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Girl Scouts in
Mariner Troop Have Fun and
Share Their Passions with Younger Girls

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Girl Scout Summer Camp Provides Career Exploration



Girl Scout Bridget practicing first responder techniques at CampHERO

Girl Scouts exemplify the Girl Scout “can do” spirit while attending Girl Scout summer camp, where they test their strengths, explore new possibilities, and have fun with friends.

Bridget, who started as a Daisy and is now a Girl Scout Senior, loves Summer Camp – going horseback riding, climbing the rock wall, and serving in a Program Aide leadership role. One of the most rewarding experiences for Bridget was attending CampHERO – a week-long session for Girl Scouts in grades 9 - 12 who are interested in careers as a first responder. Partnering with Milwaukee Safety Academy and Milwaukee Area Technical College-Oak Creek Campus, Girl Scouts receive hands-on training from professionals in law enforcement, fire suppression, and emergency medicine.

“I used to be shy and I didn’t know if I could do activities like practicing foot pursuits, doing a car accident rescue, or controlling a fire,” said Bridget. “Being surrounded by motivated professionals and other Girl Scouts who are invested in learning more and helping others made me feel empowered.”

“CampHERO taught me that I CAN do these activities and helped me discover my interest in a law enforcement career, a traditionally male-dominated profession,” added Bridget. “Women can do anything, and I am capable and confident about helping people in need.”

Help empower more Girl Scouts, like Bridget, as they explore career opportunities and learn new skills at Girl Scout summer camp.

Why I Give: Passing My Appreciation for Nature onto the Next Generation

Joanne “Jo” Westphal has been a passionate supporter and donor to Girl Scouts for decades. Joining Girl Scouts in second grade, Jo enjoyed Girl Scouting all the way through high school. Her fondest memories include camping in platform tents, canoeing and swimming at Camp Alice Chester, practicing water drills with her Mariners troop, and making new friends with Girl Scouts in other troops. Land stewardship and an appreciation for nature remain near and dear to Jo’s heart to this day, and lessons learned from Girl Scouting influenced many choices throughout Jo’s life and career.

Jo’s camp experiences led her to pursue an education in conservation and biology, and a career in landscape architecture, which were traditionally male-dominated professions. Using the skills she learned in Girl Scouting, Jo excelled throughout her adult life as she continued to dream big, not be afraid to fail, and explore new possibilities.

“Girl Scouts taught me how to be a critical thinker, how to creatively identify solutions to problems, how to work independently and within a team to make community impact, how to be a confident leader, and how to value the mentors around me - all leading me to be successful,” said Jo.

Jo remains committed to supporting Girl Scouts and is always looking for new opportunities to give back to a community that means so much to her. Jo generously donates to support camp experiences so the next generation of girls can engage in the same fun outdoor activities. She is also exploring ways to volunteer in a local troop and use her skills to support at Camp Alice Chester.

“My experiences at summer camp made such a profound impact on my life, and my goal is to pass on these adventures to other Girl Scouts, so they can learn valuable life skills, get out of their comfort zones, immerse themselves in nature, and draw connections between their lives and how they interact with the environment.”



Jo (above) and thousands of Girl Scouts have enjoyed Camp Alice Chester over the past several decades!

Girl Scouts in Mariner Troop Have Fun and Share Their Passions with Younger Girls



Members of the Mariner troop during high-adventure outdoor activities – in, on, and around water.

Each year, Girl Scouts in grades 4-12 in Mariner Troop 6320 go camping, swimming, canoeing, and kayaking, and practice critical skills in sailing, scuba diving, paddle craft safety, crew overboard drills, first aid, and semaphore signaling.

“I love this troop because we have fun with friends, create silly camp names for each other, and try activities that we wouldn’t normally get to do,” said Charlie, a Girl Scout Cadette.

“I just joined this troop, and it is crazy in the best way possible – we went camping in a cave! I never did anything like that before,” said Lena, a Girl Scout Cadette.

While this troop has fun on the water, they always look for ways to give back to the community and engage with younger Girl Scouts. Every summer, the girls help remove weeds from community lakes where they can swim, and they teach water skills to campers at summer camp. They host an ice fishing event each winter, where they teach younger Girl Scouts ice safety skills, how to identify

hypothermia symptoms, and how to layer for hikes. This past fall, the Mariner troop hosted their first-ever Paddle Sports event at Camp Silver Brook, where they taught younger Girl Scouts how to paddle and steer a canoe, played “capture the noodle” water games, and practiced safety techniques. The Mariners also got to develop their own leadership and water skills.

“I accidentally tipped my kayak and fell in the water. I showed the younger girls the importance of reacting quickly and staying calm,” said Sandra, a Girl Scout Cadette. “The Mariner troop followed the ‘crew overboard’ procedure, demonstrated why we wear personal flotation devices, and showed how to right a capsized kayak.”

The Mariner troop hopes to travel to the Florida Keys in 2023 to go snorkeling and scuba diving.

Support from donors like you helps keep Girl Scouts safe and having fun - in their troop, at summer camp, and with younger Girl Scouts!

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Dear Girl Scout Friends,

As daylight grows longer and the weather gets warmer, I get excited. I look forward to this time each year because it means the start of Girl Scout summer camp! There's nothing quite like singing songs with new friends around a campfire, hearing giggles and cheers as Girl Scouts test their strengths, or feeling the splash of water as girls swim freely in lakes.

I am thrilled to see Girl Scouts, like Bridget, explore career options and discover their passions through CampHERO experiences (page 2).

I am inspired by donors, like Jo Westphal, who used her fond Camp Alice Chester experiences to shape her educational and career aspirations, while supporting the next generation of girls participating in Girl Scout summer camp (page 2).

I am encouraged by Girl Scouts, like the Juniors and Cadettes in the high-adventure outdoor Mariner troop, who find creative ways to practice their water skills, give back to their communities, and teach younger Girl Scouts about water fun and safety (page 3).

And, I am grateful for your ongoing assistance in making the Girl Scout mission happen. The fun, outdoor adventure, and appreciation for nature that Girl Scouts experience in a girl-led environment at Girl Scout summer camp enrich their lives and give them the courage, curiosity, and leadership skills to succeed at whatever they set their minds to throughout their lives. Your support helps make Girl Scout summer camp, and these important experiences, possible. Thank you.

Yours in Girl Scouting,

Christy L. Brown, JD, MA
GSWISE Chief Executive Officer



Christy L. Brown, CEO