



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact:

Jaime Alvarez

Vice President of Marketing & Communications

315.263.5957 mobile

315.275.2251 office

jalvarez@gsnypenn.org

Jamesville Girl Scouts Advocate for Girls' Rights at United Nations Events



L-R: Aaroahi Rastogi, Rayna Reed and Mia Enders of Jamesville Girl Scout Troop 60500 at United Nations Headquarters this fall. (Photos courtesy of Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways)

Syracuse, N.Y. (November 15, 2024) — Three [Girl Scouts of NYPENN Pathways](#) members from Troop 60500 in Jamesville, N.Y., participated in events at United Nations (UN) Headquarters in New York City this fall, advocating for girls' rights, leadership and empowerment. The experiences provided a global platform for each Girl Scout to engage with leaders and youth activists from around the world as they contributed to discussions on gender equality, mental health and youth leadership.

Summit of the Future

Aaroahi Rastogi attended the UN's Summit of the Future in September, invited by Adwoa Aidoo, Senior Director of Global Girl Scouting at Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA). During the event, she participated in Action Days, a series of youth-focused sessions where young activists engaged directly with policymakers on issues affecting their futures.

At the summit, Aaroahi addressed global challenges such as the climate crisis, gender-based violence and the importance of youth voices in policymaking. She spoke at events hosted by the Malala Fund and AGIP, emphasizing the need to hold governments accountable for protecting girls' rights and promoting gender equality.

-more-



“I had the chance to meet my idol, Malala Yousafzai, and speak at an event she hosted. It was amazing to realize that my voice truly matters in this world,” Aaroahi said. “The experience reaffirmed my belief that youth, especially girls, can shape a more equitable future.” (See photo at left)

Girls Speak Out: International Day of the Girl

In October, Aaroahi and fellow Jamesville Girl Scouts Rayna Reed and Mia Enders participated in the UN’s 11th Annual Girls Speak Out event, marking International Day of the Girl. Organized by the Working Group on Girls and UN partners, the event advocates for girls' rights, leadership and government accountability on policies affecting young women.

Aaroahi was selected as a speaker after moderating the previous year. She addressed youth activists and UN representatives on topics like gender-based violence and advocacy. She also drew from her Girl Scout Gold Award project to highlight the importance of mental health support for girls.

“After the town hall, I led a workshop where I helped other girls create personal advocacy plans. It was inspiring to see their passion for change. Preparation for this took five weeks, which was challenging while balancing school and gymnastics, but I was determined to make an impact,” Aaroahi recalls.

Through the event, Aaroahi also connected with Robert Rae, Canada’s Permanent Representative to the UN, who expressed interest in future collaboration and UN Ambassador and model Farah Zulaikha, who praised Aaroahi’s speech and potential for future initiatives. “Meeting leaders like Mr. Rae and Ms. Zulaikha was motivating,” Aaroahi says. “It showed me they were listening and eager to support our work. I left feeling inspired and excited for what’s ahead.



Rayna Reed moderated Girls Speak Out for the first time, an experience she found both exciting and responsibility-filled.

“I really had to be prepared, especially since I was sharing my Girl Scout Gold Award project on peer mentorship,” she says. (See photo at left)

Rayna used the opportunity to show how older girls can balance Girl Scouts with school and other responsibilities.

“I want to prove that even as you get busier, you don’t have to give up Girl Scouts. It’s about connecting it to your community and being a positive example,” she explains. She hopes her work, both at the UN and through her Gold Award, inspires other girls to take on leadership roles and make an impact.

Mia Enders participated in Girls Speak Out as a girl activist through her work as a peer mentor for Rayna’s Gold Award project. She found the experience deeply inspiring. “It was incredibly uplifting to work with other girl activists, all striving to make the world a better place,” Mia says.

During her time at the event, Mia learned more about Girl Scouting from her fellow attendees and Jordan Cruz, Associate in GSUSA Federal and State Affairs and the girls’ chaperone on the UN floor. Mia found the experience so moving that it further sparked her desire to continue supporting the causes she cares about. She has since joined Rayna and AaroHi’s Girl Scout troop.

“Meeting passionate girls from around the world showed me that we can all make a difference, no matter our age,” Mia reflects. She is now working on her first Girl Scout leadership journey, Mission Sisterhood (It’s Your Story! Tell It!).

Congressman Brandon Williams (NY-22) recently honored AaroHi, Rayna and Mia on the House floor for their participation at the UN on International Day of the Girl, with his remarks entered into the Congressional Record.

Both UN events emphasized empowering young women as leaders and advocates for change. AaroHi, Rayna and Mia’s work demonstrates how youth voices can shape global solutions to gender inequality, mental health and girls' education.

“Our Girl Scouts' involvement in these key UN events shows they’re already making a real impact on the world,” says GSNYPENN CEO Julie Dale. “We’re incredibly proud of AaroHi, Rayna, Mia and all GSNYPENN members leading the way toward a better future. Their voices and leadership will drive lasting change.”

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

###

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.