

Fascinating Facts in Girl Scout History



- In 1956, Martin Luther King, Jr. called Girl Scouts a “force for desegregation.”
- The Juliette Gordon Low Birthplace was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1965. It was the first building in Savannah to receive landmark status.
- Girl Scouts established troops among girls in Japanese relocation centers during World War II.
- In the first Girl Scout handbook, *How Girls Can Help Their Country* (1913), girls learned how to start fires, rescue someone from drowning, communicate with Morse code, fire a gun, and tie up a burglar with eight inches of cord.
- Girl Scouts Beyond Bars, a collaboration with the National Institute of Justice, began in 1992. The program extends a hand to girls whose mothers are incarcerated and facilitates mother-daughter prison visits. More than 500 girls were involved in the program in 2011.
- The earliest known sale of commercially-baked Girl Scout cookies took place in Paris, Texas, in 1928.
- Braille and large-type editions of the Girl Scout handbook were produced in 1935, in cooperation with the American Red Cross and the National Society for the Prevention of Blindness.
- The very first badges were hand-embroidered by Girl Scouts and adult volunteers.