

# Girl Scouts: Big Happenings!

By Anne Perng



Girl Scouts and the camping experience go hand-in-hand and this tradition does not stop just because we live in hot, humid Singapore. This year, the girls had an absolute ball!

“Percy Jackson Goddess” overnight camp at Camp Sarimbun put the Girl Scout “goddesses” through many outdoor trials, ending with a slide into Milo Pond (a pool of water resembling the drink Milo). Other favorites included arts and crafts, the big campfire with a bit of Girl Scout songs and skits, and of course, the perennial favorite, toasting and eating s’mores!

The younger Daisy and Brownie Girl Scouts had their own “Animals of the Reef” Day Camp. Junior Troop 57 earned their Bronze Award for helping put this camp together and

Senior Troop 55 organized and ran some of the more active games. Just like the older girls, the favorite was experiencing their own campfire and s’mores roast.

Girl Scout year-end Closing Ceremonies kicked off with a rousing speech from Crystal Wagar. Troops 40, 57 and 64 were awarded The Bronze Award. Catherine Edds and Olivia Chuang each received The Silver Award and Hannah Chuang was awarded The Gold Award, the Girl Scout equivalent of Eagle Scout. Hannah has also been nominated for the Young Women of Distinction Award which is given each year to only ten girls out of the more than three million Girl Scouts worldwide. Just being nominated is an incredible honor. Recipients will be announced in August.

Not only were the girls celebrated, but adults were also

honored for their tireless efforts on behalf of the organization here in Singapore. Gayle Yap and Tawnya Hartberger each received The Thanks Badge, the highest award an adult volunteer can receive within Girl Scouts. Webmaster and Secretary James Duckworth received the Appreciation Pin for his tireless work taking USAGSO (Singapore) digital. Monica Buell was awarded the Volunteer of Appreciation, an award for working with girls directly to make them stronger leaders. Congratulations to all!

Do you have a budding Girl Scout at home who has not joined yet? Good news! Registration is now open for the 2016-17 school year. For more information, go to [www.singaporeusagirlscouts.org](http://www.singaporeusagirlscouts.org).

Photos by Lakshmi Ramachandran and Micah Schutz



## SCOUTING IN SINGAPORE

**Boy Scouts Troop 07:** [www.bsatroop07.org](http://www.bsatroop07.org)    **Boy Scouts Troop 10:** [www.facebook.com/BSATroopX](http://www.facebook.com/BSATroopX)    **Cub Scouts Pack 3010:** [sites.google.com/site/cubscoutspack3010](http://sites.google.com/site/cubscoutspack3010)  
**Cub Scouts Pack 3017:** [SGPack3017@gmail.com](mailto:SGPack3017@gmail.com)    **Girl Scouts:** [www.singaporeusagirlscouts.org](http://www.singaporeusagirlscouts.org)

# Avoiding the Summer Slide

By Lauren Mehrbach, SAS middle school principal and Scott Riley, SAS middle school RLA



Long summer breaks often mean learning regression among children, especially in reading and math. Here are some fun ways to help yours avoid the summer slide!

### Summer camp

Look for activities available in the town or city where you spend your summer. Some have academic, physical and social elements, while others are focused purely on outdoor education. Consider camps focused on fields such as second language immersion, computers, drama, sports and math.

### Find a summer program

Many programs for middle or high school students are run by US universities such as NYU, Duke and Stanford and offer varied and stimulating summer programs from art to photography to rock climbing. Religious centers, museums and community groups might have offerings, too.

### Online learning activities

Help your child set up a Khan Academy account. Agree to some math practice goals and establish some concrete

rewards for when your child reaches the goal. Check out safe, parent-approved websites. Many have daily craft activity suggestions, brain teasers, educational videos and fun grade-related math, reading and science materials. *DIY.org* has some wonderful activities and includes a badging system.

### Set a reading goal

Befriend your hometown’s local librarian and visit the library weekly to check out books, audiobooks (great for roadtrips!) or magazines to read with your child. Pick books from the Young Adult Library Services Association book awards and booklists or take on the Scholastic Summer Reading Challenge online. Students respond more favorably to creating their own unique reading lists and setting ambitious reading goals around them, like what real readers do.

Find books on websites such as *Goodreads.com*, *YourNextRead.com*, *WhatShouldIReadNext.com*, *ReadKiddoRead.com*, *ALA.org* and Amazon’s “customers who bought this item also bought...” section. Also, *bookdepository.com* ships books for free to Singapore if you’re staying here. And remember to model good habits by reading alongside your child!

### Creative project

Do something creative with your child: make a short film; compose a song; co-author a comic book; create a blog about your travels with photos, videos, and stories; curate a photo-a-day series; work on a sculpture or model kit or plant a garden.

Give your children breaks from screen time as per usual. Whatever you decide to do, help your children stay curious, active, engaged and thinking to beat that pesky summer slide!



Photo courtesy of Scott A Woodward