



Girl Scouts Turn 100!

March 12, 2012 is a special day for many women in the United States and around the world - it marks the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouting! In 1911, Juliette Gordon Low was searching for something useful to do with her life. She was in England and met Sir Robert Baden-Powell, the founder of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide movement. On March 12, 1912, from her home in Savannah, Georgia, Juliette (whose nickname was Daisy) made her historic phone call to a friend who was a distant cousin and said "I've got something for the girls of Savannah, and all of America, and all the world, and we're going to start it tonight!" Eighteen girls formed that first troop including Margaret "Daisy Doots" Gordon, her niece and namesake, who was the first registered member.

In developing the Girl Scout movement in the United States, Juliette brought girls of all backgrounds into the out-of-doors, giving them the opportunity to develop self-reliance and resourcefulness. At a time when women did not yet have the right to vote nationwide, she encouraged girls to prepare not only for traditional homemaking, but also for possible future roles as professional women-in the arts, sciences and business-and for active citizenship outside the home. Also unusual at that time, from its beginning, Girl Scouting welcomed girls with disabilities. Juliette had certainly never let deafness, back problems or cancer keep her from full participation in life so why should disabled girls be excluded?

One delightful background fact that we love to share about Juliette is her hearty athleticism. One of her special talents was being able to stand on her head. She stood on her head every year on her birthday to prove she still could do it, and also celebrated nieces' and nephews' birthdays by standing on her head. Once, she even stood on her head in the board room at the National Headquarters of Girl Scouts to show off the new Girl Scout shoes.



Juliette Gordon Low



Lucille Ball

From the original 18 girls, Girl Scouting has grown to 3.7 million members. Girl Scouts is the largest educational organization for girls in the world and has influenced the more than 50 million girls, women and men who have belonged to it. Approximately 70% of women leaders today were Girl Scouts during their childhood.

Both Charlotte and Jill are Girl Scout alumnae - Jill is a lifetime Girl Scout! Many of the women profiled in Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America were Girl Scouts including entertainer Lucille Ball, actress and ambassador Shirley Temple Black, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, television journalist Katie Couric, Olympic ice skater Peggy Fleming, labor leader Dolores Huerta, the first woman to serve as a justice on the U.S. Supreme Court Sandra Day O'Connor, the first American woman in space astronaut Sally Ride, television broadcaster Robin Roberts, feminist and women's rights activist Gloria Steinem to name just a few!

Check out our web site for past editions of our newsletter, articles and columns written about Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America and historical women, book club discussion guidelines, educational resources, and more!

Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America

www.herstoryatimeline.com

8547 E. Arapahoe Rd, PMB J189
Greenwood Villiage, Colorado 80112

