

# Girl Scouts Western Pennsylvania Boot Camp Fact Sheet

0730 on 04 AUG 09 – 1700 on 05 AUG 09, GSWPA Camp Elliott, Volant, PA

## Final Count:

- 67 Boy and Girl Scouts/children of Military and Girl Scout volunteers, including 4 Boy Scouts and 2 adults who traveled from New Jersey to attend camp
- 40+ military volunteers (active duty and reserve) from Pennsylvania and Ohio
- 10 youth volunteers and 24 adult volunteers
- Military support included: 1 Navy property, 1 Air Force property, 1 Army rock wall, 1 twenty-five foot Coast Guard Boat, 1 *Apache helicopter* from the Pennsylvania National Guard, and a presentation on the Congressional Medal of Honor
- US Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper attended camp on 04 AUG 09
- PA State Senator Robert Robbins attended camp on 05 AUG 09

## In addition to providing information about their branch of the Armed Forces in the Recruiting Station, military personnel provided instruction in the following:

- Army: Land Navigation, Expedient Direction Finding, Components of a Survival Kit, Topographical Maps, Camouflage Face Paint, First Aid Instruction and Team Building on the Army Obstacle Course and Rock Wall
- Navy: Specialty Knot Tying, International Code of Signals, Team Building, PT Training and Self-Defense
- Air Force: Marching, Flag Etiquette and Expedient Direction Finding, Smart Goal Setting
- Marines: Self Defense
- Coast Guard: Introduction to Boat Terminology and Rules of the Road, Nautical Charts, Water Safety including PFDs, Demonstration of a Mustang Suit, Instruction in Law Enforcement and Environmental Protection Services provided

## Three service projects were completed at camp:

- The participants at Boot Camp donated enough items to fill 25 care packages, which were immediately mailed to 1LT Sarah Weber, who is currently stationed in Iraq with the US Army and who volunteered at GSWPA Boot Camp 2008.
- The participants also composed 150 hand written notes that were sent to Operation Quiet Comfort, which honors and comforts America's military men and women who become sick and injured while serving in harm's way.
- Camp participants also put their handprints and names on large banners that were specially made for each branch of the Armed Forces. US Congresswoman Kathy Dahlkemper joined some of the Scouts in this activity during a tour of camp on 04 AUG. These banners were sent to troops deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan.

## Girl Scout Awards earned at camp:

- Girl Scouts ages 11-17 earned the [GSWPA Boot Camp Patch](#).
- Junior Girl Scouts in attendance earned the [Salute to our Armed Forces Badge](#) from Girl Scouts North Carolina Coastal Pines.
- Brownie Girl Scouts in attendance earned the [Honoring Our Armed Forces Try-It](#) from Girl Scouts North Carolina Coastal Pines.
- Girl Scouts in attendance also completed some of the requirements of the [Navy Pride and Coast Guard Pride Awards](#) that were developed by the Girl Scout Council of Colonial Coast.
- Five of the youth staff who volunteered at camp completed the service hours required for the Cadette Program Aide Patch.



***Thank you to everyone who made this  
Boot Camp a tremendous success!!!***

***Maureen Conner and Kathy Shaffer  
Co-organizers, GSWPA Boot Camp***

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