

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.

The Shipmans: How Girl Scouts impacted our daughter

Sometimes Girl Scouting takes you unexpected places. For Janine and Jason Shipman, Girl Scouts resulted in their daughter Angela being named a National Young Woman of Distinction, the highest honor from Girl Scouts of the USA for Gold Award Girl Scouts.



“She called me and left a message. I thought someone had attacked her or something. She was just so excited,” said Janine.

Janine and Jason’s reaction to the award was shock and surprise. It was also the icing on the cake of a Girl Scout journey that wasn’t always easy. Being painfully shy as a young girl, Angela struggled to fit in with her troop and participate in the cookie program initially. But knowing Girl Scouts was a place for their daughter to try new things in a safe environment, Janine and Jason encouraged her to stick with it.

“She’s an introvert, so the first couple of years of Girl Scout cookie sales were horrible. We finally got her to start doing it and get out there. That was a big deal,” said Jason.

As a result, Angela used her shyness and insecurities to help create her Gold Award project, Rewire Society, a series of videos and photo exhibits that encouraged others to embrace their flaws and, ultimately, who they are inside and out. Rewire Society is still going strong today as Angela releases new YouTube episodes and manages social media accounts to share her message of acceptance.

“It was a relief that this message is getting out there, that other people get it. It’s resonating with other people,” said Janine.

With both of their daughters in Girl Scouts, Janine and Jason have experienced firsthand the value and impact of Girl Scouting.

“Being working parents, it’s hard to go out and do things, but I can make enough time to be with her and take her to camp. Then you go back and pick her up, and she’s learned all these things. I think Girl Scouts helped with that,” said Jason.

For these proud parents, the National Young Woman of Distinction award is a testament to Girl Scouts helping Angela become who she is today.

“[It] helped break through the barriers that she can do it, that she can organize people, that she can be a manager and learn how to be a leader,” said Janine.

Girls need Girl Scouting now more than ever. As 2018 begins, be sure to explore all of the opportunities she can have through Girl Scouts.



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