

sun & sand sisterhood



FOLLOWING THREE GIRL SCOUTS ON THEIR GSUSA DESTINATIONS

Catching Waves

AMANDA L.,
GIRL SCOUT AMBASSADOR

This summer, I attended the Catching Waves destination in Costa Rica. It was a ten day surfing adventure. Along with surfing, we played multiple soccer games—even against local Costa Ricans—, built sandcastles, went zip lining and white water rafting and saw various types of animals. Not only did I experience a different culture and learn how to surf, I made seven new friends.

My favorite part of the destination was when we saw ❶ sea turtles. Around 8 o'clock one night, our counselors told us that we were going to go see sea turtles on a pitch black secluded beach. When we arrived, we were informed that the turtles were laying eggs and we were not allowed to have flashlights. Turtles were spread out all over the beach. It was the most spectacular sight I have ever seen.

I made a lot of new friends on this trip. On the first day, we did not even talk to each other, but, by the last day, we were hugging each other and crying because we had to leave so soon.

Costa Rica opened my eyes to a whole new world. The Costa Rica Outward Bound School, which is the organization that ran the trip, taught me several leadership skills and how to become



1

a better leader. This destination made me realize what I want to study in college next year: Environmental Science and Spanish. The language and love for the environment that Costa Ricans express inspired me.

Underwater Explorers

ERIN H.,
GIRL SCOUT AMBASSADOR

I went to San Jose, Costa Rica and Bocas del Toro, Panama on my first Destinations trip. The program I went to was called Underwater Explorers and it was sixteen days long. During those amazing sixteen days, I went white water rafting, zip lining, sailing, sea kayaking, wakeboarding, camping, and of course ❷ SCUBA diving. Learning how to SCUBA dive was an amazing experience for me because SCUBA diving had always been a sport that

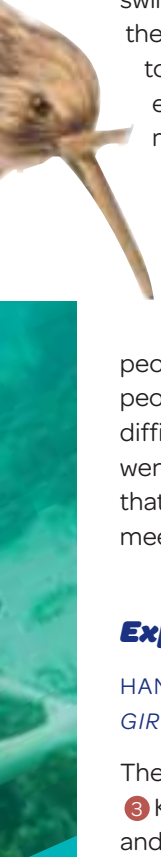


I wanted to learn. All of the activities we engaged in while in Costa Rica and Panama gave me more confidence and more respect for myself and my abilities. I made so many new friends and so many amazing memories that I will never forget.

On my trip I met so many new girls who became like sisters to me. My fellow explorers and I learned to function as a team, working as one to put up our tents, cook our meals, and paint the school for our service project. As we grew to know one another we supported one another through hard

3





and scary times, whether someone was afraid to zip line or someone was struggling to understand a SCUBA concept, we were there for one another. I came to rely on my SCUBA buddy who I knew would always be swimming by my side and would be there if I needed her. I am so grateful to all the girls who shared this experience with me and became my sisters.

Underwater Explorers was a learning and growing experience for me. I grew more confident because I am no longer afraid to try new things since I met new people, spoke Spanish with the native people, ate new foods, and attempted difficult activities. Due to the fact that I went outside my comfort zone, I know that I will be ready for anything that I meet in life

Explore New Zealand

HANNAH L.,
GIRL SCOUT AMBASSADOR

There was beautiful scenery, rugby, 3 Kiwi Birds, the Maori people, and thousands and thousands of... sheep?— I got to see all of this and more firsthand on my destination this summer to New Zealand.

The destination started out in San Diego, California. It was here that I got to meet the 13 other girls that I would be traveling with around New Zealand. In the two days that we spent in this Southern Californian city, I got to do some amazing bonding activities. We watched a Padres baseball game, and went 4 kayaking in a series of natural caves. The fourteen of us quickly became best friends.

Soon, we were loading onto the plane that would take us to New Zealand.

When we landed, we met up with another group from Great Britain - 12 other girls and their chaperones. Getting to spend time on my destination with these Girl Guides was a huge highlight to my experience.

Then together we all jumped on a coach bus and drove to our cabin site in Auckland to try and catch up on some of the most serious jet lag I've ever had (it's an eighteen hour time difference). Throughout the next few days, we went to some of the most amazing sights that Auckland has to offer. We went to the top of the Sky Tower, the tallest building in the southern hemisphere; we were a part of a welcome ceremony of the indigenous people- the Maori, and we went on a cruise of the Bay of Islands. Then we went north, all the way up to where the Tasman Sea meets the Pacific Ocean. This was absolutely beautiful, and was possibly my favorite part of the trip. Then we went south and saw the bubbling mud pools, glow worm caves, Harry Potter 7 part 2, and

New Zealand's capitol city, Wellington. Near Wellington, I got to see a sheep being sheared. This is an exceptionally special experience in New Zealand, since the population of sheep outnumbers the human population 10-1. Needless to say, I saw lots and lots of sheep.

Another interesting sight that I got to experience in New Zealand was getting to see their national bird, the Kiwi, up close. This quirky bird is endangered and there are only an estimated 300 left in the wild. Yet, I had the distinct privilege of meeting the bird after which they have named their currency, the people, and a certain variety of fruit.

I was extremely sad to part with all my new friends at the end of the trip. As we all boarded our various flights to head back to our hometowns, we said our tearful farewells and promised to friend each other on Facebook.



Why follow when you can lead



Take the Lead is Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania's largest corporate fundraiser of the year, and allows Girl Scouts of all ages to shine, showcasing their courage, confidence, and character as they participate as event emcees, chorus members, hostesses, and award presenters. This year, the event will be extraordinary as we celebrate our 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting!



Take the Lead is a unique awards program honoring women in our community for their exemplary leadership and for serving as role models to girls.

It's not too late to participate

We are still seeking girls ages 5-17 to join our flag ceremony, sing in the chorus, and serve as hostesses.

- **HOSTESSES** Greet guests, network with attendees, distribute programs, and sell raffle tickets.
- **CHORUS** Sing an opening and closing song.
- **FLAG CEREMONY** Lead the guests in our opening flag ceremony.

TAKE THE LEAD EVENT SCHEDULE

March 6, 2012

5:30 to 7:30pm
The Hyatt at the Bellevue
Philadelphia, PA

March 13, 2012

5:30 to 7:30pm
Sovereign Center for the Performing Arts
Reading, PA

March 27, 2012

5:30 to 7:30pm
ArtsQuest at SteelStacks
Bethlehem, PA



INTERESTED IN PARTICIPATING? Contact rarchawski@gsep.org.





Thank You!

Dear Take the Lead Supporters,

Thank you for supporting Take the Lead, Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania's only corporate fundraiser! As a supporter of Take the Lead, you have shown the community that you care about leadership development of girls. And most important, your contribution made it possible for me to participate in this amazing event and many other programs that Girl Scouts offers.

Participating in Take the Lead has been a highlight of my Girl Scout career. Take the Lead is an experience that I like to share with my family, friends, and other Girl Scouts. The experience taught me how to prepare a presentation, become a better public speaker, and showed me the value of networking. My experience as a Take the Lead presenter and emcee plays a part in my life every day in and outside of school. This accomplishment is listed on my resume and I will discuss it in my college interviews. At 15 years old, I am proud of the skills that I have developed including poise and confidence, and I am truly grateful to Girl Scouts for their development of young girls like me!

Thank you again for supporting Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania! You are helping me and girls around the world become tomorrow's leaders and your future employees!

Sincerely,

Brittany M.



“ Being an emcee was a new and wonderful experience. Girl Scouts continues to give me incredible opportunities that are truly life changing. ”

—BRITTANY M.
GIRL SCOUT AMBASSADOR

GSEP Hosts International Visitors

Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania was selected nationally as the Girl Scout Council to host the 2012 Olave Baden-Powell Society World Conference. International members of the organization will visit Philadelphia from May 16-20, 2012.

As the event host, we are planning several programs for the OB-PS and World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts delegation of more than 150 visitors, including some international dignitaries. A girl program to be held at Shelly Ridge on Saturday, May 19 will focus on the theme “Year of the

Girl” and GSUSA’s 100th Anniversary. There will be several opportunities for girls and volunteers to participate including greeting visitors at the airport, welcoming and hosting visitors to Shelly Ridge, and attending the May 19 program at the Shelly Ridge Service Center. Adults are also needed to serve on the OB-PS Event Committee.

Plans are being made to offer a few interactive programs for our visitors, which will include programs focused on the environment and the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting.

Celebrating the Year of the Girl

Shelly Ridge Service Center
Smith Lodge
330 Manor Road
Miquon, PA 19444

SATURDAY, MAY 19, 2012

10AM - 3PM

COST \$10 per girl, Safety Activity Checkpoint adults only

AGE Entering grades 4-8

Spend the day outdoors participating in three workshops celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Girl Scouting and scouting commitment to the environment. Use poetry to write a Windspark then bring your words to life with a mobile that flutters in the breeze. Define your dreams for the future with a painted canvas banner. Finally, compose a hip hop song to change the world. Lunch provided.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Adults and Girls in grades 9-12

May 14-20, 2012 (Times vary depending on the event and venue.)

- 1 Volunteers can greet and escort visitors at the Philadelphia International Airport.
- 2 Welcome Reception and Buffet at the Constitution Center on May 17.
- 3 GSEP program at the Shelly Ridge Service Center on May 19. Volunteer to be a guide, food server, or program participant.
- 4 Serve on the event committee.

If you want to participate in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to meet visitors from around the world, please contact Lisa Auerbach at lauerbach@gsep.org.



Visit www.ob-ps.org for more information on the Olave Baden-Powell Society.



Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania — TRAVELS TO — “SPACE CITY”

—KATE AND LIZ, GIRL SCOUT AMBASSADORS



▲ Liz and Kate, Girl Scout Ambassadors from East Greenville, PA, celebrate the 100th the GSEP way

On the morning of our 17th birthday, we flew to Houston to attend the Girl Scout Leadership Institute. We went with seven Ambassador Girl Scouts (Brittany, Tianna, Olivia, Lauren S., Shalah, Lauren K., and Rachel) from GSEP and two chaperones, Devon and Joan. The GSLI was running at the same time as the 52nd National Council Session and at times the four girl Delegates (Brittany, Olivia, Lauren S. and Rachel) went to the sessions to vote on Proposals that will impact Girl Scouts for many years.

Although we met at a planning meeting in August, it wasn't until we got to Philadelphia Airport that we really began to get to know each other. ALL

OF US brought our homework (for regular and AP classes) and we spent the entire flight down to Houston trying to get it done. Good thing we did because once we checked into the hotel and headed to the Convention Center for the Opening Party, we did not have much free time.

Our workshops ran on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. We all selected workshops that we were interested in like Think Globally, Act Locally, Smart online Savvy, and many other workshops that helped us understand our capabilities as leaders in our lives now, and leaders in the future.

We met at meals and listened to keynote speakers etc. The entire



conference (with 1200 girls present from around the world) was planned and executed by the girls at San Jacinto Council. That was one aspect that we really liked because we knew the workshops and speakers were selected by girls like us.

We also attended the National Council Session opening night, and closing where we heard Katie Couric and Robyn Roberts. They are both lifelong Girl Scouts and really presented meaningful speeches. They used their experiences in Girl Scouting to get to where they are today!

Saturday night was the night for celebration because there were two parties-one for the girls and one for the "over 21 crowd". The evening ended with a fireworks celebration with the skyline of Houston as the backdrop!

On Sunday afternoon, we headed back to Philadelphia and you guessed it- we did homework the entire way home. Tianna celebrated her 17th birthday

► *Amazing Daisy greeted visitors to the conference*



on Sunday. We got home Sunday night, tired, but really thankful that we experienced the conference and learned a lot. Our suitcases were quite full because we got a lot of freebies like

our own copy of The Girl's Guide to Girl Scouting and many many swaps. We made friends with girls from around the world, the nine of us had a "blast" and the memories will last us a lifetime!

"We made friends with girls from around the world... and the memories will last us a lifetime!"



▼ *Keynote speaker: Katie Couric, ABC News Journalist, Author, and Television Personality* ► *Girl National Delegates on the big stage: Brittany M., Olivia Marie S., Lauren S. and Rachel S.*



In recent years, internet and cell phone usage has become increasingly common, allowing people to connect with the world around them in an entirely new way.



CYBERBULLYING

—LAURA ZIPIN, COLLEGE VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT AND PROGRAM SPECIALIST

Unfortunately, advancements in technology have also opened up a new method of being mean—cyberbullying. When a kid or teenager uses a computer or cell phone to harass, embarrass, or otherwise inflict harm on a peer, we call it cyberbullying.

Cyberbullying affects a growing number of kids, and it can have terrible consequences. Countless stories are coming to light about girls and boys who have been taunted via internet or text; they are often too upset to come up with a healthy solution, and may instead become depressed or decide to hurt other people. Since cyberbullying is often anonymous, victims may feel helpless to respond, and bullies may feel free to say something that they would never say in person.

Have you ever made a joke that accidentally hurt someone's feelings? If you're talking to someone face-to-face, you can usually tell if she is upset. Online, though, people are physically separated, and communication can become less straightforward. One of the dangers of cyberbullying is that,

since you can't see someone else's reaction, you might not realize the full effect of your words. Because of the distance provided by the internet, it's easy for people to be cruel, whether intentionally or accidentally.

HOW CAN YOU TAKE ACTION AGAINST CYBERBULLYING?

The first step toward creating change is to become aware of the problem—you're already on your way! To learn more, turn to some resources: Let Me Know (<http://lmc.girlscouts.org>) was created by GSUSA and Windows to help girls have a safe, fun online experience; Stop Cyberbullying (<http://www.stopcyberbullying.org>) is an interactive site whose mission is—naturally—to stop the practice of cyberbullying.

Once you know the facts, think about the best way for you to make a difference. If you're a Junior or

Cadette working to complete the *It's Your Story—Tell It! Journey*, use your creativity to spread the word about cyberbullying. Taylor Swift used her song *Mean* to show bullies how strong she is—how could you express your own story? For girls who are focusing on *It's Your World—Change It!*, read about other young activists—how do they inspire you to take a stand against cyberbullying?

Make a movie about the dangers of cyberbullying, start a facebook page to raise awareness, or write an article or an essay for a school publication. You could start a support group or club that helps people who have been bullied online, or arrange a mural or collage activity that allows people to express their feelings visually. Whatever you decide to do, remember—you have the power to confront cyberbullying!

“The first step toward **creating change** is to become aware of the problem.”