

GIRL TALK

Fall 2019

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Daisies and Brownies went to Camp Windy Meadows for Trailblazer I to learn outdoor basics like hiking and backpacking, Leave No Trace, map use, fire building, and outdoor snacking.



2019 Skills & Chills: The 50th Anniversary

September 2019 marked the 50th annual Skills & Chills event, a competition for girls in grades six through 12, focusing on outdoor skills and teamwork. Participants face off in events such as archery, orienteering, first aid and emergency preparedness, canoeing and kayaking, tent pitching, log sawing, knots and lashing, and field sports. New this year, the event volunteer committee added jackknife to the skills and asked girls to prove their aptitude for usage and safety, whittling, and knife sharpening using a whetstone. This year's Skills & Chills took place at Camp Seven Hills Goodyear."

"The importance of Skills & Chills is knowing how to compete at a friendly level. You're going to be competing for the rest of your life in different fields, and if you can learn to do any competition with integrity and know that you know your stuff, you're going to be able to do anything."

- Helen Marsh, Skills & Chills Volunteer Committee Member

Troops collectively decide on a team name and often create costumes to match their theme. This year troops chose team themes such as Harry Potter, Skittles, fairies, Pac-Man, fruits and vegetables, s'mores, vikings, and more.

The GSWNY archives committee brought in multiple displays showing the history and evolution of the event. It has been hosted at 5 different camps and throughout that time the skill challenges have varied due to location or the girls' interests in particular outdoor activities. The event was originally started in 1970 by Millie (Speedy) Burns. Some previous skills have included outdoor meal cooking, a canoe race on the Erie Canal, campsite setup and takedown, and swimming.

At the end of Saturday evening, all the teams' points were totaled and award certificates were given out. Girls were also given a 50th anniversary Skills & Chills patch to reward their participation in the milestone event.



CEO Remarks

Thank you to our wonderful donors and volunteers! You help to power amazing experiences for girls to pursue big ideas, and build a lifetime of leadership. I am so moved by your deep commitment to our girls – because of you, we are able to create programs that make a difference in girls' lives. Girl Scouts is building the innovators and leaders of the future, and together, we are creating an environment where girls explore freely, expand their perspective, and discover unimagined ideas. Here at GSWNY, girls are part of a support system that encourages them to take action and gives them the confidence to believe they can do anything.

Girl Scouts are leading the way! Our girls recently honored nine Women of Distinction at our annual ceremony on September 26 for enacting positive change in our communities and the world. Congratulations to our honorees, and thank you to the girls who ran the ceremony and to all of our sponsors who helped make the event a great success!

We know how important our program is for girls, and we need your help. There are far more girls asking to join Girl Scouts than troop leaders and volunteers to serve them. Do you know a friend, colleague, or family member who may want to lead a troop or volunteer with Girl Scouts? If so, please have them contact us at gswny.org or call 1.888.837.6410 and make a difference in the life of a girl today.

Thank you for your continued support of Girl Scouts. **-Alison Wilcox**



CEO Alison Wilcox with the girl presenters at Women of Distinction

Cattaraugus Sisters Capture Gold Medals at the World Championships

Girl Scouts Anna and Sophia of Troop 10370 of Hinsdale in Cattaraugus County brought home gold medals from the 2019 Jiu Jitsu World Championship in Florida. Congratulations to Anna and Sophia for showcasing their amazing G.I.R.L. power!

The events that the girls excelled in:

ANNA: Gold in the Team Demonstration, Gold in Self Defense, 2nd in Sparring (lightweight), and 2nd in Grappling (lightweight)

SOPHIA: Gold in the Team Demonstration, Gold in Self Defense, 2nd in Grappling (med. weight), and 3rd in Sparring (med. weight)



2019 Women of Distinction

Girl Scouts of Western New York recognized nine honorees at the 2019 Women of Distinction Dinner & Awards Ceremony on Thursday, September 26, 2019. Forty-seven girls and young women led the event from start to finish and served as presenters, mistresses of ceremonies, ambassadors, and more. We salute the 2019 Women of Distinction and thank you to our generous sponsors!

- **Christine Bonaguide, Esq.:** Partner, Hodgson Russ LLP
- **Linda Clark, M.D.:** Doctor of Preventive/Occupational Medicine, Founder and CEO, Clark Occupational Medicine Services
- **Tory Irgang:** Executive Director, Chautauqua Region Community Foundation
- **Candace Johnson, Ph.D.:** President and CEO, Roswell Park Comprehensive Cancer Center
- **Joyce A. Markiewicz:** EVP, Chief Business Development Officer, Catholic Health
- **Nadia Pizzaro:** Homeless Services Director, BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc.
- **Katherine Conway-Turner, Ph.D.:** President, Buffalo State College
- **Lori Van Dusen:** Founder and CEO, LWV Advisors
- **Linda Zakrzewski:** Volunteer of Distinction, Teacher, Family and Consumer Science, School 81 Buffalo

SPONSORS INCLUDED:

Platinum Level: Timothy M. O'Mara Attorney at Law; **Gold Level:** Federated Clover Investment Advisors and Roswell Park; **Silver Level:** Arbor Capital Management and Dubisz Wealth Management, Hodgson Russ, LLP, KeyBank, Mutual of America, and Uniland; **Media Sponsor:** Buffalo Magazine; **Bronze Level:** Allegra Printing-Cheektowaga, BestSelf Behavioral Health, Inc., National Fuel, and Wilcox Financial.



1967: First Class Scout Lyne Harris (far left) celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the Buffalo Erie County Council with fellow Girl Scouts.

1970s: A group of counselors at Camp Timbercrest prepare to cook their meal in the rain. The photo was paired with campfire recipes in a Jamestown newspaper.



Why I Give to Girl Scouting

by Joanne E. Nelson

Why? I can't imagine that anyone reading this has never had someone who "stepped up" at some time when you needed assistance. The simplest act can make a huge difference to anyone or to any group who needs help. It feels good to help, to give back to, and in many cases, know that what I've done with my time or money has had, or will have, a positive impact on someone or on some organization. I really enjoy giving and plan to continue doing so as long as I'm able.

I have been a part of Girl Scouts for 67 years. I give by volunteering to train, teach, help to organize events and help inside and outside at work days. I am a member of the Juliette Gordon Low Society and have been an instrumental figure in leading the Friends of Horton Hill volunteer group. I am also a member of committees/advisory councils and provide support to people who need a little something "extra" to help them cope with a problem. I volunteer a lot of time and do what I can monetarily to support organizations that I have a passion for and want to help, like Girl Scouts.

I am blessed! I am a reasonably healthy "older" woman, I can get around pretty good despite a few aches and pains here and there, have some family left and many friends, and I am still able to "give."



From left: Joanne Nelson, Ro Woodard, Alison Wilcox



From left: Mary Lou Britton, Ro Woodard, Dianne Belk, Joanne Nelson, Paula Pickett

"The simplest act can make a huge difference to anyone or to any group who needs help."

Friends of Timbercrest Alumni Group Continues to Give Back

The Friends of Timbercrest Alumni group ran the Loop the Lake program to teach families about nature and the wonders of Camp Timbercrest. Plus, they hosted a work weekend where they painted the new boat house, built 16 picnic tables, and more! Thanks to our amazing alumni and volunteers who continue to embody and help power the Girl Scout mission.



Girl Scouts from Troop 70047 of Niagara Falls volunteered at the Heart, Love and Soul Soup Kitchen. They performed meal preparation to line service to welcoming every individual. Over 100 meals were served!



Community Partner:

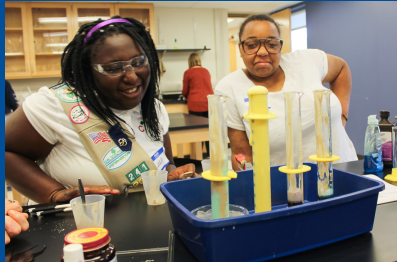
Jamestown Community College Maker Mania Event

Girls explored a variety of college programs including: mechanical technology, welding, criminal justice, and media communication at the event. Girls gained hands-on experience in welding, learned how fingerprinting works, got behind the scenes of a TV studio, and earned a 3D-printed Maker Mania patch!



Community Partner: The College at Brockport SUNY Pathways to Health Professional

Girl Scouts learned how to get from high school to medical, veterinarian, or dental school! They participated in a suture workshop to practice surgical stitches, experimented with chemistry, and toured the genetics and chemistry labs while asking female medical students questions about their majors.



Leah and Evelyn made elephant toothpaste.



Vena learns how to hold suturing tools.



Adult Volunteer Nerissa saves her citrus "patient."



LeAnn skewered an inflated balloon using olive oil so that it wouldn't pop.

Doing online shopping?

Black Friday, Cyber Monday, or any other day of the year, if you make your purchases through the AmazonSmile and choose to support Girl Scouts of Western New York, a percentage of eligible purchases will be donated to GSWNY! This is all at no extra cost to you! AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. You just use a different web address to get there! Same products, same prices, same service. Shop year round and GSWNY benefits! To use AmazonSmile for GSWNY go to: [tinyurl.com/gswnysmile](https://www.amazon.com/gswnysmile)

#GIVINGTUESDAY

When you donate to Girl Scouts of Western New York on **Tuesday, December 3**, you join a global movement celebrating generosity around the world. In your own community, you are giving a girl the chance to discover she's capable of more.

Your Giving Tuesday gift will benefit the GSWNY Girl Opportunity Fund, and more girls get the Girl Scout experience they deserve! This fund ensures every girl can participate in Girl Scouting, no matter what. Your gift provides financial assistance to cover membership fees, dues, uniforms, or council-sponsored programs and trips.

Every gift matters, because every gift makes a difference.

Visit [gswny.org/donate](https://www.gswny.org/donate) on Dec. 3!

Thank you for supporting girls!

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We'll also be sharing girls' stories on Facebook that day!

Remember When



Camp Seven Hills' Tally Ho Unit in 1950 used to look very different. One photo shows Counselors in Training (CITs) at work, the other shows an open field that is no longer there.



We're currently constructing a brand new Tally Ho unit near the original site. The exciting new space will be unveiled this summer!

Save the Dates

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS FOR THE GSWNY SERVICE CENTERS AND SHOPS:

Thanksgiving: November 28 & 29, 2019

Staff Development Day: Dec. 13, 2019

Winter Holiday Break:

Sat., Dec. 21, 2019, through Wed., January 2, 2020

Check out [gswny.org](https://www.gswny.org) for details and upcoming programs!

girl scouts
of western new york

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

[gswny.org](https://www.gswny.org)
1.888.837.6410

Lockport Service Center
5000 Cambria Road
Lockport, NY 14094

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

Rochester Service Center
1000 Elmwood Ave., Door 9
Rochester, NY 14620

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