



September 2026

Girlfriends

GIRLFRIENDS IS A PUBLICATION OF GIRL SCOUTS OF NASSAU COUNTY

**Let's Get
Outside**

**WE'RE
BACK FROM
CONVENTION!**

**GIRLFRIENDS
TAKEOVER!
Meet Our
Junior
Editors**

Almost
IT'S FALL!

Kick-off your Girl Scout year!

message from the CEO



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Chief Executive Officer
Girl Scouts of Nassau County

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A Circle is Round; It Has No End

This is the season of transitions—wrapping up summer schedules and gearing up for back-to-school. It also means we are heading back to Girl Scouts! As we kick off the 2027 membership year, it is the perfect time to reflect on our recent accomplishments and envision our hopes for the membership year ahead.

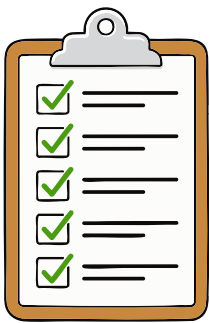
We closed out membership year 2026 with incredible success. We achieved steady membership growth as we continue our climb back to pre-pandemic numbers. We hosted our first-ever Science Fair, our third Mental Health Symposium, and the Girl Leadership Committee's inaugural Live Like a Girl Scout wellness event. We also celebrated a massive 40% increase in Gold Award Girl Scouts!

At Camp Blue Bay, Director Kirsi Moseman helmed an amazing 78th summer camp season. Across the council, our summer programming was equally vibrant, featuring t-ball, cybersecurity, and pickleball. Meanwhile, our third annual Family Fun Fest was a huge hit at its wonderful new Eisenhower Park location. To top it all off, we were honored with the Mutual of America Foundation 2025 Community Partnership Frances R. Hesselbein Award for our dedication to expanding access to Girl Scouting.

Looking ahead, the upcoming year brings exciting new partnerships, including the Museum of Disability History, and girl-inspired programming like Be Aware and Share, which explores organ donations. We are also looking forward to more Traveling Trefoil events, new opportunities for our alum, our third annual Thin Mint Sprint, and breaking ground on our new program space, The Promise Center (look for our new dedicated update column!). Plus, this very issue features articles written by our Girl Scouts through our new Junior Editor Program!

A circle is round and has no end. It doesn't mean we just go in circles; with each rotation, we expand our Girl Scout experience, welcome new friends, and deepen our impact on the community.

—Rande



TIPS FOR A SUCCESSFUL GIRL SCOUT YEAR

Keep it Girl-Led

- Let girls brainstorm badge ideas, trips, service projects, and activities.
- Offer choices and let the troop vote on decisions.
- Use council resources, like the Volunteer Toolkit, to help guide meetings, while keeping girls at the center of the experience.

Start Strong with a Parent & Caregiver Meeting

- Review expectations for attendance, uniforms, dues, communication, and troop finances. Explain what the troop covers financially and what families will pay for individually.
- Share how families can support the troop, and complete the GSNC Parent/Guardian Agreement form.

Build Your Volunteer Team

- Invite caregivers to help in ways that match their interests and availability.

Remember: *Volunteers handling troop finances or supervising girls must be registered members and background checked.*

Plan Ahead

- Discuss troop dues, and how you'll fund activities throughout the year.
- Establish a communication plan for families.

Know Your Support System

- **Troop:** Where girls learn, lead, and grow together.
- **Service Unit:** Local volunteers who provide guidance, resources, and support to troop leaders.
- **Girl Scouts of Nassau County (GSNC):** Your local council, offering programs, training, and volunteer support.
- **Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA):** The national organization that provides the Girl Scout program and resources.

Remember: *You don't have to do it alone! A strong support team helps create a fun, organized, and successful troop year for everyone.*

New Girl Scouts and returning Girl Scouts—get ready for a great year of fun, friendship, and adventure!

Incoming kindergarten girls and above: troops are forming now for the upcoming year. Parent Information sessions will continue in September/October. Don't wait! Form a new troop now and be ready to start before the school year gets underway.

Returning Girl Scouts, it is not too late to renew and continue your uninterrupted year of adventures, real-world skill-building, and lasting sisterhood.

For more information, email customercare@gsnc.org or call 516-741-2550.



Keeping the Promise

WELCOME to Keeping the Promise, your go-to spot for updates on our exciting new program space: The Promise Center.

Girl Scouts of Nassau County is transforming a warehouse in the heart of Roosevelt into a vibrant, 21st-century community hub. This project fulfills a commitment made in 2007 with the sale of Camp Tekakwitha, a vision recently accelerated by a transformative gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

Designed for Impact, Approved by Girls

We've partnered with BBS Architects and Lipsky Construction to design a beautiful, state-of-the-art space. The Promise Center will perfectly complement our Garden City service center and Camp Blue Bay in East Hampton.

While we await final permit approvals, our Girl Advisory Committee has already given the designs a huge thumbs-up! They met with the designer, reviewed the blueprints, and are already cooking up big ideas for the grand opening.

When doors open, this community-wide hub will feature:

- A state-of-the-art media room and modern kitchen
- A dedicated wellness room
- A large multi-purpose room for gathering and connecting
- And so much more!

What's Next?

Up next: finalizing permits, hosting our official groundbreaking, and kicking off a year of active construction. Check every upcoming issue for exclusive updates and behind-the-scenes sneak peeks!



Mags&Munchies Season begins September 25!



Mags&Munchies is a financial literacy program that offers Girl Scouts the opportunity to sell nuts, chocolates and candy, magazines, and other products while practicing how to run their own business. Along the way, these young go-getters develop valuable entrepreneurial and life skills, including:

- Goal setting
- Decision-making
- Money management
- People skills
- Business ethics

The Mags&Munchies Program is a great way for Girl Scout troops to earn funds early in the Girl Scout year, giving troop leaders the opportunity to kick off the year with engaging activities and meaningful experiences. Funds earned through the program can be used to support troop meetings, badges, service projects, and other Girl Scout adventures.

Ways to Participate

Girl Scouts can participate in the Mags&Munchies Program in two ways:

- 1. Online Sales:** Girl Scouts create an online account in the M2 system and invite friends and family to shop online. Customers can choose to have products shipped directly to their home or purchase select items for Girl Scout delivery.
- 2. Order Card Sales:** Girl Scouts take orders in person using an order card while collecting payment from friends, family, neighbors, and other supporters.

For the best results, Girl Scouts are encouraged to participate both online and in person to reach more customers and maximize their troop's earnings.

Care to Share

Are there some customers who are not looking to purchase products but still want to support your local Girl Scout? The Mags&Munchies Care to Share program offers a simple way to give back.

With an \$8 donation, Girl Scouts of Nassau County will provide a nut or snack item to Island Harvest, helping support individuals and families facing food insecurity in our community. Every Care to Share donation allows Girl Scouts to give back while making a positive impact on the lives of others. Get three \$8 donations and earn a Care to Share patch.

Support a Girl Scout, strengthen your community, and help make a difference—one donation at a time.



READY TO **explore**



Scan the QR code
or visit
bit.ly/gsnc-magsmunchies
to learn more.



WE'RE BACK FROM CONVENTION!



GSNC's National delegates recently returned from GSUSA's 58th National Council Session (NCS) in Washington, D.C. Here are some highlights from the trip...

Our Girl Delegates



Charlotte—"It's so amazing to be back at NCS as a delegate. This many Girl Scouts in one room makes me feel enraptured! I was so lucky to go."

Sophie—"Today was our longest day of meetings. We voted on three proposals

and got to hear lots of new opinions along the way.

Izzy and I got to speak on the second proposal and I also took a visit to the interrupting mic."

Izzy—"While preparing for NCS, I was beyond eager to participate in governance on the national level. However, the idea of sharing my opinions in front of a body of almost 1000 other girls and volunteers sounded daunting. Day of, as I was listening to others speak, I realized that I was passionate about what I believed in too, and wanted others to hear what I had to say. Although it was frightening, I realized that I wasn't in a room of enemies; I was in a room of sisters who all shared the same goals I did."

Convention Hall

Izzy—"As we came down the escalators and saw women chanting the iconic 'Everywhere we go' song, I felt moved. Seeing these women with their SWAPS hats, chanting and smiling, and carrying so much pride for the Girl Scout Movement. The sense of community and belonging truly filled the room."

It felt surreal to sit in the convention center seats with a voting device in hand. When I was little I never would have imagined this whole other side to Girl Scouts. The room was filled with nearly 1000 people all coming together with the shared goal of making change that will continue the Movement forward."



GSNC delegation and council members during Girl Scouts Unite.



SWAP trading with other councils and Girl Guides from around the world.



Nominate an Outstanding Volunteer



Girl Scouts of Nassau County appreciates the thousands of volunteers who make Girl Scouting a reality. Volunteers who participate, encourage, and support the Girl Scout Movement are the foundation of our

organization, and help make the world a better place. Let's acknowledge the volunteers who demonstrate the greatest passion and commitment of supporting girls and the impact of Girl Scouting.

Help us recognize volunteers who go above and beyond

by nominating a leader, service team manager, troop cookie manager, or other worthy volunteer for an Adult Recognitions award.

To nominate a volunteer, visit bit.ly/gsnc-adult-rec-nom or scan the QR code below.

The Adult Recognitions award nomination form will be open on Tuesday, September 1. The submission deadline for awards, except for the Volunteer of Excellence award, is Wednesday, December 23.

If the Committee approves the award, the volunteer will be invited to the GSNC Annual Adult Recognitions Award Ceremony in March 2027.



♦ ♦ ♦ Congratulations to the 2026 Class of Gold Award Girl Scouts ♦ ♦ ♦

Gold Award Girl Scouts are changemakers. They have changed the world, changed their lives, and earned the most prestigious award in Girl Scouting. How do they do it? By using everything they've learned as a Girl Scout to help fix a problem in their community or make a lasting change in their world. They take the lead in designing and enacting a plan for change and make a positive impact in their community and beyond.

On Wednesday, June 17, family and friends came together to celebrate the 2026 class of GSNC Gold Award Girl Scouts with a ceremony and dinner at the The Inn at New Hyde Park.

To the 68 GSNC Gold Award Girl Scouts—congratulations! As a council, we are extremely proud of your achievements and look forward to all you will do in the future.



Assorted photos from the evening.



GSUSA Scholarship



GSNC is excited to congratulate Kayla S. for being this year's GSUSA Gold Award scholarship recipient! This \$5,000 scholarship recognizes one Gold Award Girl Scout per council.

When asked about the scholarship, Kayla said, "I felt incredibly grateful to be selected as a recipient of the Gold Award Scholarship among so many inspiring fellow Girl Scouts and impactful projects. Receiving this scholarship was especially meaningful because it recognized the time, dedication, and effort I invested in my Gold Award project, *The Importance of Financial Literacy*."

"Financial literacy is an essential life skill, especially for students preparing to attend college, where many of us will be making important financial decisions independently for the first time. Through this project, I not only had the opportunity to educate others about personal finance, but I also discovered my passion for teaching and empowering people through education. This fall, I will be attending The University of Scranton, where I plan to major in Early and Primary Education."

"My advice to anyone pursuing their Gold Award is to choose a project that truly excites and inspires you. When you are passionate about your topic, that enthusiasm will help keep you motivated and committed, even when you encounter challenges along the way."

Virginia A. Wills Scholarship



Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors who earn their Gold Award tackle issues that are important to them and drive lasting change in their communities and beyond. Think of the Gold Award as a key that can open doors to scholarships, preferred admission tracks for college, and amazing career opportunities.

Elana Wills has generously donated \$1,000 in her mother's name, Virginia A. Wills to be awarded to one Gold Award Girl Scout per year.

This year, Stephanie T. is the eighth Girl Scout from Nassau County to receive the Virginia A. Wills Scholarship. When asked about the scholarship Stephanie said, "Earning this scholarship made me feel appreciated for all my years of community service and made me feel recognized. I plan to continue helping others and make the world a better place. I encourage all Girl Scouts to stay active in their communities and beyond, lending a helping hand to anyone in need. Earning my Gold Award was definitely not easy, but looking at the finished project made me realize the impact just one person has on the world."

Highest AWARDS CORNER



Troop 1497 explored their community and discovered that their neighborhood needed more stop signs. For their Take Action project, the troop petitioned elected officials to advocate for more signs. "We worked together as a team and, despite challenges, we never gave up," reflected troop leader Paulina. "The Girl Scouts went door to door with their petition for stop signs and became even stronger as they listened to the issues, reinforcing the need for the stop signs."



Girl Scout

Olivia used her passion for field hockey to earn the Girl Scout Silver Award. For her project, "Field Hockey, Grow the Game," Olivia created

and led two clinics for girls in 2nd-5th grades to introduce them to the sport. She taught them field hockey basics and gave field hockey sticks to girls who needed one. When asked what she discovered about herself while completing her project, Girl Scout Olivia said, "I can be a good leader and mentor to young girls. I really enjoyed coaching the girls at the two clinics that I held. It was rewarding to see how the girls improved throughout the training."



Words of wisdom from this years' Gold Award keynote speaker...



Our Keynote Speaker: Melanie Pavlidis

Melanie Pavlidis, a Gold Award Girl Scout and Lifetime Member from the Herricks Service Unit, is a longtime GSNC adult volunteer, serving as a GSNC Board Member and Chair of the Fund Development Committee. She is a 2026 Impact Award Honoree and a GSUSA Honor Pin recipient. She was the Mistress

of Ceremony for four Gold Award Ceremonies, the Keynote Speaker at the 2020 Gold Award Ceremony, and served as Head Teller at the GSNC Annual Meeting for five years. Melanie was also a member of the GSNC Chorus for ten years and a Media Girl for eight years. She also chairs the Steering Committee of the American Museum of Natural History Junior Council, and volunteers with the North Shore Land Alliance. Melanie previously worked at GSUSA, Girl Scouts' national headquarters in Manhattan, where she focused on corporate partnerships and fundraising. She currently works on corporate partnerships for Addepar, a leading data platform for financial advisors.



Blast from the past: Top right: Melanie at a troop meeting; Middle: as a media girl recording for the Dove commercial; Bottom: in her mom's old Girl Scout uniform. ▶

Being an Adult Girl Scout

I've been a Girl Scout my whole life. But what that means has changed a few times. Here are eight tips that I hope will help you navigate the world as an adult Girl Scout.

1: Don't get stuck

No matter what age you are, it's easy to get stuck. But it's also just as easy to get unstuck. So if you feel bored, if you feel lost, if you feel sad, try something new.

2: Go deep, not far

When you're on social media or out in the world, if something tugs at you, go a level deeper. Read an article, watch a video, and go out and experience it.

3: Track your work

Always save what you create. Nowadays, you're not just a list of job titles; you can show the world in full color who you are, but it's up to you to tell your story.

4: Think like an engineer

Today, you need multiple technological tools to do any job. So find out what tools people doing your dream job use and try them. You might find they make your life easier too.

5: Don't take it personally

The average adult's day is filled with all kinds of stress, regardless of your job. And if you let it build up, you burn out or break down. Embrace healthy ways to process stress.

6: Be kind, not nice

Take a look at your phone and note the people who care, who check in when you're unwell and who share things that bring you joy, not stress. Those are the people who deserve your time.

7: Take care of your future self

No matter what age you are, make a real plan for your life—at 30, at 50, at 80. Dream big and remind yourself every day what you're working toward.

8: Take care of your present self

I got two pieces of advice from friends during a hard time recently: "go to therapy" and "move your body." We all know what our bodies and our minds need, but it's our job to listen to them.





Most Girls Say Adulthood Feels Scary—

*New Data from Girl Scouts of the USA
Reveals What They Need Most*

RESEARCH SHOWS that today's girls look to supportive adults and role models to feel confident about what their futures may hold.

New data from Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) reveals that the idea of becoming a grown-up sounds scary to more than half (54 percent) of girls ages 5 to 13. That feeling increases with age: 41% of girls ages 5 to 7 feel this way, jumping to 62% among ages 8 to 10 and remaining high at 60% for ages 11 to 13.

Fortunately, supportive role models can play a key role in helping girls feel more prepared for what lies ahead, and girls are clear about what matters in mentors. The majority (85%) say they look up to others for what they can do versus how they look (15%). At a time when many girls feel overwhelmed by the idea of growing up, here is some practical guidance to help adults and caregivers support girls in building confidence about their future:

- **Normalize uncertainty and building confidence:** Help girls understand that adulthood doesn't require having all the answers, reframing the future as an opportunity rather than something to fear.
- **Teach practical, real-world skills:** From financial literacy to communication and decision-making, equip girls with the tools they need to navigate everyday challenges with confidence.
- **Create opportunities to try new things:** In supportive, low-risk environments, girls can take on leadership roles, test new skills, and build resilience through experience.
- **Model healthy and balanced pathways to adulthood:** Provide relatable examples of how to manage responsibilities, pursue goals, and maintain well-being in a modern world.
- **Emphasize values, impact, and purpose over perfection:** By reinforcing what truly matters, help girls focus on making meaningful contributions and defining success on their own terms.

From One Volunteer to Another



Amy Guerrero,
Megan Dunphy Gregoire, and
Joyti Kapoor, Co-Leaders of
Brownie Troop 3511:

“Being Girl Scout co-leaders has been such a fun and rewarding experience. Over the last three years, we've watched girls grow from shy little Daisies into confident and capable young leaders. Seeing them find their voices, becoming comfortable speaking in front of others, and truly believing in themselves has been the best part of the journey.

We love giving the girls opportunities to try new things, work together as a team, help others through service, and make friendships that will last long after Girl Scouts. Watching them encourage one another, step outside their comfort zones, and grow into amazing young girls has made every meeting, outing, and adventure worth it.”



Troop 3511 at their end of year spa party at Tease in Wantagh.

Every Girl in a Tent: Why Getting Outside is the Most Important Thing We Can Do for Our Daughters

By Rande Bynum, CEO, Girl Scouts of Nassau County



Ask a girl in Hempstead, Freeport, or Elmont what she did last weekend, and chances are her answer would sound a lot like that of girls in any zip code across Long Island. She spent time scrolling on her phone. Maybe on social media. Maybe texting friends. Maybe watching a show. What she likely wasn't doing was exploring the outdoors or simply lying on the grass and watching the sky. As CEO of Girl Scouts of Nassau County, I want to say something plainly. Girls need to spend more time outside, unplugged and reconnecting with the world around them.

The good news is we already have an answer, one that has been working for more than a century and is happening right here in our own backyard. According to the Outdoor Foundation, participation in outdoor recreation among girls ages 13 to 17 has fallen to roughly 50 percent. Research published in the Journal of American College Health confirms that screen time is a significant predictor of higher anxiety, depression, and stress in young people, while time spent outdoors predicts lower rates of stress and depression. Nature is good for girls, and the absence of it is doing harm.

What makes this urgent is that girls are disproportionately affected. Studies show that girls spend less time outdoors than boys, and that the drop-off accelerates sharply in early adolescence. These are the years when confidence, identity, and resilience are being forged. At a time when we are already grappling with a youth mental health crisis, this is a trend we cannot afford to ignore.

Outdoor experiences do not just reduce anxiety. They actively build the skills girls need to lead. The Girl Scout Research Institute has found that girls who spend regular time outdoors are better problem solvers, more likely to seek out challenges, and are stronger environmental stewards. They develop leadership skills, forge deeper friendships, and report greater happiness overall. For girls from lower-income communities, access to the outdoors is even more transformative. Research shows that these girls are significantly more likely to credit outdoor experiences with helping them become leaders.

Communities including Westbury, Roosevelt, Freeport, Hempstead, and Glen Cove are home to thousands of girls who deserve every opportunity to experience what

the outdoors can give them. Many of these girls face real barriers, including fewer green spaces, limited transportation, and tighter family budgets. The idea of sending a daughter to sleepaway camp in the Hamptons can feel like a luxury that belongs to someone else's life.

Every girl, regardless of zip code, family income, or whether she has ever held a tent stake in her life, deserves the chance to discover what she is made of when the Wi-Fi is gone and the stars are overhead.

Across 179 acres of woods, trails, and private beachfront, girls spend summers canoeing, swimming, building fires, sleeping under the stars, and doing something that is increasingly rare in the lives of young people...being fully, completely present.

The girls I see during the school year undergo a transformation at camp. They become—dare I say—wild and free. They are independent, curious, and incredibly brave. The girl who was nervous about sleeping away from home discovers she can navigate a trail. The girl who thought she was “not outdoorsy” finds herself paddling a canoe across open water and realizing she loves it. These are moments that shape who a girl believes she can be, and that belief follows her home.

Every girl should have the chance to get outside in a meaningful, supported, and joyful way. Not just girls whose families can easily absorb the cost of summer camp. Not just girls who already love hiking or have spent weekends on trails. Every girl, including the one in Elmont who has never left Nassau County, the one in Hempstead who thinks camping sounds miserable, the one in Valley Stream who just needs someone to hand her a canoe paddle and say, “You’ve got this.”

I am asking Long Island families, school leaders, community organizations, and businesses to join us in making the outdoors accessible to every girl in Nassau County. Because the research is clear, the need is urgent, and the girls are ready.

The girl who builds a fire, sleeps in a tent, and wakes up to birdsong instead of notifications is not just having a fun summer adventure. She is becoming a leader for Long Island, for our communities, and for the future...and those leaders start here.





Troop-Led Camping

Troop Camping has been part of the Girl Scout experience since its inception. Camping is fun and a great way to build new skills and develop a deeper appreciation for nature with your friends. Troop-Led Camping is planned and carried out by a group of Girl Scouts and their outdoor camp-trained volunteers/leaders. Your troop will help decide what activities they want to do, what they want to eat, and what new skills or adventures they want to try while at camp. Registration is ongoing by season. Tent Units and Troop Houses are available in spring and fall; Troop Houses are also available in the winter.

To check availability and download a Troop Camping Application, visit gsnc.org.



Challenge yourself to experience the outdoors by spending a night under the stars. Earn an exclusive glow-in-the-dark **Every Girl Scout in a Tent patch** for any outdoor overnight stay in a tent at a council camp program, troop camping, summer camp, or camping with your family.

For over 100 years, girls have discovered, explored, and strengthened their outdoor skills and commitment to environmental stewardship through Girl Scouting. Every Girl in a Tent Challenge patches are available for purchase at Camp Blue Bay.

To learn more about Camp Blue Bay visit gsnc.org/camp



Live Like a Girl Scout RECAP

An Interactive Teen Wellness Event
by the Girl Leadership Committee (GLC)



“

The **Live Like a Girl Scout** event was such an inspiring and meaningful experience. It was amazing to see Girl Scouts from all different age groups participate in a day that was a perfect blend of education and excitement. One of my favorite parts of the event was witnessing the GLC's vision come to life.

Walking in at the beginning to see all of the stations set up was truly fantastic. Stations ranged from practicing yoga to creating stress balls. Everyone was able to go home with a lot of new information and a custom tote bag full of free goodies.

I loved being able to work alongside other members of the GLC to help create a welcoming and encouraging environment for the participants. It was so rewarding to see the vision we created months ago bloom into a successful event. Overall, the event reminded me of how empowering Girl Scouting can be and the value of belonging to such a strong community. Live Like a Girl Scout truly demonstrated the importance of creating opportunities to encourage confidence, inner and outer beauty, and connection.

—KAITLYN C.

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It was incredibly rewarding to watch the GLC's hard work and dedication of planning and preparing for Live Like a Girl Scout come together in such a memorable event. Live Like a Girl Scout provided activities that focused on many different aspects of a healthy lifestyle, including stress management, self-care, and mindful movement. These are essential skills that support overall well-being and help Girl Scouts develop healthy habits they can carry with them forever. I was able to connect with other Girl Scouts within the Nassau County community through stations that were educational and engaging. I found that the event created a welcoming environment that aligned with the GLC's values and the purpose of the event: bringing Girl Scouts together over a shared interest in living life to the fullest. I was also excited to see so many organizations come together to support Live Like a Girl Scout, and their contributions created lasting positive experiences for Girl Scouts.

—ISABELLE D.

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Introducing the 26-27 GLC Committee

GSNC's Girl Leadership Committee (GLC) is one of the many leadership opportunities offered for Girl Scout Seniors and Ambassadors. It's an opportunity for girls to share their bold ideas, use their voices in new ways, and create change. We extend our gratitude to the 2025-2026 members for their dedication and contributions throughout the year. The GLC is ready to start the new membership year with the 2026-2027 committee!

Girlfriends Junior Editor Program

We recently had the pleasure of working with ambitious Girl Scouts in our Junior Editor Program. Over the course of four sessions, they sharpened their skills in writing, editing, interviewing, and editorial design, proving they have a real knack for storytelling! They also met with Jordan Vallone, managing editor of the Herald newspapers, who shared what it's like to turn curiosity into a career in journalism. The program concluded with a tour of the Herald and the completion of the articles featured below and on the next page. We hope you enjoy reading their work as much as we enjoyed working with them! Keep an eye out for more Junior Editor takeovers in future issues!



We asked Junior Editor Ella how Girl Scouts has impacted her life. She in turn interviewed a Girl Scout alum about how Girl Scouts impacts your life a few years out...

Being a Girl Scout has given me so much more than fun memories. It has helped me build confidence, teamwork, and leadership skills that I know will help me in the future. Through service projects, events, and earning awards, I've gained experiences that make me stand out both in school and hopefully in the future when I am applying for jobs!

I had the opportunity to interview Girl Scout alum, Katie Lenz, about the lasting impact Girl Scouting has had on her life. She shared that one of the most valuable skills she gained was public speaking. **"Now, as a young professional, that skill has evolved into strong business acumen and the ability to understand and connect with my audience."**

Katie also reflected on the lifelong friendships and invaluable experiences Girl Scouting gave her. "I didn't realize at the time just how valuable Girl Scouts was. It wasn't until I looked back that I recognized the lasting friendships I made, the skills I developed, and how fortunate I was to have had those experiences. When I started building my resume, I realized that so many of my accomplishments and leadership experiences came from Girl Scouts. It reminded me that every experience prepares you for the future, and the skills I gained through Girl Scouts have stayed with me for a lifetime."

Interested in participating in a future Junior Editor Program? Email marketing@gsnc.org or keep an eye out on the programs page of our website.

What are You Reading?



Junior Editor Aarya loves to read and wanted to share some book recommendations from her sister Girl Scouts...

AMBASSADOR Faith's rec: **Hunger Games (Series)**

By Suzanne Collins
Dystopian fiction set in a future society where teens are selected as tributes to compete in a game of survival. It follows Katniss Everdeen as she fights for survival.

SENIOR Ella's rec: **We Were Liars (Series)**

By E. Lockhart
A suspenseful Young Adult (YA) novel about a wealthy, seemingly perfect family hiding dark secrets, a tragic accident, and a group of cousins known as the "Liars" on a private island.

CADETTE Arianna's rec: **Powerless (Series)**

By Lauren Roberts
A YA fiction novel about a girl named Paedyn Gray who has no powers, hiding inside a magical kingdom.

JUNIOR Charisma's rec:
Dork Diaries (Series)
By Rachel Renee Russel
Dork Diaries is written in the form of a diary or journal that belongs to Nikki Maxwell. The diary showcases her life in high school with bullies, friends for life, and more.

BROWNIE Elizabeth's rec: **Warriors the Prophecy Begins (Series) (Graphic Novel)**

By Erin Hunter
A story about a cat named Rusty who goes into the forest and becomes a member of the ThunderClan.

DAISY Vienna's rec:
Elephant and Piggie
By Mo Willems
Elephant and Piggie is a well-known children's book collection about a long-lasting friendship between an elephant and a pig.

New Vests and Sashes for Seniors and Ambassadors!



Junior Editor Amberley reported on our new Girl Scout uniforms...

For years, Girl Scouts bridging to Senior and Ambassador levels have held onto the nostalgic khaki vest from their Cadette years.

Now, that's changing! I interviewed Girl Scout Shop Manager, Tara Bowers, to learn more about the exciting new Senior and Ambassador uniforms.

She shared that “the girls have been pushing for their own identity.”

The new Senior vest and sash are spruce green, while the Ambassador's are slate blue, giving each level its own unique look. The uniforms are the same price as the Cadette level, and the design remains consistent with the current uniforms.

Along with a fresh look, the uniforms also come with updated sizing to better fit Girl Scouts as they grow into their Senior and Ambassador years.



Senior Vest and Sash



Ambassador Vest and Sash



Lily Falls

Junior Editor Arianna put her creativity to work, writing a fictional mystery set at Girl Scout camp.



“Wait, what?” Clover groans. “Come on, Clo. It's only three days,” her twin sister Amber says. “We'll be home before you know it.”

The twins have always been inseparable, and Amber's excitement is the only reason Clover agrees to go. As for me? I figure we just have to survive a few days in the woods.

By sunset, we arrive at Lily Falls. The lake sparkles beneath the orange sky, and the campsite feels almost magical. Even Clover stops complaining. After setting up our tent, we fall asleep to the sounds of the forest.

The next morning, I wake to birds chirping. I look around.

Amber is gone.

Outside, everyone gathers for attendance.

“Amber?” Naomi calls.

No answer.

Clover rushes back into the tent, then returns with a frightened look.

“She's really gone.”

Panic spreads through camp.

Inside the tent, Clover notices our lanterns are missing. I point to broken glass on the floor.

“Our lanterns stayed behind, so whose glowing light waited beyond the trees?”

“She must have left before sunrise,” Clover says. “Let's follow the clues.”

Deep in the woods, Clover spots a piece of blue fabric caught on a branch.

“Amber's pajamas,” she whispers.

Then I see fresh footprints leading

farther into the trees.

“She's close!”

We race ahead, calling her name.

“AMBER!”

She's lying on the ground, perfectly still.

“She's breathing,” I say with relief.

A moment later, Amber opens her eyes.

Back at camp, Naomi treats a scratch on her leg.

“I heard someone scream,” Amber explains. “I grabbed a lantern to help, but I never found anyone.”

That night, I hear the same scream outside our tent.

A lantern glows between the trees.

But our lanterns were left in the forest.

So...whose lantern is waiting for us?

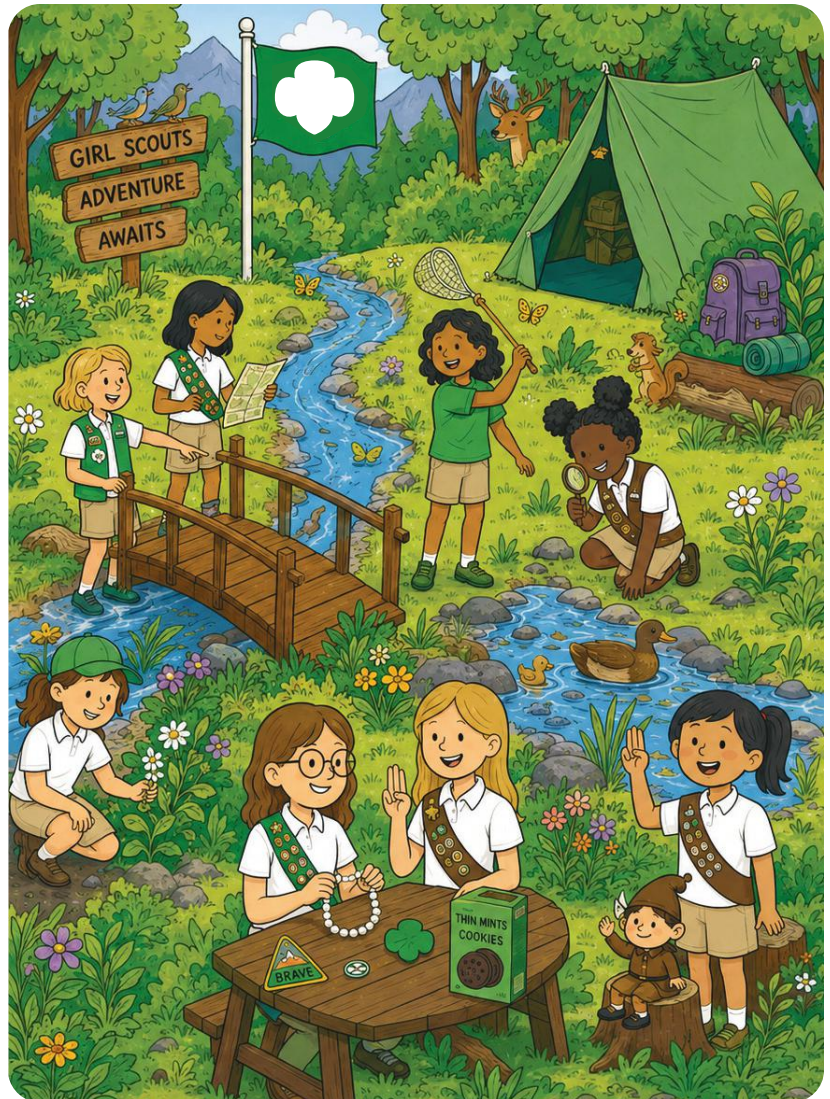
Read the second installment in the December issue of Girlfriends.

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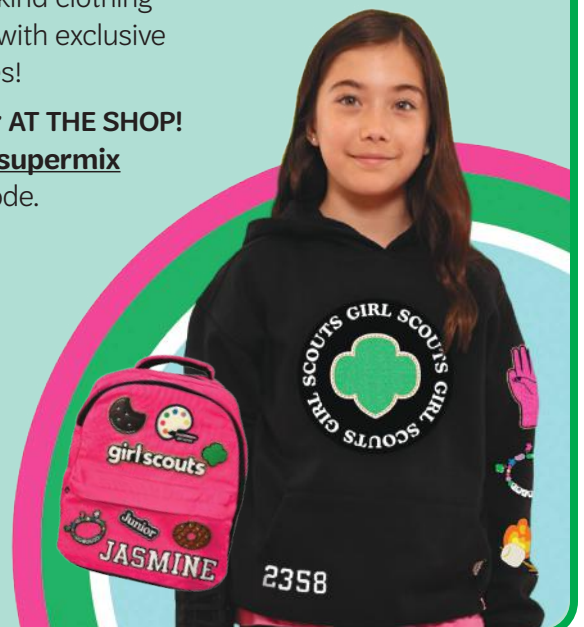


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*Send address changes
to Girlfriends,
110 Ring Road West,
Garden City, NY 11530*

Girlfriends (USPS 135-280),
is published quarterly.
Girl Scouts of Nassau County, Inc.
110 Ring Road West,
Garden City, NY 11530
Periodicals Postage Paid at
Garden City, NY 11530.

Melanie Sinesi
President and Chief Volunteer Officer

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*with special thanks to Jordan Vallone
from the Long Island Herald, and our
Social Media Manager Chantel Smith, for
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