



To the Editor:

I have been a Girl Scout for eleven years and have had the most fun and have created some of the best memories of my life through scouting. I have had more opportunities as a Girl Scout than I would ever have imagined.

I have camped a lot, earned badges and sold delicious Girl Scout Cookies, of course, but Girl Scouts is so much more than those activities. I have been caving and sailing, met the governor of New York, given speeches in front of two hundred people, and impacted my community through service projects of my own design.

Most recently, I have had the opportunity to work with ten other girls from across the country on a committee to impact the future of the National Girl Scout movement. We met for months online and then gathered at the end of the school year at a retreat to finalize our recommendations to Girl Scouts USA. It gave me valuable experience about working on a team and representing large groups.

Girl Scouts is FUN! It gives me a chance to do things with my hands, like electrical engineering experiments, leatherworking, windsurfing, and cooking over a fire. Sometimes it is serious, like when we perform at nursing homes, but we have plenty of fun, like when we make s'mores together and sing around the campfire. When I look around my community, most of the girls that lead are those that I have met through scouting.

Girl Scouts are impressive, well-rounded, and undisputed leaders in our communities. Whether we are running camporees to share our skills with younger girls, selling cookies to fund important community projects, or serving on a board to the CEO of our council, we all make up an exceptional group of future leaders. With great opportunities like these, I hope every girl gets to be a Girl Scout!

To join or volunteer, please visit: www.girlscouts.org/join.

Sincerely,
McGinnis Miller
Girl Scouts with the Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways, Inc.



Girl Scouting a Blast

Back to school season is also the time when many Girl Scout troops organize for the year. I am writing this letter because of how much I believe joining Girl Scouts is a great decision, and I want to spread the word! For the past seven years, I have been a Girl Scout. I couldn't imagine what it would be like if I wasn't.

There would be so many missed opportunities in my life. Girl Scouts is definitely more than cookies. My troop has done many "take action" projects to help our community. We received a Bronze Award (3rd highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn) for a teddy bear drive at our school. We collected new and gently used stuffed animals to give to the kids at Kosair Children's Hospital. It was a wonderful day when we dropped off hundreds of stuffed animals knowing that they would be hugged by children throughout our city.

But being a Girl Scout hasn't been all about helping others become strong. It is also about helping us grow strong to be successful. I have had many experiences in the real business world such as being one of the Girl Scouts at Republic Bank's "Operation Cookie." In this project, we work with Republic Bank to fund-raise to send cookies to soldiers overseas. I have even been on the radio and TV as part of the Girl Scout Press Corps! I have learned so much because of Girl Scouts. But we also have a lot of fun!

My troop went on a 3-day, 2-night camping trip. My troop is full of really nice girls that I know will be my friends when I get older. All of these experiences add up to one big reason why girls should join -- It's a BLAST!!!

Allie Senn, Louisville 40245



The Magic of Girl Scouts

Throughout my entire life, I have been a Girl Scout. I remember sneaking into my sister's meetings when I was too young to join myself and the elation to take part in something I saw as magical. I have now been a Girl Scout for over 10 years and still feel the "magic" I felt when I was first able to put on a vest of my very own.

As a Daisy I believed that the magic was just that: magic. Clearly a fairy had come and placed a spell on all the little Scouts so that each meeting was filled with adventure and laughter. When I became a Brownie I stopped believing in fairies (because suddenly I was a "big girl") and decided that the magic was just a silly thought of a child, but the lingering feeling of joy and magic that I felt as a Daisy remained. As a Junior I moved from California to Nevada and almost gave up on that magic completely. Then my parents made the choice to plop me in a room with 10 other girls and register me for Girl Scouts. On that single day I met my best friend and gained a second family. As we got older and our troop numbers dwindled me and my BFF always stuck together and stuck with Girl Scouts.

Now I am a senior in high school working diligently on my gold award. My final year in Girl Scouts is here and the magic has finally revealed its true colors. It was not a fairy or a figment of my imagination as I once thought, rather the feeling that I couldn't fail. It was and is a refreshing step back from the pressures that I always felt to be perfect. The amazing volunteers never punished you for doing something "wrong;" instead they gave you a warm smile and a snack. Never was I told that I could not do something while I was in Girl Scouts, and never did that Daisy magic leave me.

I believe that every girl should be able to feel the magic that I feel every day. Every girl should know what it is like to have unconditional belief from a person you usually only see twice a month. Every girl should be empowered and have the ability to gain the courage, confidence, and character that Girl Scouts provides.

Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada has shaped me into a person that stands up for what she believes and is not afraid to fail. Girl Scouts is so much more than just cookies. It is best friends, gooey s'mores, exciting badges, the opportunity of a lifetime – and to me, it was magic. Girl Scouts of the Sierra Nevada is starting new troops this month, so be sure to get in on all the magic!

To join or volunteer, please visit: www.girlscouts.org/join.

Alexandra Jensen