

GIRL TALK

Winter 2019

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The annual Great Escape Weekend is a chance for adult volunteers to learn new skills and make new friends at Camp Seven Hills.



An Economic Opportunity for Girls: The Cookie Program & How It Powers Amazing Adventures for girls

Desirae, a Girl Scout Ambassador in Troop 60047 of Hamlin, accompanied Mary Jo Brown, Girl Scouts of Western New York Senior Vice President of Product Program & Customer Service for a radio interview on the benefits of the Girl Scout Cookie Program with Steve Hausmann of Entercom Rochester.



Desirae said, "I think I could do sales as a second career because of what I've learned in Girl Scouts, you learn things without even knowing. Through selling the cookies you learn how to become better with money and how to negotiate with people. Through years of selling I've learned when you get older in the troop you get to see where your money goes and you get to decide with your Troop and Service Unit and you get to see how much things cost."

"Through selling the cookies you learn how to become better with money and how to negotiate with people."

Desirae also spoke about the other skills she has learned in Girl Scouts while at camp. "I met different girls there who were involved, and the overnight camp, if you have an older girl, it's a good way for her to bond with other girls. She meets girls from different areas, different places, you share different stories, you spend the night, you have dinner together, chores, and everything. You really bond with other girls, and learn their stories. You learn friendship, you learn values, what it means to be a Girl Scout sister and you also learn how to mentor the younger girls. You learn leadership skills."

Desirae also added, "I'm working towards my Girl Scout Gold Award and that's something you earn at the end of your Girl Scout journey and not only does it look good on a college application but there are skills that go along with it that are good for getting ready for the next step in life."

CEO Remarks

Alison Wilcox is the new CEO of Girl Scouts of Western New York, a proud alum and lifelong champion for girls and young women. Learn more about Alison with some questions and answers:



Alison Wilcox
CEO of GSWNY

Why did you want to become the CEO of Girl Scouts of WNY?

It's always been important for me to find a job that fills my soul with purpose, and one that helps to make the world a better place. I was a Canadian Girl Guide as a child and I wanted to give back to today's girls what I learned from this amazing organization. I'm inspired daily working to give girls incredible opportunities and preparing them for a lifetime of leadership. CEO's have a tremendous responsibility to shape the culture and vision for the organization, and I felt called to step into this role to ensure that Girl Scouting stays relevant for today's girls, is constantly growing and improving, and that we are expanding opportunities for more girls throughout WNY to join.

What do you hope will be accomplished under your leadership?

We are at an exciting time for Girl Scouts. There are more opportunities than ever for our girls, and we have an amazing team of dedicated staff and volunteers to fulfill our mission. In the next 5 years, my goal is for GSWNY to grow our fundraising to increase access and program options for girls and our support for volunteers. We have an opportunity to reach more girls in all communities. This includes reducing financial barriers to joining, building on the great programs we are already offering girls in STEM, financial literacy,

Continued on next page

life skills, camping and the arts and expanding our travel, outdoors & adventure programming. Also high priorities are further investing in our camp and service center properties, and creating additional training for volunteers and staff so we can provide the best quality program for girls.

What do you like to do for fun?

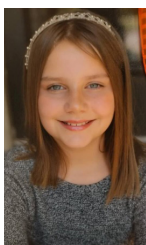
I love to explore with my family - traveling, camping, hiking - I am an adventurer at heart. I also love to experience the world through stories. I'm an avid reader, I love the theater (especially the musical Hamilton!), and I also love to watch movies. Every weekend we have a movie night with my son and his friends from the neighborhood, using a projector and a big screen. We watch them inside in the winter, and outside on blankets or chairs in the summer. I also love to cook and try new foods.

We have to ask, what's your favorite Girl Scout cookie?

Thin Mints and my favorite Canadian Girl Guide cookie is the Chocolatey-Mint!

Allison Becomes First Female Geography Bee Champion

Allison is a Junior Girl Scout in the 5th grade at Byron Bergen Central Schools in Genesee County and she is her school's first female National Geography Bee School Champion. Allison is now preparing to compete for the State Championship.



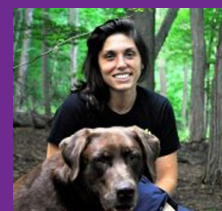
Meet our New Senior Director of Outdoor Program: Lindsay Cray

Hometown: Rochester, NY

Hobbies: Soccer, Athletic competitions (Tough Mudder etc), wilderness skills, backpacking, kayaking, snowshoeing, surfing, travel & exploration, teaching people about connecting to nature and anything else outdoors!

Best thing about the new Outdoor Program: Everything! We have the opportunity to work with 15,000 girls across nine counties connecting them to nature. Develop partnerships with major outdoor organizations and companies, find adventure in amazing locations nationally, internationally and even our own back yard. GSWNY outdoor programs are for any girl, and our team has the awesome job of making those opportunities accessible to anyone!

Motto: "The measure of a civilization is not how tall its buildings of concrete are, but rather how well its people have learned to relate to their environment and to each other." ~ Sun Bear of the Chippewa Tribe



NEW Family Partnership Patch TO BE RELEASED IN EARLY APRIL

A donation of any amount will help support the Girl Scouts of Western New York! Donate \$25 or more and **every Girl Scout in your home will receive a patch!**

Your contribution will be used in many ways to provide the Girl Scout program in all nine counties we serve by supporting training for adult volunteers, camping site maintenance and upgrades, program materials for girls, assisting families in need, and many other valuable services.

Make your donation today to reserve your patches! Patches will be mailed in early April.

Visit bit.ly/gswnydonate2019 and choose **Family Partnership** under the designation. **Include a note** for how many Girl Scouts are in your home!

Or mail your donation to the address below.



Deadline for both scholarships is March 21, 2019.

To access the applications: bit.ly/gswnyscholarships

Girl Scout Educational Scholarship \$30,000 to be awarded this year

Kim Welsh Memorial Scholarship Award amount to be determined

QUESTIONS OR INFO ON SCHOLARSHIPS OR FAMILY PARTNERSHIP:

Bev Rhodes, GSWNY,
1000 Elmwood Ave., Ste. 200, Rochester, NY 14620
1-888-837-6410 ext. 7984 bev.rhodes@gswny.org

#GirlScoutCampLife



Girl Scout Cadette Alicia from Buffalo Troop 34410 spent time at Camp Timbercrest and enjoyed the horse program. She said that some of her favorite things about the horses were that she likes: "to feed them hay, grooming, and tacking."



Embrace **#GirlScoutCampLife** at Day Camp, Resident Camp, and through Troop Camping, Specialty Programs, and Service Unit Camp Out! Summer Camp begins in July 2019 and financial aid is available. Visit gswny.org or call 1.888.837.6410.



Girl Scouts Give Back

Girl Scouts from the Orchard Park Service Unit (Senior Girl Scout Caroline of Troop 31101 and Cadette Girl Scouts Kaitlyn, Mia, and Natalie of Troop 31128) and GSWNY Board Member Patti Rabb organized a coat drive at Nativity of Our Lord Church.

It sounded like I could make a lot of new friends and that's what I did, I made a lot of new friends.



After-School Programs in Action: Troop 24003 of Dunkirk

At Girl Scouts, girls are exploring what's possible, turning dreams into reality, and changing the world. Rosa is a Girl Scout Junior in Troop 24003 of Dunkirk and was interviewed about the benefits of Girl Scouts with her Troop Co-Leader Samantha Nichols, GSWNY Community Partner Specialist. Rosa and Samantha were featured on the Community Spotlight show by Adam Dolce, Executive Director of United Way of Northern Chautauqua County. Rosa talked about her experience as a new Girl Scout and why she joined. Rosa said, "It sounded really fun. It sounded like I could make a lot of new friends and that's what I did, I made a lot of new friends. There's a lot of opportunities like about college, the summer programs, and everything so I would recommend it."



Girl Scout Gold Award: Learn Why Nora's Caps are Happy

The Girl Scout Gold Award is recognized as one of the world's most prestigious youth achievements. A young woman who has earned her Gold Award has become a community leader by transforming an idea and vision for change into an actionable plan with measurable, sustainable, and far-reaching results. Nora is an Ambassador Girl Scout in Troop 30782 of North Tonawanda and her Girl Scout Gold Award project is called Happy Caps for children who need surgery. Nora said she decided to do this project because: "I hope to work in a field that helps children. I have already volunteered in a special education K-1 class at Meadow Elementary in the North Tonawanda School District - this has inspired me to help young children. I have also gone through a surgery to have my tonsils and adenoids out as a child, so I have a first-hand experience of being in a hospital as a patient. I plan to make the general public aware that children do need surgeries and that they need a positive enforcement to make them more comfortable in a hospital/surgical setting. That "little things" - such as being able to pick out a surgical cap that looks 'fun', can have a positive impact on a child."

Inspire Networking Series

Girl Scouts of Western New York recently hosted the second round of our Inspire Networking Series, held in Buffalo, Jamestown, and Rochester. Inspire is a series designed as a fast-paced, inspiring, and informative power breakfast focused on building a leadership pipeline and stronger connections so that every G.I.R.L. can contribute to community service, civic engagement, and a vibrant local economy.



Community Partner Program Highlight: St. Bonaventure Digital Communications Day for Girl Scouts



Shelby: Part Tomboy, Part Football Player, All Girl Scout

Whether you're part trendsetter, part change-maker, part athlete, or part go-getter, you know who you are and where you want to go next. And you're all Girl Scout. Shelby is a self-proclaimed 'tomboy,' football player, and Girl Scout Junior in Troop 25502 of Dunkirk. She doesn't fit the mold of what so many assume Girl Scouts is, yet our program fits her perfectly. She's learned practical skills like camping, fire building, and knot tying, but it's the intangible skills that stand out. As a Girl Scout, Shelby has learned about caring, leadership, giving back, and working together. Shelby first joined Girl Scouts because it seemed like it would be fun and her mother, Kathy, wanted her to try something new. Since then, Kathy has watched her become independent, gain leadership skills, make friends, and enjoy many opportunities she wouldn't have had the chance to experience without Girl Scouts. Even more, her confidence has increased.



Remember When



In 2006, girls participated in a Double Dutch Fun Jump event. It was great to see so many girls learning and competing!



Girl Scout Volunteer Rebecca Mattison Saves a Child's Life

Rebecca Mattison is a volunteer with the Sweet Home Service Unit and has been a Girl Scout volunteer for nearly 15 years. Rebecca was awarded a Commendation by Christine Kirwan, CVA, GSWNY Director of Volunteer Experience for applying the First Aid/CPR skills she was trained in at Girl Scouts to save a child from choking while at work. We thank Rebecca for her service, selflessness, and all she does to empower the next generation of female leaders!



Save the Dates

GSWNY Service Centers and Shops closed for a Staff Development Day: Tue., March 19, 2019

Girl Scout Week: March 10-16, 2019

2018 Gold Award Ceremony: Sat., June 1, 2019

Check out the Program Guide at gswny.org for details and more upcoming programs!

Girl Talk Survey Results

Thank you to all our readers who took the time to complete the survey in the last issue!

You gave us important feedback and we heard you loud and clear. You most want to hear about the girls, our leaders and volunteers, and the activities and events members are participating in across the council. Many of you prefer photos with descriptions, with just occasional feature stories. We'll also start to include even more information on Girl Scouting in your communities and how GSWNY is meeting the needs of today's girls, particularly real life examples of the courage, confidence, and character in our girls.

You'll see we've already begun to incorporate these in this issue and look for more enhancements over the course of 2019. Thank you for your candid comments and the time you took to complete the survey. Most of all, thank you for ALL you do to support our girls.

Special congratulations to **Marguerite Holderle of Rochester**, winner of the \$50 Amazon Gift Card!

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Batavia Service Center
5 Jackson Street
Batavia, NY 14020

Buffalo Service Center
3332 Walden Ave., Suite 106
Depew, NY 14043

Jamestown Service Center
2661 Horton Road
Jamestown, NY 14701

Lockport Service Center
5000 Cambria Road
Lockport, NY 14094

Niagara Service Center (Satellite Office)
1522 Main St., Suite 307
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

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