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Local Youth Represent Girl Scouts at U.N. Commission on the Status of Women

Syracuse, N.Y. (March 28, 2023) — From March 3-10, four girl members of the [Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways](#) (GSNYPENN) Council joined 15 of their sisters to represent the Girl Scout Movement and serve as delegates at the 67th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations headquarters in New York City.



The four GSNYPENN Girl Scouts are, L-R:

- Morgan Herringshaw of Mohawk, N.Y., a Girl Scout Ambassador from Troop 20528
- Isabella Shiel of Newark Valley, N.Y., a Girl Scout Ambassador from Troop 40349
- Aubrey Coyle of Cicero, N.Y., a Girl Scout Senior from Troop 10752
- Aarohi Rastogi of Jamesville, N.Y., a Girl Scout Senior from Troop 60500

Each year, more than 5,000 women and girls from around the world gather for this session focused on the worldwide state of gender equality. GSNYPENN is one of only five Girl Scout councils (out of 100+ councils nationwide) selected to send a delegation for the 2023 session.

“We are very proud of Aubrey, Morgan, Aarohi and Isabella for representing GSNYPENN and the Girl Scout Movement at the U.N. to advocate for women and girls everywhere and help make the world a better place,” says GSNYPENN CEO Julie Dale.

Staff member Serafina Sortino, a Membership Engagement Manager in the council's Utica office, applied on behalf of GSNYPENN and was invited to attend the session with four girl delegates. The girls submitted applications to the council and were selected to join fellow Girl Scouts from California, Florida and Oklahoma. Staff member Libby Bokal, a Membership Engagement Manager in the council's Maine office, joined the group for their trip.

During the Commission on the Status of Women, girls attended sessions, listened to speakers and advocated for what they believe is important and relevant for girls today. They engaged with non-governmental organizations, U.N. Agencies, Country Missions and other youth delegates from around the world. Delegates also took part in and spoke at Girl Scout parallel events about STEM, digital literacy, access to technology in rural areas, and the importance of Girl Scouts and other organizations to champion digital literacy for girls.

To prepare for their roles during the experience, Girl Scouts participated in bi-weekly Zoom training beginning in August 2022. Along with attending inspirational events led by women leaders and professionals from across the globe during their visit to the U.N., the girls were also part of advocacy groups, conversation circles, assisted with girl statement writing, and moderated their own event in collaboration with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts. They also met people from all over the world, visited GSUSA headquarters, sat in on the UN General Assembly and more.

GSNYPENN serves girls in K-12 across 26 counties: Allegany, Broome, Cayuga, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Oswego, Otsego, St. Lawrence, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates in New York and Bradford and Tioga in Pennsylvania. Annual membership is just \$25; financial assistance is available. To start her adventure, visit gsnypenn.org/join. To become a volunteer, learn more at gsnypenn.org/volunteer. To help make Girl Scouting possible for girls in your community, visit gsnypenn.org/donate.

(All photos and graphics used with permission, courtesy of Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways)

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About Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways, Inc.

Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls in grades K-12. Our extraordinary journey began in 1912 when our Movement was founded by Juliette Gordon “Daisy” Low. Today, we continue the Girl Scout mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. We offer every girl the chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure and success. GSNYPENN is chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA to administer the Girl Scout program in 24 counties of New York and two in Pennsylvania. Learn more at gsnypenn.org.