

The newsletter for past, present and future supporters of Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council

## Have you seen green?

*Chances are you have...*

There has never been a shortage of hard work and dedication in the Fraga family. Lupe and Irene Fraga founded Tejas Office Products 50 years ago to provide Houstonians with quality office supplies. Their children, Michele, Alisa and Stephen, worked alongside them, giving back to their community and building a strong brand along the way. Over the years, the company has grown to become the largest independent office products company in the Houston area.



Today, all three children serve as officers for Tejas. Michele and Alisa, along with their brother, have received numerous accolades for their philanthropic work, which includes mentoring others and volunteering when they can. They have sustained the values their parents instilled in them years ago that were reinforced when they were Girl Scouts. As alumnae, they hope to pass the skills they acquired to the next generation of women decision makers.

Michele and Alisa began their Girl Scout journey as Brownies, attending St. Francis De Sales Catholic School in the Sharpstown area of Houston. They continued their journey until the eighth grade. Despite their early departure from Girl Scouts, Michele and Alisa are grateful for the leadership opportunities Girl Scouts provided and credits the organization with helping them strengthen the skills needed to run a business.

"[Girl Scouts] was so motivational and encouraged me to have confidence," said Alisa. "It was wonderful to be around a group of ladies who encouraged you to think outside the box and to believe that you can do whatever you put your mind to."

Alisa's daughter is a Girl Scout Brownie and when she attends her daughter's meetings, she often remembers the skills she learned that she carried into her everyday life. "Girl Scouts definitely contributed to who I am, and my daughter will go further than I did," said Alisa. "Girl Scouts teaches my daughter how to prioritize and how to stay committed when she is involved in multiple extracurricular activities."

Alisa's fondest memory of Girl Scouting is the same as her sister Michele. They both enjoyed being with their friends and taking their very first camping trip to Camp Agnes Arnold, where they learned how to make a fire. Alisa and Michele still keep in touch with a few of the girls from their troop. Two of their fellow troop members and their co-leader currently work with them at Tejas. "It's very important to have these ladies work with us," said Michele. "There's familiarity, continuity and it's nice to be able to go to people who have known you the longest. Sometimes they know you better than you know yourself."

Before beginning her Girl Scout journey Michele, was a shy six-year-old. She credits the organization with taking her out of her comfort zone by providing an environment that encouraged her to do things she would not have done with the hopes of earning a badge or learning a new skill that could be applied to her future life. The only thing she regrets is not sticking with Girl Scouts long enough to experience some of the opportunities offered to older girls. "It's a shame, because I didn't realize how many life-building skills Girl Scouts taught girls that would have affected many of the decisions I made later in life," said Michele. "Parents should keep girls in Girl Scouts a lot longer because of the countless activities the organization offers girls that I don't think you can get anywhere else."

**Have you seen green? profiles Girl Scout alumnae who are using their skills to reach their full potential and impact their communities. Submit recommendations to [cchavez@sjgs.org](mailto:cchavez@sjgs.org).**

## Supporting future leaders



Valero Port Arthur Refinery awarded \$10,000 to GSSJC to enable In-School Girl Scouting free-of-charge to approximately 1,250 at-risk girls throughout the school year in underserved areas of Port Arthur. Lacking local volunteers and resources in underserved areas in Port Arthur, GSSJC provides part-time staff onsite to deliver programming that these girls would not otherwise receive. Community outreach programs such as In-School Girl Scouting develops basic life skills and leadership capacity in a generation of future women leaders.



David Ruiz, Houston market manager for Bank of America, and Patti Abshire, Houston community relations manager for Bank of America, present Diane Pavey, GSSJC director of major gifts, a \$20,000 check for the Council's Girl Scouts in the School Day (GSISD) community outreach program. GSISD is delivered free-of-charge to girls in underserved areas of Houston, their families, and their school campus. Each year, GSSJC reaches more than 9,600 girls who attend schools in the Channelview, Galena Park, Houston, Pasadena and Sheldon school districts.



## Archery program gets boost from movies

### Girl Scout receives first place in Junior Olympic archery division

Long before the movies Brave and The Hunger Games, Girl Scouts of San Jacinto Council (GSSJC) was teaching girls to hit the mark with its Archers in Motion (AIM) Program. As a matter of fact, a Girl Scout Junior in the AIM program recently became the national winner of the Female Bowman Barebow Category of the Third Quarter Outdoor Junior Olympic Archery Division (JOAD) Mail-in Tournament.

"I love archery because there is nothing like the special moment when my bow, my arrow and I become one," said Mireille. "I aim at the target and hit the bull's-eye." Ten-year-old Mireille is a JOAD member of AIM, which follows USA Archery guidelines. The AIM Program meets monthly at Camp Robinwood, one of eight GSSJC camp properties, to attain specific JOAD and GSSJC shooting levels.

As part of the program, girls age 8 and older, also learn how to safely shoot a bow and take score, and they work towards earning distance medals. Like most Girl Scout activities, AIM teaches girls discipline, confidence and team-work. Members of AIM also help teach archery at different Council events throughout the year. In addition to AIM, Girl Scouts of all ages can learn the skill of archery during GSSJC resident, daylight and twilight camp sessions being offered this summer.

To support the AIM program, or Girl Scouting in general, visit [www.gssjc.org/donate](http://www.gssjc.org/donate) today.