

Discover

a community publication



Shaping a Greener Tomorrow: Girl Scout Troops
Gather for Tree Planting, Outdoor Education

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From Sunny Trails to STEM Careers

Sunny Trails Day Camp co-director Emily's journey with Girl Scout camp started in second grade when she attended camp. Throughout the years, she returned to camp every summer – as a camper, then as a lifeguard (both at Sunny Trails and Camp Alice Chester), a Program Aide, an overnight health supervisor, a unit leader, Camp Alice Chester's first-ever STEM specialist, Sunny Trail's STEM program coordinator, and now co-director.

"Camp has always been a huge part of my life. It's a place where I feel supported and empowered to try new things and be exactly who I am. It's a great community for learning and growth," said Emily.

Emily's camp experience extends beyond the walls of her tent. After discovering she loved educating Girl Scouts and witnessing teamwork and growth, she transitioned into a STEM educator career, where she works with youth and teachers in grades K-12.

"I'm using lesson and curriculum planning skills in my job that I learned at Girl Scouts. I've gained so many leadership skills at camp that I now use," said Emily.

One of Emily's favorite STEM experiences at camp while she was a STEM specialist at Camp Alice Chester was helping guide Cadettes through a classic egg drop experiment where one group created an egg zipline!

"The Girl Scouts learned through trial and error. They refused to give up and showed so much resilience and collaboration," said Emily.

Whether it's STEM or outdoors related, Emily loves returning to Sunny Trails Day Camp.

"It's a special community of all ages, and I'm excited I can give back to the camp that has invested in me and made me who I am," said Emily.

When you support Girl Scouts, you help create safe spaces for Girl Scouts to identify their passions and create lifelong friendships.



Co-director Emily created lifelong friendships and leadership skills at Girl Scout camp.

We're honoring Camp Alice Chester's 100th birthday this year with a celebration of all things Girl Scout camping in southeastern Wisconsin! Share your favorite camp memories with us.



Why We Give: Building Future STEM Leaders

Girl Scouts learned about the STEM design process at Innovation Station.

For decades, Girl Scouts has been innovating in extracurricular STEM education through programs aimed at increasing girls' STEM interest, confidence, and competence. Research shows that doing just one Girl Scout STEM activity increases girls' understanding of STEM's value to society. Between 2017-2021, Girl Scouts of the USA launched 100 new STEM programs, and Girl Scouts earned over 3.5 million STEM badges! The growth of Girl Scout STEM programming and education is happening locally too – thanks in part to generous supporters like the Generac Foundation.

This winter, Generac Foundation sponsored two educational Innovation Station events, which connected 85



local Girl Scouts in grades K-5 to a wide range of STEM subject matter. Girls participated in five design challenges, which offered a safe space to learn about different STEM disciplines. At each station, Girl Scouts used the design process to build, test, and improve projects, including their versions of musical instruments and

carnival rides. Innovation Station gave girls the chance to think scientifically and work together to solve a problem – while having fun.

Support from partners like Generac Foundation helps shape our community's next generation of leaders in the growing STEM space.

Shaping a Greener Tomorrow



Girl Scouts of all grade levels gave back to their local community by planting trees and learning about their outdoor environment.

Girl Scouts is on a mission to build girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place.

Girl Scouts in Glendale are making the world a better place – planting trees in the community to positively impact the environment. This past year, Troops 13684, 14027, 11003, 10561, 10625, and 20062, in partnership with other local youth-serving organizations, spent a cold weekend planting nine trees at Parkway Elementary School to help their local community.

Girl Scouts and volunteers not only dug, planted, and watered the trees, they also learned about the importance of planting, protecting, and honoring trees from community leaders at We Energies, Glendale-River Hills School District, and the Glendale Department of Public Works. Girl Scouts said the Girl Scout Tree Promise pledge at the event and completed the steps for the Tree Promise Badge too. After the tree planting day, the Girl Scout troops registered their trees with the National Girl Scout tree tracker, helping Girl Scouts nationwide toward reaching their goal of planting five million trees by 2026.

“I learned it is important to treat the Earth nicely. Trees help you breathe and give you lots of food to eat, like fruit and coffee beans. It was cool to plant them at my school and give shade for summertime and recess,” said Girl Scout Makenna from Troop 14027.

Throughout the year, each troop was in charge of a tree that they watered and cared for as it grew.

“I felt good doing something nice for my community. I’m glad that our tree will be there for a long time,” said Girl Scout Emma from Troop 11003.

The Girl Scouts’ community service was recognized by the Glendale-River Hills School District at a spring school board meeting and was recently honored at a statewide level. The Wisconsin Arborist Association awarded the Glendale Girl Scouts the Harry J. Banker Gold Leaf Award for Outstanding Arbor Day Activity. This award recognizes organizations who have made a significant impact on the community.

Donors like you empower Girl Scouts to make a difference in their communities.

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Dear Girl Scout Friends,

When I think about Girl Scouting, I think about our community's future leaders.

Girl Scouts' four pillars – life skills, entrepreneurship, outdoors, and STEM – provide building blocks for Girl Scouts to grow their skillsets in everything from communication skills to business ethics to outdoor and STEM competency. When thinking about the pipeline of our next generation, these are core skills for them to possess.

Girl Scouts recently showed their leadership by planting trees at their local school (page 3). Their dedication to the environment and commitment to learning more about nature and science was even recognized with the Gold Leaf for Outstanding Arbor Day Activity Award.

Speaking of the outdoors, I loved hearing about how Sunny Trails Day Camp's co-director Emily (page 2) applied her Girl Scout engagement in STEM to her career. We really are building the leaders of tomorrow.

As STEM continues to expand, we're grateful for partners like Generac Foundation (page 2) who help us provide quality experiences for Girl Scouts to develop their STEM skills in a supportive environment.

Thank you for your ongoing support. Without you, we wouldn't be able to provide opportunities for Girl Scouts to step into their full leadership potential and discover invaluable new skills. I know you're right alongside me when I say I can't wait to see what the future holds with these Girl Scouts taking the lead.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Ana Simpson
GSWISE Chief Executive Officer



Ana Simpson, CEO