

# Many Faces of Girl Scouts

Girl Scouts have always taken the lead, transforming communities, lives and the world with the power of the G.I.R.L. (Go-Getter, Innovator, Risk-Taker, Leader)™. This year, Girl Scouts is exploring what it looks like to be a member of our Movement with the Many Faces of Girl Scouts. So look closer! Each individual is a unique peak into our organization and the incredible people who make us who we are.

## Makenzie Uwe - The Go-Getter:

Makenzie Uwe is a true G.I.R.L., but if you were to ask anyone who knows her, she is the ultimate go-getter. Uwe joined Girl Scouts 11 years ago as a Brownie but said her inner Go-Getter didn't come out until sixth grade. That's when she made the decision to join GSSJC's equitation program, SPURS (Super People Using Riding Skills).

Horses had always been a passion for Uwe, but it was a passion she never thought to pursue after her first encounter with the animals at Camp Misty Meadows. When she entered sixth grade however, she decided to go for it, and that decision impacted nearly every part of her life.

"When I first went to Camp Misty Meadows, it sparked my love of horses," Uwe said. "When I started working in the SPURS, it sparked my confidence and helped me gain leadership skills and volunteer hours. It was a win-win."

Uwe's can-do mentality and ambition took her far over the next few years. Spending as much time as she could at the stables, she became the group's vice president and today, as an Ambassador, she also fills the role of secretary and event planner.



"A go-getter means someone who is always willing to do an extra job if they need to and step up," Uwe said. "Someone who makes themselves available to do work." Uwe also added that a true go-getter is someone who also knows when to back down to allow others the opportunity to lead.

Since joining the program, Uwe has earned more than 600 service hours mentoring younger Girl Scouts to become leaders themselves. During her years in SPURS, Uwe's love of animals also inspired her to go on the Wildlife Wonders Destinations trip to Wyoming where she learned about wildlife and environmental science with the Teton Science Schools. She then went on a Destinations trip to Costa Rica where she repaired concrete floors for schools in Talamanca.

The leadership skills learned in Girl Scouts have allowed her to expand her roles with other extracurricular activities. Uwe rose above her peers to become an officer of her color guard team, a National Honor Society member and a member of the Technology Student Association (TSA). She will also participate in the 2017 TSA Nationals in Florida this year. Uwe said she even tried her hand at puppeteering and, while she decided it wasn't for her, was glad she took the risk to try something new.

"I get bored really easily," Uwe said. "I'm glad I try new things even if I don't like them."



Whether her achiever-personality came from determination or restlessness, her drive to succeed has never gone unnoticed. After scoring high on the ACT in six grade, Uwe was accepted into the Duke Talent Identification Program (TIP) where she studied criminology, forensics and chemistry for three years. She was also selected to attend the Hugh O’Brian Youth Leadership seminar where she and one other sophomore represented their school during a weekend of leadership education.

“Girl Scouts has helped me become more of a leader and has forced me out of my shell,” Uwe said. “Without Girl Scouts, I don’t think I would have had a lot of my experiences, like being invited back to the Teton Science Schools or going to Costa Rica.”

Most importantly, however, Girl Scouts prepared Uwe for her future by helping her explore her interests and set her on a career path. After developing an interest in veterinary science, she eventually gravitated towards forensic sciences which she plans to pursue after college.

Uwe is an incredible example of what happens when you want something and keep going for it. Girl Scouts exposes girls to a world of opportunity and teaches them not just to set goals, but also how to achieve them. See what it takes to be a G.I.R.L. and how you can become one too at [gssjc.org](http://gssjc.org).



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