



Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways Volunteers of the Month for April 2013

Congratulations to the following volunteers!

Karen Bemal has provided years of volunteer service to local Girl Scouts through providing educational and fun outdoor programming. Facilitating about a dozen programs a year in both Mendon Ponds and Bayberry, Karen brings the outdoors to life for girls. “Welcome Back Bluebirds,” “Fall Foliage” and “Winter Animal Tracks” are just a few of the outstanding offerings she provides. With most of Karen’s programs filling to capacity, her service record speaks for itself. It’s amazing volunteers like Karen that help make Girl Scouts great!

(PHELPS SERVICE CENTER)

Amy Chilson, Liz Dinich, and **Bob Garrison** have worked together as new Daisy and Brownie leaders to provide exciting programming for over 50 girls in the Six Pines Service Unit in addition to recruiting volunteers to work with their large troops. While working on Journeys, they have been out and about in the community visiting the local fire department, The Edge Martial Arts studio and Guthrie Air (medical helicopter) to work on their “Stranger Danger” pin. The Brownies hosted a Healthy Living Day to which they invited other troops in the service unit. Through their leadership the girls are Discovering, Connecting, and Taking Action. Thank you to these new leaders for “diving right in” so that girls may experience the Girl Scout Leadership program.

(HORSEHEADS SERVICE CENTER)

Christina Hekiert has volunteered for many years and we thank her for her dedication and leadership with Service Unit 267 in Bridgewater and the Mt. Markham area. Chris has always stepped up to do what was needed to serve the girls in this area. She has, and continues, to lead troops as well as work with the service team to support and assist the leaders and co-leaders. Chris was one of the founders of the many service unit traditions such as the Mother/Daughter Tea and the Father/Daughter dance which have continued and have been a favorite for the girls over the years! We thank Chris for all she has done to inspire our girls, volunteers and community and look forward to her involvement for many more years to come. Thank you Chris for all you do!

(NEW HARTFORD SERVICE CENTER)

Kate Kowalski helped with the 2012 Girl Scouts summer series program at McKinley-Brighton and has since helped with another series at the White Branch Library. Additionally, Kate co-leads the multi-level Girl Scout group at Butternut Community Center and helps with a local Girl Scout Cadette troop. She does all of this while attending Cazenovia College and working. Kate is an amazing young lady, always helpful, organized and so pleasant to partner with.

(CICERO SERVICE CENTER)

Several years ago, a lifetime Girl Scout from Maine arrived to begin her engineering studies at Clarkson University in Potsdam, NY. **Marissa LaCoursiere** became involved in local Girl Scouts and soon became a Brownie leader (Troop 50240). Her girls and fellow leaders call her "Mars". Mars was not a fan of the Journey program at first. However, she questioned and thought and problem solved until she found a way to bring the WOW Journey alive for her Brownies along the banks of the Raquette River. She has been instrumental in recruiting college students to help out local troops in many ways- including serving as the Campus Scouts advisor. Girls in the North Country look forward to the Robotics and Science programs for all ages that Mars has coordinated with the university. Volunteers and GSNYPENN staff appreciate the STEM materials she has shared with us. Mars is an inspiration for all who know her. She leaves us in May for a few months to work on her Ph.D. in Material Science and Engineering in a research lab in Texas. We wish her the best this summer- although we will miss her and can't wait to have her back this fall!

(WATERTOWN SERVICE CENTER)

Dianne Zelaska is from SU 436 Tioga Center Nichols. Dianne has an active troop that is made up of multiple age levels. She is the Fall Product Sales coordinator for her service unit and helps to plan many activities in her area. Dianne is always helping at council- sponsored events either by providing nursing care or just lending a hand! Dianne loves Girl Scouting and has passed her love down to her daughters. Thank you to Dianne for all of her hard work!

(JOHNSON CITY SERVICE CENTER)

Council staff will be choosing a volunteer from each service center's area each month. Look for the May 2013 Volunteers of the month in a few weeks! Volunteers may also submit nominations for Volunteer of the Month by contacting your council representative.