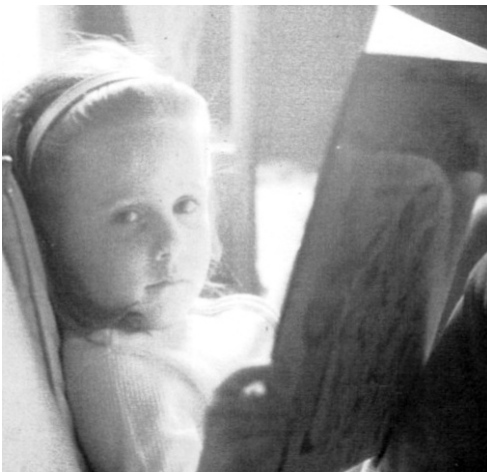


# Meet Skeeter Johnson

*“I credit the experiences during our time Girl Scouting for sculpting my daughter and myself into the balanced, creative, articulate and aware women in this world that we are.”*



Young Skeeter Reading

## My Girl Scout Beginnings

A long, long time ago, I started Girl Scouts in the San Francisco Bay Area Council, as a third grade Brownie in Oakland, California. We were a close bunch and so proud to wear our complete Brownie uniforms (even on school picture day!), hauling around our boxes of Girl Scout cookies to sell, poring over our Brownie Handbooks together at meetings and working on little service projects in our community. I fondly remember caroling on a boat that broadcast our singing on Lake Merritt at Christmas time and then going for hot chocolate afterwards at Fenton's, which was the greatest ice cream parlor in those days.

## A Few of My Favorite Memories

The Junior years of Girl Scouts were wonderful for our group and the greatest time of my young scouting experience. Our leaders taught us 'girl stuff', poise, sewing, simple home economics, cultural awareness, civics and basic guitar.

Our campouts were so memorable. Patrols, badge work, camp cooking, KP charts, spooky stories and skits at campfire all in two full days and a night. The camp counselors were just wonderful, inspiring young women. We all dreamed of 'growing up' and becoming camp counselors with our own unit troops at camp. I eventually did in high school and college and brought all that I had gleaned in scouting to that experience. Those camping experiences cemented my appreciation and love for the natural world.

## After My Experience

Many years later, my daughter became a Brownie Scout and shortly after I became an assistant troop leader, then a co-leader, and then we grew into the Junior Scouts. My involvement in the council piqued my interest to become a lifetime member.

I became involved in the area day camp that ran weekly from mid-June through mid-July. It was a 60 mile round trip drive for us five days a week for the two weeks each summer that I worked. That was a wonderful experience of women of all stripes working together for the betterment of our daughters and other girls.

We moved to Montana in 2000 and I became involved in finishing up Junior Scouts for my daughter, then we went through Cadettes and Seniors. My daughter was given a wonderful opportunity in Montana scouting.

My daughter and I became involved as much as possible in the camping programs off-season at Camp Westana, northwest of Whitefish. I ran one session of the Brownie Round-Up in the spring and our troop's Silver Award project was done at Camp Westana. My daughter's Gold Award project was also executed at Westana.

I credit our experiences in Girl Scouting for sculpting my daughter and myself into the balanced, creative, articulate and aware women in this world that we are.



Skeeter as a Camp Counselor

## My advice to the Girl Scout of 2022

Take advantage of and take part in the well-rounded programs that Girl Scouts may offer. Outdoor education, camping, physical and personal enrichment, global awareness, are all essentials. Interests in technology are important, too and are a part of the whole enrichment picture. Become the woman you can be to your fullest potential. However, not all areas offer this variety in scouting and you will need to seek it out or make the journey as a solo scout. Montana has lots of outdoor space to explore!

## Calling All Girl Scout Alumna



### Share YOUR Story With Us

We want to hear from YOU, our Girl Scout alumna. You know more than anyone about the benefits of being a Girl Scout and we want to share your experience. If you're interested in sharing your Girl Scout story, please reach out to us at [alum@gsmw.org](mailto:alum@gsmw.org) or give us a call at 406-252-0488.



As alums, reconnecting with Girl Scouts supports your continuing journey to make a meaningful, lasting difference in the world; build community; and enjoy positive experiences, like the ones you loved and benefited from as Girl Scouts.



### Join Our Alumna Facebook Group

This group is a place to connect with your sister Girl Scouts, gather information on upcoming events, and help each other. We do plan on hosting some Alumna events in the future, so stay tuned!

Scan the QR Code above to join!