

# Discover

a community publication



GSWISE's Year of Service: Girl Scout Troop 37624  
Hosted a School Supply Drive for Their District

Fall 2023

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**girl scouts**   
of wisconsin  
southeast

# Going Places: Fun, Friendship, and Adventure in the Azores Islands

For years, Girl Scouts has given girls opportunities to explore new spaces and places. For Cadettes and Ambassadors, this includes the opportunity to participate in Destinations trips – traveling domestically or internationally with other Girl Scouts.

Katie, an Ambassador who began Girl Scouting as a Daisy, recently embarked on her Destination: Azores Islands Adventure.

Along with Girl Scouts from across the nation, Katie whale-watched, kayaked in crater lakes, swam in the Atlantic Ocean, explored Lisbon, and learned Portuguese history from locals.

“I don’t think I could have any of these experiences anywhere else aside from a Destinations trip,” said Katie.

While exploring and challenging herself to take on new adventures, including steep waterfall hikes, Katie made

“I learned that I could thrive in new experiences and situations more than I thought I could,” said Katie.

fast friends with fellow Girl Scouts, who supported and encouraged her to

take risks and try new things. Regardless of where they came from, the Girl Scouts on the trip all shared Katie’s same values: courage, confidence, character, sisterhood, honesty, and respect.

“I didn’t want to come back when it was time to go! I thought I would be lonely, but I made friends – starting in the airport on my way to Portugal. Meeting new people was my favorite part of the trip,” said Katie.

Your support helps Girl Scouts like Katie connect and communicate with others, explore on new adventures, and create memories that last a lifetime.



*Girl Scouts from around the nation, including Katie G., explored Lisbon during the two-week adventure.*

## Working Together in Waukesha

Located in Waukesha, the 78-acre Chinook Program Center is a beloved oasis among subdivisions and farmland, offering spots to explore on foot through woods, fields, and wetlands, a new ninja adventure course, archery and hatchet stations, and a woodshop.

A longtime annual supporter of GSWISE, the Waukesha Rotary Club recently awarded an additional grant to support the refurbishment of Chinook Program Center’s amphitheater. Not only did the Rotary offer the grant, members volunteered for two hands-on work days at the property to work on the new amphitheater that will provide a better experience for future Girl Scouts and continue to improve the Waukesha community at large.

“The Waukesha Rotary Club likes to fund projects that affect youth. When we were asked to volunteer, we all raised our hands,” said Patti, a Rotary Club member.

Volunteers spent both days removing and demoing old benches, advising on bench layout options, digging new bench post holes, and more. The amphitheater, which is used as a gathering spot during camp for campfires, skits, songs, presentations, and ceremonies, will now seat up to 70 girls and feature string lights and electrical power for evening activities, like outdoor movie viewings.

“The Rotary Club’s mission is about helping the community in a variety of ways and doing the right thing. Girl Scouting similarly teaches girls about how to help the community and how to do the right thing.” – Paul, Waukesha Rotary Club Member

Among the volunteers, several were Girl Scout alumnae or mothers, fathers, and grandparents of current Girl Scouts who attend troop camping excursions and other programs hosted at Chinook.

“Girl Scouts – and Girl Scout volunteers – improve the lives of girls by introducing them to a world of things they might not otherwise experience,” said Kip, a Rotary Club member.

GSWISE’s valued partners, including the Waukesha Rotary Club, create spaces for girls to build confidence in the outdoors, experience joy, and create lasting friendships around the campfire.



*The Waukesha Rotary Club’s grant provides additional amphitheater seating and accessible seating options.*



# Service, School Supplies, and Smiles: How This Daisy Troop Supported Their School District



*The Daisy troop introduced new classmates to Girl Scouts as they gave back.*

As Girl Scouts make friends, have fun, and find adventure, they are also giving back to their community.

This year, Troop 37624 stepped up for students in their school district ahead of the new school year. The multi-level troop of Daisies and Brownies spent part of their summer participating in GSWISE’s Year of Service, which offers monthly themed community service project ideas for Girl Scouts. July’s theme encouraged Girl Scouts to seek out schools, agencies, and family shelters that accept school supply donations for those in need.

The Girl Scouts in Troop 37624 wanted to make an impact within their local community, so they participated in a supply drive for their school district: Racine Unified School District (RUSD). Throughout July, the Daisies and Brownies collected hundreds of supplies for their peers – ranging from backpacks to disinfectant wipes to pencils and markers to notebooks.

“They have such big hearts, so this project was so exciting for them. They were excited to get to help their community, and they felt good knowing kids were ready

for school just like they are ready for school,” said Carmen Ayers, a Troop 37624 leader.

After distributing the supplies to RUSD, the Girl Scouts wanted to share what it felt like to give back – and the joy they have experienced in Girl Scouts. The Daisies and Brownies participated in RUSD’s annual resource fair, distributing flyers about Girl Scouts, recruiting friends and new students to their troop, and talking about their friendships, outdoor adventures, Year of Service project, and Girl Scout camp memories. The girls were excited to see some of their school supply donations in actions with students visiting the fair too!

Troop 37624 plans to continue to participate in Year of Service themed projects and is looking forward to continuing to impact their community with their positive Girl Scout spirit.

“Girl Scouts is a nice and safe environment to have girls learn and step out of their shells. The girls were excited about giving back, and it was nice to see them come together and work together as young as they are,” said Kelly Ladd, a Troop 37624 leader.

When you support Girl Scouts, you give Girl Scouts like Troop 37624 opportunities to learn the value of community service, collaboration, and friendship – at any age.

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Dear Girl Scout Friends,

Let me take a moment to introduce myself: I'm Ana Simpson, Girl Scouts of Wisconsin Southeast's new CEO. As a former longtime troop leader who has firsthand witnessed how Girl Scouts builds bold leaders, it's an understatement to say how thrilled I am to have the opportunity to lead this organization and to carry forward its mission.

As I step into this new role, I'm in awe of the remarkable adventures that our members have embarked upon. Katie's Destination trip to the Azores Islands is a reminder of how Girl Scouts helps girls discover friendship, fun, and life skills – regardless of where they are in the world (page 2). Meanwhile, a little closer to home, Girl Scout Troop 37624 inspired me – demonstrating how girls of all ages can give back. This troop recently took action in their community, participating in GSWISE's Year of Service by hosting a school supply drive (page 3).

Finally, in the season of gratitude and thanks, thank you Waukesha Rotary Club, who recently helped provide a facelift to Chinook Program Center's amphitheater (page 2) and to all donors who help make GSWISE's work possible each day.

I'm excited to get to know you and learn more about your Girl Scouting "why" in the coming months. Your dedication and generosity truly embody the Girl Scout spirit.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Ana Simpson  
GSWISE Chief Executive Officer



*Ana Simpson, CEO*