

Kennee's Story – Paying It Forward

I have been a Girl Scout for six years. My first camp experience at Camp Shelly Ridge was when I was just 10 years old!

Back then, I was excited to attend day camp and meet Girl Scouts from other troops. I remember seeing all the Girl Scouts outside playing and having fun when I arrived. At camp, we did a lot of fun activities like hiking, swimming, crafts, roasting s'mores, and even making homemade facials! Learning how to make the facial mask was one of my favorite activities. We used simple ingredients, like oats, honey, and water.

I enjoyed the experience so much that I decided to branch out and go to overnight camp at Camp Wood Haven the next year. Being away for two weeks sounded like a lot of fun, but I was a little scared. I was excited, but after the first night, I became homesick. I remember sitting in the dining hall eating and crying because I missed my family so much.

One of the camp counselors saw me crying and came over to encourage me. She said it would be okay and suggested I write a letter to my mom. She told me I would have so much fun if I stayed. She was right. I had tons of fun and broke out of my shell! I was even able to use my experience to help a younger Girl Scout who was also home sick. Like me, she was crying in the dining hall, so I found the courage to walk over and talk to her. I encouraged her the way the camp counselor encouraged me, and she stayed too! I made sure to check in with her during the week to make sure she had a good time. We are still friends and remain close to this day.

Thank you for helping girls like me have a fun place to learn, build courage, and realize they can do anything they put their minds to!