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Honors Program

January 28, 2015

GSEOK

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Volunteering with Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma

**Organization's Activities, Purpose Intent, History, and Goals**

Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma is a non-profit organization whose sole mission is to help girls across eastern Oklahoma discover who they are and how they can make a difference in the world. A woman named Juliette Gordon Low was the founder of Girl Scouts. She had a vision of helping girls discover their strengths, skills, and individuality. Juliette made her vision come true by selling her most prized possession, a pearl necklace, and she used the money from the sale to found the first Girl Scout troop. Girl Scouting is a worldwide organization which has grown over the last 100 years to a shocking number of members to 2.8 million people. This number includes 800,000 adult volunteers, and two million girl participants. Girl Scouts began in Oklahoma in 1914, when a Girl Scout office was set up in Bartlesville, OK. In 2008 Girl Scout offices across eastern Oklahoma merged together to form GSEOK (Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma). This merge was a huge change for the offices in Oklahoma because many people lost their jobs and were reassigned to different departments. Everyone had to work together and make adjustments to make sure GSEOK ran smoothly and effectively. Finally after seven years the main office in Tulsa has finally got into the groove of things, and everyone is beginning to understand their roles.

**Evidence of the needs:**

Girl Scouts contribute many things to the community. They sell cookies, organize volunteering to local businesses, and they offer scholarships to graduating seniors. Girl Scouting brings together communities, and helps people get to know one another. Girl Scouting builds girls up and helps them accomplish amazing things. Camps, trips, and activities are held every week for Girl Scouts. At these events girls meet lifelong friends, discover new things about themselves, and develop passions. Girl Scouting offers a wide variety of trips for girls to take that help them become courageous and strong. One of the most recent and famous ones was the council trip to the White House. Experiences like these are once in a lifetime and definitely have an impact on girls’ lives. Girl Scout camps are held mostly in the summer, but there are a few on Spring Break. At these camps girls discover new qualities about themselves and new strengths. There are many traveling opportunities through girl scouting, which can give girls a cultural educational experience by letting them live and learn in a new country. Girl Scouts help girls relate to others with understanding and respect, develop their full individual potential, develop values to guide their decisions, and learn how to improve society by their actions. More than 59 million women in America participate in Girl Scouting during their childhood; this number continues to grow as our population grows. The organization of Girl Scouting continues to grow with the rapid growth of the amount of young girls.

**Your Academic and Career Background:**

I am fully capable in volunteering with these events, because I have been an active member of Girl Scouts for the last 14 years and am very experienced and qualified in canoeing, rock-climbing, and first aid. This volunteer work with GSEOK will assist me in furthering my leadership and decision making skills. I will also develop people skills and how to understand another person’s fear and hesitation which will assist me in my future career as a doctor.

**Objectives:**

As a volunteer I will be introducing girls to new experiences and help them realize what they are capable of. I will be guiding them through obstacles that will test their strength, teamwork, and decision making skills. My goal is to open up young girls’ eyes to a world filled with opportunity, and to show them that they can accomplish any dream they set for themselves. I want girls to become aware of their potential and how powerful they are. I want to show them how they can truly make a difference in the world. The skills I will help these girls develop will guide them in all that they do in the future. I already have many activities scheduled to do including volunteering at a Girl Scout camp P.A Training. This is an event where young girls desiring to learn how to be more of a leader spend a weekend camping and learning outdoor skills along with games and songs. They are not only simply learning the skills they are also learning how to teach the skills to younger girls. Another activity is the Girls Scout Cookie Crunch Off. At this event I will be taking girls around to different stations teaching them cookie selling safety and introducing them to the new cookies and incentives for this year. This is a annual event where about a hundred people attend and my goal is to help them learn everything they need to know about cookie sales for this year. Another activity I will help with is Thinking Day. This is an annual event that teaches girls about other countries and their culture and values. My role during this day will be to accompany troops around to the different booths and assist them in the activities and be available for any of their questions.

**Involvement with the organization**

Girl Scouts of Eastern Oklahoma is an organization I have been associated with since I was four years old. I have been an active member for fifteen years and I possess a lifetime membership that will allow me to be a girl scout for life. The reason for my desire to be a lifetime member is because to be an adult volunteer you have to be a registered girl scout and I am sure I will always want to volunteer for girl scouts. Girl scouting has always been a big part of my life and I hope it forever will remain that way. I hope to promote girl scouting and help them make the world a better place.

**Semester Time Log:**

* January 30th, 2016
  + Volunteered at the annual Girl Scout cookie distribution, at a warehouse in Tulsa. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
  + I counted the cases of “toffee tastic” cookies to each troop.
  + I did not encounter any problems, because this was a very organized event that ran very smoothly.
  + Reported to Christie Boyd **Email**: cboyd@gseok.org
* February 2nd, 2016
  + The annual Cookie Crunch Off. 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.
  + Volunteered with troop #23. Helped the girls and leaders with each station.
  + I enjoyed watching the girls learn about cookie sales and making crafts and I did not encounter any problems.
  + Reported to Kelly Overholt 918-698-7783
* April 2nd, 2016
  + Volunteered at a weekend PA training. Saturday 8 a.m. – 10:30 p.m. and Sunday 8 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
  + I helped two other PA instructors teaching several middle school aged girls how to teach younger girls outdoor skills, crafts, sons, and games.
  + I did not encounter any problems.
  + I reported to Kathy Perry 918-906-0206
* April 14th and 18th, 2016
  + Day Camp Training from 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
  + I listened to the protocol of day camp in order to volunteer over the summer at the camp. I also taught the volunteering leaders how to build a fire and how to properly fold a flag.
  + I did not encounter any problems.
  + I reported to Kelly Overholt 918-698-7783

**Conclusion:**

My involvement with Girl Scouts has had a positive impact on my opinion relating to community service. Girl Scouts is an organization that I greatly admire and while working with them I have discovered the importance of community service. Community Service is vital for our world to stay united. Without community service then there would be fewer ways for people to help one another. My involvement with Girl Scouts has helped me realize exactly how important volunteering truly is.