



100
Years

> **CELEBRATE
GSEP'S 100TH
BIRTHDAY!**

> **Girl Scouts selling
COOKIES
FOR 100 YEARS**

> **We're ready. ARE YOU?
CAMP IS BACK!**

> gseep shops

Get ready to celebrate!

2017 is the 100th anniversary
of Girl Scouts selling cookies!



Starter Kits

Every girl
deserves
her own!



Starter Kits include everything you need to have a great year in Girl Scouting. Simply select your official uniform item (sash, vest, or tunic), troop numerals, your choice of a *Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting* or a Journey book, an American Flag patch, an insignia tab, council ID set, and items from a list of official essentials. After your purchase has reached \$50, grab your **FREE BAG** and let the adventure begin!

LOCATIONS

Shelly Ridge
215.564.2030

Lehigh Valley
610.791.2411

Valley Forge
800.355.3847

Jane Seltzer
215.745.1717

Delaware County
610.328.3100

Berks County
855.876.0761

Mark Your Calendar!

There's always something new happening at your local shop.

January

Cookie Kick-Off
10% off cookie merchandise
day of kick-off

February

Girl Scouts
Cookie Season
World Thinking Day
Valentine's Day
Patches

March

Girl Scouts Week
Bday Celebration
Girl Scouts Sunday
Girl Scouts
Sabbath

April

Earth Day
Girl Scouts
Volunteer & Leader
Appreciation Week

May

End of Troop Year
Get Ready for Camp
Starter Kits
Bridging & Awards

June

Get Ready for Camp
Camp Care
Packages

July

Camp Care
Packages
Camp Fun –
Clothing/Merch

August

Starter Kits
Get Ready for
New Troop Year

September

Starter Kits
Back to Troop

October

New Troop Year
Starter Kits
Juliette Gordon Low
Bday

November

Happy
Thanksgiving

December

Holiday Season

WAYS TO SHOP

If you wish to place a phone order,
call 610.933.7555, ext. 1401.
If you wish to email an order,
send to retail@gsep.org.

SUBSCRIBE

Look for our monthly retail updates, events, and special offers in GSEP News. If you haven't subscribed yet, go to gsep.org and opt in to receive email updates from us.

GIRL SCOUT ONLINE SHOP

Shopping has never been easier! Browse shop offerings, uniforms, books, awards, Girl Scout gifts, and other Girl Scout items. You'll find something for every Girl Scout grade level or volunteer.

www.girlscoutshop.com



Once a Girl Scout, Always a Girl Scout

“As a member of Girl Scouts, no matter what age or level, you are part of one of the most inspiring and historically important organizations for women and girls in the world. Who wouldn’t want to stay involved? There is great potential for young alumnae to network and connect with other women in our community. Additionally, remaining an active alumna provides the opportunity to give back to an organization that gave so much to you as a girl!”

- Alexia I., sophomore, American University in Washington, D.C.,
and a 2015 National Young Woman of Distinction

**Join today! Visit gsep.org/alumnae
to check out upcoming events and
different ways to remain involved.**



It's a culinary experience unlike any other.

Once a year, Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania, ArtsQuest, and area restaurants come together to celebrate a Girl Scout classic—cookies! You'll sample many dishes and desserts, all featuring your favorite Girl Scout cookies. Whether you love Thin Mints, Caramel DeLites or Peanut Butter Patties, you're sure to find something to please the palate at this one-of-a-kind event.

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

610.332.3378 | www.steelstacks.org

Benefits Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania and ArtsQuest Arts Education Fund



Feb. 26, 2017, 1-3pm
ArtsQuest Center at SteelStacks
101 Founders Way, Bethlehem, PA



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on the cover

Photograph by Angela Agosto

2017 marks two very important centennial celebrations—it's the 100th birthday of GSEP and 100 years of Girl Scouts selling cookies! Turn to page 18 to take a look back at the last 100 years.

▼ program guide

Everything all in one publication! Turn to page 55 to read about all the fun activities happening this spring and summer!



discover

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spark

spring/summer 2017 issue

Spark is a publication of the Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania and is published twice yearly.

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Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania (GSEP) serves close to 40,000 girls, ages 5–17, in Berks, Bucks, Carbon, Chester, Delaware, Lehigh, Montgomery, Northampton, and Philadelphia counties. We are a volunteer-based, nonprofit organization with more than 15,000 adult volunteers. Nationally, nearly 2.8 million girls and adult volunteers enjoy the Girl Scout experience.

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GSEP NEWS

Would you like to receive our monthly e-newsletter and other GSEP updates via email? It's a great way for you to stay up-to-date on upcoming events. Sign up at gsep.org by clicking Contact Us at the top of the home page. To address the problems of SPAM, many Internet Service Providers (ISPs) and email systems now block or filter email that is not from a "safe sender." Please add communications@gsep.org to your accepted senders or contacts list if you wish to receive this information.

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girl scouts
of eastern
pennsylvania

notes from kim

Cookie season is upon us, and this time around it's going to be doubly sweet! In 2017, we're celebrating not one, but two, momentous occasions—the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts selling our beloved cookies and Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania's 100th birthday!

We're planning to turn up 2017, beginning with the specially designed 100th birthday logo on the cover of this issue. We think it represents the fun spirit of our council, and we hope you love it as much as we do.

As for a certain S'mores cookie that will make its highly anticipated debut in January, we're pretty certain it's going to be a game changer. Leave it up to Girl Scouts to take a campfire favorite and transform it into a delicious treat. Talk about some smart cookies!

As part of our year-long celebration, we'll also be highlighting our council, our work, and our awesome Girl Scouts, like the 100 girls who ran, swam, and biked their way through a rigorous triathlon as their families

cheered from the sidelines. In response to such a great turnout, we'll be hosting the first GSEP Trefoil Fitness Challenge in 2017-2018, featuring three events to encourage girls to get out and move (p. 14)!

Other amazing girls in our council led community service projects to earn their Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards (p. 41-46). Their projects were all about helping others and will leave you feeling humbled and inspired.

As you'll see, we're celebrating 100 years throughout this magazine, too, including our cover story, which features a timeline of great moments in GSEP's history. Check out how the cookie boxes have transformed over the years (p. 18-19)!

Finally, this issue includes two very important guides: GSEP's Program Guide, which is your go-to resource for programs designed to bring out your inner G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader). And, if you flip the magazine over, you'll find the 2017 Camp Guide on the other side. We bet the lure of the great outdoors will bring you back for another great summer of camp! Here's to a safe and healthy holiday season. Happy New Year!

Yours in Girl Scouting,



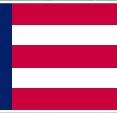
Kim E. Fraites-Dow
Chief Executive Officer
Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania





GIRL SCOUT DAYS *at the*

NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER



Independence Mall ★ 525 Arch Street ★ Philadelphia, PA 19106

The National Constitution Center is the best place for Girl Scouts to discover more about American history, government, and citizenship. Scout Days feature guided tours, engaging quiz games, outdoor flag ceremonies, hands-on artifact workshops, activity tables, and more, all designed to help scouts earn badges and fulfill Journey requirements.

Personalized agendas and Scout Day activity packets will guide Scouts through the day's programs and events.

PLUS: All Scouts receive a great National Constitution Center Scout Day Fun Patch!

PRICING

SCOUTS: \$14 ADULTS: \$12

One free adult for every 10 Girl Scouts.

Includes museum admission and special Scout Day Programs; Lunch is not included.

GIRL SCOUT DAYS:

- ★ NOVEMBER 12, 2016
- ★ MARCH 11, 2017
- ★ NOVEMBER 4, 2017
- ★ MARCH 10, 2018

Visit constitutioncenter.org/scouts for a list of Legacy Badges and Journeys offered, sample agendas and other helpful information.



BOOK YOUR GIRL SCOUT DAY EXPERIENCE TODAY!

Call 215.409.6800 or email groupsales@constitutioncenter.org.

SHOUT- OUTS

A special shout-out to our generous donors! Your investment will help us bring the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to more girls, enabling them to discover what makes the sparkle, connect with their community, and take action to make the world a better place! Help us say thank you to these contributors of \$5,000 and above* whose investment helps Girl Scouts ensure that every girl reaches her fullest potential.

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* Contributions made between October 2015 – September 2016



for more information or to donate

Visit our secure website at gsep.org or call 215.564.2030, ext. 1039



Advancing STEM with Exelon Foundation and PECO



When it comes to supporting Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania, the Exelon Foundation and PECO have always stepped up! This year was no exception. In fact, the two companies far exceeded our expectations with a \$250,000 investment to GSEP's Campaign for Girls, the biggest donation our council has received to date. PECO and Exelon's gift will enable our girls to experience more STEM programs

at camp, expose them to women leaders in STEM fields, and help provide STEM education to girls in underserved communities.

Girl Scout Kenne'e W., 16, of Troop 98010 recently had the opportunity to ask Steve Solomon, president of the Exelon Foundation, and Romona Riscoe Benson, director of corporate relations at PECO, about how supporting GSEP became one of their top priorities.



Q. Kenne'e: What sparked the Exelon Foundation and PECO's interest in GSEP and what led to the Campaign for Girls donation?

Steve: Exelon Foundation is a longstanding supporter of Girl Scouts. STEM education is a focus of our organization, and we loved that GSEP was starting a STEM-focused camp. We believe that if you get girls engaged in STEM at a young age, they may choose careers in the field and even possibly come back to work for Exelon or PECO!

Romona: PECO is also a longstanding partner of GSEP because we know it provides an important service for girls. As a company, we have an interest in investing in Girl Scout opportunities, particularly to girls coming from underserved communities. STEM is significant to us, especially as it relates to developing a workforce pipeline and the underrepresentation of girls in STEM fields.

Q. Kenne'e: Did you have a connection to Girl Scouts before the partnership?

Steve: My wife and daughter were Girl Scouts. My wife was a troop leader, and both my wife

and my daughter have worked at a local Girl Scout camp. I guess you can say that Girl Scouts is in our blood. I've been able to see firsthand the great work the organization does.

Romona: I grew up in New York and have a personal history in scouting as a Girl Scout. Those experiences were important for me. They helped me create a foundation around responsibility, leadership, and understanding how to work with others. I even credit my early project management skills to my involvement in scouting.

Q. Kenne'e: How do you think the partnership between GSEP and PECO will change the lives of girls?

Steve: The Girl Scout experience at camp and beyond will change the lives of many girls. My wife and daughter both comment regularly on how the experiences they had growing up as Girl Scouts really helped shape who they are. I hope that girls consider going into that field. As you can imagine right now, the STEM field is in great need of young women and minorities, and Exelon is very much a supporter of diversity and inclusion.

Romona: We made this donation in the hope that our support helps transform lives.

We believe it will encourage girls to explore new ways of looking at life, be the best students they can be, develop leadership qualities, and make positive transitions into adulthood.

Kenne'e: If you could say anything to girls like me hoping to make a difference, what would it be?

Steve: I would say take advantage of trying many different things in life and maybe you'll find that one thing you are passionate about and want to pursue as a career. Girl Scouts really opens up possibilities for young women. It makes the impossible possible.

Romona: To make a difference, I would tell girls to see where they can improve, enhance, or add to something in a positive way that will help that thing, area, person, or community move in a positive direction.

Kenne'e: I think this donation will help girls like me, because I'm really interested in the STEM field. This could change a lot—make girls more confident and give us more opportunities.

Steve: I feel exactly the same way.



▲ FROM LEFT: Mary Stengel Austen, Romona Riscoe Benson, Kim E. Fraites-Dow, and Steve Solomon with Girl Scouts at the ribbon-cutting event at Shelly Ridge Camp.



When you support Girl Scouts, you change lives.

“Not only have I had all these amazing memories and met all these amazing people, but I’ve also learned a lot. I’ve learned how to be a good friend, how to adapt to new situations, and most importantly, I’ve learned how to be myself.”

Gabby R., Troop 50700

Your gift to Girl Scouts provides the opportunity for girls to achieve their dreams by:

- Experiencing camping and outdoor adventure programs
- Developing leadership skills
- Providing access to STEM and health and wellness programming

Your Dollars in Action

- \$15 provides Girl Scout Journey books to two girls
- \$25 provides membership and troop dues for one girl in need of financial assistance
- \$50 supports STEM education for troops
- \$100 supports one troop in completing a Journey and earning its Journey badges
- \$250 provides one girl with the opportunity to attend summer camp

Together, we can continue to build tomorrow’s leaders by bringing the Girl Scout Leadership Experience to more girls. Your tax-deductible gift helps girls with big dreams become strong women who lead by example and make the world a better place!



make the girls in your community a priority today!

To make a donation, visit gsep.org or call 888.664.9770, ext. 1602.

GSEP

SIGNATURE

EVENTS

Get ready to share stories, bond with friends, and experience fun adventures at camp! There's no limit to the amazing things you can do!

YOUNGER GIRL PROGRAMS (GRADES K-5)

Get Your Body Movin'

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 7PM–
SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 11AM

Camp Laughing Waters, Gilbertsville

Grades: 4–5

Cost: \$65 / girl
\$40 / adult

Winter blues got you down? Then it's time to fire up those muscles and wake up for spring! Let's get moving! Come together with other Girl Scouts and take a hike, then challenge yourself to reach the top of the rock wall. Even enjoy some Zumba!

Super Summer Celebration

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 7PM–
SUNDAY, MAY 28, 11AM

Camp Wood Haven, Pine Grove

Grades: 2–5

Cost: \$65 / girl
\$50 / adult

Celebrate the return of summer at a super celebration! Enjoy hiking, crafts, sports and sing-a-longs, and even swimming if the weather's good!

OLDER GIRL PROGRAMS (GRADES 6-12)

Get Your Body Movin'

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 7PM–
SUNDAY, MARCH 12, 11AM

Camp Laughing Waters, Gilbertsville

Grades: 6–12

Cost: \$65 / girl
\$40 / adult

Winter blues got you down? Then it's time to fire up those muscles and wake up for spring! Let's get moving! Come together with other Girl Scouts and take a hike, then challenge yourself to reach the top of the rock wall. Even enjoy some Zumba!

Super Summer Celebration

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 7PM–
SUNDAY, MAY 28, 11AM

Camp Wood Haven, Pine Grove

Grades: 6–12

Cost: \$65 / girl
\$50 / adult

Celebrate the return of summer at a super celebration! Enjoy hiking, crafts, sports and sing-a-longs, and even swimming if the weather's good!

OPEN TO ALL AGES

Family Camp

FRIDAY, MAY 26, 7PM–
MONDAY, MAY 29, 10AM

OR FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 7PM–
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 10AM

Camp Mosey Wood, Lake Harmony

Cost: \$90 / person

Enjoy a weekend of fun games, activities, and relaxation for your entire family!

Mountain House 75th Anniversary

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12, 10AM–4PM

Camp Mountain House, Allentown

Cost: \$25 / person

Mountain House is celebrating its 75th anniversary, and we're inviting you to join the fun! We've got gaga, archery (grades 2+), nature walks, crafts, and more. Unplug and spend a day outdoors with us.



Check out the full descriptions of these Signature Events in the Program Guide beginning on page 55.

girl scouts
take the lead

100
Years

SUPPORT AMAZING WOMEN MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR COMMUNITY TAKE THE LEAD 2017

Take the Lead honors amazing women in your community who inspire others around them to make the extraordinary happen. Each year Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania honors women you nominate at Take the Lead, our signature fundraising event.

GREATER PHILADELPHIA*
Tuesday, March 7, 2017
Hyatt at The Bellevue

BERKS COUNTY
Thursday, March 30, 2017
Crowne Plaza Reading

LEHIGH VALLEY
Tuesday, April 25, 2017
Sands Event Center Bethlehem
NEW LOCATION!

**Includes Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia counties.*

ANNOUNCING AN OUTSTANDING NEW CLASS OF HONOREES FOR TAKE THE LEAD 2017

GREATER PHILADELPHIA



Carol Aichele
Cofounder
Center for Community Solutions,
West Chester University



Carmen Febo-San Miquel, M.D.
Executive Director
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2017 Take the Lead Alumnae Award

“The Lucky Thirteen” Wyomissing International Troop #60

LEHIGH VALLEY



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MSN, RN, NEA-BC**
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questions?



To learn more about Take the Lead 2017, purchase tickets, become a sponsor, or purchase program ads, visit gsep.org/support/take-the-lead or call 215.564.2030, ext. 1070



girl scouts
of eastern
pennsylvania

NEW for 2017-2018!

GSEP TREFOIL FITNESS CHALLENGE

Presented by **Capital BLUE** 

TOUGH COOKIE ADVENTURE CHALLENGE

Saturday, September 9, 2017 • All ages (5 and older)
Camp Laughing Waters

Bring your friends! Grab your parents and siblings, too! Get a taste for adventure racing by taking to the trails of Camp Laughing Waters with your team. Using a map to navigate your way from point to point, everyone will be challenged to a fun course of obstacles. Stay for the day and experience what Girl Scout camp is all about! Want the full camp experience? Stay at camp the night before! Registration opens April 16. For more information, visit www.gsep.org.

ALSO COMING...

THANKS-A-LOT TROT

Friday, November 24, 2017 (1 mile and 5k options)

THIN MINT SPRINT

Spring 2018 (5k Run/Walk)



Building Courage, Confidence & Character with 2 Great Walking Tours of Historic Philadelphia



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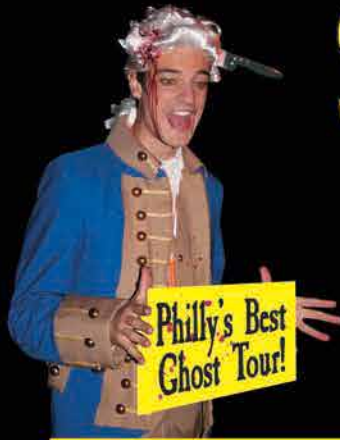
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Chicago Tribune



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"Frightfully Fun."

The Philadelphia Inquirer

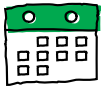
www.TheConstitutional.com/scout
215.525.1776

Group Tours are available year-round with advance reservations. We also offer Scavenger Hunts. Girl Scout Group Rates are available for parties of 25 or more.



Get ready, girls! In 2017, we're celebrating 100 years of Girl Scouts selling cookies! Whether planning a trip with your troop, traveling to another country, or even spending the summer at camp, the Cookie Program can help you get there!

Earn Adventure Credits to use at camp, Older Girl Travel Credits to travel the world, or cool recognition items like your own Instamax Camera and Echo WiFi room speaker!



mark your calendars

JANUARY 19, 2017

Cookie Program starts

FEBRUARY 24–26, 2017

National Girl Scout
Cookie Weekend

MARCH 12, 2017

Cookie Program Ends

2ND WEEKEND IN JUNE*

500 Club Celebration

JUNE*

Mystery Tour

* 500 Club Celebration and
Mystery Tour dates are tentative

operation cookies from home

Operation Cookies from Home gives customers the chance to purchase cookies and donate them to military men and women. GSEP works hand-in-hand with the USO to ensure that each donated box makes its way to military personnel. Last year girls donated over 6,000 cases! What will it be in 2017?

the buy five club

The Buy Five Club is back! Customers who purchase five packages of cookies can join the GSEP Buy Five Club. At the end of the program, five members will be selected to win a special prize!

choose your own adventure!

The top cookie seller in each grade level will be awarded with a Choose Your Own Adventure Package! Package options will be released at the end of the program.

troop 100

In honor of 100 years of Girl Scouts selling cookies, one lucky troop from EVERY council across the country will win \$100 each. One VERY lucky troop will win \$3,000 to support their cookie project!

- Step 1: Set a troop goal and share the plan for your cookie money
- Step 2: Earn a Cookie Business badge
- Step 3: As a troop, ask 100 NEW customers to buy cookies
- Step 4: Bling your booth.

Once all four steps are completed, girls should ask their troop leader to help them submit their entry at girlscouts.org/cookie troop100 to unlock a patch and enter for a chance to win cash to invest in their cookie Take Action or service project.

New Girl Scout

S'mores™ cookies!

One more
way to
support
her next
adventure.



NEW!


girl scouts
of eastern
pennsylvania



Yes! Now there's one more delicious way to support her next adventure—our new crispy graham cookie double dipped in yummy crème icing and finished with a scrumptious chocolatey coating (whoa!). Every package of *Girl Scout S'mores™* cookies you buy helps girls in your community have fun, try new experiences, learn essential skills, and grow in big, life-changing ways.

Find your cookies at girlscoutcookies.org.



The GIRL SCOUTS® name and mark, including GIRL SCOUT COOKIES®, THIN MINTS®, TREFOILS®, GIRL SCOUT COOKIE SALE®, GIRL SCOUT COOKIE PROGRAM®, and GIRL SCOUT S'MORES™; the Trefoil design; and all associated trademarks and designs are owned by Girl Scouts of the USA.



Years GSEP

It's GSEP's 100th birthday and the 100th anniversary of Girl Scouts selling cookies! In honor of these two sweet centennials, we've created a timeline of some noteworthy moments from across our council.

Girl Scouts baked and sold cookies for the first time at the Philadelphia Gas & Electric Co. Four years later, GSUSA adopted the annual Cookie Program and made it a national program. (Photo courtesy of the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission)

1932



Cadette Troop 665 from Morrisville, Pa., used cookie proceeds to visit the birthplace of Girl Scouts founder Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, GA.

1972

1957

Anita Chaney and her troop, "the Lucky 13" of Berks County, traveled to Europe by boat, becoming one of the first international Girl Scout troops. They visited nine countries over 81 days and traveled a total of 4,000 miles.



Do you recognize any of these historic cookie boxes?

Cookie box images from collection of Girl Scouts of the USA. Used by permission.



1930s



1940s



1950s



1960s



1970s



1980s



1990s



1994

GSEP volunteer Susan Groff (pictured middle) sold cookies with her troop to fund a summer trip to camp!

Volunteer Linda Lane, of Philadelphia, took Girl Scouts from Troops 917, 91053, and 91444 to South Africa using money earned from the cookie program.

2010



2016

GSEP honored Wernersville resident Ronnie Backenstoe, who has been a Girl Scout for 84 years.





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A WHOLE NEW WORLD

BY JENNA E., TROOP 63486



There was nothing but sand as far as I could see, and the lack of pollution meant the night sky was full of stars. It's a memory that is etched in my mind."

In July, I traveled with a group of 10 Girl Scouts to Morocco. We started our trip in the village of Imlil, where we visited small shops and slept in a guesthouse. Next up was a journey to the top of Mount Toubkal, the tallest mountain in North Africa. After what felt like endless trekking, several cases of altitude sickness, and some of the most exhausting days I have ever experienced, half of us were able to reach the summit. It was one of the most difficult

challenges I have ever faced, but I am so glad that I pushed myself to make it to the top! It's a feeling that I will never forget.

Afterward, we traveled to the Sahara Desert, where we rode camels across sand dunes and slept in an outdoor tent before finishing our trip in the city of Marrakesh. One notable experience was sitting in the dunes after sunset. There was nothing but sand as far as I could see, and the lack of pollution meant the night sky was full of stars. It's a memory that is etched in my mind.

If you are a girl interested in traveling, I cannot stress how highly I recommend exploring options for GSUSA Destinations. This was my second destination and the fourth country I've visited with Girl Scouts, and I would not trade these experiences for anything. Morocco was my last opportunity to travel as a Girl Scout, and because of that experience and my previous trips, I am ready to take on my next big adventure: college! Thanks to Girl Scouts, there are many girls out there, just like me, who are ready to climb their own mountains.



we want to hear from you!



Has your troop taken a trip regionally, nationally, or internationally? Send us your stories, pictures, and videos to travel@gsep.org so you can inspire more Girl Scouts to travel!

COUNCIL TRAVEL



Girl Scouts are always expanding their horizons, whether exploring a city using their navigation skills or flying thousands of miles to visit another country. GSEP's Travel Pathway offers girls the opportunity to explore new places, learn about different cultures, and broaden their worlds.

Is GSEP's Travel Pathway for you? We think so. Come test your courage, confidence, and character as you meet people from all over the world and develop decision-making and money-management skills. You can even fund your trip through cookie sales using the Older Girl Travel Plan. There's a whole world waiting to be explored. Get out there!

GSEP 2017/2018 TRIPS



COLUMBUS, OHIO – FALL 2017

On October 4-8, 2017, the **Girl Scout National Convention** (G.I.R.L. 2017) will bring together women and girls from all over the country as we celebrate girl power! This premier event is for any girl who wants to make the world a better place. At the convention, we'll discuss the issues affecting today's girls, share ideas, form lasting friendships, and hear

from inspiring speakers. Did we mention you'll have a whole lot of fun, too? Girls who are interested must apply, so keep an eye out for details in GSEP News!



PAX LODGE, LONDON – SUMMER 2018

Be dazzled by the sights of London as you spend time exploring the rich history, tradition, and culture of this city across the pond. Visit iconic London locations like Big Ben, Buckingham Palace, and the Tower of London. Visit Pax Lodge, the WAGGGS World Center located in the prestigious Hampstead Village. While at Pax Lodge, you'll get to participate

in international girl programming and meet sister Scouts from all around the world! Get ready for a week of London fun and scouting magic!



mark your calendars!

Destinations and Council Travel Webinar

TUESDAY, MARCH 28, 6-7PM

Pack your bags and get your passport ready! It's time for an adventure! Come learn about the amazing solo travel opportunities available for Older Girls. You'll hear about GSUSA Destinations, why you should go, and what types of trips are available. You'll also hear about upcoming GSEP council-sponsored trips and how you can apply. Get out there! Register for the webinar via online registration.

Questions?



Send an email to travel@gsep.org!

don't forget



Funding for your travel begins with you! Earn credit through the Older Girl Travel Plan by selling Girl Scout cookies, then apply it toward the cost of your council-sponsored trip.

GSEP Goes Global

In the last edition of *Spark*, we shared our excitement as some of our girls prepared for the trip of a lifetime to Costa Rica. Here's the story of their amazing adventure!

WRITTEN BY NOOR B., TROOP 7102

Pura Vida (pronounced poo-rah vee-dah) is a phrase that cannot be translated. It can only be felt. Meaning "pure life," *pura vida* is also expressed beyond its literal meaning. It is the definition of the *Tico* (Costa Rican) spirit. *Pura Vida* is said to describe happiness and positivity. "How was your day?" "*Pura Vida.*" It is a greeting, a farewell, and an expression of happiness. Throughout my trip, I saw the true meaning of the phrase through the people of Costa Rica.

I felt the essence of *Pura Vida* through a young boy named Sebastian. Throughout the trip, he became known as my "Costa Rican boyfriend" after he sent kisses my way. I also felt the meaning of *Pura Vida* after receiving an owl key chain from a little curly haired boy. No words were spoken or needed. Instead, there was just a feeling of generosity and gratitude. I even felt *Pura Vida* after a few mishaps on our journey, because Freddy, our tour guide, kept cool the whole way through.

Going to Costa Rica was amazing! I knew nothing about its rich culture other than rice and beans and that there was a town called *Pura Vida*. Costa Rica is filled with beautiful birds, lush, green forests, and mouthwatering tropical fruit. I enjoyed fresh coconut water at a roadside shop.

While we were there, we planted mangrove trees along Costa Rica's Pacific Coast to prevent erosion



▲ ABOVE: Noor B. (second from right) with former GSEP staff member Joan Hannahoe (far left) and two of her sister scouts under a waterfall in Costa Rica. ▼ BELOW: The girls take a break along the Costa Rican shoreline.

Pura Vida is a phrase that cannot be translated. It can only be felt.

and flooding. We also visited a coffee and cacao plantation to see how the country's finest products are made. Zip lining, visiting a waterfall, and relaxing in hot springs were a few of our fun outings. After all this adventure, I understood the spirit of Costa Rica—*Pura Vida!*



A TIMELINE OF WORLD THINKING DAY

Don't forget to show your Girl Scout pride this World Thinking Day by wearing a Girl Scout scarf on February 22 – share your pictures on social media with #scarfday!

1926

Girl Guide and Girl Scout Delegates from all over the world meet for the fourth World Conference and agree that there should be a special day for Girl Scouts around the world to acknowledge and give thanks for our international movement. This special day will be “Thinking Day” and celebrated each year on February 22.

1999

At the 30th World Conference, delegates decide that a name change is needed to express the international aspects of this special day. The word “World” is added and World Thinking Day is born.

1932

During the seventh World Conference, a Belgian delegate points out that birthday celebrations often involve gifts. From then on, girls begin showing their appreciation of Thinking Day by hosting fundraisers and collecting donations. The fundraising will fund WAGGGS and help keep the Girl Scout movement alive.

2017

The theme for 2017's World Thinking Day is announced: Grow! Celebrate the opportunity to grow and connect with more people at worldthinkingday.org.



Have you or your troop visited a WAGGGS World Centre?

Did you celebrate World Thinking Day? Share your stories at travel@gsep.org!

Girls of Eastern Pennsylvania, you are our inspiration.

You are proof that girls can do anything.

You exemplify the essential traits that make up the Girl Scout DNA. You are a:

Go-getter. Your desire to make the world a better place is inspiring and contagious.

Innovator. Build a rocket. Create a community service project. Design a badge. You're always a step ahead and thinking outside the box.

Risk-Taker. From zip lining across the lake to taking the lead by speaking in front of a crowd of hundreds, you aren't afraid to fail and always jump back up.

Leader. On the soccer field, in the choir, and the classroom. You're courageous and confident and inspire everyone around you.

G.I.R.L.

GO-GETTER

INNOVATOR

RISK-TAKER

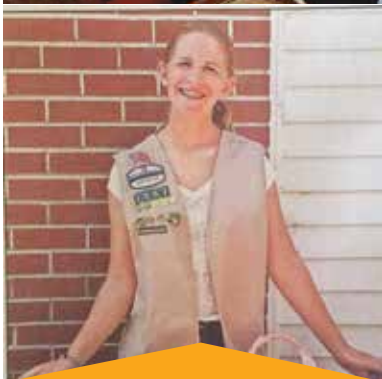
LEADER

What's missing from Spark? **YOU!**

Want to see you and your troop on the pages of *Spark* and in our other communications? Send us your photos! We love sharing all the amazing things you are doing throughout council.



Troops 41221 and 41553 visited a nursing home and helped decorate a Victorian dollhouse with "snow," festive garland, and a Christmas tree. The girls ended their day by singing carols with the residents.



Isabella H. of Troop 41825 started a petition to save Scholastic's "Kids Are Authors" competition. The petition is designed to help more kids publish stories they write and illustrate themselves.



To complete their World of Girls Journey, **Brownie Troop 6143** decided to take action and make a donation to Alex's Lemonade Stand, a nonprofit that raises money to fight childhood cancer. The girls donated \$250 and funded troop activities from proceeds they earned during the 2016 Cookie Season!



Maddie B. of Troop 2067 recently completed her Silver Award Project. She spent nearly two years working with the Doylestown Food Pantry to create healthy meal plans for families in low-income communities.



Gold Award recipient Akanksha B. of Troop 1660 was named Berks County Outstanding Young Woman. She is passionate about the STEM field and is one of two girls in an advanced placement physics class at her school. She is also interested in photography and dance and is a member of the concert choir and band. Photo: Lauren A. Little, Reading Eagle



creative corner

Recycle your Spark magazines the crafty way!



crafty envelopes

'Tis the season for sending notes, gifts, and special messages to friends and family. Making your own envelopes is a simple, inexpensive, and environmentally conscious way to personalize your letters.

SUPPLIES

Spark magazines

Glue

Scissors

A paper grocery bag (optional)

An already-made envelope

A pencil to trace your template

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Pick an envelope that is the same shape and size of the envelope you want to create. Carefully undo each piece of the envelope and trace it onto your chosen page of *Spark*. Cut out the shape you just traced.
- 2 Using the old envelope as a guide, fold the sides and the bottom of your cutout inward. Recycle the original envelope. Using a glue stick, seal the sides and bottom of your new envelope.
- 3 Now create your envelope liner (the brown insert in the photos above). Outline the envelope with the top flap open on another page of *Spark*, a brown paper bag, or any paper you like. Cut out the liner you just traced.
- 4 Insert the liner into the envelope; trim edges for fit. Glue liner in place. Let dry before using.



send us pictures of your envelopes!



/GirlScoutsEPenn



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GSEP interest patrols

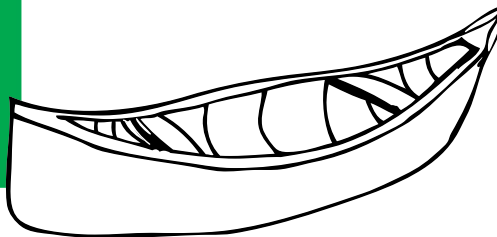
Currently accepting new members!

Mean Green Canoe Team

Grades: 8–12

Contact: Barbara Curtin
610.896.7365
curtinbarb@aol.com

Join one of the most established interest groups in the country! 2017 marks 40 years that the Mean Green Canoe Team has helped teach leadership and confidence to young women, all while helping them become great canoe paddlers. No experience necessary! Just have an interest in flat-water canoe racing, be ready to make a weekly commitment to teamwork, and be available to participate in the General Clinton Canoe Regatta in Bainbridge, New York, over Memorial Day weekend (May 26–29, 2017). Participation in team events is prioritized based on commitment and attendance, as well as capability and skills compatibility. Team members must attend practices every Sunday afternoon rain or shine (except Easter Sunday) from mid-March through May 21, 2017, on the Schuylkill River in Linfield. Mandatory events: organizational meeting on March 7, 2017, at 7 p.m.; pool practice on March 12; and an overnight at Camp Laughing Waters on March 18–19. A \$100 fee covers the pool practice, overnight, and all but two meals during the Regatta weekend.



Dance-A-Lot Patrol

Grades: 6–12

Contact: Bridget Davis
610.760.1887
rodbritbreeze@yahoo.com

Do you wanna dance?! Join GSEP's newest Interest Patrol, the Dance-A-Lot Patrol, and learn different styles of dance from throughout the ages. This year, the patrol got the opportunity to perform a jazz/hip-hop dance routine along the route of the Philadelphia Thanksgiving Day parade. Other great activities for the spring are master classes featuring contemporary, modern, jazz, and ballet. We'll also be attending a performance by Alvin Ailey Dance Theater. Master classes will be held the third Tuesday of each month at Ms. Carol's Center for Dance in West Philadelphia.





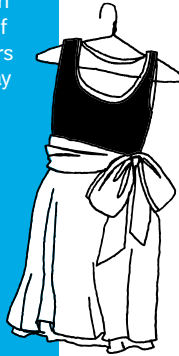
Fashion Patrol

Grades: 6–12

Contact: Karen Zimmerman
610.760.1887
kzsews@rcn.com

Fashionistas, discover your personal style and meet friends who share your passion for unique apparel. Pick from a variety of fashion workshops and learn about careers in the fashion industry by going to runway shows, colleges, theater performances, and museums.

Spring 2017 Workshops:
January: Baby Bundles
February: Fibers Workshop
March: Princess Tea Party
April: Illustration
May: Fashion Runway



how does an interest patrol work?

Patrols act as special-interest troops. The patrol leader is a troop leader, and the girls are all Girl Scouts with a common interest based on the theme of the patrol. All of the same rules governing troops apply to patrols, which means it's easy to get started once you have two adults and some excited girls!

how do i start an interest patrol?

Find an exciting topic, a group of interested girls, and two adults ready to lead the charge! Then email us at girlprogram@gsep.org, and we'll get you started on your next adventure.

GSEP Heritage Patrol

Grades: 6–12

Contact: Betsy Cutler
610.395.2721
Betsy2955@gmail.com
www.gsepheritagepatrol.com

Respect your heritage! Entering its 33rd year, the Heritage Patrol works with community groups committed to preserving and sharing every aspect of their Lehigh Valley history. Patrol members organize and implement special events open to all Brownie and Junior Girl Scouts in November, February, March, and April.



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Work at camp!



Name: Jennifer Harrell, RN

Camp Name: Nurse Reds

Camp: Shelly Ridge Resident and Day Camp

Number of Years with Camp: 1

Q. What brought you to work at a GSEP camp?

A. I received a phone call from a recruiter, and normally I don't pick up when recruiters call, but I had a feeling that I should pick this one up and listen to what he had to say. During that conversation, I was intrigued and thrilled that the camp was so convenient to my home. I was born and raised in the area, and I knew of all the good things GSEP represented. I was very familiar with Shelly Ridge.

Q. What is your favorite part of the job?

A. I have so many favorite parts, it's hard to decide. I work with an amazing and talented group of counselors and directors. Also, the girls taught me how to tie-dye, make bracelets, and play gaga.

Q. What is one thing you would tell others considering a camp nursing position?

A. This position could not have come at a better time. It allowed me to pursue a career as a school nurse during the fall and winter months. Working the summer months at camp is perfect if you want to have other experiences in nursing during the rest of the year.

Looking to make a difference this summer? Work at one of GSEP's summer resident camps! We need nurses who can make one-week commitments. Get a stipend and, as an added bonus, bring your camp-aged daughter, granddaughter, niece, or sister to camp for one free week!

Interested? Email
camps@gsep.org

Hey, Troop Leaders!

Check out these easy, fun things to do with your girls!

Try out GSEP's Ready to Run Programs. Designed to be used by volunteers with girls, these curriculum guides are available at gsep.org under **Volunteer Resources**.

available ready to run programs:

- Scout the Vote
- Free Being Me Series
- Friendship Circle Series
- Daisy Jam
- It's Your Planet—Love It! Series With Healthy Habits
- Science and Engineering Samplers
- Be a Friend First Series
- Up All Night: MEdia Journey in a Day
- Imagineer Series
- WAGGGS World Thinking Day Activity Packet
- Do You Know Juliette Gordon Low? Activity Packet
- Happy Birthday Girl Scouts Activity Packet
- Imagine your STEM Future Series

Have ideas for a program? Email girlprogram@gsep.org!



COUNCIL AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

Registered Girl Scouts in grades 9–12 are eligible to apply for council scholarships and awards. Scholarship applications are posted on gsep.org.

HOW TO APPLY

Scholarship applications can be found at gsep.org under **WHAT GIRLS CAN DO > SCHOLARSHIPS**. On the same page, you can find “A Scholarship and Award Guide,” which provides a list of colleges that featured scholarships to girls who earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, as well as other state and national scholarship and award information. Scholarship applications are completed online unless otherwise noted. Questions? Email girlprogram@gsep.org.

important deadlines

JANUARY 15, 2017

All applications and references must be complete

MARCH 2017

Notification letters sent to applicants

SPRING 2017

Girl Scout Achievement Ceremony



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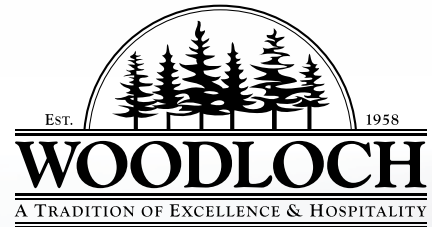
- Brownie Letterboxer and Going Batty (12/03/2016 – 12/04/2016)
- Teen Going Batty and Geology Rocks (02/24/2017 – 02/26/2017)
- Brownie WOW – Wonders of Water (03/11/2017 – 03/12/2017)
- Junior Animal Habitats and Geocacher (03/04/2017 – 03/05/2017)
- Teen Geology Rocks and Directions Matter (03/24/2017 – 03/26/2017)
- Brownie Going Batty OR Junior Animal Habitats (03/25/2017)
- Junior Geocacher and Junior Cave Explorer (04/01/2017 – 04/02/2017)
- Brownie Letterboxer and Junior Cave Explorer (04/22/2017 – 04/23/2017)
- Brownie Rocks Rock OR Junior Geology Rocks (04/29/2017)
- Junior Animal Habitats and Geology Rocks (04/29/2017 – 04/30/2017)
- Brownie WOW – Wonders of Water (05/06/2017 – 05/07/2017)
- Brownie Letterboxer OR Junior Geocacher (05/13/2017)
- Brownie Fossil Fun and Rocks Rock (05/20/2017 – 05/21/2017)
- Junior Geocacher and Going Batty (06/03/2017 – 06/04/2017)
- Brownie WOW – Wonders of Water (06/10/2017 – 06/11/2017)
- Junior Geocacher & Animal Habitats (06/17/2017 – 06/18/2017)

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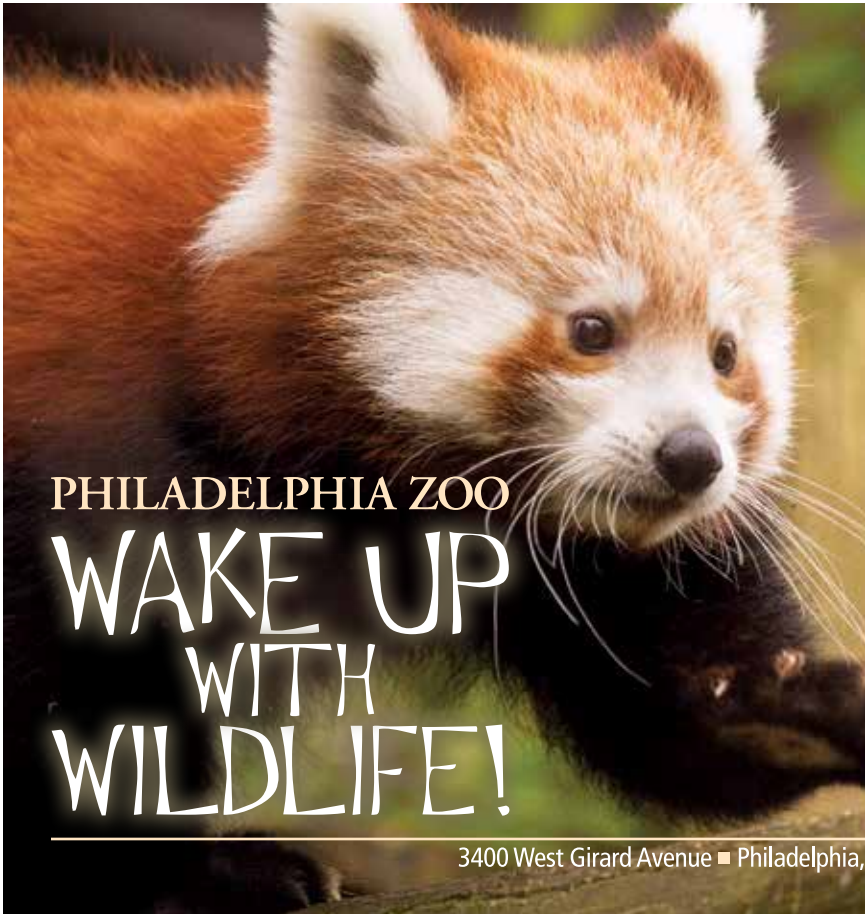


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Interested in learning more? Visit the career section of gsep.org. Contact Maureen Maier at mmaier@gsep.org with questions.

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462 Seashore Road, Cape May, NJ www.beachcombercamp.com

Spring/Fall Camp out, Themed Activities, Earn Badges, Sleep in a Tee Pee! 16' Lake Slide



Earn Money for your Troop!
Design & operate an interactive scene for our Haunted Halloween Hayride on October 14th &/or 21st. **Each Troop**

will receive \$75 JUST FOR OPERATING A SCENE!
1st, 2nd & 3rd Prizes UP TO \$500 CASH donation to your troop!

Call 609-886-6035 ext 4 for info



The Simple Gifts Project seeks to spread cheer to a child who is confronted with a hospital stay.

- * Simple Gifts Project will come to your troop meeting.
- * We will engage girls in activities that can include filling "SMILE Bags," making birthday cards, cupcake parties, toy drives, playing games, and a lot more.
- * This is a great service opportunity for your troop!

To learn more about the project and how you can help out, please visit our website at simplegiftsproj.org or call us directly at 267-304-3205.



A Little World for Big Thinkers

Imagine a city built to scale for children, complete with its own bank, grocery store, health clinic and ice cream factory! Girls can experience over 40 role play careers while learning about leadership, teamwork, budgeting and entrepreneurship.

www.ImagiNationExp.com

Dorneyville Shopping Center (next to Dorney Park), Allentown PA
Field Trip Information (610) 841-5919



Be the role model she'll always remember.

girlscouts.org/volunteer



3145 Hamilton Blvd. Bypass
Allentown, PA 18103

Bring Your Scouts to Have the Most FUN with Science

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

WOMEN IN STEM

March 25th

Girl Scouts explore three different science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) careers with three professional women. Each class includes a fun hands-on project relating to that professional's field of work and each professional shares information about her career path and what a day is like in their careers.

DSC CRIME LAB

May 13th

Girl Scouts take part in a whodunit mystery as they use forensic techniques like fingerprinting, DNA analysis, and chemistry to discover who stole a batch of cookies. This program covers requirements for the Juniors Detective Patch and the Cadettes Special Agent Patch

ROPE RUNNERS

February 4th

The Rope Runner Derby is the Girl Scouts' equivalent to the Boy Scouts' Pinewood Derby. Scouts learn balance and engineering from Da Vinci Science Center educators as they create their very own Rope Runners to take home and race.

DIGITAL MOVIE MAKER

February 25th

Cadettes learn video basics and shoot a five-minute short film about the Da Vinci Science Center.

ENTERTAINMENT TECHNOLOGY

April 8th

Juniors explore animation, video game development, amusement park rides, and more.



2016/2017 Program Schedule

GIRL SCOUTS

Date	Type	Age/Level	Title
Feb. 4th	Day**	Brownies and older	Rope Runners Workshop
Feb 25th	Camp-in*	Cadettes	Digital Movie Maker Badge
March 11th	Day**	Brownies	Home Scientist Badge
March 25th	Day**	Juniors and older	Women in STEM+
April 1st	Camp-in*	Brownies	Wonders of Water Journey
April 8th	Camp-in*	Juniors	Entertainment Technology Badge
April 29th	Day**	Daisies	Between Earth and Sky Journey
May 13th	Camp-in*	All Levels	DSC Crime Lab

*Camp-ins- 6pm-9am the next day

**Day 9am to noon

+Registration with Girl Scouts of North Eastern Pennsylvania

Book Your Program Today!

484-664-1002 ext.123 or ext. 121

Email: scouts@davincisciencecenter.org

Visit Our Website for More Information

www.DaVinciScienceCenter.org/scouts



bravery bags

BY ALYSSA C., TROOP 7215

For my Bronze Award project, I made activity bags for young patients at CHOP Specialty Care and Surgical Center. I came up with the idea after being a patient there myself, seeing specialists, and using the Urgent Care Center. The two feelings I remember most were fear and boredom. I thought maybe there was something I could do to make hospital visits easier on us kids, and even the adults.

After some brainstorming, the idea for activity bags came to mind. I decided to create and provide coloring sheets, puzzle sheets, and crayons in a take-home bag. The activity bags would be like a present for being brave!

I shared the idea at my troop meeting and asked my troop members to help me. Next, I made posters and flyers asking

for donations of coloring books, activity/puzzle pages, crayons, and extra-large plastic baggies. I collected the donations from generous neighbors, family members, and local businesses. My troop helped me carefully tear out all the sheets from the books and sort the crayons. We operated as an assembly line and put three coloring sheets, two puzzle sheets, and three crayons in each bag.

Activity bags are now given out in three different areas of the CHOP Center: day surgery, urgent care (ER), and at specialist visits. Even if kids return on another day, they can still get a bag again because each one is different! I plan to go back in a few months to see if all the bags were given out. My troop and I had so much fun. We would love to make more to keep it going!



need more information? Visit gsep.org or email



us at girlawards@gsep.org for more information on Bronze Award requirements.



what is the bronze award?

The Girl Scout Bronze Award is the highest honor a Girl Scout Junior can achieve. As you complete your Take Action project, you'll build your team, develop more confidence, meet new people, and have the kind of fun that happens when you work with other Girl Scouts to make a difference!

Boldly Go for Bronze!

1. Complete a Junior-level Journey.
2. Build your team. You can work with your troop, a small group, or go solo.
3. Explore your community and identify a need.
4. Choose your Bronze Award project.
5. Put your project into action with 20 hours of service!
6. Reflect, share your story, and celebrate!

*The Bronze Award process is leader-approved! Register your girls for Bronze Award Completion, then bring the order summary or confirmation email to any GSEP shop to purchase the Bronze Award pin! For more information, check out <http://www.gsep.org/girls/what-girls-can-do/awards/>.

not being able to speak is not the same as having nothing to say

BY ALAINNA W., TROOP 41365



For my Silver Award project, I wanted to help kids who have challenges that many of us do not even think about. For me, that was helping a school called Talk Institute and School in Newtown Square that was established for young people ages 3 to 21 who live with autism or are speech-impaired. Through the school's amazing director, Melinda Kotler, I found out that the students needed several therapeutic tools. I offered to make some of these tools as my project, and they were very pleased!

After the meeting, I got to work. I started off by recruiting my team of girls, all ages 9-14. I did research on how to make these tools and what they would be used for. Weighted

blankets, for example, would be used as a sensory tool to help calm down the kids if they got a little excited or anxious. They were so comfortable, I wanted one for myself. We created finger mazes that would be used for developing fine-motor skills, and table covers would go on the school's massage table.

We began by cutting fabric and pinning everything together, which was when I realized that three of the seven girls on my team had never used a sewing machine before. I taught them about sewing safety and how to use a guider (a small straight-edge magnet that attaches to the machine) to sew straight lines. I also showed them how to work the speed of the machine and how to properly load a bobbin.

The project had many challenges, including a lack of equipment to make one of the originally requested items. I overcame this challenge by adding on another finger maze to the project. Another challenge was coordinating everyone's schedules to meet the promised deadline. I also saw how even though all of my recruits were pretty good friends of mine, we occasionally had some conflict. Certain girls tried to take over at times, but I made sure that everyone's ideas would be heard and that we would not go forward until everyone was comfortable with a plan we came up with together.

I had to make sure that all of the projects would last for years to come, so we used double stitches and made sure that everything was secure and nothing would fall out or off of any of the projects. My hope is that the girls on my team will remember the skills they learned from this project and use them in the future.

When we were finally done and I delivered the products to the school, the look on Melinda's face was heartwarming. The staff and all the kids were so grateful to have received these tools. I may not have changed the world, but knowing that I did something to make the world a better place for some pretty special kids is an indescribable feeling.

need more information?



Email us at girlawards@gsep.org for more information on Silver Award requirements.

Visit gsep.org to register for an optional information session.



what is the silver award?

The Girl Scout Silver Award is the highest award a Girl Scout Cadette can earn. It gives you the chance to show that you are a leader who is organized, determined, and dedicated to improving our community.

strive for silver!

1. Complete a Cadette Journey.
2. Identify issues that you care about.
3. Build your team.
4. Explore your community.
5. Choose your Silver Award project.
6. Develop your project plan and submit it to the council.
7. Put it in motion.
8. Reflect, share your story, and celebrate.

The deadline for current 8th graders to submit a Silver Award proposal is May 1, 2017.

The reflection is due September 30, 2017.

The Silver Award proposal and reflection are now available as an online application—just another way we're using resources wisely!

ARE YOU THE NEXT CEDAR CREST WOMAN?



Cedar Crest recognizes and values the commitment of the Girl Scouts in the areas of service, leadership, achievement, and cooperation. Two scholarships are available for entering students that have demonstrated a commitment as a Girl Scout.

Apply today at www.cedarcrest.edu/girlscouts



CEDAR CREST COLLEGE

www.cedarcrest.edu

do you really need to surrender your pet?

BY SARAFINA R., TROOP 73149



It was a great feeling to know that I was able to advocate and speak for the pets at the ACCT, while helping their families solve issues.”

I decided to begin my Gold Award project during my junior year of high school. At that time, I had been volunteering at the Animal Care and Control Team of Philadelphia (ACCT) for three years. Brainstorming for my project, I knew that I wanted it to be all about helping and advocating for the animals at ACCT. I decided to use my project to address issues owners have that lead them to surrender their pets. After conducting research, I found that most stemmed from a family moving to a place that was not pet friendly, the animal being ill,

expensive pet care, or the animal being aggressive. These issues caused families to surrender their pets to ACCT, and ACCT would accept the pet with no questions asked.

After being surrendered, the pets would live in a small cage, surrounded by other animals waiting to find another home. Unfortunately, due to the shelter environment, many animals become ill or are euthanized before they find new homes.

My ultimate goal was to provide other alternatives to owners who

were considering surrendering their family pet. To do this, I spent many hours researching and creating bilingual brochures and a display board for the shelter’s lobby that showcased the alternate options. My project has benefited affected families by providing opportunities they may not have even known existed. For example, families should not have to surrender their pet due to their inability to buy food or pay for vet care. For families facing these specific issues, my project provided information about pet-food banks, becoming eligible for low-cost vet care, and low-cost vets located in the Philadelphia area. My Gold Award project allows families to keep their pets by solving the issues they are experiencing as a pet owner. By providing solutions to families,

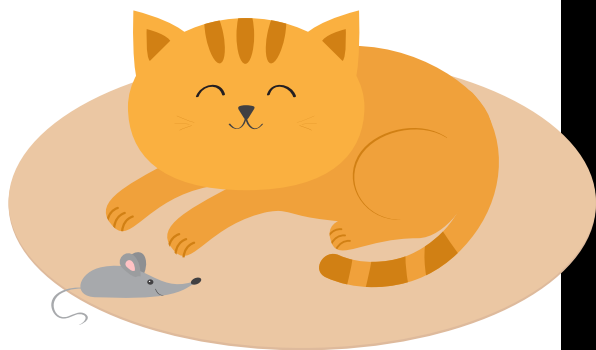
need more information?



Email us at girlawards@gsep.org for more information on Gold Award requirements. Visit gsep.org to register for an optional information session.

my project will lower the surrendering rate of household pets, thus allowing the shelter more space for stray animals.

My Gold Award experience was amazing and very rewarding. It was a great feeling to know that I was able to advocate and speak for the pets at the ACCT, while helping their families solve issues. This journey has allowed me to gain skills such as time management, communication with adults, and confidence in my ideas and abilities. I am proud to call myself a Girl Scout and to have been a part of such an amazing organization. Through Girl Scouts and my Gold Award, I have created a sustainable project that will always impact and benefit my community.



what is the gold award?

The Girl Scout Gold Award is the highest achievement in Girl Scouting. It recognizes girls in grades 9-12 who demonstrate extraordinary leadership through remarkable Take Action projects that have sustainable impact in their communities and beyond. Since 1916, girls have successfully answered the call to “Go Gold!” an action that indelibly marks them as accomplished members of not only their communities but the world.

go for the gold!

- 1. Choose an Issue:** Use your values and skills to identify a community issue you care about.
- 2. Investigate:** Research everything you can about the issue.
- 3. Get Help:** Invite others to support and take action with you.
- 4. Create a Plan:** Create a project plan that achieves sustainable and measurable impact.
- 5. Present Your Plan & Get Feedback:** Sum up your project plan for your Girl Scout Council.
- 6. Take Action:** Take the lead to carry out your plan.
- 7. Educate & Inspire:** Share what you have experienced with others.

The deadline for current 12th graders to submit a Gold Award proposal is May 1, 2017.

The final presentation should be concluded by September 30, 2017

ready to go gold? make sure to complete these requirements before submitting your proposal.

Earn the Silver Award and one Senior or Ambassador Journey

OR

Earn two Senior or Ambassador Journeys

what we've learned. what we are still learning.

BY CAROLINE H., TROOP 1662



When I began my Gold Award project, I wanted to focus on a subject that is often overlooked in most educational settings yet is crucial to how we function and progress as a people and as a culture.

I made my project about women. Specifically, I made my project about developing a path to teach and enlighten my community on how the role of the woman has changed over history and is still changing today. My project consisted of conducting 17 interviews of women who had grown up and lived in Berks County. The ages of these women ranged from 17 to 70. I wanted to capture stories from women of all ages to show commonalities as well as differences in responses to the questions.

After reading a few books on feminism, approaches to storytelling, and interviewing,

I wrote and developed over 30 interview questions. They included things like, “Can you remember the first time someone said you could not do something because you were a girl?” “How do you define your role in your family?” “If you could give your 13-year-old self one piece of advice what would it

“Equality for women includes all races, all ethnicities, all religions, and all cultures.”

be and why?” and “What do you think is the greatest tool a woman can possess today?” The women’s responses, stories, interpretations, and especially their words were what created my project and gave it meaning.

My project concluded with presentations of a video I made of all the interviews. It was presented

to local community groups, such as our library and its patrons, our local church, and our business association. It was also posted to our library’s Facebook page and website, where it has been viewed by members of my community, as well as individuals from other geographic areas. When I presented my project, I made it clear that these women taught me so much, like how quickly the role of women is changing, yet they have to balance their careers with raising a family. It is a double-edged sword that every woman faces today, that balance of doing what they are expected to do without being crushed by expectation, or worse, giving up one for the other and facing shame and disappointment for it.

The women I interviewed also reminded me that we are still in the Dark Ages when it comes to the treatment of women. They

reminded me that equality for women includes all races, all ethnicities, all religions, and all cultures. They remind me that when it comes to women’s rights, there is no clear-cut answer and no easily laid out solution. Despite all of this, there is always hope that one day women’s rights will simply just be seen as human rights.

WHAT WILL YOU EARN ON YOUR NEXT GIRL SCOUT ADVENTURE?

Check out a sample of program opportunities where you can complete badge or Journey steps, then look for the program listing for more details!



DAISIES

Between Earth and Sky

Daisy Day at the Zoo, March 4, Lehigh Valley Zoo
Between Earth and Sky, April 23, Lehigh University

BROWNIES

Outdoor Art Creator Badge

Outdoor Art Adventure, May 6, Camp Wood Haven
Artsy Camper, May 21, Camp Mountain House
Outdoor Art, July 23-28, Camp Wood Haven
Artsy Divas, July 23-28, Shelly Ridge Resident Camp
Outdoor Artists, July 24-28, Camp Valley Forge
Nature Artist, August 6-11, Camp Laughing Waters

Wonders of Water Journey

Wonders of Water Overnight, March 4, Independence Seaport Museum
WoW at Wildlands, May 13, Wildlands Conservancy



JUNIOR

Outdoor Art Explorer Badge

Outdoor Art Adventure, May 6, Camp Wood Haven
Creativity at Camp, May 21, Camp Mountain House
Spa Wood Haven, July 2-7, Camp Wood Haven
Artsy Divas, July 23-28, Shelly Ridge Resident Camp
Outdoor Artists, July 24-28, Camp Valley Forge
Art Explorers, August 7-12, Camp Wood Haven

Agent of Change Journey

Agents of Change, April 1, Villanova University

CADETTE

Archery Badge

Take Aim, April 22, Camp Mountain House
Take Aim, May 13, Shelly Ridge Resident Camp
Ridge Archer, June 25-30, Shelly Ridge Resident Camp
Ready, Set, Archery, July 3-7, Camp Mountain House
Divergent, July 9-14, July 23-28, Camp Wood Haven
Mighty Gals, July 10-14, Camp Valley Forge
Shoot Like a Girl, August 6-11, Camp Laughing Waters
Archery Aces, August 7-12, Camp Wood Haven

Media Journey

"Real" Media, March 12-19, The Learning Experience

SENIOR

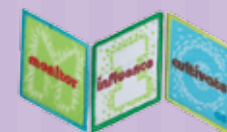
Outdoor Art Expert

Outdoor Art Experience, July 9-14, Camp Wood Haven

Sow What? Journey

Sow It Yourself, May 7, Bartram's Garden

Register for programs and you'll be one step closer to filling your Girl Scout vest!
For a full list of program opportunities where you can complete badge and/or Journey requirements, check out www.gsep.org/badge-earning-programs.



Service & Leadership Opportunities for Girls

Do you want to show off your leadership chops at camp? Hoping to be a camp counselor in the future? Leadership programs are available for older girls at our day and resident camps.

camp program aide

Offered at both day and resident camp, Program Aide provides girls in grades 7-9 with hands-on leadership and mentoring opportunities. You'll share your skills, test your knowledge, and inspire younger girls. You'll earn

requirements toward the Program Aide pin while enjoying all the best parts of camp life!

camp intern

Offered at day camp, Camp Interns provide Seniors and Ambassadors with the basics of leadership, child

care, safety, and general day camp management. You'll extend your knowledge of songs, games, and crafts, all while working with younger Girl Scouts. Get the chance to shadow a counselor and see what it really takes to be a camp counselor! At the end of the program, you'll earn the Camp Intern pin.

counselor-in-training I (CIT I)

Offered at resident camp, CIT I provides girls in grades 10-12 with the basics of leadership, child care, safety, and general resident camp management. You'll extend your knowledge of songs, games, and crafts, all while working with younger Girl Scouts. Get the chance to shadow camp staff and see what it really takes to be a camp counselor! At the end of the program, you'll earn the CIT pin.

counselor-in-training II (CIT II)

Offered at resident camp to girls who have successfully completed CIT I, CIT II gives girls the opportunities to gain skills in a specialized area, including waterfront, horseback riding, adventure/team-building, arts and crafts, and environmental/nature. At the end of the program, you'll earn the CIT II pin.



need more information?

Flip over Spark and check out the Camp Program Guide.



GSEP Welcomes Board Chairs, CEOs, and Young Women of Distinction

Women leaders from more than 100 Girl Scout councils gathered in Philadelphia to discuss the future of the largest girl-led organization at this year's GSUSA National Board Chair and CEO Retreat.

GSEP hosted the event, which was held from October 27-29, with a special advance-day breakfast at Shelly Ridge Resident Camp to kick off the conference.

As the host council, GSEP welcomed these high-powered leaders, including GSUSA Board President Kathy Hopinkah Hannan and GSUSA Interim CEO Sylvia Acevedo, who toured the newly constructed Shelly Ridge Camp facilities and learned about the camp's STEM focus.

Attendees at the breakfast, including GSEP volunteers and staff, heard from Acevedo, who talked about how Girl Scouts introduced her to science and was her inspiration for becoming a rocket scientist.

"The Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania has made incredible enhancements to its programs and camps, and I'm excited to be here at the new Shelly Ridge Resident Camp to see this firsthand."

At a special luncheon for former and current GSEP board members, held at The Acorn Club for women, the focus shifted to how the national movement can continue to empower girls. That conversation was led in part by Natalye Paquin, former CEO of GSEP who now serves as GSUSA's chief transformation officer, Jennifer Allebach, GSUSA's chief girl experience executive, and Mary Stengel Austen, GSEP's board chair.

For the following two and half days, the 200-plus board chairs and CEOs who made their way to Philadelphia met to talk about aligning messages across councils, including an exciting new national campaign titled G.I.R.L (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader), which was unveiled November 29.

The conference concluded with the National Young Women of Distinction ceremony, which recognized 10 girls from across the country who demonstrated exceptional leadership and whose service had measurable and sustainable impact in their communities.



"GSEP was honored to host this year's retreat in Philadelphia.

It was inspiring to be in a room with so many strong and successful women who learned from one another and shared ideas about keeping Girl Scouts relevant for 21st-century girls."

-Kim E. Fraites-Dow, CEO of GSEP

▲ ABOVE: Girl Scouts Interim CEO Sylvia Acevedo kicks off the breakfast at Shelly Ridge with a welcoming speech. GSUSA Board President Kathy Hopinkah Hannan helps some Girl Scouts at McDaniel Elementary with a STEM project. GSEP SUMs Susan Groff and Jamie Mosser at the breakfast at the Shelly Ridge activity center. RIGHT: Sylvia Acevedo and GSEP CEO Kim E. Fraites-Dow at the luncheon.



**Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania is currently hiring
Lead Program Implementers and Program Implementers (PI)!**

Lead PIs and PIs will work with GSEP’s Outcomes and Outreach team to provide program opportunities in specifically assigned communities. Through GSEP, we provide the Funded Initiatives Program to develop approximately 8,000 girls in underserved areas into confident, courageous leaders. Funded Programs are at no cost to girls interested in joining.

With positions rich in recruiting, training, and development, all applicants must have outstanding interpersonal skills and enjoy working with children.

- You must be at least 18 years of age
- You must have a high school diploma/GED
- You must have transportation

Visit our Careers page at gsep.org or contact our Human Resources Department at 215.564.2030 ext. 1015 if you are unable to apply online.

JIM THORPE RIVER ADVENTURES

Welcome to your Jim Thorpe River Adventures!
All this fun is just a DayTrip away from you...

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Easy Water Rafting
Perfect for First-Timers, Kids, and Families! 3 Hrs. long & 8 miles on the Lehigh River

Introduction to Whitewater
Kick it up a notch for more rafting adventure! Nice, Easy Rapids + River Gorge Scenery = Awesome
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BigTime Lehigh Gorge Whitewater Rafting
The Ultimate Class 2-3 River Trip in the Northeast!
Paddle through the Lehigh Gorge State Park and enjoy 5+ hours & 12 miles of high-level excitement

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Choose from two cool trips – (1) paddling along with a raft trip, or (2) spend a day with a kayak instructor and learn all the cool river moves!

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Pedal through the breathtaking, 900 foot deep Lehigh Gorge State Park. Great fun and fitness for the whole family!

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One Adventure Lane, Jim Thorpe, PA 18229



Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania serve their communities!

Service is an integral part of Girl Scouting. Community service fosters a sense of connection between the girls and the neighborhood in which they live. Troops throughout our nine counties take part in service projects, and you can, too!

CHECK OUT SOME STORIES ABOUT GIRLS WHO TOOK ACTION!

The Carillon Service Unit 612 held a Girls Go Green Earth Day event at Lenape Park in Sellersville. Girls gathered and heard a presentation about how trash and litter negatively impact our water systems. After the presentation, girls cleaned up trash around the park and planted native and summer flowers in the park's Girl Scout Memorial Garden. The event concluded with girls creating their own bird feeders to take home!

Brownie Troop 51034 volunteered at Cradles to Crayons, a nonprofit that helps area children in need. Each Scout collected a huge bag's worth of donations like clothing, jackets, backpacks, and school supplies. They dropped off their donations then made back-to-school welcome cards for backpacks that were to be donated. The girls showed great teamwork and look forward to volunteering there again.

There are also many service opportunities available through GSEP partners and local organizations, such as Philabundance, the Red Cross, and the Women's Humane Society.

Look out for the new Service Opportunities page of our website coming soon!

Interested in taking action in your community?

Here are some ideas to help you get started:

- Plant trees at a local park
- Beautify a local park or recreational area
- Collect non-perishable food for local food banks
- Donate items/time to local animal shelters

Check out some of these service opportunities:

- 22nd annual Martin Luther King Day of Service on Monday, January 16, 2017 (<http://mlkdayofservice.org/>)
- Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania Green Project throughout the month of April (www.gsep.org)

Community service fosters a sense of connection between the girls and the neighborhood in which they live.





You know all about the once-in-a-lifetime experiences that Girl Scouts get, but did you know that there are unique opportunities available to the adults who make it all happen?



Volunteer Enrichment Trainings offer a unique time for volunteers to get together and learn a special skill from the experts. There's a free training every month. Check out next month's topic at www.gsep.org/volunteers/volunteer-events/



The Adult Awards, the Golden Globes of Girl Scouts, is all about you! Every May, we get together to honor the volunteers who make Scouting possible. Is your troop leader awesome? Does your SUCM make the cookie program a breeze? Show your appreciation and nominate him or her for a 2017 Adult Award. Learn more at www.gsep.org/volunteers/volunteer-events/



Save the Date for Pot of Gold 2017!
Saturday, March 4, 2017 • Spring-Ford 9th Grade Center in Montgomery County
 Pot of Gold is our spring training day, and it's open to all volunteers! Check out the Volunteer Events page of www.gsep.org for more info and workshop descriptions as we get closer to the event.

join the fun!



Nominate your favorite volunteer at [gsep.org](http://www.gsep.org). Go to the Volunteer Events section to see a list of requirements and learn how you can submit a nomination.

GSEP Adult Awards 2016



12 VOLUNTEER OF EXCELLENCE AWARDS

51 APPRECIATION PINS

4 DIVERSITY AWARDS

1 FREE SPIRIT AWARD

1 GERTRUDE MCGONIGLE AWARD

1 GSEP AWARD

6 HONOR PINS

7 LIGHTS OF LOYALTY AWARDS

7 PIONEER AWARDS

20 SUPER SERVICE UNIT AWARDS

THANKS BADGE I **3** • THANKS BADGE II **4**



Disconnect to Reconnect

Looking to host a leadership retreat, corporate training, team-building, or social event? With our six locations across Eastern Pennsylvania, GSEP is sure to have the perfect place for you. Visitors enjoy a variety of indoor and outdoor meeting areas, comfortable accommodations, and unique outdoor venues for groups large or small to pursue physical, spiritual, and educational interests. Our highly trained staff will work with you to create the perfect meeting, conference, or social gathering for the outcome you envision.

Contact us for availability at campfacilities@gsep.org!

