

# Alumnae Network

## *You'll always be a Girl Scout*

### Extra Strength and Persistence Needed to be Successful

By Edith Maxwell

Being a Girl Scout for almost a dozen years showed me women and girls working together without needing men or boys to help. This was in a time when most mothers



Edith at camp

were home with the children, and women in the professional work force generally could expect to be teachers, secretaries, or nurses - not much more. Girl Scouting threw me in with girls mastering skills, exploring dreams, volunteering to help others, and living with integrity. We camped, we marched in parades, we worked on group badges and individual projects, and we had loads of fun along the way.

Scouting gave me the confidence to be bold and take risks. I wore my uniform to school all day with pride for after-school meetings even when many girls in my school didn't. With my troop and at Girl Scout camp, I backpacked into the mountains carrying a heavy load. As a Senior Girl Scout I signed up for shifts to do physical movement work with a handicapped girl who needed our help. My older sisters were scouts and our mother was an active leader for many years, even being named Leader of the Year for our council one year.

I applied for an international exchange program and was sent to Brazil at just seventeen years of age. I was halfway through my senior year in high school and went off to spend a year in a country where I did not speak the language. Finding a Brazilian Girl Scout troop - Guias Bandeirantes - in my town helped me get through that difficult but life-changing experience.

I know my scouting background fostered my independence and feminism in college, where I volunteered at a women's center. After graduation I traveled to Japan and taught English, then applied for graduate school in the states. I earned a Ph.D., moved to the Boston area, and had a career in hi-tech. A big risk I took was quitting my job to stay home with my baby boys, which is when I started writing fiction. After another career in technical writing and fitting fiction in around the edges, my latest leap was quitting the day job three years ago to write fiction full time. Now I have three, multi-



5th Grade Edith

book mystery contracts with major publishers and have been twice nominated for the highest award in my genre.

I might have made some of these bold moves had I not been a Girl Scout from Brownies through post high school - but scouting helped me develop the extra strength and persistence I needed to be successful.

### About the Author



Agatha-nominated and Amazon best-selling author Edith Maxwell writes the Quaker Midwife Mysteries and the Local Foods Mysteries, the Country Store Mysteries (as Maddie Day), and the Lauren Rousseau Mysteries (as Tace Baker), as well as award-winning short crime fiction. Her Local Foods Mysteries feature a senior Girl Scout working on her locavore badge.

Edith's short story, "A Questionable Death," has been nominated for a 2016 Agatha Award for Best Short Story. You can read it [here](#). It features the characters and 1888 setting of her Quaker Midwife Mysteries.

Edith is Vice-President of Sisters in Crime New England and Clerk of Amesbury Friends Meeting. She lives in Amesbury with her beau and three cats, and blogs with the other [Wicked Cozy Authors](#). You can find her on [Facebook](#), Twitter, Pinterest, and at her web site, [edithmaxwell.com](http://edithmaxwell.com).

For further information about Girl Scouts, please visit our website at [gsema.org](http://gsema.org).