

Journal article : Girlhood studies

Question title:

Girl Scouts of America: “Be prepared” for what?

Key words:

Gender studies, girl culture, shaping the future , youth camps, scouting

Since 1912 Girl Scouts of America (GSUSA) has been a huge organisation, today with more than 2.6 million Girl Scouts – 1.8 million girl members and 800,000 adult members. (<https://www.girlscouts.org/en/about-girl-scouts/who-we-are/facts.html>) Catering for many different girls from all different backgrounds. Juliette Gordon Low, the founder has since been recognised by the general public and many girl scout troops, through different parades and days set up to commemorate Low, for creating a safe space for young girls to grow into ‘respectable’ young women through the practice of different themed activities. Traditionally through household training, however, progressed with time to include outdoor training and business ideas such as cookie selling. The organisation is about empowering young women and encouraging them to grow into confident adults; knowing the importance of honesty, respect and learning how to become a leader. To understand the hardship of caring and getting to know the real meaning of friendship. As an outsider of this community I’ll be exploring how strange some traditions of the organisation may be thought of and how the impact of joining a scout group has on the younger generation.

In my essay I will be exploring Girl scout camps in America and the benefit they have on the young generation. I will be exploring these ideas using my own personal experience having spent the whole summer working as a girl scout leader in a camp in Colorado. I want to explore how being a girl scout can encourage girls to really become who they are supposed to be and help them believe in themselves. Do girl scouts really encourage young women to strive for the best options in life and is it really a safe place for women to focus on a future that they can say they worked their hardest for?

Research findings: Girl Scouts of America

