

# Pattie's Blog



*Please welcome this month's guest blogger, Hannah Schur! Hannah was an active Girl Scout from Daisy through Ambassador in central and western Massachusetts and is a Site Civil Engineer at Langan Engineering. Her full bio follows this post. We asked Hannah to share her STEM thoughts ahead of International Day of Women and Girls in Science.*

## **STEM. Science, technology, engineering, & math.**

When I was little, STEM was an acronym I heard thrown around a lot. I always imagined men in white lab coats and safety goggles moving green liquids from one test tube to another. Through my K12 schooling, college education, and the beginning of my career, I have come to learn that STEM is so much more than that. Not only is it more than lab work, but it is also more than just men.

There has been a misconception in the past that girls are not interested in STEM. From my experience, I believe girls are interested, but they don't know what it is until they are exposed to it. Learning about STEM is more than taking math and science classes in school. It's seeing all the different ways STEM careers influence our everyday lives. STEM careers don't just include doctors, biologists, engineers, and computer scientists. They also include meteorologists, veterinarians, therapists, zoologists, and financial analysts. There are so many ways for girls to become involved in STEM fields when the opportunities are presented to them early and often.

Girl Scouts is definitely the way I was introduced to most STEM fields. My time as a Girl Scout can best be described as a smorgasbord of eclectic experiences. From cookie sales to camp, I was involved in many aspects of the council which assisted me to find

my passions and become who I am today. One of my favorite things to do was feverishly flip through the GSCWM Program Guide and highlight the events I wanted my mom to sign me up for. I read that thing cover to cover every time a new one was released. Going to all of these different programs and participating in the varying activities encouraged me to study a STEM discipline. From visits to the Ecotarium and overnights at the Museum of Science, I had so many opportunities to learn about different fields and ask questions.

One of the most influential programs I attended as a Girl Scout was a program at Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). We were guided through activities to complete badges by women in the WPI engineering program. At the time, it felt so organic working with other girls on science projects with the oversight of these women. Looking back, I can definitely pinpoint this as one of the first times I saw girls like me succeeding in STEM. Experiences like this were instrumental in choosing what I studied and ultimately what became my career.

Already, it's incredible how many women I've seen in STEM in just the first four years of my career. I can't wait to continue encouraging the next generation of STEM women to join us.

*Hannah Schur is a Site Civil Engineer at Langan Engineering in their Boston office. She graduated from the University of Delaware in 2018 with a bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering and minors in Business Administration, Civil Engineering, and Integrated Design. She joined the Girl Scouts in kindergarten as a Daisy and continued through her final bridging ceremony from Ambassador to Adult. During her time in Girl Scouts, she was a delegate to the GSUSA National Convention, a girl member of the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts (GSCWM) Board of Directors, and Co-President of the GSCWM Girl Leadership Board. In high school, she was fortunate enough to visit Juliette Gordon Low's birthplace in Savannah, Georgia. Additionally, she and her mom visited two of the WAGGGS World Centers in London, England and Lucerne, Switzerland. She attended Day Camp at Camp Laurel Wood and overnight camp at Camp Green Eyrie and Camp Bonnie Brae and most importantly, she sold Girl Scout Cookies every season.*