

# GIRL TALK

Fall 2018

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Troop 42162 from LeRoy went to Genesee County Park to work on earning their Geocaching Badge!



## Why I Volunteer: An Inside Look at Girl Scout Volunteerism through the Popular Skills and Chills Event

For nearly 50 years, Girl Scouts of Western New York has held the annual Skills and Chills competition at Camp Seven Hills. With more than 200 participants and a variety of events including fire building, log sawing, tent pitching, knots and lashing, canoeing, and first aid, it takes the time and coordination of many people to make it a reality.

This is even more impressive when you consider it's run by volunteers.

Each year, a volunteer committee comes together to plan the massive competition. More than just scheduling the date and time, they need organize a weekend at camp for all the girls attending and locate the subject matter experts to serve as the event judges, among many other responsibilities.

The planning committee is comprised of volunteers who come from different avenues but share the same passion for helping girls learn new skills, and for promoting their love of the outdoors

Some were participants as Girl Scouts or currently have girls competing. Others hear about how special the event is and want to join or are encouraged by those already involved. Even some of the outdoor trainers used by Girl Scouts of Western New York volunteer their time.

Nancy Grimes came to help as a former Girl Scout and participant turned troop co-leader.

Eight years ago, Nancy joined the planning committee and within two years, she was its leader. It's a tremendous amount of work and responsibility, but Nancy will keep coming back for one simple reason – the girls.



Story continues on page 2

## CEO Remarks

Fall is a wonderful time of year! It is the start of a new troop season, girls are back to school and it's a time for reflection and giving thanks. I want to thank every girl, volunteer, staff member, donor, and friends of GSWNY for your support. It is because of you that we have the opportunity to positively impact the lives of girls and help them to blossom into the great leaders that we know they are presently and will continue to be in the future. I am proud that in Girl Scouts, girls get to lead their own adventure and team up with other girls in an all-girl environment that's expert-approved and volunteer-supported. Girl Scouts helps girls discover their strengths and change the world.

Also, speaking of changing the world, congratulations to our eight 2018 Women of Distinction honorees and the thirty-four girls who led a remarkable ceremony making it a memorable event for everyone involved.

In closing, as troop season and troop camping opportunities are in full swing, I encourage you to tell a friend about the joys of Girl Scouting! To join or donate please visit: [gswny.org](http://gswny.org).



Judy Cranston  
CEO of GSWNY



### “Why I Volunteer” continued

“I’ve been a co-leader of Cadettes through Ambassadors for 11 years and I love the teamwork and leadership this event inspires. The girls come out and show us every year what courage, confidence, and character truly are,” said Nancy Grimes.

As the leader, she sees the sacrifices made by the other volunteers to make sure Skills and Chills appears effortless to the girls. Without her committee and their willingness to take on new roles without question, she believes the event wouldn’t be the same.

“The volunteers give of themselves constantly to benefit the young women of Western New York. They want to give them the love of the outdoors and share the fun they had as kids. That’s what makes these events unique and successful.”

All of their work and dedication is rewarded when the girls come together and have a phenomenal day.

More than just chaperones, these volunteers make the day an encouraging and exciting learning experience. Volunteer judges never look exasperated or frustrated, even if a team is taking a long time to complete their task. They patiently watch and offer words of support. When acceptable, they give little pieces of advice to help the girls without compromising the competition. It’s clear they’re having just as much fun as the girls.

When you attend Skills and Chills, you can’t help but walk away with a smile after watching both the girls and volunteers in action. It’s a competition focused around teamwork, but the fun had by all and the memories made are more important than the number of ribbons a team receives.

Janet DePetrillio, Director of Camp Administration, understands that Skills and Chills wouldn’t exist without the dedication of the men and women who sit on the committee.

“Together, they make this event happen. Without their skills, time, and talent, events like this where girls really come together to build their courage, confidence, and character wouldn’t occur. We are nothing without our girls and our volunteers,” said Janet DePetrillio.

After a lifetime of Girl Scouting, Nancy still passionately believes in the Girl Scout difference and understands how fortunate she is to serve as a volunteer with Girl Scouts and Skills and Chills.

“I have been a Girl Scout, mentor, and leader for a very long time. I would not change my path for anything. I feel honored to be able to have a role in watching the Girl Scouts grow into confident young leaders of our community through the efforts of these events,” said Nancy Grimes.



## Community Partner Highlight: Bank of America



Thank you to Bank of America for providing a \$4,000 grant to help girls improve their financial literacy. Bank of America sponsored Girl Scouts from around the council for the Money Matters: Girl Scouts Learn Better Money Habits program and girls earned their financial literacy badge at the Bank of America West Seneca office. Girl Scout Research Institute studies show that 90% of girls say it is important for them to learn how to manage money and 87% of girls say that it is important to set financial goals.

## 2018 Women of Distinction

Girl Scouts of Western New York recognized eight honorees at the 2018 Women of Distinction Dinner & Awards Ceremony on Thursday, September 20, 2018, led by 34 girls and young women. We salute the 2018 Women of Distinction!

**SPONSORS INCLUDED:** **Platinum Level:** Timothy M. O’Mara Attorney at Law; **Gold Level:** Federated Clover Investment Advisors and DK’s Plumbing and Mechanical; **Media Sponsor:** Buffalo Magazine; **Silver Level:** Arbor Capital Investment – Dubisz Wealth Management, KeyBank, Mutual of America, and Uniland; **Bronze Level:** Allegra Printing, Buffalo Medical Group and Hodgson Russ, LLP.





## Challenge: Accepted

By Heather Reed

The gifts we receive through planned giving have an immeasurable impact on the future success of our council and I would like to update you on some recent planned giving challenges and the wonderful donors who generously participated!

Planned giving is in our Girl Scout DNA. Juliette Gordon Low put it there by converting the carriage house of her home into the first Girl Scout's national headquarters, later gifting the property to Girl Scouts in her will. Her bequest was the beginning of a great history of planned giving within our movement. The Juliette Gordon Low (JGL) Society has been rightfully named to thank and honor those who chose to make Girl Scouts part of their lasting legacy in this world. Planned gifts do not cost you a penny during your lifetime, but they mean the world to the girls in the future.

At the G.I.R.L. Convention in Columbus, OH last October, two couples issued exciting movement-wide challenges to promote the value of planned giving. First, Dianne Belk & Lawrence Calder generously offered to provide a \$10,000 planned gift if 4 new members joined our JGL Society. Erik and Eva Andersen quickly followed suit with an equally wonderful challenge to add two additional JGL Society members, for which they would provide a \$4,000 planned gift.

Each Girl Scout council was invited to take part in these movement-wide challenges. We met and exceeded our goal faster than anticipated. The speed in which we completed these challenges says everything you need to know about the kind of generous and exceptional Girl Scout supporters we have within our GSWNY community.

The unbelievably dedicated people who have pledged a planned gift to GSWNY this year can be sure that our council's future is secure because of them:

Nicole Andrews, Jennifer Brooks, Katherine Campbell, Lettie Chilson, Susan and Clayton Cloen, Donna M. Dolce, Joelle Maurer, Laura Ranalli, Alison Wilcox-Lanfear, and David Lanfear.

Your commitment to our mission has been overwhelming. We thank and honor you.

The Girl Scouts of tomorrow will benefit from the gifts you tell us about today. If you have already made a planned gift to Girl Scouts of WNY or would like to request more information, contact Heather Reed at 1-888-837-6410 or [heather.reed@gswny.org](mailto:heather.reed@gswny.org).



## Palo Alto Networks' Cybersecurity Badge Day with Women In Computing at RIT

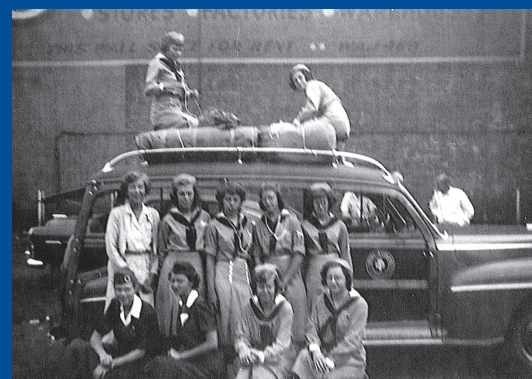


Women In Computing at RIT students taught Daisies, Brownies, and Juniors some remarkable cybersecurity lessons to help 30 girls earn their Cybersecurity Badge! Topics of the day included three-way handshakes, binary code, social engineering, signals and receivers, online identity theft, internet safety, white hat vs. black hat hackers, networks, malware, and more! Girls were also treated to a wonderful keynote from Donna Pogroszewski, an MCC Professor teaching courses for Homeland Security and Cyber Security. Palo Alto Networks sponsored the program.



## Remember When

Buffalo Senior Girl Scout Mariners preparing to leave for Cooperstown, NY. They were invited to help set up the campsite for the Girl Guide/Girl Scout International Encampment to be held there in late July and early August 1948.



Until Girl Scouts, I didn't know how much I liked science.

I want to make a difference.  
*Maria, Girl Scout Ambassador*

The Girl Scout Difference

## #GIVINGTUESDAY

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

Consider Maria's story. At age 11, she moved to America from Puerto Rico and found herself in a strange country with a strange language. She joined Girl Scouts, and with the guidance and support of her troop and leaders, she was able to achieve more than she imagined.

Because of Girl Scouts, Maria was able to graduate high school and find her passion at Albany College by pursuing a degree in psychology on the pre-med route.

Your Giving Tuesday gift on **November 27** will benefit the GSWNY Girl Opportunity Fund, so you can help make more stories like Maria's a reality. 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.

You can help make a difference in the lives of our Girl Scouts.

Every gift matters, because every gift makes a difference.

## Black Friday and Cyber Monday Are Just Around The Corner!

Join the GSWNY AmazonSmile donors to help more girls! How does it work? If you make your purchases through the Amazon Smile portal 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 access it differently! Same products, same prices, same service. Shop year round and GSWNY benefits! To use AmazonSmile for GSWNY go to: [tinyurl.com/gswnysmile](https://tinyurl.com/gswnysmile)

*Thank you in advance for your participation in the AmazonSmile program!*

## Save the Dates

**Giving Tuesday & Roc the Day: Tue., Nov. 27**

**Thanksgiving Closings for all GSWNY Offices & Shops:**

Thu., Nov. 22 & Fri., Nov. 23, 2018

Check out the Program Guide at [gswny.org](https://gswny.org) for details and more upcoming programs!

## WIN A \$50 AMAZON GIFT CARD!

Complete a survey about Girl Talk (either the included paper survey OR go online to [bit.ly/GTReaderSurvey2018](https://bit.ly/GTReaderSurvey2018))

*All surveys received by 12/20 are entered to win!*

girl scouts of western new york

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



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