

Dear Girl Scout,

My name is Jessica Zajac and I am from State College, Pennsylvania. I am currently a senior in high school and I just earned my Gold Award. My Girl Scout experience has been filled with many opportunities and learning experiences that have helped me immensely in school and beyond. I wanted to give you a few tips to keep in mind while you continue throughout your Girl Scout journey.

First off, make sure to stay connected. That may be with a troop leader who has guided you throughout your time in Girl Scouts, or someone from the community who attended one of your meetings. You never know what resources you will need in your future. By keeping in touch with people you feel connected to in Girl Scouts you can have that person as a mentor. As you prepare for high school and college, having those relationships will be crucial, as you may need a letter of recommendation that exemplifies your skillset.

Use your time in Girl Scouts to the best of your ability. Being a Girl Scout allows you to explore so many different career paths and opportunities in the workforce. Pay attention to them, even if they seem like they are not of interest to you at the moment. Personal interests are always changing and you might surprise yourself by taking an interest in a different area than you expected. Don't be tied down to one thing in life. Explore different interests and allow yourself to branch out. Participating in Girl Scouts is a great way to try new things with no risk involved, so take advantage!

The key takeaway from Girl Scouts is to always give back to your community. If you can help your neighbor, do it. If you can help a girl in school with her homework, do it. If you can spread the word about a cause you are passionate about halfway around the world, do it. Serving the community is something that never loses value. The short amount of time you take out of your day to help someone else made a big impact on them. Take this advice and let it grow within you. There are generations of Girl Scouts to come, and if we all focus on serving our communities, we can make a difference on a local, national, and global scale.

Finally, never think you are too young to chase your dreams. Get started on your Bronze, Silver, or Gold Awards early. Start making a sustainable impact now. People will come and go but as long as you stick with it, you will be able to accomplish your biggest dreams and aspirations. Congratulations on all of your Girl Scout accomplishments and stay true to yourself. Girl Scouts can do great things and I wish you the best of luck as you continue your journey.

Sincerely,

Jessica Zajac

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