

Delegates and Alternates to the GSUSA National Council Session



Yasmeen Al-Shehab

A lifelong Teaneck resident, Yasmeen Al-Shehab has been involved with Girl Scouts since 2005 and has been a troop leader since 2011. She also volunteers as a co-president of the Parent Teacher Organization, a member of the Textbook Advisory Committee, and a board member of We the People, a non-profit devoted to youth and service. She volunteers for Helping Hands Food Pantry and Future Forward for Haiti. Yasmeen became a registered nurse in 2014 and works at Chilton Medical Center and Holy Name Hospital.



Emily Aprea

Emily Aprea is a finance professional with over 18 years of experience working for nonprofit organizations. Ms. Aprea is the Director of Finance and Operations for Alpine Learning Group, a nonprofit organization in Paramus that provides programs for individuals with autism across their lifespans. She volunteers for several organizations including Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey where she has been a national delegate, troop leader, troop camp trainer, new leader orientation facilitator, family campaign volunteer, and adult recognition coordinator, among other roles with Girl Scouts.



Chiquita Barnes

Chiquita Barnes is a lifetime member of Girl Scouts, a 2017 National Council Session delegate, service unit registrar, and troop leader. She serves on the GSNNJ Gold Award Review Committee. In her community, Ms. Barnes serves on the Program Committee Board for Bergen Family Center in Englewood. She is also president of her daughter's school Parent Teacher Organization. She earned her master's degree in Human Resource Administration in 2002 from Central Michigan University. Chiquita is a Regional Recruiter Manager for Student Transportation of America.



Edwin Barreto

Edwin Barreto joined Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey as Chief Financial Officer in April 2016. In this position, he is responsible for the overall financial strategy and direction at GSNNJ, as well as Information Technology. Prior to joining GSNNJ, Mr. Barreto held previous Controller and Chief Business Officer roles with YWCA of Bergen County and Mercy Home for Children. He holds an MBA in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix and a BBA in Accounting from the American University of Puerto Rico.



Brittany Boetticher

Brittany Boetticher has been a Girl Scout since she was five years old. Ms. Boetticher earned her Girl Scout Bronze, Girl Scout Silver and Girl Scout Gold Awards. Her Girl Scout Gold Award project focused on bringing a suicide prevention program to her high school. Miss Boetticher was a CIT, CIT II, Junior, and Assistant Counselor at Jockey Hollow Day camp. In 2017, she attended the National Council Session in Columbus, Ohio. She currently studies sociology at Drew University and hopes to join the Peace Corps after college.



Paulette Brauch

Paulette Brauch graduated with a bachelor's degree in Elementary Education. She has worked in the HVAC field as an office manager for 20 years, and now owns and operates an HVAC company with her siblings. Ms. Brauch has volunteered for Girl Scouts in the Lakedale Service Unit since 2011. She currently leads a Girl Scout Cadette troop and is serving her sixth year as Service Unit Manager.



Martha De Young

Martha De Young has been a Girl Scout for 61 years. Born and raised in Saddle Brook, Ms. De Young is the Service Unit Manager for Hackensack, Maywood, Rochelle Park, and South Hackensack, leader of Maywood Girl Scout Senior Troop 4024 and advisor to a Girl Scout Daisy/Brownie troop in South Hackensack. A lifetime member of Girl Scouts, Ms. De Young volunteers with the Adler Aphasia Center several times a week and is an active member of the Summit Church in Hackensack. She is a member of the Girl Scout Order of the Evergreen and a 2019 Woman of Achievement.



Betty Garger

Betty Garger, of Sparta, is the Chief Executive Officer of Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey and the former CEO of Girl Scouts: Lenni Lenape Council, Inc. Betty has worked for Girl Scouts for 33 years in various capacities. A member of the Paterson Rotary Club for 15 years, Betty also served as President. She is an alum of Leadership Morris and Bergen Leads, and a longtime member of the Sussex County Chamber of Commerce. Betty is a lifetime member of the Girl Scouts and the mother of a Gold Award Girl Scout.



Shanna Jafri

Shanna Jafri, of Englewood Cliffs, is an attorney experienced in corporate and public interest law. Ms. Jafri has been a member of the GSNNJ board of directors since 2016 and serves as First Vice Chair. She received her bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Colorado at Boulder, and her law degree at DePaul University College of Law, in Chicago. She is the president of the School Board Trustees for the Englewood Cliffs Board of Education. She also served as the president of the Englewood Cliffs PTA from 2010 to 2012.



Krista Korinis

Krista Korinis, of Wyckoff, is the President of Global Installation Resources, LLC, a woman owned and operated union installation company. She is a member of the Collaborative Women in Construction, Women President Educational Organization, the Morris County Chamber of Commerce, and just completed two terms on the Board of Directors for Commercial Real Estate Women of New Jersey. Ms. Korinis is secretary of the Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey and Chair of the Fund Development Committee. She earned her bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Bryant University.



Alejandro Martinez

Alejandro Martinez is the Chief Operating Officer of Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey. He joined the senior leadership team of Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey in February 2013 and was the former Chief of Staff at United Way of New York City. He is an alum of Leadership Morris. Mr. Martinez serves as Vice Chair for the Coalition for Hispanic Children and Families, serves on the board of Head Start Morris County and the Board of the Denville Rotary. Mr. Martinez lives in Mount Tabor.



Laura Nevar

Laura Nevar, of West Milford, is a Program Manager for Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey. She has a bachelor's degree in Psychology and a master's degree in Forensic Mental Health Counseling from John Jay College of Criminal Justice. Ms. Nevar has volunteered for several youth organizations and most recently with a domestic violence agency in Passaic County. She was a Girl Scout throughout her youth, starting as a Girl Scout Daisy and becoming a Gold Award Girl Scout in high school.



Beth Purdy

Beth Purdy is an Associate Director at Novartis Pharmaceuticals. She has undergraduate and graduate degrees in Chemistry and works in Regulatory Affairs. She lived with her husband in the UK and Switzerland where their son and daughter were born. She moved to New Jersey five years ago. Besides being a working mother of two children, Ms. Purdy recently became a leader of a Girl Scout Daisy troop in Chatham. She also leads her son's Cub Scout Den and volunteers at St. Hubert's Animal Welfare Center.



Judith Schlemm

Judy Schlemm, of Little Ferry, is the Product Program Manager at the Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey in Paramus. A Girl Scout for 27 years and a lifetime member, Ms. Schlemm joined the council staff in 2004. Prior to working for Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey, she enjoyed being a troop leader for 13 years, a service unit manager, and serving in many committee positions for her community. She is the proud parent of a Gold Award Girl Scout.



Regan Sharkey

Regan Sharkey loved being a Girl Scout in Kinnelon. After attending college and living in Boston, she returned to Kinnelon, becoming a Girl Scout Leader when her daughters joined. She has been a leader for 17 years and continues volunteering even though her daughters have graduated high school. Ms. Sharkey currently serves as a Service Unit Manager for Kinnelon, Fall Product Program Manager, and Gold Award Committee Member. She also currently serves as a Boy Scout Merit Badge Counselor and Sunday School teacher.



Eliza Silletto

Eliza Silletto has been a Girl Scout in Teaneck Troop 60019 since she was a Girl Scout Daisy in 2008. She has earned her Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Awards and is currently completing her Girl Scout Gold Award project. Troop 60019 has been active in environmentalism, successfully advocating for Teaneck's town council to pass the second plastic bag ordinance in New Jersey. Miss Silletto created the Teaneck Kids Chronicle, a 16-page printed periodical "by kids for kids," and was Editor-in-Chief.



Dr. Mikele Simkins

Dr. Mikele Simkins is the Director of Comparative Medicine and Attending Veterinarian at Pfizer Inc. in Pearl River, N.Y. Dr. Simkins is Board Certified by the American College of Laboratory Animal Medicine and has over 18 years of experience in Laboratory Animal Medicine. Dr. Simkins was a Girl Scout from grades 2-7 and later volunteered as a troop leader in Winston Salem, N.C., and Spring House, Pa. She recently led her eldest daughter's troop, which has since graduated high school. Dr. Simkins has served as Troop Coordinator, Registrar and Service Unit Manager for Mine Hill, Wharton, and Dover.



Bette Simmons

Bette M. Simmons, Ed. D., is the vice president of Student Development & Enrollment Management at County College of Morris. She has held this position for many years after having held various administrative positions over the course of her career with the college. Dr. Simmons has been a lifelong resident of New Jersey. She is very active in the Morris County community and serves as Chair of the Board of Directors of Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey.



Kathryn Tucker

Kathryn Tucker, of Morris Township, is a high school sophomore and Girl Scout Senior. She is an active member of Troop 94505, including being a top cookie seller and attending many council, service unit, and troop events. Miss Tucker believes that serving her community helps her to grow, learn and be a better person and has volunteered more than 200 hours. She recently planned a 2019 Morristown Service Unit SHARE event. Miss Tucker is also a vocalist and string bassist.

Alternates



Zareena Al-Shehab

Zareena Al-Shehab is a Girl Scout Ambassador from Troop 60019 in Teaneck. She has been a member of her troop since 2008 and has a passion for civic engagement. She is also devoted to the environment, as she and her troop lobbied for the ban of single-use plastic bags in Teaneck. She serves on the Sustainability Committee at her school. Miss Al-Shehab has earned her Girl Scout Bronze and Silver Awards and received the Lifesaving Medal of Honor. She is currently working on her Girl Scout Gold Award.



Allison Bottoni

Allison Bottoni has been a Girl Scout for 13 years and says she has loved every minute of it. This past year. Miss Bottoni attended the Birthplace Bound trip to Savannah, Georgia where Girl Scouting began in 1912. She is currently working on earning her Girl Scout Gold Award. Miss Bottoni is high school senior, who plans on attending Full Sail University for Music Production. For the past two years, she has been coaching figure skating.



Ela Doganay

Ela Doganay is Roxbury resident and a sophomore at the Morris County School of Technology in Denville. She is in the International Business and Finance Academy and loves being a Girl Scout. She earned her Girl Scout Gold Award and Girl Scout Silver Award. At her school, she is Student Council President for her class and is a member of the basketball team, DECA and Skills USA clubs.



Lissette Tufaro

Lissette Tufaro, of Byram, has worked for Girl Scouts of Northern New Jersey as a Membership Recruitment Manager for nearly 13 years. As a staff member, she has served on various committees including Employee Engagement, Strategic Learning, CEI team and Operation G.I.R.L. She also served on the Convention Action Team for GSUSA at the 2017 National Council Session in Ohio. Prior to working at GSNNJ, Ms. Tufaro volunteered for Girl Scouts as a service unit manager, troop organizer and leader.