

Pattie's Blog



Desiree during her time as a GSCWM Board Member

Please welcome this month's guest blogger Desiree Butler! Desiree's bio follows this post.

Why You Should Consider Being a GSCWM Board Member

How many teens can say they served on a board of directors?

Hello! My name is Desiree Butler and I am a lifetime member of Girl Scouts. I have been a member for 15 of my 21 years! I had so many amazing experiences in my time as a Girl Scout and one of the most powerful opportunities I had was the honor to serve on the Girl Scouts of Central and Western Massachusetts Board of Directors as a girl board member.

Just for clarification, according to [Bloomerang](#), "a board of directors is the governing body of a nonprofit." What does that mean? It means that its members "focus on the high-level strategy, oversight and accountability of the organization" as opposed to the day-to-day operations conducted by the employees. "The individuals who make up your board of directors are responsible for making key decisions that address the organization's mission, strategy, and goals."

While serving on the board I was able to see the thought process behind the decision making that all the directors went through in order to achieve what they felt was the best solution to whatever the high-level issue was going on at GSCWM at the time.

When discussing these issues, as a girl member, the other board members would ask for my input. This meant not just being allowed to have a voice in the conversation but being encouraged and prioritized. I learned that it was really important for the GSCWM board members to feel they came to the best decision based on what was best for the Girl Scout council but also what would be the most beneficial to the Girl Scouts the council serves!

Being a board member taught me that I had a bigger voice in Girl Scouts than I thought. What I had to say mattered to these important people I was sitting next to. Being present in such an important setting gave me confidence to keep moving forward in my journey of having and using my voice and it made me realize that I could feel important in other ways, in other settings, and it made what I had to say have meaning in being heard by others.

I had access to GSCWM financial reports and learned what all those numbers actually meant when previously they'd just be numbers on a page. Being a part of the Board of Directors taught me that the field of business is quite complex and fragile. Decisions must be made in the best interest of the people the business is trying to serve. And Girl Scouts is in the business of serving girls. Rash decisions can shatter a company or compromise its brand identity that is established. Financials play a vital role in that complexity. Financial documents can be extremely difficult to follow but with practice, such as I had while serving on the board, they can be consumed and interpreted like a second language. My time on the board of directors influenced my career path to college. It sent me into a spiral of researching business schools I would apply to. I applied to Nichols College as my first choice and was lucky enough to be accepted. I listed my stint as girl member of the board of directors on my college application and it came up in my admissions interview. I believe it was one of the larger scale items on my application that helped me get into Nichols Business Administration program for my bachelor's degree. I will graduate in May 2023.

My time serving on the GSCWM board of directors, and being a Girl Scout in general were both fantastic experiences that I believe every girl should have a chance to experience. Whether it be for exploratory career purposes, or just to find and use her voice. I strongly recommend serving on the board to any girl who loves a challenge and is not afraid to speak her truth.

Desiree Butler was an active Girl Scout from Brownie to Ambassador and is a registered lifetime member. During her time as a Girl Scout she served on the GSCWM Board of Directors and a member of the Girl Leadership board. She earned her Gold Award with a project called Fields of Gold in 2019 that helped give back to her high school softball teams.

Desiree is a senior at Nichols College majoring in business with focuses in entrepreneurship, marketing, and human resources and 3 minors in history, psychology,

and criminal justice. In addition to academics Desiree is the President of the Paranormal Club, a member of The National Honor Society for Leadership and Success (Sigma Alpha Pi), and a member of the History Honor Society (Phi Alpha Theta). Desiree recently completed an internship with the Worcester Boys and Girls Club with the Master Social Worker. She works part time at the Dudley Boys and Girls Club center and part time at Dunkin Donuts. She aspires to getting her Master's degree in Clinical or Counseling Psychology and become published in the psychology field.