

A G.I.R.L. Journey

May 2021



April can be fickle, weather-wise, so it is in May that I feel like I'm really emerging from winter's shell and moving headlong toward summer. I start remembering how much I love being outside. I know that it won't be long before we are all freed from our winter jackets and hiking, walking or running through the great outdoors.

My summer schedule ever since I started working for GSCWM included many days at our four summer camps. And I love it. I love the beauty of the land whether it's forest or waterfront or open fields. The minute I get out of my car the air feels and smells different and I can hear girls singing. I love walking around camp, day or resident, and seeing all the groups of girls laughing and carrying on, or sometimes being seriously serious. I love watching them being silly in the swimming pool and I love seeing them practice the boating skills they've learned on the lake. I love watching girls in the archery range. Everyone is having a unique experience and getting the experience they want.

I can't tell you how excited I am that we have figured out how to safely open and run day and overnight camps this summer. There are so many extra details to consider and attend to, on top of the already rigorous safety protocols we always have in place, but it's all

worth it. It's all worth it when I consider the thought of girls getting the break they need and deserve to step away from their homes and their desktops and laptops and cellphones. Time at camp for a girl is a life-changing event, I have heard this from so many.

Adhering to the COVID-19 guidelines and mandates in place, this will be the first summer in thirteen years that I can't visit Girl Scout camp. Of course I'm feeling a little sad about that but safety of the girls and camp staff is paramount. No visitors means no visitors!! I will relish my memories of summers past knowing that another season of campers gather together in camaraderie to make their own lasting summer memories.

Pattie Hallberg, CEO
Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts