

Girl Scouts of the Colonial Coast
United Way of South Hampton Roads
CVC Code 05016

Girl Scouts is Leading Girls to Greater Heights
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Sugar and spice and everything nice. This might describe Girl Scout Ambassador Lauren Prox, but she's so much more. She's smart, super creative and determined to achieve. She's proven that through her Girl Scout experience that led to a top-notch Gold Award project. Lauren and her project have gotten national recognition that is helping send a strong message to other girls – you can do it if you try. While Lauren doesn't come from a background of wealth with all the benefits money brings, she does come from a family that values what education and leadership programs like Girl Scouting can bring to Lauren's life. She recently graduated from the Denbigh Aviation School, a specialized four-year program to prepare highly motivated students for STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) careers. She also recently earned her Girl Scout Gold Award – the highest award a girl may achieve in Girl Scouts. She says both have been milestones in her life, and both have given her an opportunity to explore what she loves most – flying.

Through Girl Scouts, she took her passion for aviation to new heights. Her project involved creating workshops to ignite interest in flight among the kids in her neighborhood, along with younger girls in Girl Scouts. With the help of community supporters, such as Lowe's, a building supply merchant, she held free, hands-on sessions where children learned about flight and the science around it. From making wooden biplanes to experimenting with other magical instruments of flight, she taught groups of kids that science can be fun and part of their dreams for the future. Lauren also earned a service grant from Disney, an ABC Summer of Service Grant, which allowed her to increase the number of workshops she offered.

"I think I've made a difference," Lauren said. "As a female, I was a minority in most of my classes that were STEM geared. I think I've helped boys in my school recognize that women can achieve in math and science, and I'm hoping I've helped give that same message to other girls."

Lauren was invited to the 2015 White House Science Fair where she had an opportunity to meet with government leaders such as Megan Smith, Chief of Technology for the White House and Vice President Joe Biden. She was later invited to speak to an elite group of Congress members – women legislators who make up Troop Capitol Hill and who are all Girl Scout alumnae.

"Girl Scout focuses on building confidence and creating leadership opportunities for girls like me," Lauren said. "Before joining Girl Scouts, I had never experienced outdoor activities such as camping or canoeing. The exposure to these types of activities is what helped me feel confident enough to go white-water rafting and even fly a few aircrafts as a student pilot. In Girl Scouts, I've been able to become a leader and an advocate for change. It's been a phenomenal experience."

Through a value-based and leadership focused experience, Girl Scouts serves girls in K-12 grades. For information about volunteering, membership or donating, visit www.gscgcc.org