

Alum Newsletter



Past Events

Alums, their families, and troop members across the council played mini-golf the weekend of September 17 and 18 at three different sites. School supplies were collected to benefit our GSEP troops.

The Lehigh Valley group met on Thursday, November 3 at Camp Mountain House. They wrapped 27 shoe boxes for a local service unit to fill for the Hope Chest charity. They enjoyed singing, fellowship, and lots of food!



On Sunday, October 9 alums gathered in Chester County to have lunch together and to gather warm gloves, scarves, and hats for the Mighty Writers in Kennett Square.



The Shelly Ridge group met on Thursday, October 27 to celebrate Juliette Low's birthday and again on Thursday, December 8 to enjoy some holiday fun and fellowship. Both times they made over 100 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the homeless outreach of St. Mary's Hospice.



The Delaware County group had their inaugural planning event on Sunday, November 20 at the Olive Garden in Springfield. They have a Facebook page - Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania DelCo Alumnae Group. Look it up and ask to join!



Upcoming Events

The Delaware County group will be hosting a Potluck Lunch.

When: Sunday, January 29 from 1:00 - 3:00 PM
Where: Roosevelt School - 464 S.Old Middletown Road, Media, PA 19063

We will be collecting non-perishable food and personal care items for the Garnet Valley Food Pantry. Please check our Facebook page: *Girl Scouts of Eastern Pennsylvania DelCo Alumnae Group* or contact Nicole Creely at nicole.creely@gmail.com or Beth McCall at girlscoutspdsu504@gmail.com

In March, the Shelly Ridge group will gather to celebrate Girl Scout week.

When: Wednesday, March 8 at 6:00 PM

Contact Mary Jane Meconi at amj4347@verizon.net for more information.

The Chester County GS Alums will be getting together in April for brunch.

When: Saturday, April 29 at 10:30 AM
Where: Hank's at Broad St & Birch St in Kennett Square

They will collect non perishable food for the local food cupboard. Contact Molly Scott at gollymolly44@gmail.com

Your help is needed! GSEP's Maple Sugaring program is one of the council's premier leadership programs for older girls. Each year, Cadettes, Seniors and Ambassadors lead younger girls through the history and science of maple sugaring at Camp Laughing Waters. There are two opportunities for registered, cleared alums to help at this year's program on Saturday, February 18.

1. Are you currently fire trained (that is, current in Basic Outdoor Skills)? We have multiple sites around camp which have fires as part of the program. If you have a few hours to volunteer on Saturday, February 18, you could help by tending a fire while the adults working at that station take a break or have lunch. You are welcome to also have lunch with us, and stay overnight if you'd like!
2. If you'd like to be a little more involved with the program, and spend the day at camp, you could assist at a station or as a helper to the Event Director. Familiarity with Camp Laughing Waters (CLW) would be helpful, but it's not a must! To help in one of these roles, you should also plan to join us on rehearsal day at CLW on Saturday January 28, from 10:00 AM until 4:00 PM, when you'll get more familiar with the program, the girls, and the other volunteers, and gain a full understanding of what you'll be doing. Lunch for Saturday, January 28 and meals for Saturday, February 18 are included. The program starts at 7:00 PM on Friday, February 17. You can stay overnight on February 17 and 18 if you'd like!

[Here](#) is a link to a short YouTube video showing some pictures from a previous year's program. You'll see what fun it is! Please note that the Native American station depicted in the video is being completely revamped for 2023, but will still have a campfire.

All volunteers must be registered GS, and have current background clearances with GSEP.

If you have any questions, or are interested in volunteering for this great program, please contact MaryAnn Rodda at maryannrodada@verizon.net or 610-213-1662.

Adult Camping Weekend 2023

Join us at Camp Laughing Waters on August 18, 19, and 20, 2023 for the next Adult Camping Weekend (ACW). Watch for registration information in early spring. Come spend time with old friends, come meet some new friends (sound like a song we might know?). Sing songs by the campfire, try some new crafts, spend time in the pool, join in a service project with the Fashion Patrol, and check out the sports samplers around camp. Sleep in a platform tent or a cabin, all flush toilets with hot and cold running water. Hot showers available. All meals are cooked and served in the Dining Hall but it is not your usual camp fare! AND the most exciting part of the weekend is the Silent Auction, raffle baskets, online Auction, and 50-50. We work hard to fundraise money for the Graduating Senior Girl Scout Scholarships. Last summer's \$20,000 raised is begging to be beaten! Please plan to attend, donate, or just follow along on Facebook (ACW 2023 at GSEP). See you in August!

Lifetime Member Spotlight

Kathy Cherry

A Lifetime Membership means so many things to me. It is a forever connection and a form of loyalty to the organization which has guided and offered so many opportunities to generations of girls including myself and my daughter.

My Lifetime Membership started immediately following the Annual Meeting at Shelly Ridge in May 2022 where graduating seniors and cookie sellers were recognized for their contributions. Although I had experienced the same meeting when my daughter and others attended as graduating high school seniors, in 2020, I was truly moved by the dedication of the organization and their leaders to the commitment in helping our girls with scholarships and leadership opportunities. Realizing this happens each year through the generosity of GSEP, I desired to become a Lifetime Member, that day, in a way to give back and a way of showing my pride in belonging to such an honorable organization who puts, their clients, Girls ahead of profit.

Having held various roles in Girl Scouts, each was very rewarding. I started as a Brownie as a young girl and worked as an assistant with my niece's troop and assisted leaders in both my daughter's troops. I also covered for the troop leaders running meetings/activities upon their absence. Working respectfully with school aged students to complete quality activities is easy as that is what I do daily as a teacher. Sitting on the floor in my parents home completing activities for badges 50 years ago is as clear as yesterday. Helping girls create positive memories as a Girl Scout was always a conscious goal.

Girl Scouts' impact on me was so indelible that I wanted my daughter to begin as Brownie when she entered school. The legacy of her self discovery and courage is evident each day during her daily life and at her university. The legacy this organization brings to families is unmatched. The impact of Girl Scouts Eastern PA has allowed my daughter to experience governance through leadership roles that transfers to her everyday life and to her future career as a Professor of Biology, bridging the gender gap in the sciences. This is a direct result of what Girl Scouts has done for me, raise a daughter who will have the tools to become a successful adult.

One way of giving back to Girls Scouts is to continue the legacy of membership in one's immediate and extended family, neighbors and friends. As an educator, I continue to make the praises known as this organization is more than arts and crafts and cookies. It is a progressive movement dedicated to ensuring the safety, academic, environmental, social and cultural growth of its female members keeping with diversity, equity, and inclusion. Donations to this organization is also a form of giving back as it accommodates in many ways those who are marginalized. This is one organization which is dedicated to its members in all it's planning, so volunteering, donating, and active involvement will enhance the good work and will help it prosper and continue for generations to come.

A favorite memory Girl Scout was when Girl Scouts descended on the Mall in Washington DC in 2012 at the Girl Scouts "Girl Scout Rock the Mall" Centennial Party. It brought happiness to my heart to see so many girls from the United States and around the world celebrating themselves; taking pictures, dancing in the largest group dance in the world, listening to guest speakers, eating and enjoying themselves. It was an honor to be part of the 100th Birthday celebrating the proud history of developing leadership and community in girls and women internationally.

Karin Mesaros aka "Yoyo"

My Lifetime membership was purchased many years ago. I was not living in Pennsylvania at the time, and I wanted my lifetime membership to be issued by what used to be Freedom Valley GS Council. So, I jumped at the chance even though it was hard to afford back then. (I think it was 75 bucks?) I certainly don't remember how it was obtained! I probably paid for it online and received the appropriate paperwork and certificate in the mail afterwards.

Roles I enjoyed: I was a Brownie, Junior, Cadette, Senior Scout, then worked at Camp Tohikane, Kiwanis and Tweedale in 1980-1984, and then worked for a different council for just a 3 week tripping unit in 1985, (Camp Hidden Falls north of the Poconos when "Sam" Linda More was the Director and needed a tripping counselor), and then went back to Camp Tohi in 1987 as the Program Director. Michelle (Doll) Bock and I had a troop before I moved away to college. We were not 21, so there were mothers who's names were on the paperwork, but Micki and I did all the troop meetings, worked with the girls for Girl Planning and trip logistics, and then I went away to college. I have heard the words "Campus Scouts" but I don't recall who also came up or through when I was in college, but I did find a tribe of friends who formal came up through the Girl Scout ranks.

When I was working at Olympic National Park, I started a combined and Senior/Cadette troop and then found another really cool leader and we combined her troop with my troop when the girls became all Cadettes and Seniors.

Well, because my troops camped very often and I LOVED being outdoors, I was motivated to get a degree in "Recreation and Leisure Services Management." Teaching people about outdoor ethics, environmental stewardship and basically taking care of Mother Earth, drove me to want to be a Park Ranger at age 12, I just didn't know how to get there when I was looking at college programs. Scouting and college eventually led me to my dream of being a National Park Service Ranger, which I achieved as a Junior in College in 1986. To add a twist to the story, I was a seasonal ranger, but I really wanted to serve as the Program Director at Tohi, and my Park Service supervisors allowed me to work the shoulder seasons, (summer of 1986, then fall of '86, and spring of '87) and I took off for the summer and worked at camp, 1987. They said they couldn't guarantee that I would have a job in the fall, but I had an inkling my space at Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area was secure, and sure enough, I was kept on the roles and had a job in the fall of 1987. From there, I had an amazing career in the National Park Service working in 4 different parks with many many detail assignments on wildland fires, search and rescues, coordinating region wide conferences and training sessions, taught at the Horace Albright Training Facility at the Grand Canyon, worked Hurricane clean ups, and in my later years, I secured a managerial position, many detail assignments and eventually co - coordinated the Desert Parks Leadership Academy to help groom the next generation of Park Rangers. This all started with scouting!

I could go on and on and on, but the bottom line is, that whenever someone asks how I became a park ranger, the answer always starts with Girl Scouts and camping and playing outside!