



Please welcome this month's guest blogger Natalie Lucker! Natalie attended Girl Scout camp from age 6 through her Councilor-in-training experience and didn't stop there. Her full bio follows this post.

“Girl Scout camp has been my favorite thing in the entire world since I was six years old.”

Hello! I'm Natalie and I'm excited to return for my second year as the Girl Scout Camp Green Eyrie Director this summer. Girl Scout camp has been my favorite thing in the entire world since I was six years old.

When I was a younger camper, I loved going to Girl Scout camp because I knew it meant I would get to do things I didn't get to do anywhere else. I knew I would get to go swimming, get in a boat, play field games, and show off my outdoor skills that I thought were likely really advanced for a 9-year-old. I would meet new people, make new friends, and chat with my bunkmates well after 'lights out' even though we knew our counselor would be back in two minutes to remind us to go to sleep.

As I got older, Girl Scout camp started to mean more than camp songs and canoeing. Camp meant my break from school was a golden opportunity to try more new things and build on the skills I acquired the previous summer. Without even knowing it at the time, it meant I got to take the things I learned at camp and teach it to younger campers and in the process learn so much more about me and my own interests.

As a camp staff member, I watch camper after camper gather up their courage, step out of their comfort zone, and launch their first arrow, build their first one-match fire, or pass their swim test to the next level. The camper who might be too nervous to even approach the archery range at the beginning of the week, is the camper begging for extra arrows by the end of the week!

Getting the chance to participate in activities like swimming and archery are one of the biggest draws of attending camp, but building up a camper's self-confidence through doing those activities is what Girl Scout camp is all about. I'm thrilled to be able to deliver the confidence-building camp experiences unique to Girl Scouts to our campers.

As kids continue to rebound from several years of pandemic-related stress, it's no wonder families are looking for positive outdoor experiences for their children that go far beyond the classroom. If you haven't already signed up for a camp session (or sessions!) at Camp Bonnie Brae, Green Eyrie, Laurel Wood, or Lewis Perkins, find everything you need to know on our [summer camp page](#)! We're already hard at work preparing our camp properties and our staff teams for the 2023 camp season and we can't wait to see you there.

Natalie Lucker is a GSCWM Program Specialist and the Camp Director for Camp Green Eyrie. Before relocating to Massachusetts and joining GSCWM in 2022, Natalie was an Outdoor Program Specialist and Camp Director for Girl Scouts of Oregon and Southwest Washington. Starting at age 6, she attended Girl Scout Camp Whispering Winds every year until she completed the CIT program and joined the staff team, continuing as a seasonal staff member for three Girl Scout camps in Oregon and Washington before moving into a Camp Director role in 2016. Despite being an Oregonian at heart (go Blazers), she is adapting to New England weather and is looking forward to her second summer at Green Eyrie.

Sincerely,
Pattie Hallberg,
CEO Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts