

Dear Donors and Supporters,

Hello, my name is Maddy. I'm a high school sophomore, a competitive swimmer, an author, and a Girl Scout. I've been in Girl Scouts for about seven years, and Girl Scouts of Greater Iowa (GSGI) has helped me do amazing things that I couldn't have done on my own.

I'm a Juliette, which means I don't participate in a troop. However, that hasn't stopped me from doing a lot of awesome stuff. I've been to Girl Scout summer camps over four different summers, I've toured the factory that makes our cookies, I've sold fall product and cookies, and I've honestly made a lot of friends. More than that, I've had the opportunity to give back to my community: through my Bronze Award (the highest award a Junior Girl Scout can earn), and through helping out with the Cookie Cupboard (where troops come to restock their cookies) last spring.



Best of all (in my opinion, at least) is that in the summer of 2019, the Girl Scouts are partnering with EF Tours and offering me and several other girls the opportunity to travel to Europe for just over a week! We'll travel to London, where we'll spend four days seeing Big Ben and Buckingham Palace before we take a train to Paris, where we'll spend another three days visiting the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre.

The only hard part here is fundraising, which has been my biggest struggle throughout my entire time in Girl Scouts. I've paid for nearly all of the summer camps I've attended through product selling in the fall and winter, but an international trip is a bit harder. Even with the help of the Girl Scout council—who has bent over backwards to help me—and an EF Tours scholarship, I'm still fundraising like crazy so that I can afford to go. I'm still super excited,

though, and I'm already busy reading up on both London and Paris (it helps that I'm a major history nerd).



I wouldn't have the chance to see Europe like I will next summer if it weren't for Girl Scouts. I wouldn't have been able to make as many friends as I've had, or gained experience through selling cookies and working the Cookie Cupboard if I hadn't joined Girl Scouts. My mom was a Girl Scout before me, and although she never pushed me into joining, I couldn't be happier or more proud to call myself a Girl Scout. It's one of the most amazing things in my life and I wouldn't give it up for the world.

Sincerely,

Maddy P.