

GIRL TALK

Summer/Fall 2020

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The Summer We Camped at Home virtual campfire and virtual friendship circle.



Girl Scout Strong

Thank you for your support, because of YOU we are Girl Scout Strong! In February, as COVID-19 swept in and altered just about every aspect of life, one constant that we could all count on was Girl Scouts. Take a look at just a few highlights of how Girl Scouts of Western New York (GSWNY) was able to pivot and continue serving girls virtually by viewing the photos below and corresponding stories throughout Girl Talk.



Girl Scouting At Home engages girls in a virtual troop meeting. Seen here: Troop 20155



The Summer We Camped At Home with girls virtually connecting with Girl Scout Summer Camp sisters.



The Virtual Girl Scout Gold Award Celebration virtually unites 2020 awardees and their families to celebrate their accomplishments.



The Girl Scout Cookie Program shifts to incorporate helping more first responders. Seen here: (Top) Troop 34203 raised money to donate 200 boxes to hospitals and nursing homes. (Bottom) Troop 70115 made a donation to the Niagara Falls Fire Department.



Girl Scouts participate in community service by making masks to help their neighbors stay safe. Seen here: Rylee from Troop 10193

CEO Remarks

Thank you to our volunteers and donors for your continued engagement, support, and commitment to serving girls each and every day, especially during this challenging time.

Although our community has been disrupted, Girl Scouts has not been cancelled and we remain **Girl Scout Strong**.

Thanks to our innovative volunteers, staff, girls, and community supporters, our programs continued through Girl Scouting at Home with thousands of girls locally and across the country who participated in exciting badge work and tuned into Trefoil TV, and in July we launched 24 new badges for the fall. Girl Scout Camp continued through The Summer We Camped at Home with weekly-themed Camp Activity Kits for girls to enjoy at home with their families, and with other campers in virtual sessions and campfires. We honored 38 Gold Award Girl Scouts in the 2020 Virtual Gold Award Celebration with award gift drop-offs and lawn signs; and we sang songs and shared memories during the Virtual Celebration of the 90th Anniversary of Camp Seven Hills.



Alison Wilcox,
CEO of GSWNY

Continued on next page

Girl Scouts all across WNY are changing the world in meaningful ways. Our commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion remains steadfast as a Council and National Girl Scout movement. In June, we were proud to join Girl Scout councils across the country to stand up and stand with our Black girls, Black members, families and communities. At GSWNY, we build girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place. In this moment of suffering in our nation, Girl Scouts commits to taking action against racism. We want to reiterate to all girls, volunteers, alums, supporters, families, and staff that we do not tolerate racial injustice and we know that Black Lives Matter. You can also sign the GSUSA pledge to stand against racism and pledge to work for a just society on gswny.org. Our newly formed Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee is committed to making GSWNY a more inclusive and welcoming environment for all of our members.

We will remain Girl Scout Strong and continue to work on behalf of girls and volunteers. We look forward to an exciting new Girl Scout year with the flexibility to shift between virtual and in-person programs and activities as recommended by the CDC (these will always be communicated in our regular Member Essentials and special COVID-19 Updates emails). Lastly, please stay connected and we look forward to a great year ahead.

Thank you for all you do!

-Alison Wilcox, GSWNY CEO

2020 Gold Award Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts of Western New York presented 38 young women with the Girl Scout Gold Award. Gold Award Girl Scouts stand out in their achievement of developing meaningful, sustainable solutions to challenges in their communities and the world. Given the impacts of COVID-19, the ceremony shifted to a Virtual Gold Award Celebration held on June 17, 2020, with an extended invitation to all 2020 honorees to attend the 2021 in-person Gold Award Ceremony. An extra special part of the Virtual Celebration was when two amazing 2020 Gold Award Girl Scouts, Ava Giangrasso and Zaria Gibson-Stevenson, shared about the impact of Girl Scouts on their lives. View a couple of excerpts from their remarks:



“Girl Scouts has had an amazing impact on me as a young woman. This project not only let me earn my Gold Award, but it also helped me find a new passion, that being music therapy. I never considered music therapy until my project, which gives me yet another reason to be thankful for Girl Scouts. My project opened doors, gave me new interests, and even a possible career choice. Because of my project, I am taking a college course on Healing with Music over the summer in hopes to learn more.” -**Ava Giangrasso**

“Through my Gold Award Project, there were so many things I learned about my leadership skills. I learned that people are always watching you. I am the first Girl Scout in my Service Unit to earn the Gold Award. I learned that by me doing my Gold Award Project, that it served as a motivator for my younger Girl Scout sisters to one day work and earn their Gold Awards. I also learned that a good leader must always ask for help, and thank their team for working with them to achieve goals.” -**Zaria Gibson-Stevenson**



A minimum of 80 volunteer hours was required in order to earn the award. Congratulations to this year's Gold Award Girl Scouts!



- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| Danielle Bellis | Nora Klipfel |
| Rachel Bernstein | Caroline Kowalski |
| Sophia Braithwaite | Corinne Lapp |
| Jessica Breth | Morgan Mahoney |
| Rachel Burt | Emma Nelk |
| Mikaela Campbell | Elizabeth Newell |
| Justine Cole | Carmen Ponce |
| Audrey DeVault | Madison Rettig |
| Mallory Edgell | Avery Roberts |
| Ellie Fairchild | Alexa Sass |
| Ava Giangrasso | Emma Smith |
| Zaria Gibson-Stevenson | Nicole Spiegel |
| Angelina Gonzalez | Sarah Stuhr |
| Lauren Gulick | Bridget Taylor |
| Aniyah Harris | Isabell Timm |
| Bridget Hersee | Arielle Tyrpak |
| Amber Hornquist | Alexandra Wilczek |
| Audrey Huff | Renee Wright |

2020 Girl Scout Scholarship Recipients

34 Girl Scouts received \$36,000 in scholarships at Girl Scouts of Western New York's 2020 Virtual Gold Award Celebration to help girls pursue higher education.

Education Scholarship Fund Recipients:

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Danielle Bellis, Akron | Jessica Dawson, Macedon | Kaitlyn Hoitt, Fairport | Leah Rosen, Rochester |
| Rachel Bernstein, Honeoye Falls | Maeve Devine, Lancaster | Amber Hornquist, Glenwood | Olivia Rosen, Rochester |
| Shauna Blochwitz, Akron | Elizabeth Fairchild, Honeoye Falls | Elizabeth Humphrey, Wilson | Isabella Sherron, Rochester |
| Annabella Bogart, Amherst | Christy Faller, Sanborn | Olivia Kiesel, Lewiston | Alexandra Snow, Buffalo |
| Sophia Braithwaite, Webster | Zaria Gibson-Stevenson, Rochester | Zoe Lucyshyn, North Chili | Nicole Spiegel, East Amherst |
| Rachel Burt, Webster | Angelina Gonzalez, Buffalo | Morgan Mahoney, Hamburg | Julia Wasley, Sanborn |
| Diega Ciruolo, Niagara Falls | Caeley Harsch, Akron | Hope Marshall, Jamestown | Renee Wright, Holland |
| Justine Cole, Livonia | Kaylin Hoffman, Williamsville | Rylee Penders, Honeoye Falls | |

The Kim Welsh Memorial Scholarship Recipients:

- Danielle Bellis, Akron
- Annabella Bogart, Amherst
- Zaria Gibson-Stevenson, Rochester
- Hope Marshall, Jamestown

Hans & Charlene Schoenenberger Golden Opportunity Scholarship Recipient:

- Alexandra Wilczek, Kenmore

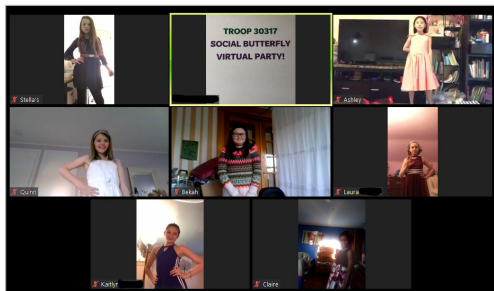
Ralph & Mary McLean Wilson Scholarship Recipients:

- Jessica Breth, Orchard Park
- Aniyah Harris, Buffalo

Girl Scouting at Home

Girl Scouting at Home delivered Girl Scout programming to thousands of girls both in-state and out-of-state with badge work for every level that coincided with our weekly Trefoil TV themes on STEM, outdoors, entrepreneurship, or life skills. Fifty-two Trefoil TV videos were created by staff, volunteers, girls, and partners between March and July with 82,000-plus views. GSWNY's Microsoft partner also provided separate virtual programming for girls. Additionally, more than 2,000 girls completed special program challenges and earned a program patch.

New for the fall, girls will be able to earn 24 new badges in automotive engineering, STEM career exploration, entrepreneurship, and civics to help girls further become the leaders our rapidly changing world needs.



Troop 30317 Social Butterfly Badge Party



Isabella from Troop 82074 working on her Simple Meals Badge



Troop 70720's first virtual meeting

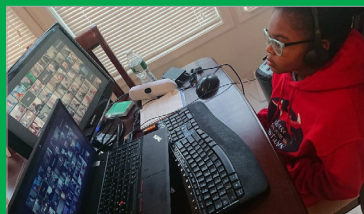


2020-2021 Programs COMING SOON!

The Summer We Camped at Home

Girls experienced Girl Scout camp reimagined with "The Summer We Camped at Home." This virtual six-week version of our beloved in-person Girl Scout summer camp introduced them to exciting weekly themes (earth, art, adventure, friendships, exploring, and action) and helped to keep girls connected with their fellow Girl Scout camp sisters and favorite camp counselors. The camp sessions were facilitated by camp staff with unique weekly-themed Camp Activity Kits for girls to enjoy with the virtual group and with their family at home.

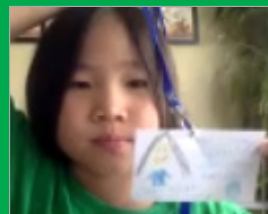
Other engaging virtual programs and activities included, **Virtual Campfires** every Thursday, the **Family Outdoor Challenge** each Monday, and **national GSUSA virtual events** in June and July on topics surrounding: Engaging Responsibility in the Outdoors in collaboration with The North Face, and Space Exploration: Mars to the Stars in collaboration with subject matter experts from our NASA-funded - Reaching for the Stars: NASA Science for Girl Scouts' program.



Aliyah joins a virtual campfire



Session 2 Cadettes try out screenprinting



Juniors earn the Detective Badge

Also, on July 20th, a virtual celebration was held for the 90 Year Anniversary of Camp Seven Hills. The evening was filled with enjoyment over summer camp pastimes with a photo slideshow of recent and longtime Camp Seven Hills campers, a history presentation of Camp Seven Hills, story time, and the singing of all the wonderful camp songs that made everyone at the virtual celebration feel like they were back around the camp fire at Seven Hills.



1996: Campfire at Seven Hills



1987: Seven Hills' Counselors in Training (CITs) on start of backpacking trip in Allegheny



2016: The horses take a dip in the Seven Hills lake



Remember When



S'mores around the campfire
Camp Oak Orchard - 1967

	FIRE-BUILDERS	COOKS	CLEANUP	HEALTH AID
MONDAY SUPPER	PUSSY	WILLOWS	FIREWORKS	BEECH-WOODERS
TUESDAY BREAKFAST	WILLOWS	CABIN-CRUISERS	FIREWORKS	WILLOWS
TUESDAY LUNCH	FIREWORKS	WILLOWS	CABIN-CRUISERS	PUSSY
TUESDAY SUPPER	CABIN-CRUISERS	FIREWORKS	WILLOWS	WILLOWS
WEDNESDAY BREAKFAST	PUSSY	WILLOWS	FIREWORKS	BEECH-WOODERS
WEDNESDAY LUNCH	WILLOWS	CABIN-CRUISERS	FIREWORKS	WILLOWS
WEDNESDAY SUPPER	WILLOWS	WILLOWS	CABIN-CRUISERS	FIREWORKS

Camp Kaper Chart from Troop 513
Camp Deerwood - 1964

GSUSA Campfire Sessions Schedule

Campfire Chats bring together powerful Girl Scout alums and supporters at the top of their fields to educate and inspire people who are striving for a better world. These virtual events showcase a variety of topics, from cooking to financial literacy and career advice. View upcoming and past sessions on [girlscouts.org](https://www.girlscouts.org).

Save the Dates

Virtual Recruitment Fall Events: Multiple Dates

GSWNY Service Centers and Shops

Closed for a Labor Day: Mon., September 7, 2020

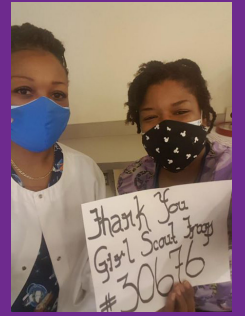
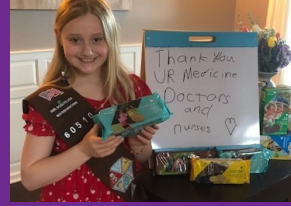
GSWNY 2020 Virtual Annual Meeting:

Thu., September 17, 2020

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

Thank you!

Thank you to all the amazing donors who purchased Girl Scout cookies to benefit girls and be donated to first responders!



Juliette Gordon Low Society

On July 9, we celebrated the Juliette Gordon Low Planned Giving Society by hosting a virtual event! Girl Scouts of Western New York was joined by members of our council, members of GSUSA, and the founding chair of the Society, Dianne Belk and her husband, Lawrence Calder. That evening we heard from GSWNY's CEO, Alison Wilcox and Dianne Belk about the importance of Planned Giving and how leaving a legacy can positively impact Girl Scouts for decades to come.

During the event six new members came forward to join the Juliette Gordon Low Society! We are so grateful to those who spent their evening with us and who made the thoughtful decision to leave a legacy with Girl Scouts of Western New York. Planned Giving leaves a profound impact on our council and we are so thrilled to share that we now have 62 Planned Giving donors! We thank those who have become members and those who have considered it. Your thoughtfulness means everything to us.



If you have considered leaving a planned gift or want more information, please reach out to Heather Reed at 716-935-6068 or heather.reed@gswny.org with any and all questions.

Girl Scouts of Western New York Tax ID to include in legal Planned Giving documents: 16-0743096


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

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

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

