

## We're shining our spotlight on Girl Scout troops and all they do

Anywhere she wants to go begins with Girl Scouts.

Maybe she dreams of exploring space, running her own business, or advocating for climate justice. She needs somewhere to start. From writing her first code to hiking her first national park, Girl Scouts will help her build skills and discover talents she never knew she had. But the most important thing she'll discover? Who she is and everything she's capable of accomplishing today, tomorrow, and beyond. In this edition of The Trailblazer, we will show you how Girl Scouts across New Hampshire and Vermont are learning and challenging themselves.

Every Girl Scout has her own interests, talents and dreams, so when they come together as a troop to decide which of the thousands of Girl Scout activities to try, there are no limits. Whether visiting an animal shelter as a new Daisy, camping as a Brownie, building a robot as a Cadette, or solving an issue in their community as an Ambassador, they're learning to take risks, trust their gut, and team up with others to do good.

Our Girl Scouts are busy helping their communities through Take Action projects, badge work, and highest-award projects, and have lots of fun while they do it. See how Colchester, VT, Brownies have put the Girl Scout Cookie program to work by donating to their local Ronald McDonald House, and how a Concord, NH, troop has learned about alternatives to single-use plastics, made fire preparedness bags for the Red Cross, and cleared trash.

But it's not just community service. Girl Scouts are forming forever friendships – a really powerful thing. It's what gives Girl Scouts the confidence to be themselves. It's what makes them feel safe enough



**Cadette Troop 59226 Windsor, VT, earned their First Aid badge, which included touring the Dartmouth Hitchcock Advanced Response Team in Lebanon, NH, and interviewing the helicopter crew. (Courtesy photo)**

to try new things and cheer each other on through challenging times. It's the support that gets them moving on tough days, gives them confidence to raise their hand in class, work out a problem in their community, and even hike to the top of a mountain. It's easy to make new friends as a Girl Scout. Whether joining a troop or spending a week at summer camp, Girl Scouts have the chance to meet others from their neighborhood, their community, and nearby schools.

Girl Scouting creates space for girls to be themselves. A troop to cheer them on when they try new things. Their Girl Scout community is a place to call their own, while they test their limits, form forever friendships and share unique experiences. For a Girl Scout, no adventure is too big and no community service is too

small.

Our Girl Scouts are donating pet food, gaining skills at a magical overnight at Camp Kettleford, learning about nature with Master Naturalist Pamela Gude, learning to make their own dessert pizzas with our virtual Magical Baking series, cleaning parks and playgrounds for Green Up Day, creating a rain garden in Nashua, learning to ski at Pats Peak, and becoming independent at summer camp.

From the very start of their Girl Scout journey, our girls give back and make an impact on their community. From restocking the local food pantry, to beautifying their school's playground, making the world a better place is part of what makes Girl Scouting so special. As our

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## We're shining our spotlight on Girl Scout troops

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girls get older, they can take it to the next level, together with their troop or individually, when they earn their higher awards to make a sustainable impact on their communities.

Girl Scouts have endless opportunities to become leaders. Anyone can tell others what to do. A true leader can make smart decisions, act fairly and responsibly, and let others on the team shine as they work together. Whether it's running their cookie business, supporting our Gift of Caring program, or directing a team of volunteers for a Gold Award project, Girl Scouting allows girls the opportunity to build their leadership skills and become the leaders of tomorrow.

The path from a young Daisy to a mature Ambassador is not a straight line. It takes years of commitment and dedication, with lifelong friendships formed along the way. Research shows the rewards of being a Girl Scout are many and the skills gained are immeasurable. Take a look at how our Girl Scouts are making the most of their experiences.



The beach in Rye, NH, provided an opportunity for Girl Scout Troop 10427 of Raymond to learn about life in the tide pools. To leave the beach better than they found it, the troop also picked up trash. (Courtesy photo)



Bedford, NH, Troop 58110 helped their community with a holiday toy drive. (Courtesy photo)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

To donate to Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, visit: [girlscoutsgwm.org/donate](http://girlscoutsgwm.org/donate).

To learn more, contact the Advancement office by emailing [advancement@girlscoutsgwm.org](mailto:advancement@girlscoutsgwm.org) or calling 888-474-9686.

# Girl Scout troops are as unique as their members



Dear friends,

Girl Scout troops are an essential part of our programming. Through connections with troop leaders, our members develop relationships with adults they trust, who mentor and support them through life's difficulties.

Troops work together to set goals, earn badges, complete community service projects, camp, and plan activities. Girls learn to discover their interests, connect with others, and take action – the three keys to the Girl Scout Leadership Experience program. It is exciting to discover what our troops have been doing as each troop is as unique as its members. Whether the troop focuses on travel, the outdoors, or art, the girls are making their own decisions and learning how to succeed. Most of our troops are not focused on one aspect of our program but choose to sample all four of our program pillars: Entrepreneurship, Life Skills, STEM, and the Outdoors.

Did you know that girls may be members of more than one troop? They can if they choose! Many girls participate in

their local troop and then join a travel troop to plan trips across the country or around the world. Coastal Rompers and the Swift Water Paddlers Canoe Team are also troops focused on developing specific skills and interests.

Regardless of what girls decide to do, we are proud of all their accomplishments. And we know that this amazing work would not be possible without the efforts of our thousands of Girl Scout volunteers. These adults pour their hearts and souls into supporting our members, and we are grateful for all that they do. Please join us in thanking our Girl Scout volunteers for building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make our world a better place!

Thank you for supporting our council and our members. I hope you enjoy catching up with our troops and their diverse activities

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Patricia K. Mellor  
Chief Executive Officer, GSGWM  
Gold Award Girl Scout

## Our council by the numbers

October 1, 2022 - Present

10,263  
total membership

6,196 girl members      2,544 adult members

1,523  
lifetime members

618  
active troops

113  
new troops started

18,373  
badges earned in STEM,  
Entrepreneurship, Life Skills  
and Outdoors

# Brownie troop helps make Colchester a better place

## Troop has donated to Ronald McDonald House and UVM Children's Hospital

Brownie Troop 62615 in Colchester, Vermont, is a group of 11 Girl Scouts who have worked hard to make their community a better place, earned new skills through a variety of badge work, and took advantage of the Girl Scout Cookie Program to make it all happen.

Leader Jennifer Gruda, along with her supportive co-leaders, Michelle Norton and Holly Burbo, guided their Brownies to decide what their goals would be.

"During cookie season this year," she said, "we brainstormed as a troop ideas for fun activities and community service projects to do with our cookie proceeds, explaining we will budget 50 percent of what we earn for fun, 25 percent for community service, and 25 percent for troop savings/expenses/badge work. We filled out our troop target with our cookie sale goals to achieve these ideas with our ultimate target being set at 1,500 packages of cookies. The girls exceeded their target goal, selling 1,780 packages. We then took a vote and decided on movie night and open gymnastics gym time for our fun activity, and donating toys and children's books to the UVM Children's Hospital and Ronald McDonald House."

The troop purchased items with their cookie proceeds and assembled about 80 kits with coloring supplies, stickers, painting materials, Play-Doh, bubbles, modeling clay, fidget toys, squishies, and more. They included hand-drawn pictures in the kits for a personal touch.

These Girl Scouts also collected can top



One reward for their success at being Girl Scout Cookie entrepreneurs was a trip to an open gym for gymnastics. (Courtesy photo)



Sarah Taylor, certified child life specialist with the University of Vermont Children's Hospital, and three of the Brownies in Troop 62615 delivered activity kits to the Ronald McDonald House in Burlington so children receiving treatment and their families would have plenty to do while their family member is treated. (Courtesy photo)

tabs, which the Ronald McDonald House converts to funds that help pay for a family's stay and meals while a loved one is staying at the hospital. In addition, cookie proceeds allowed the Girl Scouts to purchase and donate needed items from the Ronald McDonald House wish list, including bottled water, sheets and towels, and infant clothes, toys, and sensory books.

Taking action is important to these Girl Scouts. The troop earned six badges in the past year, participated in the annual Green Up Day community cleanup for the town of Colchester, learned about recycling from the Chittenden Solid Waste District, and had visits from Colchester Rescue and Vermont Astronomical Society. There was a lot of fun, too, including visiting the Echo Science Center, annual town gingerbread house/caroling/tree lighting, open gym gymnastics, seeing the Little Mermaid at the movie theater, seeing a Disney on Ice event, attending Girl Scout winter camp at Twin Hills for sledding/s'mores/snowshoeing fun, and adopting a new friend at a Build-a-Bear workshop held at the Williston Girl Scout



Troop 62615 learns about recycling as part of their effort to make their community a better place. (Courtesy photo)

shop in the spring. They celebrated the end of the troop year with an ice cream sundae party and playground fun.

Gruda said she puts in a lot of work planning and carrying out all these activities, but it's worth it.

"Yes, definitely very fulfilling!" she said. "Especially when we are able to give back to the community and make a difference, or when the girls learn something new as part of the badge work, feeling proud, and I learn a lot from them, too! Definitely makes it all worthwhile."

# Concord area Girl Scouts take action, expand skills

Alison Scheiderer of Epsom runs a very active troop based in Concord, NH, which has been busy exploring their world and doing their best to help their community for the past few years. The troop is fairly new, having formed at the end of 2020, and now has 18 Girl Scouts from area towns in grades 1-3. Scheiderer was named the council's Volunteer of the Month for January 2022, and brings experience as a Leave No Trace Master Educator, a wilderness first responder, a land conservation specialist, and an Epsom School Board member. Assisting her with the troop are Marcia Fletcher, Ashley Lemieux, and Rebecca Lovell.

"I wanted my daughters to have an experience, even at this level, that could lead them in that direction," she said. "We're having a really good time. It is really fun to do it with my daughter, my older daughter especially, and have a reason to learn about robotics. This is stuff I want her to

be engaged in and learn about. But getting a badge on her vest is quite motivating for her!"

Most recently, Troop 61345 visited the Vegetable Ranch organic farm in Warner, where they performed their bridging ceremony. The girls got to start some seedlings, visit the animals, and compare the birds raised for eggs and meat. In May, they earned their Pottery badge at Studio 550 in Manchester.

To take action, her Girl Scouts learned about the work of the American Red Cross and assembled fire preparedness bags for the Red Cross to hand out; made Valentines and collected stuffed animals to donate to the Family Promise of Greater Concord, which serves families with children experiencing homelessness; made holiday cards for people who use the services provided by the Concord Coalition Against Homelessness; participated in the Coastal Rompers beach cleanup; and

hiked through Winant Park at sunset and into the dark while collecting trash.

To gain life skills, they visited the Bonafide Green Goods store in Concord to learn about alternatives to single-use plastics; earned their First Aid badge with help from the Epsom Central School nurse; visited Worthy Mind and Movement, a yoga studio in Concord, to earn the My Best Self badge; and met at the Revival Kitchen and Bar in Concord where they learned to make granola in a commercial kitchen for their Snacks badge.

Just for fun, the troop went ice skating at Everett Arena in Concord, enjoyed a dance party for their Dancer badge, and celebrated Juliette Gordon Low's birthday with a Halloween party.

These Brownies and Daisies are making the most of their Girl Scout Experience, becoming young women of courage, confidence, and character.



## Highlights of the current Girl Scout season



The Brownies of Troop 30456 of St. Albans, VT, had a great time earning their Pottery badge.



Troop 10427 of Raymond, NH, donated bedding, food, and supplies to the Guinea Pig Sanctuary in Salisbury, MA.



Troop 40126 in Bethel, VT, enjoyed celebrating Girl Scout's 111th birthday with a virtual campfire and real cake.



Troop 62216 of Nottingham, NH, has been busy visiting new places and exploring science themes.



Manchester, NH, Daisy Troop 10920 had an amazing time touring the Manchester Police Department.



Cadettes from Bennington, NH, Troop 60248 earned their Snow Adventure badge at Pats Peak ski area.



Nashua, NH, Troop 51595 worked on a rain garden by the Nashua Public Library and finished it up in May.



Troop 62994 of Goffstown, NH, had lots of fun at the Build-A-Bear Workshop, and tied it into their financial literacy badges.



Troop 30228 helped clean up two parks and the school playground in Waterbury, VT, for Green Up Day.

# Highlights of the current Girl Scout season



Marion from Hinesburg, VT, participated in the council's online Magical Baking class to create two dessert pizzas!



Girl Scouts took part in the Brownie Bugs program at Camp Twin Hills with Master Naturalist Pam "Flask" Gude.



Girl Scouts enjoyed a magical overnight camping experience at Camp Kettleford as camp season began.



Lunenburg, VT, Troop 30356 traveled to Ogunquit, Maine, to have their bridging ceremony at the footbridge there.



Mason, NH, Troop 59253 made a special donation of pet food to the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry in Greenville.



Service Unit 219 from Pelham and Hudson, NH, helped Wreaths Across America lay wreaths at veterans' gravesites.



Community 200 held its International Festival at the Walpole, NH, Town Hall.



Troop 61654 of Morrisville, VT, donated 13 cases of cookies to the Clarina Howard Nichols Center women's shelter.



Barre, VT, Troop 30357 spent meeting time baking to donate to local organizations to help with Thanksgiving dinner.

# Your donation helps us keep Girl Scouts going

Before a Girl Scout sails around the world or designs their own fashion line, they need to believe they can do it. Invest in our local Girl Scouts and make those dreams a reality. Then watch as they discover new interests and chase their dreams—with the pride of knowing you helped make it possible.

Your unrestricted gift will be used to ensure local Girl Scouts gain the skills and confidence needed to accept challenges, overcome obstacles, and become leaders and helps us pay the everyday expenses like staff, utilities, and property care that is the base for all we do. We thank these donors for their generosity toward Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains.



Troop 60259 of Londonderry, NH, donated over 100 coats and new clean socks to two local organizations to help those in need. (Courtesy photo)

## 2023 Donors

*October 1, 2022 - present*

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