

Mesa United Way Quarter 2 Impact Statement

Girl Scouts—Arizona Cactus-Pine Council

For our quarterly report, we would like to share the journey of one of our girl members, Hannah. Hannah is in her 11th year of being a Girl Scout in Troop 2088 in Mesa. Her journey shows the progression of our programming – as girls learn and master skills, they are challenged to move to the next level, becoming leaders to younger scouts, in their own lives, and in their communities.

Hannah started out as a Daisy Girl Scout where she learned the Girl Scout Promise and Law and earned all her petals, each one representing a line in the Girl Scout Law. (Honest and Fair, Friendly and Helpful, Responsible for What I Say and Do, etc.)

Next, she was a Brownie Girl Scout and had a lot of fun learning about the outdoors, making new friends, and making healthy choices. Her circle of Girl Scouts sisters began to grow as she ventured off to summer camp. At the next level, Hannah was a Junior Girl Scout and earned the Junior Aide award for leading younger Scouts. She also earned the Girl Scout Bronze award by making blankets to keep those less fortunate than her warm.

As a Cadette Girl Scout, Hannah's leadership skills flourished. She earned two Leader in Action awards for assisting Brownie Girl Scouts in earning their Journey awards and completed Program Aide training which enables her to volunteer at various events with the Council. For example, as a Program Aide she taught younger Scouts how to use a GPS for geocaching and helped other Scouts try stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking and canoeing.

During the summer of 2017, Hannah completed the LEAP program at camp. This program leads her to the next step of becoming a Counselor in Training (CIT), which has been a goal of hers since she started going to camp as a Brownie. Hannah earned the highest award for Cadettes, the Silver Award, for educating others about the benefits of bats and installing a bat box to help decrease the number of mosquitoes in her neighborhood. Hannah is now in high school and a Senior Girl Scout. She has already completed Troop Camp Certification Levels 1 and 2 which permits her to teach outdoor skills to other Girl Scouts and adult leaders.

"To help people at all times" is a line from the Girl Scout Promise that really describes Hannah. This year Hannah's troop is trying to earn enough money to go to Savannah, Georgia -- the birthplace of Girl Scouts. Hannah's cookie sales goal is to make sure everyone in the troop can go. She's not focused on individual incentives, but the total number of boxes that will pay for everyone's trip!

During the months of October - December 2017, Hannah completed 47.5 hours of service. Her hours benefited groups both within Girl Scouts and in the community. Activities included writing Angel Tags for the Salvation Army, packing meals at Feed My Starving Children, setting up tables and helping kids from the ICAN Center "shop" for Christmas gifts at the Stuffed with Love Holiday Boutique, recruiting for Girls Scouts at the Mesa United Way festival, and helping to count Monarch butterflies. Her experience selling cookies really came in handy while working the concession stands at sporting events to earn money for her high school band.

During September and October, Hannah completed the Girltopia Senior Journey which has the girls vision a perfect girl world and then brainstorm ideas on how they can make the world a better place. Hannah earned the My Promise/My Faith pin in October with a sister troop. The activities to earn this

pin involve comparing the parts of the GS Promise and Law to the Ten Commandments. To finish off 2017, Hannah attended AZ Legislative Day with GS sisters from another service unit. They toured the State Capitol, met a State Senator and learned a lot about our state government.

Currently, Hannah is a member of the Council's Jamboree Girl Team, helping to plan a huge camping experience for 500 girls in May, and a Girl Advisory Board member at the service team level. Both positions involve planning outdoor events - a passion of Hannah's!

Hannah's journey through Girl Scouts has allowed her to develop leadership skills and given her many tools that she will carry through life. She is a shining example of how the Girl Scout program builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.



Hannah posing in the Speakers' Chair at the Arizona State Legislature. We can envision this leader holding that seat one day!



Hannah and her sister Girl Scouts visit Senator Yee.