

## Girl Scouting benefits girls and families through many generations

Bloodlines truly run green in some families, as the Girl Scout tradition is passed down from mother to daughter, aunt to niece, in every combination of family. The role of family is always important in Girl Scouting, but it's in the multi-generation Girl Scout family that one truly sees the power and benefit of the Girl Scout experience – an experience we are eager to see more families share.

“The Girl Scout law,” said Dr. Patricia “Pat” Edwards of Concord, NH, “was something we lived by” as a family. “Honesty, truthfulness, being a sister to every other Girl Scout, using resources wisely. I’ve taught (my family) so well my son wants to recycle things you can’t!”

Edwards is part of a three-generation Girl Scout family. Her father got her interested in Girl Scouts when he started a Boy Scout troop and talked about their adventures. She was able to travel as an older Girl Scout, and in college started her own troop. She led troops her sisters, Anne and Christine, were in, and talked her mother into leading a Brownie troop. Anne went on to be the last president of the Swift Water Girl Scout Council in New Hampshire, as the New Hampshire council merged with the Vermont council to become Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains. Pat’s daughter, Colleen, was a leader in Dover, NH, and Pat is hopeful her 5-year-old granddaughter will soon be a Daisy Girl Scout. Both Pat and Anne are Gold Award Girl Scouts, having earned what was at the time First Class status. Pat has also led a Cub Scout den, and one of her brothers is an Eagle Scout. Pat’s daughter Colleen also earned her Gold Award, and her son, Gregory, is an Eagle Scout, as are Anne’s two sons.

When Pat is not busy as a pediatrician, her big passion is Girl Scouts. “I see it as something that’s so important for girls,”



At left, Associate Attorney General for the state of New Hampshire Anne Edwards left, and Dr. Patricia Edwards are part of a multi-generation Girl Scout family. Anne Edwards was once president of Swift Water Council, and Patricia Edwards is a long-time troop leader. Above is Pat Edwards with part of their family, including her sister Christine, her mother, and brother. Her mother was a Girl Scout troop leader and her brother was involved in Boy Scouts. (Courtesy photos)

she said. “It made opportunities available to me. That led to a shy girl, who was smart enough, feeling that she could go to medical school.”

Jessica Goodine of Milford, NH, has had Troop 12027 in her family for 36 years. “My mom was the leader and now I lead the troop with my daughter, who is third generation on one side of Girl Scouts.” Her great-grandmother, who just turned 101, was a leader and Girl Scout, spending many summers at Camp Anne Jackson in Wilton.

Lena Sak of Florida was happy to share her family story on Facebook when the council posted a request for photos of multi-generation Girl Scout families. Four

generations of her family have been Girl Scouts or Girl Guides, and her girls have loved participating in our council’s virtual programs.

“Girl Scouts introduced me to so many interests, like camping, star gazing, that I wouldn’t have been exposed to,” she said. “Further, it’s created so many happy memories of my grandmother teaching me to make bread, and jam, or to crochet so I could earn badges (outlets I still use to this day for stress relief.) It’s taught my daughters invaluable life lessons through outdoor activities. Take hiking, for example, you put a 6-year-old on a section of the Appalachian Trail, and

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## Girl Scouting benefits girls through generations

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at some point, they get tired and want to give up. But they can't- the only way off the trail is to keep going, maybe at a slower pace, and after a snack, but one foot in front of the other. This is a very real life lesson about digging deep and finding that inner strength to meet a goal. While as a mom I can discuss this with my girls, it was on the trail working on the hiking badge that she really understood that lesson."

There are four generations in Jennifer Thibeault's family. She leads Troop 51590 in Nashua, which includes her daughter, Willow.

"My daughter is a fourth-generation Girl Scout," she said on Facebook, and added "I'm a third-generation Girl Scout leader."

Thibeault's mother and aunt were both Girl Scouts and camp counselors, while her grandfather and uncles were involved in Boy Scouts. Her grandmother was a Girl Scout for more than 50 years, and was a camp director in 1974.

"My maternal grandmother, Marlene Mudge, was the director of Camp Kiwanis in 1974. My aunt also worked at the camp that year, while my mother worked at the resident camp across the lake, Camp Runnels, I believe," said Thibeault. "My grandmother was a Girl Scout in Lynn, Mass., when she was younger. I have her original Girl Scout Handbook from when she was 11!"

Thibeault said she was eager to sign her daughter up for Girl Scouts as soon as she could.

"I love that Girl Scouts is something I can share with my daughter, and my mother and her can talk about," she said. "Showing her all the photos, patches, and books from her great-grandmother makes her feel connected to a family member she was never able to meet. Getting to have a dedicated activity for us to do together and time for us to share is amazing."

Penny Frye Duffy posted on Facebook that her parents were her Girl Scout leaders, and helped her earn what is now the Gold Award more than 25 years ago. Today her daughter is working toward the Gold Award.

"I am proud she is an older girl Girl Scout," said Duffy. "She also has a wonderful troop and leaders."

**Many benefits to family involvement**

As the new Girl Scout membership year begins for the fall of 2021, we are welcoming new families and girls with the hope that they will start a whole new Girl Scout tradition. We are reaching out to girls in areas and communities that may not have had the chance to join a troop or who have never heard of Girl Scouts. Outreach and new partnerships with after-school programs funded with Title I and grants result in troops that allow girls who have been under-represented in our organization to join. Virtual programming of our own and through Girl Scouts at Home has allowed girls to participate in an entirely new way. We are making

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From left: Jennifer Thibeault's family encompassing four generations of Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts; her mother as a 50-year member of Girl Scouts; and her mother as a camp counselor in 1974. (Courtesy photos)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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

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

# We are all part of the family of Girl Scouts



Dear friends,

As a child, like so many of you, Girl Scouting held a special place in my family. Before I was old enough to join, I watched my older sisters head off to Girl Scout camp, march in parades, and spend time with their troop friends. My mom's closest friends were her co-leaders – Mrs. Emig, Mrs.

Boyd, Mrs. Archambeault, and Mrs. Ferris were always welcome in our home. I could not wait to be a part of my own troop and make my own lifelong friends.

It is exciting to share the impacts of Girl Scouting on our members and the special generational experiences many have been fortunate to experience. We hope this edition brings back stories of your own, or inspires you to create new memories. Whether you, like I did, attended Farnsworth Weekend with your mom, or whether you are raising your own daughter, or granddaughters, as courageous Girl Scouts, I hope you “Linger” over those memories with a smile and some laughter. And if you are the first-generation Girl Scout in your family,

remember that we are all sisters in our movement and everyone is welcome!

As you recall the past, look to the future. The past 18 months have brought considerable changes and challenges to our world, and our children have been deeply impacted. At Girl Scouts, we're doubling down on the center of everything for us: girls. We're continuing to offer girls the tools they need to meet today's problems with bold solutions and create a better, brighter tomorrow.

Join us as we look to a bright future for all of our daughters, and consider the impact that these girls will make on our world. Thank you for your support and for making Girl Scouting possible through your generous donations of your time, talents, and treasure.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

*Tricia*

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

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financial aid available, too, so no girl is denied the chance to become the best she can be. Our Girl Scout Cookie program even offers special pins to families who encourage and support their girl's entrepreneurial spirit.

Girl Scouting helps girls be happier, healthier, more successful in school, and more satisfied with life. But it's not just the girl who benefits, families are better off too! Research has shown that Girl Scouts:

- Reinforces the values being taught at home
- Offers fun and meaningful bonding experiences girls will cherish forever
- Deepens a family's connection to their community
- Supports Girl Scouts with tailor-made family resources and advice on navigating today's complex world

After years of consistent growth, the pandemic hit our organization hard. We are working diligently to meet new membership goals, and getting family participation is crucial. COVID-19 was difficult for girls and families, so it's our goal to make sure we help them physically, socially, and mentally.

We are helping parents and caregivers navigate today's unique challenges and find family-friendly solutions. Girl Scouting can be a new tradition that helps families ensure all girls have a chance to make their dreams come true.



Lena Sak and her daughters, Pearl and Rivka, at the birthplace of Juliette Gordon Low in Savannah, Georgia, earlier this summer. They participated in our council's virtual programming. (Courtesy photo)

## Alums make the difference

We are so grateful for the support of our many alums, who make Girl Scouting possible and who have made special efforts to give the summer camp experience to girls.

One such alum is Nicole Brassard Jordan, who shared this memory:

*My grandmother, Florence (or Gunga as all family and friends affectionately called her), a lifelong Girl Scout, was truly an inspiration in our families' lives. She first served as a troop leader when my mother and aunt were in grade school. She then worked for the Swift Water Girl Scouts for 25 years where, among other duties, she was the camp registrar. She retired in 1986 but continued to live her life honoring the Girl Scout Promise. She was a source of encouragement for everyone around her. She endured hardship in her life but never dealt in guilt or regret about her past. Her focus was always on the future. Through her I learned the value of family, friends, patience, selflessness and volunteerism.*

Nicole and many other alums give directly to the council or host fundraisers of their own, often in honor of family members like her "Gunga."

There are many ways you can help others create those lifelong friendships and special memories. Contact the council at 888-474-9686 or [customer-care@girlscoutsgwm](mailto:customer-care@girlscoutsgwm) to learn more.



## Thanks for making camp possible

On behalf of everyone at Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains, we want to express our deep gratitude for the support of our campership program this year. Outdoor programming is one of the most powerful ways for girls to grow their

leadership skills and, thanks to supporters like you, we can ensure that every girl who wants to participate in these programs can do so, regardless of her family's financial circumstances.

### 2021 Campership Supporters

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American Legion Auxiliary Unit 7  
American Legion Post 25 of Newport NH  
American Legion Post 25 of Windsor VT  
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#### Supporting Individuals

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Day campers play patty cake at Camp Kettleford. (GSGWM photo)

## A new generation of girls discover Girl Scouting through council outreach

“I was a Girl Scout last year!”

“Are we making slime today?”

“Can we eat some cookies?”

These are some of the most popular things the girls in 16 summer staff-led troops across New Hampshire and Vermont wanted to know at the start of each summer session. Run by GSGWM staffers Janet Bhagat and Catie Deiley, these troops collaborate with summer and after-school programs across the two states, focusing on underserved communities and other places where girls may not always have a parent or guardian available to take them to weekly Girl Scout meetings otherwise.

What’s the difference between staff-led troops and traditional troops? Very little. Such troops this summer, like always, focused on providing girls with a great Girl Scout experience, including a variety of STEM activities and experiments, financial literacy games and concepts, outdoor art, and NASA-inspired crafts, which allowed girls to earn their biofabrication patch. While traditional troops are run by parents and volunteers, these troops are run by council staff and funded by charitable grants and donations, giving us the ability to work with girls who, for one reason or another, may not be able to participate in a traditional Girl Scout troop.

“We run each troop meeting just like traditional meetings, starting with the pledge, Girl Scout Promise, and Girl Scout Law, and ending with a friendship circle,” Bhagat said, resulting in inclusion for girls who may not have had an option to participate in Girl Scouts—or any extracurricular programs. During the pandemic, our efforts didn’t stop—it moved online, with staff taking to Zoom to continue working with outreach girls across New Hampshire and Vermont.

From flying paper rockets to making an array of friendship bracelets, girls this summer have enjoyed persevering through projects designed to stimulate their brains, encourage them to ask questions about the world around them, and teach them the importance of experi-



Catie Deiley connects the properties of bubbles to those of living cells during a staff-led outreach troop meeting in July. (GSGWM photo)

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### GSGWM worked with 16 troops this summer, serving 185 girls

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menting when things don’t go right the first time.

“So many girls that I’ve worked with have this almost instinctual fear of getting something wrong, or less than perfect. We want them to know that achieving perfection all the time is not only an unreasonable goal, but a detrimental one, too, and we want them to realize this before they start thinking they’re not meticulous enough for STEM fields,” Deiley said. “My rule for activities is that every girl must try and fail at something at least three times before she’s allowed to ask for help, and it’s been wildly gratifying for both me and the girls to see them hunker-down and work through a problem on their own.”

This summer, the council worked with over 100 girls in Nashua, Manchester, Con-

cord, and Laconia, New Hampshire; and Burlington and Barton, Vermont, thanks to our partnerships with Nashua’s 21st Century Power Scholars Academy, Girls Inc., Concord Housing Authority, and Laconia XTRA, as well as a weeklong “campette” in Barton that ran from August 8 to 12 and was free of cost for all girls in Essex and Orleans Counties.

“While we’re well aware of the challenges facing girls in urban areas like Nashua, Manchester, and Burlington,” Deiley said, “we’re also seeing how girls in rural areas are often left in the dust, especially in single-parent households, or in situations where both parents work long hours and low-cost child care or after-school programs aren’t as available.”

The girls in each troop show their appreciation in different ways, making handmade cards and coming up with inside jokes. While girls can be skeptical of or curious about the day’s activities at the start of each meeting, the most common question by the end of a meeting is often: “Aw, are we gonna get to see you tomorrow?”

## Worn-out boots are just a sign of father's love

When are hiking boots more than just hiking boots? For Carolyn Walley, it's when the memories they hold makes them so hard to let go of that duct-taping the toes together is worth it!


Walley, 29, of Nashua, NH, is a Gold Award Girl Scout who wholeheartedly believes in the value of Girl Scouting, and is eager to pass that love on to her daughter, Addison, 7. When she posted on social media about her very special boots and having to finally replace them, we reached out to find out more.

The boots held a special place in Walley's heart, as they were bought for her by her father fifteen years ago, strengthening her love for hiking.

While she participated in Girl Scouts here in New Hampshire as a girl, she then moved away, but came back when Addison was a year old. She said she immediately got in touch with the best friend, Amanda, whom she met at summer camp at Camp Farnsworth.



Carolyn Walley with her first pair of hiking boots. (GSGWM photo)

 Carolyn Walley is in New Hampshire.

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When I was 15 and headed to Camp Farnsworth ([Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains](#)) for the summer, my dad, [Frank Walley](#), took me to [Alec's Shoe Store](#) and bought me this pair of [Timberland](#) boots. I've been using them as my handy dandy hiking boots ever since. 🥰👟👟

A few months ago I had to wrap the toe in duct tape and started thinking it may be time for them to retire 😭😭

So I finally did it! FIFTEEN YEARS LATER, I went back to the trusted Alec's and bought myself a pair from [Oboz Footwear](#). I'm excited for their maiden voyage today on Mount Willard!

[#hiking](#) [#hikingboots](#) [#adventures](#) [#timberland](#)

[#obozfootwear](#) [#mountwillard](#) [#whitemountains](#)



Social media post by Carolyn Walley, sharing the story of her beloved hiking boots.

“We have the same birthday – born in the same hospital, same day!” she said. “I put (Addison) in a backpack and got back into hiking. Amanda and I have done the ridge – Franconia Ridge – and the Pemiloope last summer. I have hiked out west and down in Pennsylvania. Nothing’s like New Hampshire – the views, the trails. Trails out west are so pretty and neat and calculated. Here, wherever the mountains go, that’s where you go!”

Walley attended Camp Farnsworth each summer through age 18, and she credits

Girl Scouts for shaping her into the adult she is today.

“You realize you can make a difference with Girl Scouts,” she said. “I see the difference ... I just know I can make something happen. I have a goal and I can make it happen. Nothing’s going to stop me. Especially when you go to camp. So I’m excited for (Addison) to experience that.”

May the next pair of boots Walley got bring her lots more great memories and experiences!

# We're inviting new girls to become part of our family

Recruitment is our priority this year, following a drop in membership during the COVID-19 pandemic – and the future is looking good! Our current growth rate is promising, and Girl Scouts of the Green and White Mountains has a solid plan to bring girls back and get to our previous levels.

“Prior to March of 2020, we had an 11% increase in members over the previous four years,” said Amanda LaClair, Director of Membership for the council. “We were on a roll, then the pandemic resulted in families pulling back to keep their girls and families safe. Now we are reaching out in every way possible.”

“We’re engaging the families where they’re comfortable and in the ways that they’re comfortable,” said LaClair. You’ll find us at fairs and festivals, at school open houses, and at other public events. We hosted 16 booths at locations around New Hampshire and Vermont on a single

night during the National Night Out event in August.

Our goal is to make sure we are reaching all of our communities and populations. “We are reaching out to every town. Each is unique,” said LaClair. “For example, there are 75 different languages spoken in Manchester schools!” The same is true in schools in Burlington, Vermont, and in Orleans County, Vermont.

Getting families to participate is key. “One of the big things that happened is families realized how much they enjoy doing things with their daughters (during the pandemic),” said LaClair. “Family camping has been popular. We continue to encourage families to be part of their daughter’s experience.”

You can help! Alums are the perfect people to lead a troop! You can have a regular troop, or help others by mentoring a starter troop for six weeks. Be a new leader mentor, a community finance

person, or service unit manager. You don’t have to make a long-term commitment. Have a special skill? Accountants or other money managers may want to run the financial literacy program for a troop. You could be part of a travel program, mentor girls working on their highest awards, or just man a table for us at a recruitment event.

Easiest way to help? Share our social media posts! It helps when you share to community groups we are unable to post to, and every share helps spread the word. Be part of our team!

Want to volunteer to help at an open house or Girl Scout Information Night? Our team will provide you with a recruitment kit that has all the materials you need to make your effort a success. Help us spread the word! Visit [bit.ly/3CcoY5P](http://bit.ly/3CcoY5P) to sign up.



Girls from Troop 10633, led by alum Kim Lemear, ran a table at a National Night Out event in Manchester, NH, on August 3. GSGWM hosted 16 booths at National Night Out events around New Hampshire and Vermont the same evening. (Courtesy photo)

## You're invited to become a Lifetime Member

In less than three years, thanks to lifetime members, more than 30,000 girls have experienced Girl Scouts whose families would otherwise not have been able to afford it. Become a lifetime member for \$400 (or \$200 for alums under 30 and volunteers of 10+ years) to champion girl ambition plus reap the benefits of discounts at companies founded by women and invitations to special events.

Can we count on you?

Visit [girlscouts.org/lifetime](http://girlscouts.org/lifetime) to learn more about Lifetime Membership.

## Farnsworth Weekend – back and better than ever

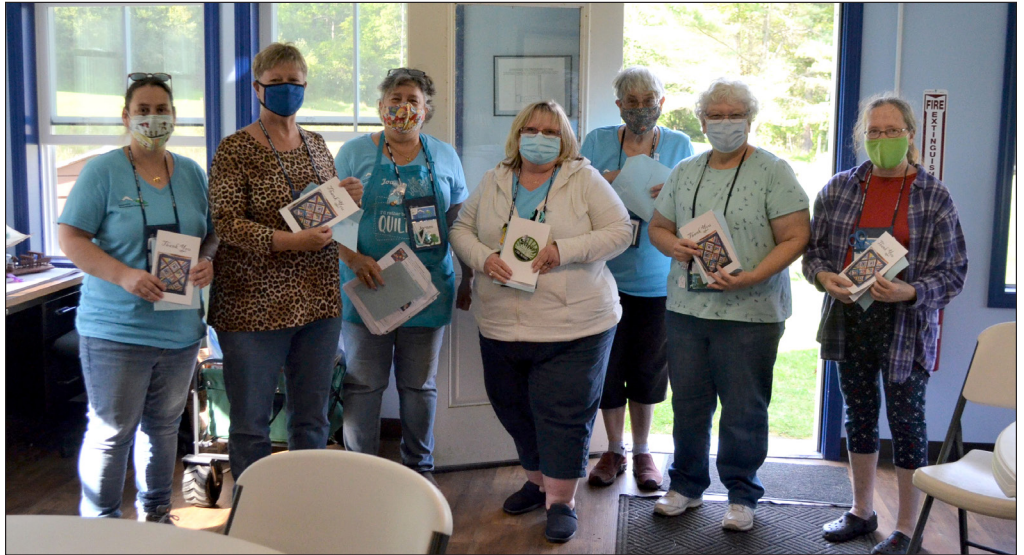
Farnsworth Weekend is the highlight of the year for many Girl Scout alums and volunteers, and we were excited to return to an in-person event this year after going virtual during the pandemic last year.

The weekend is a chance for alums to rediscover their Girl Scout roots, renew friendships, learn some new skills, and just relax in the beautiful outdoor setting of Camp Farnsworth in Vermont.

Deb Drake, our weekend coordinator, has been going to Farnsworth Weekend since 2000 and has been involved with the planning committee since 2010. She and her daughter, Jessie, attended the event together when Jessie was an older Girl Scout participating in the Leader-in-Training program, and now they work together to make the weekend a success.

Drake is excited to welcome back older girls in 2022, so more mother-daughter pairs can have the same experience! Over the years, we have had many pairs attend the weekend together - first as a 10th-12th grade girl, and then coming back as adult Girl Scouts to spend time with mom while still doing activities they love. This weekend, we had at least three pairs of moms and daughters presenting workshops as well.

Drake is the lead for the volunteer committee, organizing all the presenters and mapping out the schedule for the weekend. She handles the check-in and information table throughout the weekend, and coordinates



Two years ago, the Farnsworth Quilters group set out to make quilts for donations to area charities. At Farnsworth Weekend, Joanne Dickie, third from right, recognized those who participated in the project. At center is Deb Drake, the weekend's coordinator and the heart of Farnsworth Weekend. (GSGWM photo)

with the other committee teams to make sure they have completed their pieces and to see if they need any support.

This year's event was reduced to a one-day experience with 51 workshops offered, but everyone was invited to camp for the weekend if they chose. This abbreviated version of Farnsworth Weekend was a success, but

we look forward to getting back to the traditional weekend. We brought back several popular workshops including Acrylic Pouring, Fun with Pie Irons, and Alcohol Ink Tiles, and had new workshops like Bee Hotels, Wine Cork Succulents, and Yoga. We hope to see you at next year's weekend!



Council President Tara Pacht taught her popular pie iron class. (GSGWM photo)



There's nothing so wonderful as Girl Scout songs around the campfire. (GSGWM photo)