



E-Newsletter | August 2016

Youth Organization Founders

Many of the women reading this e-newsletter will have spent some of their formative years either as Girl Scouts or in a 4-H club. Studies show, in fact, that 70% of today's women leaders were Girl Scouts in their youth! What readers may not know is that both of these organizations were founded by women. Let's learn more about these founders: Juliette Gordon Low and Jessie Shambaugh.



Juliette Gordon Low (right)

In 1912, when Juliette Gordon Low was in her fifties and looking to do something more with her life, she met Sir Robert Baden-Powell in England. She became convinced that his Boy Scouts organizational model could be made relevant to girls and brought back to the U.S. and her home in Savannah, Georgia. On March 12, 1912, today called Founders Day, she made her famous phone call to a distant relative saying "I've got something for the girls of Savannah, and all of America, and all of the world, and we're going to start it tonight!" The first troop of 18 Girl Scouts formed that night, has grown to millions of girls around the U.S. and many tens of millions more who today are Girl Scout alums.

Low did not let her deafness, back problems or even cancer get in the way of establishing the Girl Scouts. And, Girl Scouts was inclusive of girls of all abilities from the beginning due to the physical abilities of the founder. She also knew that these girls would need to develop the skills to serve them in leadership positions and in the professions, even though the founding occurred prior to women having the right to vote in Georgia and before women entered the work force in large numbers. The premier leadership organization for girls that develops girls of courage, confidence and character, serves as a lasting legacy to Low, who has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of

Fame.



Jessie Field Shambaugh

As a teacher in rural Iowa, Jessie Field Shambaugh, "Miss Jessie", started the Boys Corn Club and the Girls Home Club as after-school activities. She introduced competitions in such areas as soil testing and corn judging and developed a pin for the students as a reward. The original pin was a three-leaf clover with three H's - head, hands and heart. When the fourth H was added (originally home, later health), 4-H was born. By 1912, the after school clubs were called 4-H clubs and the 4-H movement was born. The National 4-H organization was established in 1914. Today 4-H has more than six million members, is affiliated with the land grant universities, and counts more than 25 million alumni. Shambaugh, the Mother of

4-H has been inducted into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame.

Juliette Gordon Low and Jesse Shambaugh are among the more than 850 women profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Their accomplishments inspire us and remind us as well how important it is to continue to tell women's stories.

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Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America

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