

Gretchen's Story



Gretchen H. is a Scout from Venture Crew 363 located in Ephrata. She was presented Venturing's highest award, the Silver Award, on October 25, 2014. She has been registered in Scouting for the past four years, but has experienced many Scouting activities with her brother and family over the years. Gretchen will graduate in 2015 from Warwick High School and the Lancaster County Career and Technology Center and hopes to get a job in the photography field.

Why did you join Scouting?

"My brother was in Cub Scouts and I wanted to do all of the cool things he did like make Pinewood Derby cars and going to summer camp. Once I was 13 and finished 8th grade, I joined the Venturing program and was able to meet so many amazing people. I got the opportunity to do so many great activities and also earn awards like my brother. I was able to take the National Youth Leadership Training course and served on the staff of several of the courses our council offered. I became the Council Venturing Youth officer and serve as an Area 6 Venturing officer."

What activity stands out to you?

*"National Youth Leadership Training (NYLT) gave me the **leadership skills and the confidence** to pursue office positions in my crew, council, and area levels. I learned to step outside of my comfort zone and be able to talk to many different people, and present in front of several hundred people at different events. I would not be where I am today without NYLT.*

Working at Bashore Scout Reservation for the summer impacted me just as much as NYLT did, I learned how to work with Scouts my age and younger instructing them on new skills. It was very rewarding meeting many Scouts and watch them succeed in this program with my help at camp. Working at Scout camp was an opportunity of a lifetime for me."

How has Scouting impacted your life and what does Scouting mean to you?

*"Scouting to me is not about collecting badges or awards and getting through "rank" like it is for some people. **Scouting is my life**, it has impacted me in many ways meeting amazing people, the great activities I can lead and participate in, gain experience in practical life skills, and the opportunity to help and watch others achieve success just as I have in my Scouting journey.*

*I would not be the same person that I am today without Scouting. I used to be the kid sitting by herself at school with not many friends because I was so shy. Now, after everything I have experienced in Scouting, I have so many amazing friends and I have had the opportunity to speak at a couple events where over 100 people were in attendance. **Scouting was able to bring out my personality.** I believe every youth should take advantage of this amazing program."*

If you could describe Scouting in on sentence what would it be?

"Scouting is an opportunity of a lifetime."

Describe Scouting in one word..... "Phenomenal"