



The AAUW Tucson Public Policy team is committed to informing you about other like-minded organizations in the Tucson area. This month we are featuring the **Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona** (<https://www.girlscoutssoaz.org/>), whose mission is to *build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place*. Michelle Higgins wrote this article and has been active with them for many years.



You might be most familiar with the signature girl-led, entrepreneurial Cookie Program (thinking of Thin Mints or Trefoils?). But did you know that by participating, girls learn about decision making, money management, people skills, and business ethics? Additionally, all profits stay in southern Arizona, providing opportunities for more girls in our communities to explore their passions, try new things, and develop their leadership skills.

However, the Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona have many other programs you may not be familiar with—in particular, staff supported programs.

Staff Supported Troops brings a Girl Scout troop experience to girls across the seven counties of southern Arizona who may not be in a community that can support a volunteer-led troop. Staff-supported troops come in a variety of models that meet the girls' needs and offer exciting programming that truly excites them and brings them joy.

Girl Scouts Beyond Bars connects girls with their incarcerated female caregivers in Perryville Prison through activities that instill self-esteem, teamwork, and leadership skills, while preserving and nurturing the crucial caregiving-child bond and easing the hardship of separation.

The **2Gen** program provides additional wrap-around support services for girls and their caregivers through partnerships, such as financial literacy programs with the Primavera Foundation.

Adelante Jovencitas supports girls within the juvenile justice system with hands-on activities and curriculum that build pro-social skills, a positive self-concept, and self-esteem in a safe and nurturing environment.

Interested in supporting these amazing opportunities? Girl Scouts of Southern Arizona has many ways to engage with girls, work with other volunteers, and support their mission. You can help out for one day, or multiple days, by volunteering at a fundraising event or lending your special talent to a troop near you. You can be an episodic volunteer and help as your schedule allows. Or, you can play a larger role and get plugged into a troop.

Still interested? Email troopsupport@girlscoutssoaz.org or call 520-327-2288!