

GIRL TALK

Fall 2020

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A girl from Troop 70283 practicing firebuilding before Skills and Chills



Volunteers served as judges virtually and in-person



Skills and Chills 2.0 Hybrid Event

The pandemic couldn't stop the over 50 year tradition of our beloved Skills and Chills event. This year the event featured a hybrid model that mixed safe, in-person and virtual activities that focused on outdoor skills and teamwork.

The event kicked-off with a virtual opening campfire. Cadettes, Seniors, and Ambassadors faced off individually and as a team in events such as archery, orienteering, first aid, and emergency preparedness, tent pitching, log sawing, knots and lashing, and more at Camp Seven Hills Goodyear.

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 special Skills & Chills patch to reward their participation in this unprecedented year of having the event in both an in-person and virtual format.



Leading up to the event, girls practiced with their troops.



Orienteering is still a staple event.



A girl goes for a bullseye at archery.



Jackknife made another appearance this year with girls showing off their knife skills safely.

The knots and lashing event gives girls the opportunity to show the real-life applications that the different knots are useful for.



CEO Remarks

Thank you to our wonderful donors, partners and volunteers! You help to power amazing experiences for girls to pursue big dreams, and build a lifetime of leadership.

For more than 100 years, Girl Scouts have demonstrated resilience; our girls have learned the skills, embraced the experiences, and cultivated the sisterhood that help them impact their communities and accomplish big things. In this time of uncertainty, our mission only grows stronger. Girls need Girl Scouts to help them stay connected to their communities during a time of isolation and upended routines. Girls need Girl Scouts to ensure that while the format of school has changed, they continue to pursue their passions and do not experience learning loss. Girls need Girl Scouts so they can walk boldly towards sisterhood, justice, and fairness.

What's more, our nation needs girls who are a part of Girl Scouts. We know Girl Scouts prepares girls for moments like this. In a recent study of Girl Scouts alums, 75% said they learn from failures and setbacks compared to 66% of the general population and 54% said they want to make a



Alison Wilcox,
CEO of GSWNY

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difference in their community compared to 46% of the general population. During this pandemic, Girl Scouts are stepping up in creative ways to give back. They are leading service projects across WNY including donating masks and through our Fall Product Program – donating magazines, nuts, and candy to comfort frontline workers.

Despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic, we are continuing to prepare girls to take the lead, explore their passions, and make the world a better place for generations to come. Help us ensure that in a time of great loss, girls do not miss out on these formative experiences. Your support will keep girls in Girl Scouting and ensure access to our programs, regardless of background, geography, or financial situation. Help us ensure all girls have access to Girl Scouts.

Do you, or 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. Together, we are Girl Scout Strong.

-Alison Wilcox, GSWNY CEO

Badge In A Box



In March when Girl Scout troops stopped meeting in person so they could practice safe social-distancing, we looked for new ways our girls could still experience Girl Scouting activities safely at home.

We began creating Badge in a Box kits. These kits provide a single Girl Scout with all the supplies needed to complete a badge. Some troops have been purchasing a kit for each girl, so they can complete the badge together virtually. Other individual Girl Scouts and Juliette Girl Scouts have purchased the kits to complete on their own.

To make these kits accessible for our girls, we have been receiving donations to help partially cover the cost. We are so grateful for the support that we continue to receive for these kits!

Badge in a Box kits provide essential programming to keep girls connected and engaged in new experiences during this difficult time when they cannot be together.



GIRL SCOUTS WHO MAKE AN IMPACT: Kayo Helps Out At Home

Kayo of Troop 30076 in Buffalo spent time working on her room makeover badge. She helped out at home and installed a light, changed the drawer pulls on her night stands, learned to spackle and paint nail holes, and rearranged furniture.

Adult Recognitions from the Annual Meeting

On September 17, GSWNY held a virtual Annual Meeting and was pleased to honor the following volunteers during the Adult Recognition portion of the ceremony. The ceremony also highlighted those who received recognitions at Service Unit events, including Tenure pins (41 recipients with over 1,000 years of Girl Scouting) and Years of Service recognition (35 recipients with over 600 years of service). What a testament to the loyalty and dedication of our members - thank you!"

Appreciation Pin Honorees:

Recognizes work done at the Troop or Service Unit level

- Pamela Bartlo
- Elizabeth Bordeleau
- Destini Bowman
- Janet Covino
- Alexandra Kuhns
- Megan Monahan
- Abigale Terrana

Honor Pin Honoree:

Recognizes work serving two or more Service Units

- Jennifer McNeely

President's Award:

Recognizes outstanding Service Unit accomplishments

- Olmsted Service Unit
- Webster Service Unit

Thanks Badge I Honorees:

Recognizes work done at the Council, National or International level

- Rebecca Deitzer
- Bree Kramer

Thanks Badge II Honoree:

The Thanks Badge II honors an individual who has already received the Thanks Badge and recognizes continued work done at the Council, National or International level

- Randa Williams

We recognize and thank our outstanding volunteers!

Council Opportunity Fund

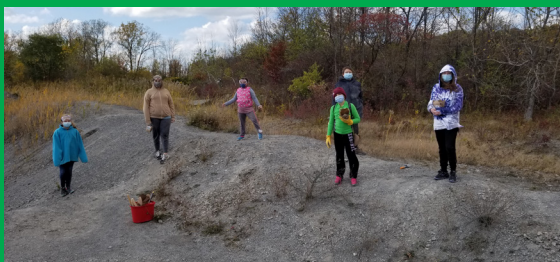
Did you know that donations to the Council Opportunity Fund go directly to girls asking for assistance? We are committed to ensuring that all girls of courage, confidence, and character can participate in Girl Scouts, regardless of financial resources—that is why the Council Opportunity Fund was created!

Money from this fund assists in paying for girl's membership, badge books, uniform, and program supplies (and even Badge in a Box!) - all the things necessary for an impactful Girl Scout experience! And while this year has presented our Girl Scouts with a number of challenges, we will make sure that affording Girl Scouts is not one of them! That is why all donations towards the Council Opportunity Fund go directly to supporting our girls who are experiencing hardship.

SOME COUNCILWIDE 2020 FUN:



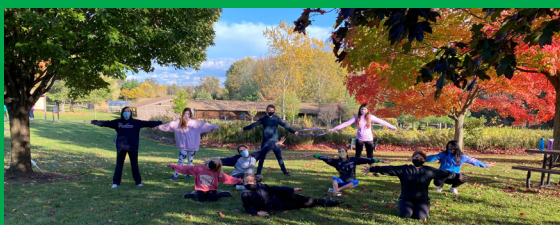
Troop 64200 earned their Outdoor Art Badge



Troop 70094 went digging at Penn Dixie Fossil Park & Nature Reserve



Troop 30072 visited the Hertel Walls in Buffalo



Troop 60722 met at Tinker Park (Henrietta) to play socially distant games and hike

Troop Volunteering: Troop 10193 Make Dozens of Masks, Caps, & Extensions for First Responders

Troop 10193 of Randolph originally planned to make dresses for Africa, but shifted gears because of the pandemic to benefit hometown heroes. All four members of the troop sewed dozens of masks, caps, and extensions for first responders.



My Voice, Our Equal Future with Girl Scout, Arianna of Henrietta Troop 60671

In celebration of 2020 International Day of the Girl, Girl Scout and Girl Advisory Board Member Arianna M. was selected to have her video featured in the GSUSA – Girls Speak Out Event on October 11, 2020.

Sixteen-year-old Arianna answered a series of questions around girls and equity and said, “In order to build equity in their lives, education, communities, and families, girls need to remember that they are strong and have the ability to persevere through challenging times. Girls need to advocate for themselves and kindle their inner strength. It is important to have a strong support system and surround themselves with people that will empower them to make a change in their community. Girls need to find out what they are truly passionate about and work hard to make their dream a reality. They need to seek out girl-led organizations and build relationships that will empower girls to be their best selves.”



New Girl-Designed Council Patch for 2020

Girl Scout Mariana A. from Troop 60117 of Rochester was the winner of the New 2020 Council Patch Contest. The patch features landmarks across Western New York including Mariana's favorite spot in Rochester, Charlotte Pier.



Remember When



Skills & Chills at Camp Timbercrest - 2009

Although we have held Skills & Chills at Camp Seven Hills for a while now, sometimes it's been at other GSWNY camps as well, like these photos from Camp Timbercrest over a decade ago!



#GIVINGTUESDAY

When you donate to Girl Scouts of Western New York on Tuesday, December 1, you join a global movement celebrating generosity around the world!

Your Giving Tuesday gift will benefit the Council Opportunity Fund which provides financial assistance to cover membership fees, dues, uniforms, council-sponsored programs and trips - and now Badge in a Box - and ensures every girl can participate in Girl Scouting.

Every gift matters, because every gift makes a difference.

Visit gswny.org/donate on Dec. 1st!

Thank you for supporting girls!

girl scouts
of western new york

Batavia Service Center
5 Jackson Street
Batavia, NY 14020

Buffalo Service Center
4433 Genesee St., Suite 101
Buffalo, NY 14225

Jamestown Service Center
2661 Horton Road
Jamestown, NY 14701

gswny.org
1.888.837.6410

Our Buffalo office has moved!

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



Community Partner Highlight: Paula's Donuts \$19,000 Donation

Paula's Donuts held a special two-day fundraiser and offered 50% of the sales which generated a \$19,000 donation to the GSWNY Council Opportunity Fund. Paula's created limited edition donuts made with real Girl Scout Cookies in mint chocolate and coconut caramel flavors. Girl Scouts of Western New York thanks Paula's Donuts and the WNY community for their generosity.



Sisters Alana & Mariah, Troop 92216



One girl dropped off donuts to her dad during his workday.



Abby's mom drove them from Rochester to get a taste!



Lots of people got a taste of both flavors, often with coffee.



Troop 31262 painted rocks and canvas for their Painting badge.



Troop 70214 has started their Silver Award by cleaning up the Starpoint Nature Trail (Lockport).

Save the Dates

UPCOMING HOLIDAY CLOSINGS FOR THE GSWNY SERVICE CENTERS AND SHOPS:

Thanksgiving: November 26 & 27, 2020

Winter Holiday Break:

Thursday, December 24, 2020 through Friday, January 1, 2021

Check out gswny.org for details and modified business hours.