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National Grid Supports Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways Camp for LGBTQ+ Youth

Camp Beyond Binary Welcomes First Group in August 2022

Syracuse, N.Y. (June 24, 2022) — [National Grid](#), in celebration of June as Pride Month, has awarded a charitable contribution of \$20,000 to the [Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways](#) to launch [Camp Beyond Binary](#), a weeklong summer camp for LGBTQ+ youth ages 12 to 18. In addition to the corporate donation, National Grid employees are donating in-kind supplies needed by the camp, including clothing and personal items, for a community closet.



An LGBTQ+ Summer Camp

Camp Beyond Binary embraces the core values of justice, empathy, leadership, transformation and belonging. GSNYPENN will pilot the camp in August 2022 at its Camp Amahami property in Broome County. The camp—open to all eligible youths, and not just Girl Scouts—will run for one week and be operated by council staff and volunteers, as well as seasonal staff with LGBTQ+ expertise, including an on-staff counselor.

The idea for Camp Beyond Binary stemmed from a lack of resources for LGBTQ+ youth not being met affordably within the GSNYPENN Council's footprint, which spans 26 counties in upstate New York and northern Pennsylvania. Attendees will experience everything Camp Amahami has to offer, including boating, archery and hiking. There will also be workshops and groups where they can explore their feelings and be part of a larger conversation about inclusiveness and acceptance — a cornerstone of the Girl Scout experience. The council hopes to run additional Camp Beyond Binary programs across all its outdoor properties in the future.

"We are very appreciative of National Grid's support of this pilot program. The Girl Scout Mission is to hold space for those who, on the spectrum of gender identity, are not cisgender boys. We feel Camp Beyond Binary is a natural direction for us to meet the needs of youth in the communities we serve who identify as LGBTQ+," said GSNYPENN CEO Julie Dale. "Our planning committee of LGBTQ+ members who have expertise personally and/or professionally in this space and GSNYPENN staff has been working diligently on curriculum for the program. We are very excited to host our first cohort in August and see this expand into the future."

"We are proud to sponsor this needed program for New York youth. At National Grid we strive to create a workplace where all employees can bring their whole self, and this camp is aligned with that goal of inclusivity and belonging" said Natalie Edwards, global chief diversity officer at National Grid. "It is especially exciting that our employees can donate monetary or in-kind directly to the camp and submit for company match, increasing the support for the camp as one of the company-highlighted charities for Pride month this year."

"The camp creates equitable access to summer camp free of judgment and prejudice for children who are courageously navigating a path of personal discovery," said Alberto Bianchetti, regional director of customer and community engagement for National Grid. "At a time in a young person's life where they may feel loneliest, the Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways are providing a community."

The camp embodies the spirit of [National Grid's Project C](#), which was designed to transcend convention and create a more equitable future in the communities that the company serves. The goal of Project C is to inspire positive change, including social equity, today and in the years to come.

Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways serves 26 counties: Allegany, Broome, Cayuga, Chemung, Chenango, Cortland, Delaware, Herkimer, Jefferson, Lewis, Madison, Oneida, Onondaga, Ontario, Oswego, Otsego, St. Lawrence, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne and Yates in New York and Bradford and Tioga in Pennsylvania. Learn more about Camp Beyond Binary and how to get involved at campbeyondbinary.org.

(All photos and graphics used with permission, courtesy of National Grid and Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways)

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About National Grid

National Grid (NYSE: NGG) is an electricity, natural gas, and clean energy delivery company serving more than 20 million people through our networks in New York and Massachusetts. National Grid is transforming our electricity and natural gas networks with smarter, cleaner, and more resilient energy solutions to meet the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions. For more information, please visit our [website](#), follow us on [Twitter](#), watch us on [YouTube](#), friend us on [Facebook](#), and find our photos on [Instagram](#).

About Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways, Inc.

Girl Scouts is the preeminent leadership development organization for girls in grades K-12. Our extraordinary journey began in 1912 when our Movement was founded by Juliette Gordon "Daisy" Low. Today, we continue the Girl Scout mission of building girls of courage, confidence, and character, who make the world a better place. We offer every girl the chance to practice a lifetime of leadership, adventure and success. GSNYPENN is chartered by Girl Scouts of the USA to administer the Girl Scout program in 24 counties of New York and two in Pennsylvania. Learn more at gsnypenn.org.