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Scribbles & Sketches

A Girl Scout Literature and Arts Magazine







Volume 1 - Explore More

Letter from the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Girl Scouts,

Have you ever looked at something ordinary and imagined something extraordinary? Maybe you've watched a butterfly flutter through your backyard and wondered where it was going. Maybe you've looked up at the stars and dreamed about exploring another galaxy. Or perhaps you've picked up a pencil, paintbrush, or camera and created something that tells a story only you could tell. That's the magic of creativity. It allows us to see the world not just as it is, but as it could be.

I'm so excited to welcome you to the very first edition of Scribbles & Sketches, a publication dedicated to celebrating the imagination, talent, and creativity of our Girl Scouts!

Our first theme, **Explore More!**, is especially meaningful because exploration is at the heart of everything we do in Girl Scouts. Whether you're discovering something new in nature, learning about a different culture, trying something you've never done before, or expressing yourself through art and writing, every new experience is an opportunity to grow.

And here's something I want every Girl Scout to remember: Your creativity matters. Your ideas matter. And your voice deserves to be heard.

You don't have to be a professional artist to create something beautiful. You don't have to be a published author to write a story worth sharing. And you certainly don't have to be perfect to make something meaningful. Some of the most incredible ideas begin with a simple scribble, a little curiosity, and the courage to try.

That's why Scribbles & Sketches is so important. It's a celebration of YOU! It's a place where your imagination can shine, your perspective can inspire someone else, and your creativity can encourage another girl to be brave enough to share her own.

As you explore the pages of this publication, I hope you'll be inspired by the creativity of your fellow Girl Scouts. I hope you'll discover new ways of looking at the world. And most importantly, I hope you'll be reminded that there are no limits to what you can imagine, create, or become.

So, keep asking questions. Keep dreaming big. Keep coloring outside the lines. And never stop exploring!



Nikki Williams

Nikki Williams
Chief Executive Officer, GSVSC

Letter from the Editors

Welcome to the very first issue of Scribbles & Sketches! What better way to begin our creative journey than the endless possibilities of what "**Explore More**" means to us.

As you turn the pages, you will discover stories, poems, photography, drawings, and artwork from our very own Girl Scouts that do just that: explore more. From loggerhead turtles to rainbows, salamanders to sleeping cats, and everything in between, our Girl Scouts observed the world around them and took it to pen, picture, and page. We could not ask for a better community of thinkers and creators!

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As Girl Scouts, we know that adventure can be found anywhere. It can begin as simply as walking out the front door and seeing flowers bloom, or looking up at the starry sky on a cold night. Whether you travel 1,000 miles to watch the sun set or read a cozy book about sunsets, it's not where you go, but how you get to the destination that matters. What you gain from the experience is its very own art form–it is your unique perspective that nobody else can copy or take from you.

We encourage you, Girl Scout, to always be brave and be curious about the world around you. Go ahead and investigate the oddities. Celebrate the big and little things in your life. Continue thinking amazing thoughts no one has ever thought before, and most importantly: keep exploring beyond the limits of what is possible.

Let's Explore More, together!

Hannah Cohen and Molly Barkley

Scribbles & Sketches Editorial Team

Sprinkles

Jordyn W. | Troop 7394 | Brownie



WOW!



Koala Eating Eucalyptus

Cosette F-M.| Troop 24014 | Daisy

when it is dark

and it is cold

look for stars

and warmth

in the rain

look for rainbows

when you are hurt

look for healing

when you are sad

and alone look

for rainbows in the dark

they will light your way

to love :)



Rainbows in the Dark

Olivia A. | Troop 520 | Cadette



Rainbow Bird

Olivia A. | Troop 520 | Cadette



The Crab

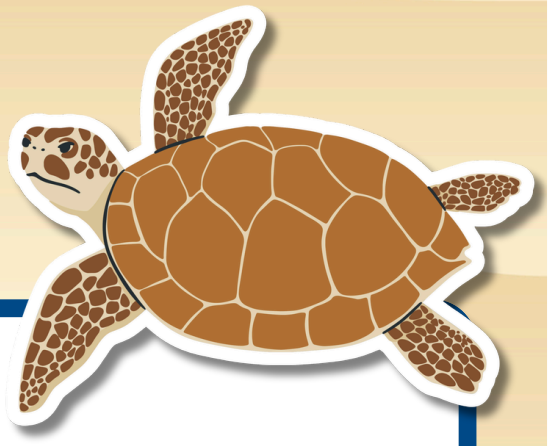
Olivia A. | Troop 520 | Cadette





Loggerhead Turtles

Elizabeth P. | Troop 210 | Junior



Plop

Plop

Plop

goes the loggerhead sea turtle's eggs. Behind me, bioluminescence sparkles in the waves. The waves look like a big sparkling giant head trying to get a glimpse of this spectacular event in which I will earn a patch on my Brownie vest. This is a once in a lifetime chance and I am happy to be a part of it. I'm in Florida, at the Cape Canaveral National Seashore, in a turtle watch group with a National Park Ranger on this dark breezy night with no stars in the sky. We're here to watch a turtle lay her eggs and learn about the turtles that frequent Cape Canaveral National Seashore. The turtle watch group looks in every direction eager to spot the turtle. Then we hear from turtle watch volunteers who were driving up and down the beach, "there is a loggerhead sea turtle ready to go!"

We walked quickly in the sand since we were eager to see the turtle build her nest – we were walking in the sand when suddenly we see a turtle that weighed hundreds of pounds shimmying to the dunes. It was amazing how big the turtle was and how fast she was moving to the sand dunes. The group and I shined our apple red lights on the sides of this Loggerhead turtle. The Park Ranger explained that white lights bother the turtles; they are light pollution and can distract the turtles or confuse them when laying eggs. Hotels and houses that have bright lights by the beach are a main source of light pollution for turtles. We're using red lights so we don't bother the turtles.

The massive turtle digs a hole with her flippers and sends sand spraying in every direction. I stand back so I don't have to take a sand bath. It is a cool breezy night with the wind pushing my hair in my eyes. As the loggerhead lays her hundred or more eggs, I notice they are as white as a ping pong ball and as round as a Tagalong. The turtle watch group is silent so we don't bother the turtle and the only sounds are the waves behind us and the quiet plop of turtle eggs in front of the group. Then the park ranger announces, "It is time to name the turtle, and the turtle watch group has that honor!" Almost everybody raises their hand with a unique name. There are names like Splash and Shelly, Seashell, and Rose. Then my twin sister raises her hand with a new, and let's just say it is not common, turtle name.

Meet... SQURITEL THE TURTLE! (Say it like: Sqer-tl.) The votes were in and Squirtel was the winner. As the park ranger got a wooden pole to write the loggerheads name, she questioned how to spell it. There were ones like s-q-u-e-r-t-l and s-q-u-r-t-l-e. At the end she jotted down S-Q-U-R-I-T-E-L with a marker as black as night. She held the wooden pole, and we all watched the huge turtle haul herself back to the sea. She'll never meet her babies that will hatch from her nest. I waved bye with everybody and watched her catch a wave like a surfer and disappear into the sparkly, salty, and mysterious sea. Seeing that turtle lay her eggs was as sweet of an experience as a box as Thin Mints fresh from the freezer!

After that I got into the car and wondered more about Loggerheads. Once I got back home from Florida and it was the end of summer break I started a new school year in Virginia. Once we had a project at school where I had to pick an animal and write about it. I was overjoyed that sea turtles were a choice for my project because I could explore even more about them. I enjoyed learning about their physical and behavioral adaptations and their watery habitat. Thanks to Girl Scouts and Squirtel I explored more and got the best reward: learning about a new world under the sea.





The next day my sister and I went to visit Squitel's nest that we helped the park ranger mark by the dunes. The park ranger encouraged us to visit during the day so we could see how different the turtle's nest looked like during daylight hours. We were very careful to not walk on the nest and keep our distance so the nest could be safe.



Starry Night

Eleanor H. | Troop 434 | Brownie

The Dream World

Margot A. | Troop 623 | Cadette

I fell asleep one time and woke up in the place dreams were made. There were purple and pink portals everywhere, and cotton candy clouds made quite the picturesque scene. I realized with a start that I was hovering a few inches off the ground. I looked around as I floated through the pastel land. And then it faded into a long stretch of strangeness. Bright colors everywhere with eyes and mouths. Everything was swirling and flickering about. As I traversed this area, I figured it was where the weird neutral dreams were. This meant it was taking up most of the space. I smiled as I looked at this aesthetically pleasing version of my dreams. I was still floating but it was less.. controlled. After a while of the bright colors I finally arrived at the nightmare area. It was red and black and sharp. I wasn't floating anymore but running very slowly away from something. Something that hadn't been there before. I was filled with dread. I wanted to go back but it was too late. There was already too much. I felt my head pounding with my heartbeat. I couldn't scream. I couldn't breathe. It was catching up. I could feel it. My head pounded faster as my vision darkened. The ground stopped. I fell into pure blackness. A giant hyperrealistic mouth opened. I couldn't slow down. I couldn't stop. And then I woke up again, my face pressed against the pillow, breathing heavy. I sighed, trying to calm myself back down. I was alone again. I looked around at my dark room with tired eyes, before slowly slipping back into the sleepless slumber of my mind. I stared at the ceiling, and then, finally, closed my eyes.

On a swing

Flying

Into the air

Into the clouds

I leap

And as I do

My heart does too

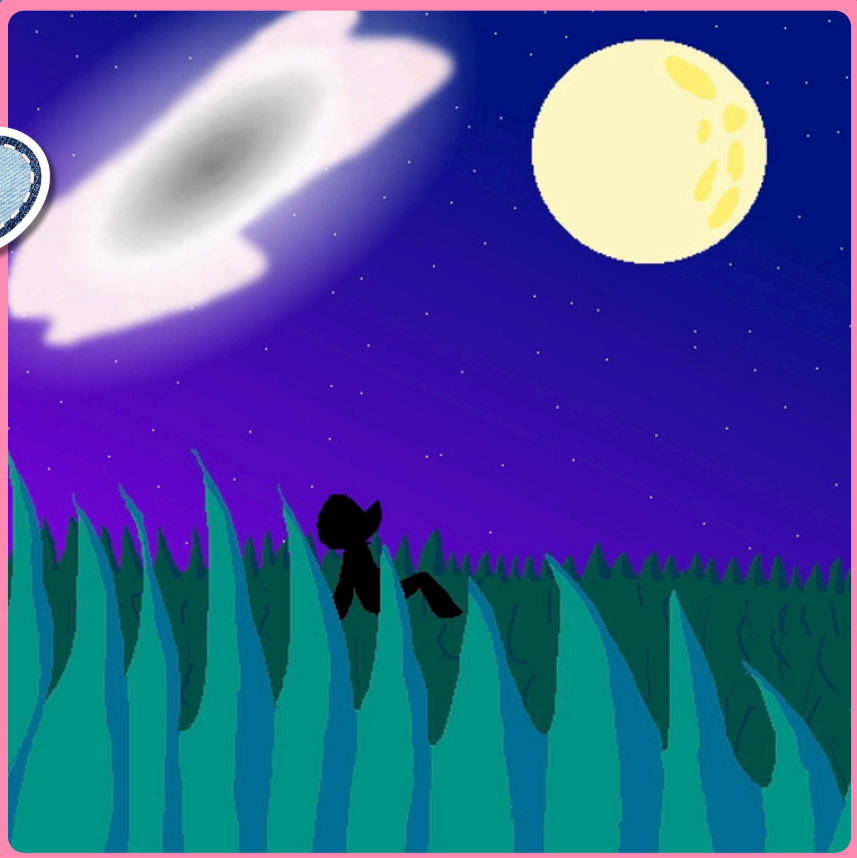
And as I land

Safe and sound

I smile.

The Swing

Margot A. | Troop 623 | Cadette



A Field Of Stars

Margot A. | Troop 623 | Cadette



The Old Tree

Margot A. | Troop 623 | Cadette



Looking for Salamanders

Lyla S. | Troop 1001 | Brownie



The Solar System

Lily K. | Troop 1261 | Junior

Family Bird Watching at the Beach

Addison R. | Troop 1030 | Junior



Exploration: Girl Scouts

I signed up for Girl Scouts
thinkin it'll be a bore
then I discovered it
was so much more

A place to learn
A place to grow
A place to be creative and explore

Everyone was welcoming kind
and kept me in mind

Monday nights mean alittle bit more
now that Girl Scouts
has shown me more
Girl Scouts it's time to explore



Exploration: Girl Scouts

Kate H. | Troop 434 | Cadette

Tiny World in Moss

Dorothy M. | Troop 170 | Cadette





Mama Possum

Jordyn H. | Troop 3111 | Daisy

The Worm Dreams of Space

Alanis R. | Troop 2265 | Daisy





Majesty

Maria L. | Troop 604 | Junior

Explore More

Sofía M. P. | Troop 604 | Cadette





Woolly Friend

Abigail G. | Troop 9620 | Junior

Sheep

BY Abigail



Sheep are all different.

Some can be big fluffy cumulus clouds, small balls that look like they went down the chimney, more are like a leather beanbag.

Some others just look like a llama.

Sheep

Abigail G. | Troop 9620 | Junior

The Last Match

Zaynab S. | Troop 625 | Brownie





My Sunny Morning

Jaylynn H. | Troop 3111 | Junior



Explore More

Wren C. | Troop 1315 | Brownie

girl scouts of virginia skyline

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