits for Homeless and Displaced Individuals, New Pet Adoption Bag
- **Audrey York** (Troop 9185): Cat Toys and Punny Thank You's

Recently Approved Gold Award Proposals:

- **Elizabeth Beazer** (Troop 9053): Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society Social Media Project benefitting the Bluebonnet Equine Humane Society

Visit the service unit online at: <http://www.bcsgirlscouts.org/>

Join us on Facebook! Girl Scouts-Bry/CS SU

Upcoming Events

All event registrations are accessed by clicking on the event name.

- 11/7/2020
[Rowdy About Reptiles](#)
(D, B, J, Nonmembers welcome)
- 11/15/2020
[Virtual Wells Fargo Financial Literacy Patch](#)
(C, S, A)
- 11/18/2020
[Virtual Cybersecurity Ask Me Anything](#)
(C, S, A)
- 11/19/2020
[Virtual Career Exploration: Wonders of Wildlife](#)
(C, S, A, nonmembers welcome grades 6-12)
- 11/24/2020
[Yoga at the Park](#)
(J, C, S, A)

SAVE THE DATE!!

- **December 6 and January 9: Cookie Rally**

GSCTX Council Delegate and Alternate Nominations

It is time for Service Units to select Council Delegates and Alternates for 2020-2021. SU 700 is represented by delegates Julie Boytim and Abigail Dunker, with Kathy Beifuss as our alternate. For the upcoming year, Julie and Abigail will continue as the delegates but we need to submit two names for the alternate position.

Please let Sara Ptomey know if you are interested in being an alternate Council delegate. Her email address is saraptomey12@gmail.com.

GSCTX Member Account Management System

GSCTX will update **MyGS** and provide increased visibility to Girl Scout member account, making it simpler to manage and maintain household memberships (and for troop leaders, troop memberships too!), and find more fun for your girl!

Starting November 18 at 11:00 PM CST, Girl Scouts will begin system-wide updates that will temporarily restrict the ability to complete many volunteer and member related tasks and pause access to:

- MyGS
- Volunteer Toolkit (VTK)
- gsLearn (volunteer online training platform)
- Looker (service unit admin team reporting resource)

The following tasks will still be available during the shutdown:

- Background check completion and submission for processing
- New membership registrations and membership renewals

The Congress-Bundestag Youth Exchange Program (CBYX)

Each year, the CBYX offers 250 young Americans the opportunity to live with a host family and attend high school in Germany for an academic year.

- Fully-funded scholarship sponsored by the Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.
- Academic merit, as well as motivation, curiosity and flexibility are key components to a competitive application.
- Previous German language experience is **not** required. Participants become fluent in German.
- Alumni can connect with a global network of other State Department program alumni upon completion from the program.
- This is also an excellent gap year program for those between high school and college!

Students who are U.S. Citizens born between **February 1, 2003** and **August 1, 2006** with a **GPA of 2.5 or higher** are eligible to apply.

Please find a **[Quick Facts Sheet](#)** that provides additional information about the CBYX program. You can also visit www.ciee.org/cb for more information.

The online application can be found at www.usagermanyscholarship.org.

The application is due December 1, 2020.

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Council Guidelines and Resources

Travel

Effective November 1, 2020, approved Girl Scout troop/group overnight travel will be permitted. Volunteers are required to submit the **online Activity and Travel Application** for all overnight trips and day trips over 100 miles at least two weeks in advance.

Domestic and international travel is permitted as long as the destination allows visitors from the home United States / Texas / Brazos County / Bryan or College Station. Groups should check the US Department of State Travel Advisories for intended international destinations. Groups will need to demonstrate approval from the destination's local authority.

COVID-19 is a fluid situation. Groups accept the risks of cancellations due to changes in the destination travel status.

Transportation

When transporting girls for a meeting or outing, the driver and all passengers should be spaced out within the vehicle and wear masks. Windows must be kept partially open to provide ventilation. If this is not possible, the driver and all passengers in each vehicle are limited to a single family/household.

Drive Through Cookie Options to Consider

This year, Council is allowing service units to submit requests for drive thru cookie booth options. Service units will need to send their request by December 4 to Sierra Fernandes, Director of Product Programs for final approval. Her email is: SierraF@gsctx.org

Consider schools, VFW halls, church parking lots, places with open parking space AND clear traffic flow that will not cause any traffic issues as possible locations.

Become a GSCTX Recruitment Ranger

Giddy-up partners and help spread the word about Girl Scouts in your community! Check out our easy-to-follow **challenge tasks and point system** to earn the exclusive **GSCTX Recruitment Ranger patch**. Complete this **form** to receive your patch.

gsLearn Update

During migration to the new and enhanced account management system, November 18, 2020 – December 7, 2020, **gsLearn** will not be available. Please complete all necessary courses prior to those dates.

Coming this November: Spanish versions of Welcome to gsLearn and GSCTX Orientation.

In-person Gatherings Guidelines (updated 10/16/20)

Groups **greater than 10** require approval from the local authority, the **county judge**.

Volunteers are required to submit the online **Activity and Travel Application** on the GSCTX website at least **two weeks** prior to the event.

While the state of Texas does not allow youth clubs (like Girl Scouts) to meet in-person in groups greater than ten, troops can meet outdoors by dividing into socially distanced pods of less than ten.

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Service Unit Important Names and Contact Information

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